

food ran out before the weather cleared again, forcing us to retreat back to the North Baird Glacier. On return we divided, and Neave, Perry, Trustin and I made an ascent of a peak immediately to the northwest of Boundary Peak 73 at 8200 feet and approximately one-half a mile from Boundary Peak 73, on the same ridge. Bislin and Walsh climbed a prominent peak on the southwest of Boundary Peak 73 and approximately five miles distant, marked on the same map as 8140 feet. Both ascents were first ascents. We then returned to Thomas Bay on skis. Altogether we only had five days suitable for climbing out of 16, two of which were consumed in packing out. Skis were used and found to be invaluable.

RALPH HUTCHINSON, *Canadian Alpine Club*

Washington—Cascade Mountains

Chimney Rock, Main Peak North Face. Mike Anthony and I climbed the eastern-most chimney on the north face. The chimney was unusual in that it cut very deeply into the peak. The ascent was done on August 10 in a whiteout. We encountered some ice inside on the second lead of the 320-foot chimney. Descent was made via the standard north-face route. F8.

LAWRENCE NIELSON

Black Pyramid, Northeast Face. Dave Davis and I did a new 5-pitch climb on this crag. Grade II, F6.

GREG MARKOV

Prusik Peak, Lady Godiva Route. On May 28 and 29, Stephen Mitchell, Charles Sink, and I climbed Prusik Peak's west face. The climb was done entirely clean with over forty chocks and involved about 40% aid. Begin climbing in cracks on the right-hand side of the face for two-and-a-half leads. Dihedrals on the right side of the face lead to a good ledge two pitches from the top. Traverse right and ascend a dihedral, then a crack and chimney system to the summit. Rack of forty chocks from #1 stoppers to #8 hex. NCCS IV, F9, A-3.

ALAN J. KEARNEY

Big Four, North Headwall. In 1973 Ron Miller and Ben Guydelkon climbed this route. NCCS III, F8.

Whitechuck, East Face. In 1973 Ron Miller and Ben Guydelkon climbed the east face proper. Class 3 and 4.

Mount Chaval, North Ridge. Jim McCarthy, Phil Leatherman, Paula Kregel and I climbed Mount Chaval's north ridge in mid-August. Well-

