

Climbs and Expeditions

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UNITED STATES

Alaska

Mount McKinley. Some forty-five expeditions composed of 362 climbers attempted to climb Mount McKinley. Of these, 177 people from 27 expeditions reached the summit. Some are reported elsewhere. The following reached the main summit by the West Buttress: Joe Horiskey, Bill Westbrook, Dan Boyd, Alan Ewert, May 20; Roy Magnuson, Maynard Bradsmo, Thomas Cardina, George Hubbard, Douglas Mantle, Boris Savic, Carl Stude, John McKinley, Mark Goebel, July 7; Norio Ohkubo, Somikiko Chinju, Kengo Nogaki, Kagunori Yamanoue, Naohisa Matsuda, Kenji Moritada, Japanese, July 17; Mike Dunn, Mark Fields, July 26; Leonard Cook, George Smith, August 2; Charles Campbell, Jonathan Gross, Bill Glinkman, Charles Potter, August 3; Koichi Takaoka, Akira Takasaki, Naomi Ihara, Takanori Sasaki, Kazutomu Kimura, Akira Konno, Japanese, August 2. Akio Shoji, Masaaki Hatakeyama and Teruzo Nakamura climbed from the 14,000-foot basin on the West Buttress route directly via the western rib to the summit on August 8. The following climbed by the Muldrow: Earl Redman, Ola Royrvik, Dan Solie, Bjarne Holm, David Hawley, Stephen Clautice, Monte Plumlee (descent via West Buttress), April 21; Alois Infanger, Michael Allison, Chris Goethe, Eric Huggard, Ralph Jordan, Peter Kirn, Rick Lynsky, John Robinson, Lucy Smith, Miriam Stone, July 3; Scott Danielson, Jeff King, Brad Fisher, July 8; John Jenkins, Frederick Smith, Bern Hinckley, Timothy Wheeler, August 9.

Mount McKinley, South Buttress-Thayer Basin-West Buttress Traverse. Jim Carpenter, Greg Kallio, Bill Laxson, Steve Lyford, Jim Miller, Dick Morse, Jeff Thomas and I began on June 18, traveling up the Kahiltna's East Fork. After a few avalanche scares on the South Buttress, we attained its crest on July 3. From igloos at the col we pro-

NOTE: All dates in this section refer to 1975 unless otherwise stated.

ceeded down a ramp into Thayer Basin. Here we followed Thayer's route up to the junction of Karstens Ridge, where near the top of P 17,425 we chopped out a large ice cave. At our cave we were plagued with four days of storms, making carries to the upper Harper very arduous. On the 16th we established our 18,000-foot high camp in igloos in the Harper Basin. The next evening all eight reached the summit of the South Peak, descending in a storm. Bad weather persisted until a break on the 20th when we attempted the North Peak but we were turned back in the upper plateau. We descended the mountain over Denali Pass and down the West Buttress in three days.

ROGER ROBINSON

Mount Foraker, First Winter Ascent, Southeast Ridge. A Mountaineering Club of Alaska party was flown to the Kahiltna Glacier on February 13. It consisted of Steve and Gary Tandy, Don and Dave Pahlke, Larry Tedrick, Brian Miskil and Gaylan McCord. They attempted the unclimbed south ridge which rises from the west fork of the Kahiltna. Poor snow conditions and a 180-foot fall (fortunately causing only a broken rib) persuaded them to give up the attempt there. The Tandy brothers alone remained, the others flying out on March 6. The Tandys shifted to the second-ascent route, the southeast ridge. From the 6500-foot base of the ridge, they climbed to place Camp I at 8500 feet. Camp II was placed at 10,800 feet in a snow cave on the face on March 9. They rested the next day as it stormed. On the 11th they reached the main crest of the southeast ridge but found it better to climb below rather than on the sharp, icy ridge. They set up camp at 13,200 feet on March 12. On March 13 they had a narrow corniced ridge from 13,300 to 14,000 feet but above there found few climbing difficulties before reaching the summit.

Mount Foraker. A group of four led by Steve van Meter climbed Foraker by its southeast ridge, which was first climbed in 1963, reaching the summit on July 14. At the same time a Japanese group, K. Sonehara, M. Inukai, Y. Abe, T. Momose and K. Yaguchi, climbed the northeast ridge directly from the Kahiltna (not going over Mount Crosson). They also reached the summit on July 14. Further details are lacking.

Mount Hunter, East Ridge. The Eihokai-Osaka Expedition was composed of Kazuteru Jo, leader, Katsuyuki Jo, Yasuyuki Yamashita, Shintaro Sekizuka and Hideki Nakai. They were flown by Cliff Hudson to the Tokositna Glacier on May 25. Base Camp, 10 miles up the north fork of the glacier, was established on the 28th. They attacked the snow wall to reach the east ridge. Camp I was placed directly under the col on June 1. A 65-foot cornice collapsed on the ridge on June 2; Katsuyuki Jo narrowly escaped, but they lost precious equipment. The route along the knife edge to Camp II was difficult. Camp II was placed

just beyond the second peak on the ridge on June 5. Beyond the end of the knife edge and below a 35-foot ice wall, they found a 1000-foot-long flat ridge. Camp III was placed there in a snow cave on June 7. More knife edge required fixed rope. On June 10 Katsuyuki Jo and Sekizuka left Camp III just after midnight. They passed a roof-like peak and a small rock peak. A snow and ice wall took three hours to climb. After 15 hours they dug a snow cave near the junction with the northeast ridge. They left again just after midnight on June 11, crossed the snowfield, climbed a snow wall on the east side and followed the ridge to the top (14,470 feet), where they arrived at 5:30 A.M. Yamashita and Nakai reached the summit that same day at eight A.M.

