
ON THE ASCENTS OF MOUNT RAINIER

HARRY M. MYERS

IN THE 1920 MOUNTAINEER ANNUAL appeared an account of the early ascents of Mount Rainier with a tabulation of the first ascents by all the known routes. Since that time additional facts have come to light and some new routes have been conquered which make necessary a supplement.

Regarding the ascents by the Emmons Glacier we said then that "there was a legend that, in 1885, three men from Snohomish climbed this way," but a diligent search of the records and inquiries failed to corroborate the statement. We therefore concluded that the ascent of 1896 by Israel C. Russell, Geo. Otis Smith, and Bailey Willis was the first. No sooner had the annual appeared than Dr. H. B. Hinman of Everett wrote that he had asked a patient of his from Snohomish if he had ever heard of it and the gentleman replied, "Why yes. I was one of the climbers." Dr. Hinman sent us a copy of a report of the trip written in August, 1885, which starts out strangely to our ears, "In company with the Rev. J. W. Fobes and Richard O. Wells, I (George James) left Snohomish City on the eleventh of August taking passage on the steamer for Tacoma." This account was published in the "Snohomish Eye" in September, 1885, the climb having been made on August 20.

Since 1920 the only original ascents are the first winter climb, the first on skis, the Ptarmigan Ridge ascents of 1934 and 1935 and the Liberty Ridge route of 1935. The first mentioned was made by way of Gibraltar on February 13, 1922, by Jean and Jacques Landry, Jacques Bergues and Charles Perryman; the first ski climb by Walter C. Best, Hans Otto Giese and Dr. Otto P. Strizek by the Emmons Glacier Route April 7, 1928. September 2, 1934, Wolf Bauer and Hans Grage climbed from Spray Park by way of the Russell Glacier, Ptarmigan Ridge and the North Mowich. They reached the summit snowfield but did not go to the register on the exact top due to lack of time, and returned by the same route.

The first climb by the Success Cleaver since 1918 was made September 1 of this year by George MacGowan and Granville Jensen. Granville Jensen is the only person, so far as we know, to have climbed by five different routes: namely by Gibraltar, Emmons Glacier, Kautz, North Tahoma, and Success Cleaver.

It is gratifying indeed to see that members of the Mountaineers are leading the way in new work on Mount Rainier.