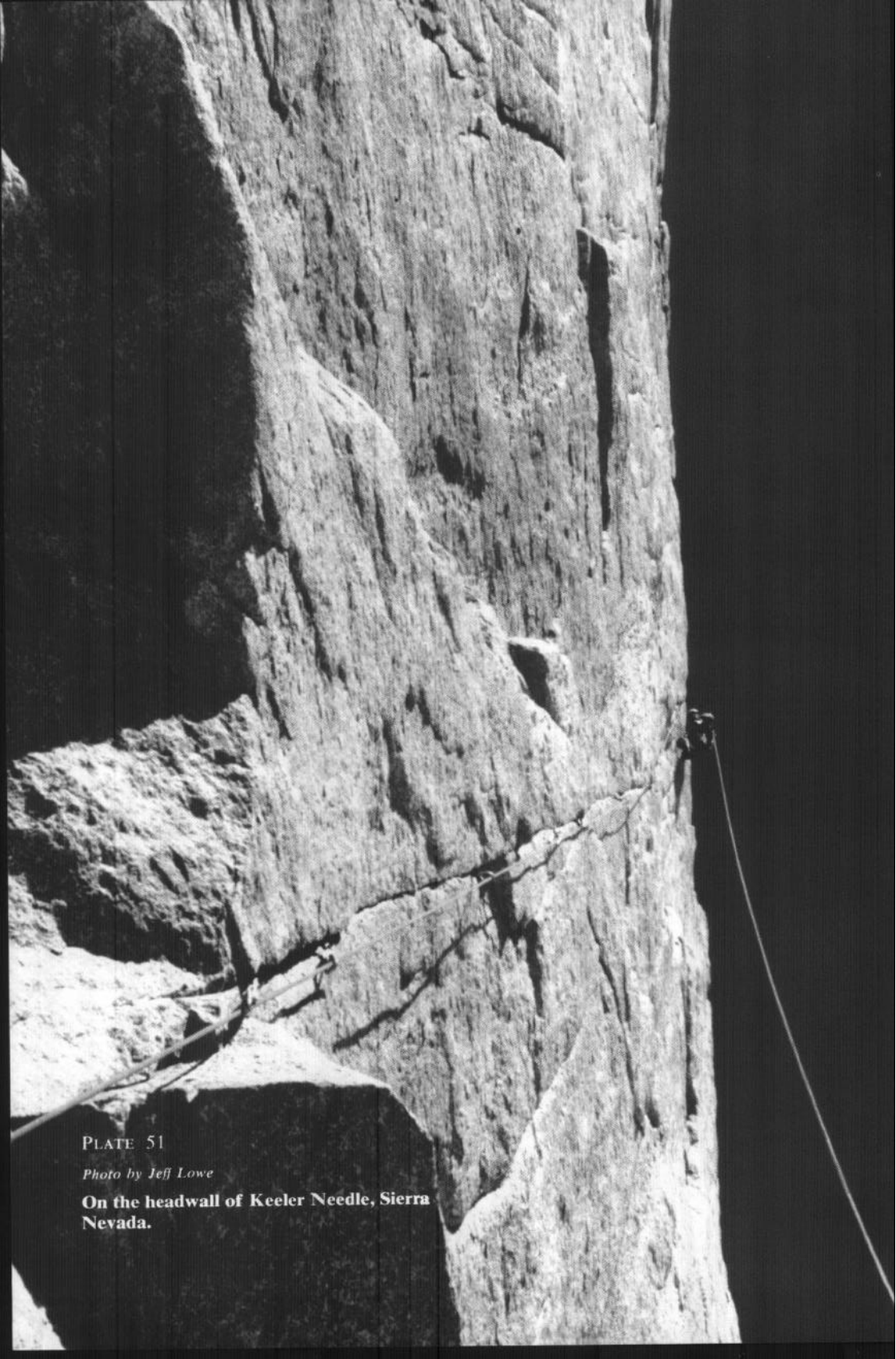


PLATE 51

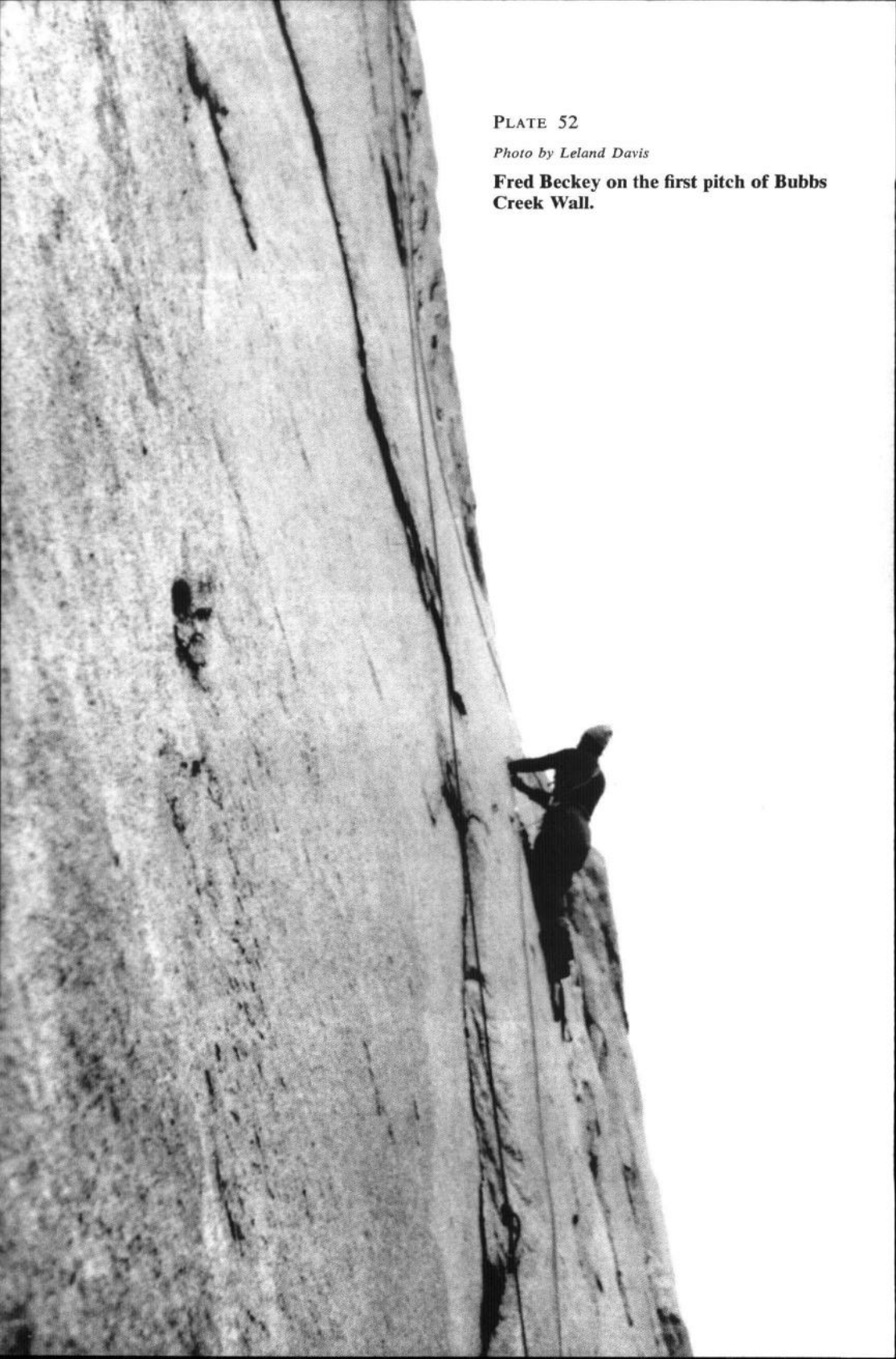
Photo by Jeff Lowe

On the headwall of Keeler Needle, Sierra Nevada.