ICHIRO YOSHIZAWA, *A.A.C.* and *Japanese Alpine Club*

West Face of Mount Huntington, Alpine-Style. Since the climb would be a second ascent, following the Harvard route, one should up the ante: do it alpine-style. Jeff Bevan, Randy McGregor, Bruce Wehman and I flew to the Tokositna Glacier on June 25, spent the next week hauling loads to the base of the mountain, climbed and fixed ropes on the "Stegosaur." On the afternoon of June 30 Jeff and Randy informed us that they were spooked and depressed and were giving up. Bruce and I decided to go it alone. We fixed a 600-foot rope off the north side of the Stegosaur from the Harvard party's "Alley" camp. On July 4 we got a fair-weather forecast over the radio. On July 5 we were off and soon arrived at the base of the ice gully. Two and a half pitches took us to the 600-foot rappel rope. The Alley pitch was snow with ice so far below the surface that it was not worth digging for. After three more pitches we hit the face proper. The rock was covered with verglas. Pitches up to F8 took us up the chimney, now at 7:30 P.M. a natural funnel. We made the best of the ledge for a bivouac, both half-sitting with our feet dangling. We were off again at three A.M. The first lead of the Bastion had a few F5 walls but the next part went fast since there was enough ice to avoid all the rock. Another quick lead and the Nose appeared, a classic Yosemite-type aid pitch. Finally falling ice again told us it was time to call it a day and move right to a second bivouac. The next morning we started out with three easy pitches with great expectations of an easy day to the Harvard bivouac site. Then, after a couple of false leads, I started up on a tongue of ice which did not have enough support to allow completion; I moved left and found a traverse which went. We were well to the right of the Harvard route on the bottom half of the wall on an easier ledge-crack system, but the first belay was only halfway up what was supposed to be a one-pitch wall. All the cracks were filled with ice ahead and Bruce did some A2 for 30 feet. The next crack system was running water; I had to use more aid before a few free moves took me to the top of the

rock. Two more leads brought me to a rock from which the bivouac site was obvious, but it was nine P.M. before we reached it. We did not get started until seven A.M. After one fifth-class lead, Bruce and I alternated fourth-class leads to the north ridge. An unbelayed stroll led us to the last difficulties: three successively harder bergschrunds. I went around the first two. The third one gave in only after real effort and a short fall. Bruce led up an easy snow pitch and a few more feet took us to the summit shortly after noon on July 8. We completed the descent in two and a half more days, beleaguered by falling rocks and ice and, on the lower slopes, early-morning avalanches.

DEAN F. SMITH

Moose's Tooth, East Face Attempt. In early June Lou Dawson, Tom Merrill, Bob Sullivan and I made an attempt on the east face of the Moose's Tooth. Cliff Hudson flew us to the Buckskin Glacier a half-mile from the base of the climb. Sullivan and I fixed ropes over the bergschrund and on the first pitch that same day. The weather soon closed in. On the third day it cleared and we started up, climbing 900 feet in 20 hours. By far, the hardest task was the hauling of our twelve days of food and bivouac gear. Both while climbing and in bivouacs, all of us were hit by falling ice and rocks knocked off by the leaders. Merrill decided the climb was too dangerous and started down. We made 300 feet on the second day and bivouacked below the arches that bar access to the large ledges 1700 feet up, the high point of two previous attempts. The weather then deteriorated. The next three pitches were the hardest, with several short pendulums, A4 nailing and a long tension traverse. Dawson reported that he was only 200 feet of easy climbing below large ledges at 1700 feet. Sullivan was halfway up the pitch, cleaning on Jümars, and I was still at the bivouac when a huge avalanche swept down, repeatedly hitting me with basketball-sized chunks of ice; our attempt was over. The slide missed the other two, except for bouncing pieces. Ice ripped through a bivouac tent, a sleeping bag and a hammock, broke stays in my pack and pulled one of the belay bolts (a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch self-drive) half out. We beat a hasty and disappointed retreat.

MICHAEL KENNEDY, *Elk Mountain Climbing Club*

Mount Tatum, Northeast Ridge. On July 7 to 10, my brother Steve Hackett and I climbed Mount Tatum (11,140 feet). We left Wonder Lake early on the 7th and spent the whole day walking to McGonagall Pass. The next day, after a late start, we ascended the northeast ridge of Tatum, reaching the summit late in the evening. The ridge was a long, $3\frac{1}{2}$ -mile snow trudge with some fairly exposed cornices in its upper reaches.

JAMES HACKETT, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Mount Brooks. On June 14 Mark Bondurant, Reinhold Seyde and I reached the summit of Mount Brooks (11,940 feet). On June 11 we left Oastler Pass, crossed the Muldrow Glacier and climbed up the north ridge on loose rock and snow to 7000 feet. After sitting out a storm on the 12th and part of the 13th, we left for the summit at three P.M. and got to the summit at 4:15 A.M. We had extremely deep snow.

