**Turning Point: Era of First Ascents to Era of New Routes**

From 1939 to 1955, it was an era for Fred Beckey to achieve first ascents. The years 1943 and 1944 are omitted from the following table because of his active military service.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Total Attempts** | **Succeeded** | **Failed** | **First Ascents** | **New Routes** | **First Winter Ascent** |
| 1939 | 35 | 34 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 1940 | 35 | 31 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 0 |
| 1941 | 27 | 22 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| 1942 | 19 | 18 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 0 |
| 1945 | 14 | 13 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| 1946 | 24 | 20 | 4 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| 1947 | 24 | 19 | 5 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| 1948 | 61 | 57 | 4 | **40** | 4 | 0 |
| 1949 | 29 | 25 | 3 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| 1950 | 22 | 20 | 2 | 15 | 2 | 0 |
| 1951 | 15 | 12 | 3 | 6 | **4** | 0 |
| 1952 | 36 | 34 | 2 | 24 | **4** | 0 |
| 1953 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 0 |
| 1954 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| 1955 | 15 | 14 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| **Totals** | 376 | 337 | 38 | **173** | **30** | 0 |

From 1956 onward, it was the predominately an era for Beckey to establish new routes.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Total Attempts** | **Succeeded** | **Failed** | **First Ascents** | **New Routes** | **First Winter Ascent** |
| 1956 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 1957 | 21 | 19 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 1958 | 35 | 26 | 9 | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| 1959 | 30 | 26 | 4 | 0 | 20 | 0 |
| 1960 | 19 | 16 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| 1961 | 48 | 43 | 5 | 2 | 18 | 0 |
| 1962 | 39 | 38 | 1 | 8 | **23** | 0 |
| 1963 | 52 | 50 | 2 | 1 | 22 | **4** |
| 1964 | 35 | 32 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 1 |
| 1965 | 38 | 31 | 7 | 2 | 20 | 2 |
| 1966 | 38 | 32 | 6 | 5 | 21 | 0 |
| 1967 | 29 | 22 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 0 |
| 1968 | 26 | 16 | 10 | 2 | 9 | 0 |
| 1969 | 30 | 22 | 8 | 3 | 14 | 0 |
| 1970 | 22 | 13 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| **Totals** | 467 | 390 | 77 | 37 | **223** | 7 |

Here is percentage comparison between 1939-1955 and 1956-1970 eras.

**The era of First Ascents between 1939 & 1955, excluding 1943 and 1944.**

* Achieved **67%** of ***all*** his ***260*** first ascents.
* **51%** of his successful climbs were first ascents.
* Achieved 8% of ***all*** his ***383*** new routes
* 9% of his successful climbs were new routes.

**The era of New Routes between 1956 & 1970.**

* Achieved 14% of ***all*** his ***260*** first ascents.
* 9% of his successful climbs were first ascents.
* Achieved **58%** of ***all*** his ***383*** new routes.
* **57%** of his successful climbs were new routes.

The following chart graphically shows the trend line of first ascents versus new routes between 1939 and 1970, omitting the years 1943 and 1944.

The trend on the number of new routes exceeding the number of first ascents he climbed each year continued after 1970, except for the year 1972. In that year he recorded ten first ascents and seven new routes.

After 1977, the combination of first ascents and new routes in a single year, never exceeded double digits. He achieved at least a single first ascent or new route every year through 1989. His last first ascent was appropriately Mt Beckey, then called Cathedral Mountains, in Alaska, in June 1996. His last new route was the Northwest Buttress of Mt Denman in the British Columbia Coast Range, on the date of September 22, 1997.

**Shift to doing more Rock Climbs in Washington State**

Prior to 1957, Beckey had certainly done rock climbs, but nearly 90% of his climbing activity was alpine climbs, regardless of location.

This table shows that from 1957 to 1964 in Washington State, Beckey was making more and more of his climbing activity not of the alpine variety, but rock climbs (64%). And furthermore, getting most of his new routes via rock climbs, specifically in the Leavenworth Area. His number of first ascents in Washington State trickled down to one a year, for just two of the eight years during this time period.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Washington State** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Year** | **Total** | **Succeeded** | **Failed** | **FA** | **New Routes** | | **FWA** | **Alpine** | **Rock** |
|  |  |  |  |  | **Alpine** | **Rock** |  |  |  |
| 1957 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 12 | | 0 | 7 | 11 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 5 | 7 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1958 | 33 | 25 | 8 | 1 | 15 | | 0 | 15 | 18 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 9 | 6 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1959 | 13 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 10 | | 0 | 4 | 9 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 3 | 7 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1960 | 13 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 9 | | 0 | 6 | 7 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 3 | 6 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1961 | 15 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 4 | | 0 | 3 | 12 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 0 | 4 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1962 | 19 | 19 | 0 | 1 | 11 | | 0 | 9 | 10 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 6 | 5 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1963 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 5 | | 4 | 7 | 13 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 4 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1964 | 21 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 8 | | 1 | 3 | 18 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 0 | 8 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** | **152** | **138** | **14** | **2** | **74** | | **5** | **54** | **98** |
|  |  |  |  |  | **27** | **47** |  |  |  |

**Trend Towards Climbing Outside Washington State**.

This table shows where Beckey climbed on a percentage basis, by decade.

Early in Fred’s climbing career, most of his climbs were in the state of Washington. However, 1964 was the last year in which over half (60%) of his climbs were in the Evergreen State. His climbing more outside the state of Washington, had to do in large part with his quest for new routes and first ascents. This attracted him to Canada and other states in the union in the 1960s. By the 1970s there were years when he did not climb in Washington State at all and this occurred in the remaining decades of his climbing career as well.

His last successful climb in Washington State was South Early Winter Spire in October 2006.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1930s** | **1940s** | **1950s** | **1960s** | **1970s** | **1980s** | **1990s** | **2000s** |
| Washington | **90%** | **63%** | **78.8%** | **34.5%** | 11.8% | 14.6% | 10.1% | 6.2% |
| California | 0% | 3.5% | 0% | 14.1% | **45.6%** | 20.5% | 15.6% | **29.2%** |
| British Columbia | 0% | 11.8% | 7.6% | 16.1% | 11.8% | **29.7%** | **28.4%** | 21.5% |
| Wyoming | 10% | 1.2% | 3.0% | 16.4% | 5.7% | 4.1% | 5.5% | 0% |
| Alaska | 0% | 4.7% | 4% | 1.7% | 7.9% | 3.2% | 7.3% | 4.6% |
| Utah | 0% | 0% | 0% | 3.7% | 3.1% | 2.3% | 6.4% | 4.6% |
| Alberta | 0% | 0.8% | 0% | 4.2% | 1.3% | 0% | 2.8% | 13.8% |
| Idaho | 0% | 5.1% | 0% | 4.6% | 0% | 1.8% | 0% | 0% |
| Colorado | 0% | 2.7% | 0% | 0.3% | 0.4% | 6.8% | 1.8% | 1.5% |
| Mexico | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 5.3% | 2.7% | 3.7% | 0% |
| Arizona | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1.1% | 4.4% | 1.4% | 0.9% | 3.1% |
| Oregon | 0% | 0.4% | 1.0% | 1.7% | 0% | 2.3% | 3.7% | 1.5% |
| Nevada | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2.6% | 0.5% | 2.8% | 10.8% |

From 1968 to 1982, California was the place where Beckey attempted the most climbs each year. The highest percentage being 59% of his climbs in 1972.

Between 1983 and 1988, British Columbia was the location where he recorded his largest number of climbs each year.

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