PLATE 52

Photo by Leland Davis

**Fred Beckey on the first pitch of Bubbs
Creek Wall.**



broken but solid granite rock offered a pleasant alpine scramble with two pitches of harder climbing on the steepest part of the ridge. 1700 feet, NCCS II, F 6.

GREG MARKOV

Cascade Peak, East Ridge. On July 27, Mike Anthony and I completed a first ascent of the east ridge of the peak in beautiful weather. The climb was class 4 and 5 on very crumbly, rotten rock. Our ascent was the sixth registered ascent of the peak.

LAWRENCE NIELSON

Mount Terror, East Ridge, Picket Range, Correction. It is now obvious that the route described in the Cascade guidebooks as the southeast face of Mount Terror, credited to Charles Metzger, Charles Kirschner, Ralph and Ray Clough, was on the southerly ridge of Mount Degenhardt. The 1938 or 1939 climb was a new route from Terror Creek Basin and the second ascent of the mountain. Information gaps and incorrect lettering placement on contemporary maps led to their error in thinking they had scaled Mount Terror. The precipitous east ridge (or eastern edge of the southeast face) of Mount Terror was first climbed on July 13, 1970 by Carla and Joan Firey, David Knudson and Peter Renz. They gained access from Crescent Creek Basin to the nearly level ridge connecting Degenhardt and Terror. Four or five pitches of fourth- and fifth-class climbing on exposed but reasonably solid gneiss led directly to the pointed summit. Near the top a short strenuous pitch bore directly into a broken chimney, this being the crux of the route (F5). The route has not been reported earlier in journals because it was thought to have been a repeat of the Metzger climb.

FRED BECKEY

California—Sierra Nevada

Fuller Buttes, Songs to a Morning Star. In November, Mike Graber and I climbed a route on the east face of eastern Fuller Butte. We began climbing in cracks 20 feet right of a large, curving dihedral. The crux proved to be the second pitch which involved strenuous laybacking under a prominent arch. Easier climbing led past a pine tree. Face climbing up and left brought us to a large flake. The pitch above went up and right to a white dike which allowed us to gain a spacious, sickle-shaped ledge. Although not exceeding F6 in difficulty, this pitch was completely unprotected. Three more rope lengths led up to and around the left side of the eastern summit block. NCCS III, F10.

DAVID BLACK, *Buff Mountaineers*

Keeler Needle, East Face. In September 1973 John Weiland and I made a new route on the east face of Keeler Needle. We started on

the right side of the face and climbed six pitches all free except for 30 feet up into the base of the huge red dihedral that extends from a third to halfway up the right side of the face. From the top of the dihedral we worked left on ledges to the center of the face below the headwall. This required very steep aid climbing up several different cracks. The 14th lead put us on a good ledge above the headwall, and one more pitch up a steep crack led up the right side of the prow below the spectacular ledge of the Harding route. (The ledge appears on the cover of *Ascent*, 1972.) From here we followed the Harding route to the summit. We were disappointed to find five or six totally needless bolts on the first two leads. Fortunately they soon came to an end; the climb is only partly flawed by their presence. We carried 25 nuts and 25 pins and found we could have used more nuts, though through the upper headwall we used a number of thin pins. NCCS V, F9 or F10.

JEFF LOWE

Mount Russell, Southwest Buttress. On September 1, Gary Colliver, TM Herbert, and I climbed a steep crack in the south-facing western-most buttress of Mount Russell. Two horrifying cracks are apparent when the buttress is viewed from the western side of Whitney-Russell Col. We chose the less horrifying left-hand crack and found the climbing steep but surprisingly easy. Four pitches of F7 to F8 climbing, then easier 5th, 4th, and 3rd class leads to the summit. The first pitch is loose and requires caution if one is desirous of company on the summit. I climbed to the base of the right crack from whence Gary led a deceptively easy traverse to the bottom of the left crack. Colliver strung out the second lead well up into the F8 crack. TM led "the most enjoyable crack I've ever led" with only a minimal Herbertian F7 whimpering. The last difficult pitch is a moderate short chimney with a tricky traverse left to easy cracks on the western side of the buttress. The fourth pitch ended at the top of the vertical crack directly above our starting point. We climbed clean and hammerless. NCCS III, F8.