DOUGLAS MIGDEN, *Unaffiliated*

Mount Silverthrone Traverse. On April 2 and 3 four of us flew to the Ruth Amphitheater with Cliff Hudson, where we met our fifth member, who had skied in with two companions. We were Jim Bergdahl, Garret Brown, Roger Fuiten, Sandy Mapes and I. Our route led up the north fork of the Ruth Glacier, where we spent days hauling loads up the large icefall between 7000 and 9000 feet. By April 17 we had surmounted the icefall and proceeded to a small cwm formed by the two southern spurs of Silverthrone, where we put our high camp at 11,300 feet. After placing a cache at 12,300 feet on April 20, on the 22nd we carried a second load to the summit (13,220 feet), relayed the 12,300-foot cache to the top and carried the combined load down to a camp on Silverthrone's northeast flank at 12,200 feet. Though the climbing was not difficult, the exposure was great in places. Views of Denali, eight miles away, were superb. We proceeded down to Silverthrone col and established Camp at 10,650 feet. We had originally hoped to traverse the whole Tripyramid ridge but balked at carrying 80-pound packs over the three summits. We therefore decided to attempt to traverse the three peaks in a day and return to the col. On April 24, in continuing good weather, we climbed West Tripyramid and traversed southward to the central peak, where we saw the ridge to the east peak, steep and heavily corniced. After another flawless day, in which we rested, the weather finally turned bad and we descended the Brooks Glacier all the way to the Muldrow. After another fierce storm, we parted company with Fuiten, who skied over McGonagall Pass to the road. The rest of us skied down the Muldrow and over Anderson Pass, where a cache had been placed a month before. Three more days of skiing on the middle fork of the Chulitna River finally brought us on April 30 to the Anchorage-Fairbanks highway.

A. REYNOLDS, *Kadota Climbing Club*

Tokosha Mountains. The Teton-like Tokosha Mountains, named in 1906 by Belmore Browne and meaning "the place where there are no trees" in Tanaina, lie between the termini of the Ruth and Tokositna Glaciers. This granite-cored, compact uplift was a mecca for first ascents during the past year. In mid-winter Dirk Bodnar, Mark Fouts,

Brian Okonek and I climbed the following summits in unsettled weather: P 4930, P 4969 and P 4955 on December 30, 1974 and P 5019 on January 1. The three earthquakes we experienced were exciting, but more memorable was the exhausting, 18-mile slog out at -39° F. It was like sunny Chamonix when Okonek and I returned to bag the high peaks in March: mornings on coarse granite peaks, afternoon slaloms through boulder gates on the glacier. We climbed Tokosha Peak (6148 feet), the highpoint of the massif, on March 3. We were joined by Michel Flouret on P 5950 and P 5793 on March 5. Summer found Flouret, Felice Pache and Parry Rich battling the typical Chulitna monsoon, mosquitoes and mazes of alders on the approach to traverse P 4842 from east to west and P 5705 from west to east on July 30.

DAVID JOHNSTON, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Mount Deborah, North Face Attempt; P 9400 and P 9830. Our party consisted of Don Brooks*, Dave Huntley, Eric Reynolds and me*. Cliff Hudson flew us to the north side of Deborah, where we established Base Camp on the Gillam Glacier. The next five days were spent fixing ropes, ferrying loads and establishing a high camp on the prominent cleaver which merges into the face proper some 4000 feet from the summit. Our plan was for an alpine-style push from this point. Several storms with 100-mph winds which flattened our tents, broke the poles and in which we lost crampons and climbing gear, our lack of fixed rope and rock pitons and the problem of descent off a rather inaccessible summit caused us to abandon the project and turn our attention during the second week of May to surrounding peaks. At the end of Deborah's west ridge lies P 9400, which was climbed by Brooks and Huntley via the northeast ridge. Descent was by the northwest face. Several miles northwest of this peak lies P 9830. It has a long east-west ridge separating it from a smaller summit on the eastern end. Reynolds and I climbed the north face of this smaller peak, a 2100-foot ice face, and did a traverse of the ridge to the main peak. Descent was via a couloir on the southeast face.

DAVID E. DAVIS, *Unaffiliated*

South Peak of Mount Hayes Attempt. We failed to reach the south peak of Mount Hayes because a huge *crêvasse* lay at right angles to our climbing route 50 feet below the summit. We had only two snow pickets left, which we needed for the descent. In another attempt we shall bring a ladder. The lower part of the south face of the south peak, across which we traversed to reach the south ridge, has great avalanche danger. The south ridge is not difficult except for some steep, snow-covered

*Recipient of a grant from the Boyd N. Everett Climbing Fellowship.

ice and some unstable hard snow in the form of lobster tails near the summit, which is guarded by several séracs. We used four days and nights for the attempt including reconnaissance and load-carrying.