DON LAURIA

Sorcerer Needle, North Face. A new route was done by Greg Thomsen and me on April 21, 1973. Awkward chimney pitches from the east gully lead to the uphill (north) notch. Starting slightly west is a text-book series of parallel cracks that lead to the summit in two pitches. These begin with mostly aid placements, then gradually taper to thin, enjoyable free climbing.

FRED BECKEY

Balloon Dome. After an abortive attempt in 1971 to find Balloon Dome, I returned in 1974 with the indefatigable Black brothers, Dave

and Jim. During a four-day visit we climbed three new routes. *West Face*: the wall that faces Squaw Dome is dominated by an obvious, left-facing open-book. To our disappointment, the greater part of the book required aid. Seven pitches. NCCS IV, F9, A3. *Boko-Maru*: immediately left of a spectacular pillar on the northeast face is a smooth wall broken only by a sinuous dike which winds up and left. Two pitches led to the base of the dike and seven more of superlative climbing followed it to the summit. Nine bolts were placed. NCCS III, F9. *East Face*: we climbed the first chimney system to the left of the above-mentioned route for two pitches and then traversed right on challenging face climbing to a crack which we followed to the summit. Eight pitches. NCCS III, F9.

MICHAEL GRABER, *Buff Mountaineers*

Voodoo Dome, Southeast Face, The Skull. As one looks at the southeast face of this broad monolith the most apparent feature is a gigantic arch which begins at tree level and rises 400 feet to its zenith. Gregory Cloutier and I chose to make a clean ascent of the dihedral formed by the arch roof and back wall. A stimulating three pitches of aid and five pitches of free climbing required only 8 pin placements. The climb begins with a mildly difficult lead which is mixed aid (A2) and free (F8) and ends on a good belay ledge. The second pitch, and probably the crux aid pitch, is a long semi-overhanging lead (A3) ending in a hanging belay. The third pitch is a short lead along an expanding flake up to a cavity just a few feet from the opening in the roof. A hand jam and an exciting move lead through a narrow bottomless chimney to easier climbing and a good belay area. A difficult overhang and fast enjoyable climbing ends at the sandy ledges on the Pea Soup route. The remainder of the climb follows this route to the summit and its exciting final lead. NCCS IV or V, F8, A3.

CHARLES HAAS, *Unaffiliated*

Tower of Delphina, Dee-Bees Rib. On the north side of the Bubbs Creek drainage at Junction Meadow, lies a series of buttresses and towers. The Tower of Delphina is the only one which is orange and readily distinguishable by a huge dihedral which splits the south face. The route ascends the right skyline arête for over a thousand feet of the finest orange rock imaginable. The arête is but four feet at its widest point and was followed with little deviation for its entire length. Paul Hurd and I did the climb clean on September 1. One piton was used for a rappel into a notch about three-quarters of the way up. No previous signs of foregoers were found as we reached the summit after a full day's climbing. NCCS IV, F7.

DAVID BOYD, *Unaffiliated*

The Juggernaut, Dihedral Route. This route follows the only prominent open-book on the face climbed and named by Beckey in 1973 above Crown Lake, near Rock Island Pass. Vern Clevenger, Bill Dougherty, Mike Farrell and I climbed this difficult 4-pitch route in half a day. The first lead follows a chimney, a slot, then a short F10 lieback. Higher, an alternative arises between a scary F8 traverse to the outside of the dihedral or a scarier F10 overhanging dihedral. I led the former and Clevenger, the latter. The final pitch is moderate climbing on a broken, open headwall just right of the overhangs at the top of the dihedral. NCCS III, F10.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Coyote Cliffs. These cliffs are in Coyote Creek canyon about three miles above its junction with Bishop Creek, near Route #168. The cliffs have long been avoided by climbers because a group of locals, minds psychochemically dimmed, reported that they walked to the tops of the cliffs and found them hopelessly rotten for climbing. In September 1974 I walked to the base of the cliffs, intending to merely check them out. Four separate buttresses rise an average of 800 feet each, constructed of desert granite of questionable quality. I began scrambling to make further checks of the rock's quality, which varied considerably. Two hours later I arrived at the top of the left-hand buttress, probably the easiest. About half the climbing was easy but exposed scrambling. The other half included excellent crack climbing on the firm rock with two F7 sections. NCCS II, F7.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Mount Corcoran, Correction. In *A.A.J.*, 1973 on page 419 it should have stated that the southeast face had been climbed, not the southwest.