TOSHIRO MATSUNAGA, A.A.C. and *Japanese Alpine Club*

Kichatna Spires. During the month of July a group of Alaska climbers, Clancy Crawford, Charlie Hostetler, Paul Denkwalter, Peter Sennhauser and I, climbed, skied and explored a small portion of the Cathedral Spires. Al Curtis flew us under the clouds and onto the Tatina Glacier on July 2. Base Camp was set up at the head of Tatina Glacier. On July 4 Paul, Peter and I climbed a spire just west of camp (7400 feet; "Pollak Spire"). The climb involved a 1000-foot snow gully, five rock pitches (one F8), and lots of wet weather. On July 6 Clancy and Charlie climbed the three summit spires of a peak west of Mount Jeffers (6800 feet; "Three-O-Spire"). Their climb involved a nasty icefall and some good 5th-class climbing. On July 10 Clancy, Charlie and I climbed a spire just north of Mount Nevermore (7800 feet; "Mount Neveragain"). After 1500 feet of steep snow and ice climbing followed by five gratifying rock-climbing pitches, we arrived on this superb summit with its rewards: view of everywhere. On the same day Peter and Paul did some 5th-class rock climbing on the slabs of Mount Jeffers. After several days of being stuck in our tents by the typical Spires weather (rain, snow, high winds and white-out), Paul and I ventured out and up a peak. We left camp to climb a magnificent snow spire east of camp (7600 feet; "Whiteout Spire"). The almost zero visibility made the climb through the icefall thrilling, especially the crevasses I fell into. Five pitches of front-pointing and snow-climbing brought us to the summit. After another long spell of bad weather it cleared. And on July 18, Charlie, Paul and I skied down glacier to climb Sunshine Couloir (7000 feet). We climbed its fantastic 1500-foot ice gully and 40-foot rock pitch to its summit. The ice was 60° to 70° and in almost perfect condition. One of the best climbs of the expedition. Ice conditions in late July are great.

GARY BOCARDE

Eekayruk, Falsoola, Brooks Range. Starting from the pipeline road on August 17, our group crossed the Dietrich River and followed Kuyuktuvuk and Trembley Creeks, then crossed into the Hammond River valley. After hiking over Kinnorutin Pass we climbed Doonerak (7457 feet) by its south ridge from St. Patricks Creek on August 22. Records of two previous ascents were found on the summit. Snow kept us in our tents for several days and on August 27 we started hiking back the same way as we wanted to avoid more snow on the passes. However the weather improved and on August 31 we climbed Eekayruk Mountain (6490 feet) via a snow couloir on its north face. After we reached the

summit, we saw a higher point on the northwest ridge of the mountain (approximately 6530 feet) which we also climbed and where we placed the summit register. Next day we climbed Falsoola Mountain (6320 feet) by a couloir leading from the south fork of the Trembley Creek valley to the southeast ridge, and from there to the summit. Both Falsoola and Eekayruk have not, to our knowledge, been climbed previously. We hiked out the same day we climbed Falsoola (September 1). The weather in the late summer was mixed, occasionally very beautiful, with one severe multi-day snowstorm, and we saw no mosquitos or people, only a few planes overhead and a mysterious footprint along the Hammond River. All climbs were made by all party members: Irene and Colin Miller, Skip Walker, Fred Rowley, and Vera Komarkova. The last three party members were associated with the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.

IRENE MILLER

Romanzof Mountains, Brooks Range. During three weeks of June, Geoff Radford and I climbed around the Okpilak River drainage in the eastern Brooks Range. The area is of interest as it contains the highest and most heavily glaciated peaks of the Brooks Range. In addition, we were attracted by a large intrusion of granite in the predominately sedimentary landscape, which had not been fully explored for climbing possibilities. From a glacier camp about two miles southeast of Mount Michelson, we climbed Michelson (8855 feet) and Tugak Peak (8500+ feet), and made first ascents of three prominent rock pinnacles south of camp (8300+, 7900+, and 7900+ feet). These are all granite and offer enjoyable fourth- and mid-fifth-class rock routes; we saw no extended faces comparable to the granite of the Arrigetch. Access to the ridges often involved steep ice gullies. We then moved further south to the sedimentary peaks near the headwaters of the Okpilak, making a first ascent of Peak 8760 and the second ascent of Mount Isto (9050 feet), the highest peak in the Brooks Range. This had first been climbed by Post, Mason, and Keeler in 1958. Our last climb was back on the granite of Mount Hubley (8915 feet), climbed in near white-out conditions via the Bravo Glacier, from a camp on the Okpilak River. The next week was spent hiking north amid caribou, wolves, fox, and plentiful birdlife, to an airfield on the Arctic Ocean. Our timing was rewarded by a total absence of mosquitos throughout the trip.

GORDON BENNER

Mount Michelson, Brooks Range. Tom Elliott and I climbed Mount Michelson (8855 feet) and Tugak Peak (approx. 8600 feet) on August 3 and 4, 1974, respectively. We reached the Michelson area during the second week of a three-week hike which began at the southern bound-

ary of the Arctic National Wildlife Range on the East Fork of the Chandalar River. We followed the Hulahula River through the Romanzof Mountains, spent four days around Michelson and completed our trip at Barter Island. Both climbs were done in good weather from a camp at 6900 feet on the north side of Esetuk Glacier. We ascended Michelson by the southeast face after a slow but fairly easy snow and rock climb of a south ridge one half mile east of the summit. Our route up Tugak was a direct climb of the north ridge.

RICK NOTLING, *Unaffiliated*

Mount Hill, Northern Boundary Range. On August 12, 1974, while working for the U.S. Geological Survey, I climbed this peak (Boundary Peak 78). I ascended the southeast ridge from the col between it and a smaller peak just across the Canadian border. The ascent of the rounded ridge took an hour and a half and involved mixed 3rd- and 4th-class rock and steep wet snow. There was no evidence of prior climbers in the summit rocks; the International Boundary Commission Reports indicate that this peak was not occupied by the survey party which passed through the area in 1909.