California—White Mountains

White Mountains Winter Traverse. In February 1974 Dave Sharp, George Miller, Jay Jensen and I made the first winter traverse of the crest of the California White Mountains. The trip was mostly on skis, took 16 days, and was at an average elevation of 12,500 feet for a distance of 80 miles. Lack of shelter from the wind on the open slopes above timberline was the main hazard and we descended to timberline to wait out a severe 4-day storm that recorded winds over 100mph. A nearby lodgepole pine, two feet in diameter, was broken off twenty feet above the base and flung more than forty feet from its stump. The fresh snow from this long storm was in some ways a large benefit, making skiing possible all the way to Westguard Pass above the town of Big Pine. The principal summits reached were Boundary Peak (13,140 feet), Mont-

gomery Peak (13,441 feet), Jumpoff Mountain (13,484 feet), Mount Dubois (13,559 feet), Peak 13,908 feet, White Mountain Peak (14,246 feet), and Mount Barcroft (13,040 feet).

GALEN A. ROWELL

Utah

Watchman, West Face. On April 14 and 15, Stephen Mitchell, Charles Sink and I did a new route on the west face of the Watchman in Zion National Park. A previous party had been up one pitch but we saw no further evidence. We entered the dihedral system below the left summit. After four pitches we went left on a big ledge and ascended cracks to the top of the pedestal. We climbed three pitches in a dihedral and three more to a notch on the north ridge. Two pitches of free climbing led to the summit. Hardware: 35 pieces up to a 5-inch chock and some knifeblades. NCCS IV, F10, A2.

ALAN J. KEARNEY, *Mazamas*

Watchman, West Face, Zion National Park. In May 1973 Mike Weis and I climbed the west face of the Watchman via a direct route below the summit. The 13 pitches were all free save for a pendulum on the twelfth. On the first lead we passed a rappel nut indicating a previous attempt. NCCS IV, F9, A1.

JEFF LOWE

Isaac, South Face, Court of the Patriarchs, Zion. Over the Memorial Day weekend, Jeff Lowe and I climbed the crack system which follows the east side of the south face of Isaac. Two dirty, bushy pitches marred the otherwise clean route. Descent was via a long ledge system, where we traversed north into the canyon east of Isaac and then down the canyon. NCCS V, F9, A3.

GEORGE LOWE

Candlestick Tower, Canyonlands. This 450-foot butte was climbed for the first time in the middle of March by John Byrd, Jim Dunn, Doug Snively and me. We approached on foot from Island in the Sky. After two unsuccessful attempts on the looser north side, we chose a line on the west edge, which consisted largely of awkward nailing. The four-pitch climb took most of a day, with one lead fixed. We placed eleven bolts, less than half of them for aid. NCCS III, F7, A4.

LAWRENCE HAMILTON, *Unaffiliated*

Arizona

The Brothers and The Sisters, Castle Dome Mountains. The Brothers and the Sisters are four separate summits forming a huge massif di-

rectly east of the end of the Castle Dome road northeast of Yuma. Jerry McCrea and I made the first ascent of all but the northernmost summit in extremely hot weather in June 1972. We followed a ramp from the southwest base first right and then left. From the left end of the ramp, we ascended a short wall and chimney just around the corner left of a pinnacle. We then straddled a knife-edged ridge heading east, crossed a gap and entered a hidden chimney system with poor protection and overhangs. We emerged on the southern summit, climbed and scrambled to the north over the next summit to the highest one. NCCS III, F6.

DAVID BOYD, *Unaffiliated*

Idaho

Old Mount Hyndman, Northeast Face, Pioneer Mountains. On September 28 Bill March, Nobuyuki Fujita, Jerry Leitch and I made the first ascent of the northeast face of Old Mount Hyndman. From camp at the head of Wildhorse Creek, we ascended an obvious southeast-slanting ice and snow couloir. Averaging 45° to 50°, it rose for 900 feet where a pitch of 60° was found. Above we surmounted a short pitch of steep rock. From the top of the couloir we continued up and north for 1200 feet to a section of steep, loose rock 150 feet below and north of the summit. Here we roped again and climbed to the summit. The descent consisted of four rappels. On the second a car-sized rock was dislodged, which severed both the ropes on which I was descending.

HARRISON S. HILBERT, *Idaho State University Outdoors Program*

Mount Heyburn, Complete East Ridge, Sawtooth Range. Stan Hilbert and I made the complete traverse of the east ridge of Mount Heyburn, climbing all major gendarmes directly, in seven hours. The route involved several difficult abseils. Slings should be carried. From the col between the south and north summits a short free climb led to a line of rusty pitons towards the north summit. Above the pitons easy climbing led to the summit. NCCS III, F6, A1.