WALTER VENNUM

Marcus Baker, Chugach Mountains. In August, Kate Allen, John Wittmayer, Randall Jones and I spent twelve days relaying equipment up to the headwall of the Matanuska Glacier to our Base Camp. During this time we made two superb first ascents. From the base of the Matanuska tributary feeding from the great ice wall on the southeast shoulder of Mount Sergeant Robinson a solo climber ascended the mountain-sheep pastures to the east ridge of P 8380 and followed this ridge above the glacier. Traversing the snow subsummit, he climbed the glacial east face of the 600-foot summit pyramid. On the east side of the Matanuska Glacier, a few miles below the main headwall, stands a group of four sublime alpine spires. The fine 9000-foot northernmost horn was climbed by two of the party by the north arm of its cascading glacier above the steep icefall and over the firn shoulders to and up the west ridge. From Base Camp we worked our way up the northeast ridge of Marcus Baker, two members reaching the summit at dusk on the sixth day. The remainder of the party joined them on top the following day.

DENNIS SCHMITT, *Unaffiliated*

Marcus Baker, North Summit. Mark Fouts, Ward Warren and I approached by the winding, 30-mile Matanuska Glacier. On June 11 we placed Base Camp at the bottom of Marcus Baker's north ridge. The next three days were spent threading our way up the north ridge to the north summit (12,360 feet). The route was technically not difficult. The

main south summit is 800 feet higher and three miles further along the ridge. Our retreat to civilization was made by ascending to the 9000-foot pass between the Matanuska and Marcus Baker Glaciers and skiing down the latter to Grasshopper valley, where we were picked up and flown back to Anchorage.

CHARLES R. HAMMOND, *Mountaineering Club of Alaska*

Mount Sanford, Wrangell Range. On August 8 Randy Hargesheimer, Rich Swenson, Jean Borrett and I crossed the Copper River by raft and began the hike to Mount Sanford (16,237 feet). Our route followed Boulder Creek and Sheep Glacier to a point on the north side at 10,750 feet, where we received an airdrop. After several short storms we reached the summit on August 17.

ANDREW KNAPP, *Minnesota Rovers Outing Club*

Blackburn. Teruo Takeda and Yoshiaki Fujii of the Sado Alpine Club were landed on May 23 on the Nabesna Glacier at 6500 feet. They placed Camp I in the west col at 10,000 feet on the 25th. Camp II was placed on May 28 at 13,125 feet. They climbed to the summit (16,530 feet) on May 29.

ICHIRO YOSHIZAWA, *A.A.C. and Japanese Alpine Club*

Mount Jette, St. Elias Mountains. On July 6, R.A. Bindschadler, W.D. Harrison, C.F. Raymond and I made what we believe to be the first ascent of Mount Jette (8460 feet), boundary peak 177 in the St. Elias range between Alaska and the northwestern tip of British Columbia. The peak is named after Sir Louis Jetté, who was one of the boundary arbitrators. Our base was the University of Alaska-Washington camp on Variegated Glacier, where we and other glaciologists are investigating causes of the surge behavior of this glacier. A six-hour ascent was made after a bivouac on the pass between Variegated and Butler Glaciers. About a mile of scrambling along a ridge and several easy but dangerous pitches on rotten rock, gave access to steep but easy snow slopes leading to the summit. Near disaster struck on the descent when one of the party was virtually carried off the ridge as it disintegrated around him. Luckily he was held uninjured by the few surviving strands of the rope.

PETER H. WEICKMANN, *Unaffiliated*

Mount Wilbur, Fairweather Group. Ken Loken flew David Jones, Clark Gerhardt, Craig McKibben and me from Juneau to Lituya Bay on May 19. We disembarked on a rocky beach near the snout of the North Crillon Glacier. A few hours of unpleasant toil through brush and over moraine got us onto a pressure ridge, which we climbed to its end

and on up the glacier. The next morning we continued traveling in a miserable, wet snowfall. By that night we had Base Camp in a basin below Mounts Wilbur (10,821 feet) and Orville (10,495 feet). Wilbur was almost 6500 feet above us. Its south ridge snaked down from the summit in a series of cornices until it was blocked by an enormous monolithic gendarme. Below, the ridge broadened for a few thousand feet. The lower part of the route almost resembled a face. Orville did not look at all promising. The 21st was an inside-the-tent day. The morning of May 22 was cold; the sky was an intense blue and no clouds were in sight. While Clark, Craig and I organized food and gear for a five-day push, Dave snowshoed over to the head of the basin and, to our surprise, up the slope next to the icefall to check out a glacial plateau 1500 feet above camp. That afternoon we waded through deep snow past the icefall to the top of the plateau, where we camped. Early the next morning we were off. Each successive pitch became steeper. Some unprotected mixed climbing took us to a narrow gully, which led to the second plateau. Above, the route ascended for 1000 feet up a rock-studded face to the huge gendarme. We passed the gendarme on its southwest side, a delicate maneuver because of the thin, unstable mantle of ice and snow. We continued up along the narrow, knife-edged ridge on hard ice and deep snow. There was absolutely no place to stop and so we kept moving up the ridge, sometimes over, sometimes around the cornices. Finally I surmounted a hump of snow to find Craig and Dave on a section of cornice large enough for all of us to stand on. We scooped out a platform for a bivouac. The morning of May 23 was cold and breezy. Two quick pitches got us around the last cornice and onto easier ground to the summit. The descent was interrupted by my unroped 100-foot fall into a crevasse, from which I escaped luckily unhurt.