WILLIAM MARCH, *Idaho State University Outdoor Program*

Montana

Mill Creek Canyon, Bitterroot Range. The Bitterroots extend south from the Missoula area and are punctuated by glacier-carved granite canyons whose creeks drain east to the Bitterroot valley. There is little evidence of climbing and the canyons seem endless. A prolonged Indian Summer and a long holiday weekend in late October afforded Steve Jorgenson and me a chance to climb the most prominent buttress of Mill Creek Canyon, seen easily from the approach road from Route 93. A trail into the wilderness area crosses to the north side of Mills Creek

and at about a mile-and-a-half to two miles we ascended the talus and goat trails to gain access to a bivouac ledge just southwest of the main wall and the two obvious buttresses. Early morning found us wallowing gingerly up a dirty chimney behind the large slab to a grassy knoll between the two prominences. We scrambled up the back side of the smaller buttress to survey the south face of the larger and chose a fine line to the top. Ten yards west of the only pine on the knoll we began a thin aid crack which opened into a free crack and then an open-book facing southeast leading to the summit platform. It was a clean ascent. NCCS III, F8, A3.

ROBERT B. SCHOENE, *Unaffiliated*

Wyoming—Tetons

One-Day Winter Climbs in the Tetons. The trend, started in recent years, to ascend and descend a major Teton summit in winter during the course of a single day has been extended. On February 19, 1973, a one-day, Beaver Creek to Beaver Creek, ascent of the Middle Teton was made by Don Black, Robert Sears, Steve Jones, and Mark Minert. The southwest couloir route was used after a ski approach up Garnet Canyon. The following day, Peter Gibbs and I made a similar one-day ascent of the South Teton. We reached the summit at 1:30 P.M. in nine hours from Beaver Creek, via a steep snow couloir on the north face. After an hour on the summit in warm sunshine enjoying the panorama of the winter Tetons, we descended rapidly to a celebratory beer at the Moose Bar at five P.M. The ultimate one-day trip was the ascent of the Grand Teton on February 9, 1974, by Dave George, Peter Gibbs, David Lowe, George Lowe, and me. After a late start (5:30 A.M.) we toured up Garnet Canyon, leaving our skis just below the Caves. After lunch on the Lower Saddle, we fought deep unconsolidated snow to the Upper Saddle, trying to keep up with George Lowe who was in the lead breaking trail. The iced Owen-Spalding route required four roped pitches. We then traversed over to the Exum ridge, climbed more unconsolidated snow to the summit at six P.M. We descended quickly in order to make the rappel to the Upper Saddle, not wishing to repeat the 1972 winter experience when David Lowe and I had been forced to bivouac after climbing the Exum ridge. After an hour of brewing hot tea at the Lower Saddle Hut, we skied down in marginal moonlight, arriving at Beaver Creek at 11:30 P.M.

DAVID R. SMITH

Mount Owen, First Ski Descent. One more of the major Teton summits has been descended on skis, this time Mount Owen by Bill Briggs and Rob McClure on June 21. Putting on skis on the east ridge about 150 feet below the summit, they descended to the East Prong Col and from there down the remaining part of the northeast snowfields. A rope

and belay were used on the 60-foot pitch during this section. The snow finally gave out about 500 feet above Cascade Creek, about three hours and 5000 feet after they left the summit.

Middle Teton, Northeast Face. A new route on this face, involving some 500 feet of roped climbing, was made by Roger Briggs and Art Higbee on July 8. Three hundred feet of snow and easy rock from the Lower Saddle took them to a large ledge about 70 feet below an obvious right-facing dihedral. Three full pitches, all involving F8 and F9 climbing, much of it in cracks, led to the base of the final overhanging corner. Climbing this corner required an F10 effort. Above they reached easier slabs and snow which led to the summit. The entire climb was well-protected and they used only nuts, although ice axes were required for the approach.

Rolling Thunder, Northeast Ridge. This ridge, while spectacular when viewed from certain directions, proved to be remarkably easy when first climbed on August 3 by David Lowe and me. The only problem of the climb was locating the ledge which provided access to the ridge from the glacier on the north side of the peak.

LEIGH N. ORTENBURGER

Wyoming—Wind River Range

P 11,172 and "Gash Peak." Despite some rain every day, during four days in August Del Langbauer, David Goeddel, Jack Norris and I made four new routes from camp near Pyramid Lake, south of Mount Bonneville. Three routes (the first, second and third ascents of the peak) were on P 11,172, located between Pyramid Lake and Mount Geikie. Langbauer and I climbed "Rainy Day" on the southeast side on August 3. Via easy slabs below a large overhang, we reached a prominent black dike which diagonals up and right. We followed the dike until another overhang could be passed on its left. Four more leads, mostly fourth-class with occasional more difficult sections, led to the summit. We descended the north side, deluged with rain, tricky business unroped. NCCS II, F5. On August 5 Goeddel, Norris and I climbed "Sunshine" on the southwest side, beginning on slabs to the left of an apron and a major, right-facing corner a few hundred feet up. Above the higher of two large ledges we made two tricky mantles to reach the left end of a large platform. There was an impressive, semi-detached flake above, behind which we chimneyed before making a unique hands-and-knees 10-foot traverse to the right immediately under an overhang. Jamming and laybacking led up the side of a flake. Directly above, we rejected a layback and instead climbed a steep and strenuous crack to the left, which happily ended soon at a ledge. Above the ledge, a traverse to the