GREGORY C. MARKOV

P 12,606, Fairweather Range. On April 24 Bill Sumner, Mike Heath and I reached Base Camp at 6500 feet on the Fairweather Glacier, hoping to climb either Mount Salisbury (12,170 feet), P 12,606 or both. Continual bad weather pinned us down for the next two weeks. Finally, on May 9, the weather improved and we climbed 2000 feet up Salisbury's northwest face, which rises 5000 feet at a sustained 50° to 55°, before a violent, warm storm forced a retreat. In the short remaining time we decided to gamble on a quick alpine push to reach P 12,606. Steep snow couloirs on the south side provided access to the high plateau between Mount Quincy Adams and the final 2000 feet of the north ridge of P 12,606. We climbed the second couloir from the right, unroped, up 45° to 50° snow for 2000 feet. Near its exit to the plateau, the couloir became increasingly difficult and we had several hard leads to finish it.

Ahead there were no more technical difficulties, but the weather again worsened. Lightweight snowshoes helped us through the basin's deep snow to reach the north ridge. After 14 hours of climbing we reached the summit. On the descent we bivouacked at the top of the couloir. The next morning we abseiled several hundred feet to reach the easier snow. During three weeks we had only four marginal climbing days. We are proposing to the authorities the name of "Mount Tlingit" in honor of the native people who first inhabited this magnificent area.

DUSAN JAGERSKY

Mount Lituya. After many a rainy night in Juneau, Larry McGee of Channel Flying landed our trio at Cape Fairweather on a glacial lake above the beach. My wife Diana is quite feminine, Jim Nelson young and thin and I overweight and so our pilot was a bit skeptical when we told him to pick us up after three weeks. Five days later we were at the base of the north ridge of Mount Lituya, 6000 feet below the summit, exhausted and sunburned. The next day, July 10, was a rest day with beautiful weather. Friends had told us that if we moved fast we should do the whole ridge and descend in a day. They also told us that snow flukes would be good and ice screws useless, and so, going light, we had three flukes and one screw. We carried everything from the beach in a single push, over 25 miles. After another rest day, forced on us by bad weather, we started up the ridge; candy in our pockets, terrordactyls on our hips and down parkas in two packs. We also had two freeze-dried dinners and a stove, "just in case." My diary says: "Hairy—steep ice, no belays. Jim does a good job step-kicking. Bivy in a whiteout in 'Ice Palace Schrund' near the top of the ridge. Cold! Day 2: Cloudy morning. Lead off on 50° ice. No belays with only one ice screw. Company policy: nobody falls. Many leads to the summit. Off route on the way down and back to the summit. Down the south ridge with double cornices and much exposure. Last pitch on south ridge spectacular over ice mushrooms. Another bivy above the icefall at two A.M. Whiteout. Day 3: Up at 5:45; cloudy. Down icefall and back to camp."

DAVID DAILEY, *Unaffiliated*

Ice Climbing in Alaska. There is a growing interest in ice climbing in Alaska. Two areas have been getting most of the attention: Portage glacier and Thunderbird Falls. Terry Becker, Jim Hale, Gary Bocarde, Paul Denkwalter, and Peter Sennhauser have been putting up the majority of the routes. In the Portage glacier area there are numerous frozen waterfalls. The Hand, with its five fingers is the most popular, with climbs ranging from 100 to 350 feet of steep water ice (90° sections). Thunder-

bird Falls area has several challenging climbs, the most difficult being Ripple Falls. Three pitches of climbing: two very steep and sustained.

GARY BOCARDE

Mendenhall Towers, Juneau Icefields. Craig McKibben, Brian Cox, my wife Sharon and I left the Mendenhall Loop Road on July 5 and walked 15 miles up to the base of the Mendenhall Towers in 1½ days. On July 7 Brian, Craig and I climbed the southeast ridge of the second tower (of the seven, numbered west to east) and returned to camp in 18 hours. On July 9 we climbed the south ridge of the third tower and returned in 20 hours. The descent of the southwest face was a vertical horror of loose blocks, in semi-darkness with a thunder storm approaching. Both routes were of 14 pitches of varied climbing on good rock in a magnificent alpine setting. The hardest climbing was F9. Craig and Brian did most of the leading.

MALCOLM MOORE

Washington—Cascade Mountains

Mount Adams, Stormy Monday Couloir. Craig Reininger and I made an ascent of a spectacular snow and ice finger on the north side of Mount Adams on July 6 and 7. Starting from the lower Adams Glacier we ascended a snow finger to its left until we came up against a rock band at the top. We then traversed left two leads across loose fourth-class rock in crampons until we reached a sickle-shaped 50° ice gully. This was followed to the top of the west face of the north ridge and onto the summit plateau. A brewing electrical storm made our equipment buzz and shocked us through the wet rope as we literally ran down the north ridge. Moderate rockfall. NCCS II or III.

ERIC SIMONSON

Mount Rainier, Nisqually Ice Cliff. Jerry Hasfjord and I made the first winter ascent of the Nisqually Ice Cliff after several previous attempts on March 3 and 4. Since we were afraid of encroaching bad weather, we went light and fast. This enabled us to make the summit round-trip from Paradise in 30 hours nonstop. We encountered deep snow, disappearing snow bridges and extremely cold temperatures during the all-night climb. Descending via Gibraltar Ledge we were back to Tacoma by dinner after one of the most exhausting efforts either of us had done. NCCS II.