right and around the corner on friction led up to a ledge with a large block. Steep but secure stemming in a flaky corner and then several hundred feet of moderate climbing brought us near the top. The seventh and last lead ended with a short stint in a flaring chimney. The climb, with good belay ledges and clean rock, was invigorating though not committing. NCCS III, F7. The third and finest route on P 11,172 lies on the western side of the clean, steep south face. The rock is excellent, the protection good and the climbing continuous, enjoyable and direct for the eight long pitches of the route. Langbauer and I made our 15-minute approach at first light on August 6 and finished nine hours later, never having left the warmth of the sun. We began at the center of an apron below two broad, prominent arches crossed by black water streaks. Part way up the apron, a few tricky friction steps led up and left to a good ledge. Above, we were faced with a set of three intimidating, parallel, right-facing dihedrals. Before figuring out the proper combination of jamming, stemming, laybacking and face-climbing, I took a short fall onto a small nut. Higher, I traversed first right and then back left and over the arch to an adequate ledge. The only choice above was a large, steep, right-facing corner with a crack of variable size at its back. After strenuous off-size jamming, we were forced to use six points of aid to climb a 25-foot section, where the crack narrowed and the angle steepened, to a good ledge. A detached flake is above and left of the ledge; we went up and right, up a corner and out over the right side of an irregular overhang visible from the ground below. Stemming between two overhanging parallel cracks led to a ledge, which we traversed 30 feet to its right end. Del led directly up and found enough protection to climb straight over a bulge. We continued for several more pitches and finished the difficult climbing with a flaring chimney topped by an overhang. Hardware: one each of Chouinard nuts from No. 2 stopper to No. 10 hexentric; 8 pitons to 1". NCCS IV, F9, A1. Very different from the above climbs was one on the east face of "Gash Peak," immediately north of P 12,173 ("Ambush"), identifiable by the great cleft extending from the ground 2000 feet to split the north from the south summit. Our route was to the north summit and wandered up the face between the cleft and a large chimney to its right. Langbauer and I approached in threatening weather and climbed as rapidly as possible over often alarmingly unstable rock. When we were near the top, we were struck suddenly by wind, snow and lightning. We detoured left to the notch, bypassing the last few hundred feet of fourth-class and continuing unroped to the top. NCCS III, F7.

ANDREW R. EMBICK

Peak 11,793, Twenty Lakes Wall. Above a magnificent unnamed lake east of Mount Roberts, this face lies to the north, an interesting wall but quite overshadowed by Roberts. Eric Bjørnstad made the first ascent on

July 6, using a series of short walls, ramps, and a final steep crack system. NCCS II, F7 or 8.

FRED BECKEY

Squaretop. The right skyline of Squaretop when viewed from the Green River Lakes presents a 1800-foot sweep of excellent rock. When we arrived below the buttress after a hard approach, my brother Greg, Kent Christensen and I looked up in despair. There was a beautiful line in a giant dihedral just right of the buttress crest, but we were ill-prepared for what looked like the summit dihedral of the Nose of El Cap and we had only the afternoon and the next day to climb. We decided to "have a look anyway" and ended up making one of the finest free climbs we had ever done. Three or four hundred feet of third class at the bottom of the buttress led to the base of the dihedral. We made the mistake of staying left of the dihedral in cracks on the wall for the first pitch and had to make two aid moves on the third pitch. The next party will do well to stay in the bottom of the dihedral from the start where it appears very reasonable. We bivouacked on a good ledge at the top of the third pitch, and the next day climbed varied and always challenging free climbing to reach the summit at seven P.M. We placed a handful of pitons, but future parties should find a complete assortment of nuts will do the job. NCCS V, F 9.

JEFF LOWE

New Routes in Peak Lake Cirque, Upper Green River. Stan Hilbert accompanied me on these climbs. *Sulphur Peak, North Face:* The route followed the prominent couloir leading to a chimney/crack line until 150 feet below a big roof in the crack where an ascending traverse afforded access to a rib which we climbed for a pitch. We pendulumed west into a groove of loose blocks, which we climbed to a small overhang. A delicate slab pitch led to an easy gully and the summit. In the chimney/crack verglas forced us to use aid in places. August 8; 1600 feet; 12 hours. NCCS F7, A1. *Ladd Peak, North Couloir:* On August 10 we approached from upper Peak Lake, traversing around the west side of Mount Whitecap and crossing Stone Hammer Pass. We traversed snow and rock on Ladd to its north side. The snow and ice couloir rises 2000 feet from the Twin Lakes at the foot of the north face. There was some rockfall and avalanche danger. NCCS II; 3 hours. *Split Mountain, South Face:* The western peak of Split Mountain presents a complex south face. At its western end are three obvious crack systems which split the lower face. On August 11 we followed the middle system for two pitches (F6) and then took an easier diagonal line of weakness to the right across the face for four or five pitches to gain the arête which overlooks the couloir which splits the mountain. We climbed the arête on the right by an easy crack and groove system to the west ridge. We