ERIC SIMONSON

Dragontail Peak, Sundown Route. Keith Boyer and I climbed this new route, which begins to the right of the northwest face route (Davis-

Beckey, 1962) and is separated from it by a prominent black ridge which leads directly to the summit. The first two pitches out of the moat lean to the north and become steep immediately. These are followed by a series of ledges (easy class five), then the wall steepens again. After a mid-day start, we bivouacked after eight pitches. Sunday morning found us continuing up the final five pitches. The crux was in this section: a long pillar with a jam-crack in a corner, laybacking off jams to friction up to a mediocre belay. Beyond this, the climbing improved steadily until we stepped through the notch just southwest of the summit. July 26 and 27. NCCS IV, F8, 13 pitches.

C. M. HOLT

Mount Adams, Lava Glacier Headwall. On June 21, Craig Eihlers, Clint Crocker, Matt Kerns, and I hiked the Killen Creek Trail #113 to Mountaineers Camp for our base. On June 22, we climbed to approximately 8500 feet by crossing over the lower portion of the north ridge. The ascent began by crossing the lowest and first of three schrunds of the extreme right or west side of the Lava Glacier beneath the north ridge. We ascended diagonally across the headwall using rock outcroppings for protection from continual rockfall. So far this route had been just right of the west portion route shown on page 63 of Fred Beckey's *Cascade Alpine Guide*. We then crossed the west portion route just beneath rock cliffs and entered an obvious chute slightly above mid-center of the headwall itself and between the east and west portion routes. Referring to page 63, this chute is located immediately above "ea" in "Headwall." We then ascended directly upward joining the east and west portion junction on the upper portion of the north ridge route. From here, follow the route to the summit. We descended by way of the north ridge.

DAVID E. ROWLAND

Cathedral Rock. Randy Johnson, Terri Van Hollebeke and I did a new route on this peak on July 1, 1973. It begins in an obvious chimney on the southeast face; the first lead ascends a mossy dihedral out of a cave and ends at a tree. Two leads of class three and one of class four bring one to the summit ridge, from which it is a scramble to the summit. NCCS I, F6.

C. M. HOLT

Mount Maude, Central Couloir, On July 19, Tim Boyer, his brother Keith, and I climbed the couloir in one day from the car. Apart from a short rock pitch to gain the snow above the bergschrund, the climb was uneventful 45°-50° snow (at the steepest places). I'm not sure if

this would hold enough snow to form a good ice climb by September. This is, at any rate, the easiest of the north face routes. NCCS II, F6.

C. M. HOLT

California—Sierra Nevada

Peak 12,160+, Peaklet Wall. This peak appears to be a smaller image of Mount Humphreys when viewed from the east. In August, Jay Jensen, Gordon Wiltsie, Helmut Kiene, and I climbed the 1800-foot northeast face, locally referred to as "Peaklet Wall." It proved to be much easier than it looked, with long sections of broken cliff that could be climbed unroped (F3 to F5). Overall, the climb was slightly longer and more difficult than the east face of Mount Whitney. The crux was a 200-foot vertical dihedral with a bulge at the top. NCCS III, F7.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Wheeler Crest, Big Gray Pinnacle. In November, I joined a visiting French climber, David Belden, in making the first ascent of this 1000-foot tower by a prominent dihedral on the east face. The climbing was mostly in cracks and chimneys with a F10 crux past a 20-foot ceiling via face moves on the righthand wall after the only crack ends. The tower is the most obvious free-standing pinnacle about two miles north of the Smokestack. NCCS IV, F10.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Mount Humphreys, South Pillar of Southeast Face. On December 30, Jay Jensen and I made a one-day new route up this 1500-foot pillar. At five A.M. we left the valley floor in unusually mild winter conditions, using four-wheel drive to reach a roadhead at 9000 feet. By the time we began technical climbing at over 12,000 feet, a cold front had moved in rapidly, causing a 25° mid-day temperature drop in nearby cities. In the valley, 70 mph winds blew down trees and power lines. At nearly 14,000 feet on Mount Humphreys, even stronger winds threatened to blow us off our stances. On difficult climbing we could only remove our hands from gloves for a few moves before wind chill dictated thrusting them under our belts. We climbed unroped up to F7 and belayed only three pitches. Although ledges and low angle areas were snowbound, we found the steeper rock surprisingly free of snow. Urged on by the cold and the fine high-country granite, we reached the 13,986-foot summit at two P.M., traversing the mountain via a descent of the F4 northeast ridge. We reached our vehicle just at dark as snowflakes began to fall. The round trip took eleven hours and the pillar itself is rated NCCS III, F8.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Peak 11,440+. Spring Lake Wall, "That's a Sheer Cliff" Route. The north face of Peak 11,440+ in the Mineral King region drops sheerly into Spring Lake. Unknown to Vern Clevenger and me, Fred Beckey had climbed the right side of the face earlier in 1975. As we veered from the unofficial trail to approach the face, a backpacker began yelling at us excitedly, "Come back! Come back! That's a sheer cliff!" We decided that his quote would be a fitting name if we could climb the wall. The center of the face had several dihedrals rising vertically nearly 1000 feet. Rashly, Vern and I began the climb at two P.M. after our approach from the roadhead. We thought if all the climbing was free, then we could finish the climb by dark. Late in the day we had climbed only two F9 pitches, one of them poorly protected and devious. We descended and returned the next morning, climbing two more F9 pitches up cracks, chimneys, and bulges before the route eased back into lower angle F7 and F8. By noon we reached the summit. NCCS IV, F9.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Middle Palisade, East Face. On August 31, Tim Ryan and I climbed a new route on the east face of Middle Palisade (14,040 feet). We cramponed up to the highest point of the glacier. Tim led the first pitch, the most difficult of the climb; this delicate traverse went directly up from the bergschrund, then descended to the left. The next pitch traversed an easy 60-foot ledge, then went up a very loose chimney. The following pitch traversed left on the face, then led up to a belay beneath an overhang. After another pitch upward, the route traversed left around a corner into a broad chute that led up to the first notch south of Middle Palisade. From this col, we traversed to the right for one pitch before ascending to the summit ridge. NCCS III, F5.