then scrambled 200 feet to the summit. NCCS I, F6; 3 hours. *Mount Buchtel, Southwest and Southeast Ridges*. On August 7 we climbed from the lake up the southwest ridge to a prominent yellow gendarme and a narrow ridge. We continued up to join the southeast ridge around 12,800 feet and followed this to the summit. A rusty can contained the information that Curt Fettner and William Clemons climbed the north face on September 18, 1937 from Peak Lake! The east face and north ridge also had ascents recorded in the can. This information is not found in Bonney's guidebook.

WILLIAM MARCH, *Idaho State University Outdoor Program*

Mount Helen, Northwest Ridge of the First Tower. On August 29 Dennis Turville, Lynn Wheeler and I started up two pitches of unnecessary climbing to gain the ridge, which we could have reached more easily via the gully between the first and second towers. We followed the entire ridge directly with many large belay ledges atop pillars. The last two pitches presented the most difficulty, involving some aid up slightly overhanging sections and a spectacular mantel. NCCS III, F8, Al. 11 pitches.

DEAN HANNIBAL, *Unaffiliated*

Colorado

Notchtop Mountain, East Face. The first ascent of the exposed, seven-pitch "White Room" route was made in June by Roger Briggs and me. It meanders up the very steep and featureless wall to the right of "Optimus," finishing in a prominent dihedral. The climbing, route-finding and protection provided varied but fairly continuous challenges. We had to traverse a full rope-length, first left and then right, to avoid a large ceiling halfway up the wall. The route was done without hammers in nine hours. NCCS IV, F10. To the right of this route the east face terminates in a large, broken buttress, the lower half of which is formed by a detached, pinnacle-like rib. In August Dakers Gowans and I ascended the indistinct northeast corner of this rib after several hundred feet of steep third-class climbing in a prominent gully and chimney system. Two long complicated leads (F6 and F7) took us to a ledge below the smooth, east-facing summit headwall. The final pitch ascended the headwall until a hand traverse rightwards gained a dihedral, up which we jammed. We used nuts up to three inches. NNCS II, F8.

LAWRENCE HAMILTON, *Unaffiliated*

Bridalveil Falls. In January Mike Weis and I climbed Bridalveil Falls near Telluride. Thin, brittle ice with overhanging bulges combined to make the climb technically the most difficult ice climb we had

ever done. We made five leads, some very short. All protection and belays were made from ice screws or pins. This shows that tactics being used by Canadians in their own mountains of chopping through the ice to place bolts in the underlying rock are unnecessary. Indeed they seem detrimental to the environment and the spirit of climbing. We used no "aid" on the climb other than front-points and axes and stops resting on screws in two places. NCCS IV.

JEFF LOWE

Wetterhorn Peak, North Face. In late September 1973 Paul Hogan and I made what we think was the first ascent of this face by the natural break in the middle. The 800-foot face required six leads and five hours. The last pitches were climbed in a snow storm that added an alpine quality to the climb. NCCS III, F7.

JEFF LOWE

McHenry's Peak, Northeast Face. Dakers Gowans and I started on a right-facing corner up the center of the great spade-shaped buttress on the northeast face of McHenry's Peak, heading for a thin vertical dihedral three pitches up. The dihedral and an interesting jamming pitch that broke through an upper headwall were the finest part of the 11-pitch climb on excellent granite. NCCS III, F8; nuts up to two inches.

LAWRENCE HAMILTON, *Unaffiliated*

Powell Peak, East Face. On July 4 John Byrd, Dakers Gowans and I climbed a new route, probably the first, on the east face of Powell Peak. We followed a direct line just left of the center of the smooth main wall and right of a huge, left-leaning finger of rock. We finished after six pitches a few yards from the summit cairn. NCCS II, F6; nuts up to two inches.

LAWRENCE HAMILTON, *Unaffiliated*

American Alpine Club Mountaineering Fellowship Fund. Five young climbers were given grants in 1974 from the Mountaineering Fellowship Fund. John Lyon, James O'Neill and Rafael Gurvis were supported in their climbing in the Arrigetch Peaks of the Brooks Range, Alaska and Thomas E. Alexander was given his grant to participate in a Mazama expedition to the northwest ridge of Mount Deborah, Alaska. The Boyd N. Everett Mountaineering Fellowship Grant went to Richard Ridgeway for his attempt on the east ridge of Huantsán in the Cordillera Blanca, Peru.

SAMUEL C. SILVERSTEIN, M.D.