JOHN D. MENDENHALL

Mount Sill. On July 15 Woody Stark and I climbed Mount Sill by a new route that starts from Lake 11,672 in the Glacier Creek drainage. We started toward the glacier routes, but instead of turning left toward the glacier, we climbed the headwall seen from the lake. Once on the ridge, we traversed to the summit. One rappel was used to avoid aid.

RICHARD H. WEBSTER

The Needles, South Face of Wizard. In mid-April, Dave Black, Fred Beckey, and I did a new seven-pitch route on Wizard. Visible from the road, and on the approach from the southeast, is a prominent crack system. We followed the system for five pitches of jamming and chimneying to a large ledge beneath the massive summit block. We then

traversed far to the left to a hidden crack system. (The hidden crack may be seen in "Summit"—February 1974, page 3.) We named the route "Spellbound." NCCS III, F9.

ROBB DELLINGER, *Buff Mountaineers*

Kettle Dome, West Face. Fred Beckey, Phil Warrender and I made the first ascent of this route on October 20, 1974; the first technical climb to be established on this small but attractive dome. A long poorly protected crack led us into the center of a shallow bowl in the middle of the face. Two pitches of enjoyable friction ended below a vertical headwall. Here we traversed right 100 feet to a flared corner and climbed this to the crest of the southwest ridge. After one moderate pitch along the ridge we scrambled the last 200 feet to the seldom visited summit. NCCS II, F6.

WALTER VENNUM

Fresno Dome, Torn and Frayed. This short, four-pitch climb was done by Jack Forsythe and me in June. It lies on the right side of a prominent pillar a few hundred feet right of the Beckey-Stuart route. Three obvious pitches lead to a huge ledge from where easy face-climbing leads right, then up to the unroping spot. NCCS II, F8.

SIMON KING, *Unaffiliated*

Fresno Dome, Blue Connection. This one-pitch route starts 50 feet to the right of Torn and Frayed and involves an easy ramp followed by a tricky face move and ending with an unprotected water groove. Jack Forsythe and I made the first ascent in June. NCCS I, F8.

SIMON KING, *Unaffiliated*

Tuttle Creek, Goin' Nuts. In August 1974, Elliot Dubreuil and I climbed the red wall just west of Stonehouse Buttress on the south face of Lone Pine Peak. I believe that it was the first time this wall had been climbed, the other south face routes being much farther west. Starting about 150 feet right of the large left-facing dihedral that forms the west side of the face, we climbed up past two small trees and continued straight up. Fourteen full pitches of fifth-class climbing over excellent pink granite led to the top. We did the climb clean and hammerless.

STEVE EDDY, *Unaffiliated*

Tuttle Creek, Keyhole Wall. On May 18, Jack Roberts and I climbed a classic six-pitch new route on this spectacular wall; we called it the

"Locksmith Route". The route climbs the smooth central and highest portion of the face, and can be identified by the first two pitches which are a whitish right-facing open-book. The route is quite continuous in finger-jams and cracks, as well as face-climbing problems. NCCS III, F8 or F9. On January 15, 1976, Alan Bartlett and I climbed a slightly shorter open-book route about 100 yards to the east. We dubbed this the "Pass Key"; the route is one continuous crack and chimney system. NCCS II, F7.

FRED BECKEY

Lone Pine Peak, South Face. On June 14, Chuck Sink and I put up a new route on Lone Pine's south face. The route begins above the start of the giant couloir cutting the face diagonally. It is nearly all free and follows cracks just right of a prominent right facing dihedral. Other than some minor bushwhacking while searching for the face, we enjoyed excellent climbing on sound rock.

ALAN J. KEARNEY

Banner Peak, East Face. On August 9 and 10, Arne Myrabo and I climbed what we believe to be a new route on the east face of Banner Peak. No evidence of a previous ascent was discovered. The route starts about 200 feet to the right of the east-face-direct route on a rib which continues up and slightly right to about 200 feet below the summit crest and about 800 feet north of the actual summit. The climb begins on the left side of the rib in left-facing books which continue for about 200 feet. We climbed the rib for about ten pitches of class 4 and class 5. From this point, 200 feet short of the summit crest, we traversed up and left two easy pitches to a stance slightly left of some white water stains on overhanging rock. A short difficult pitch straight up leads to the crest. Easy climbing leads 800 feet north to the summit. One bivouac was required on the face because we started the first day from Agnew Meadows. We climbed clean. NCCS III, F8.

KIM GRANDFIELD, *Unaffiliated*

Mount Whitney, East Face Direct. In August 1974, Gary Colliver and I completed a new route on the east face of Mount Whitney. We started climbing in a crack system which starts to the left of the washboard. After seven pitches of F8 to F9 climbing and 300 feet of 3rd class we gained the top of the washboard. Two crack systems take off from here. We chose the straight-in crack to the right. Two pitches of F8 and two of F9 end 400 feet directly below the summit. We climbed clean. NCCS IV, F9.

CHRIS VANDIVER, *Unaffiliated*

Crowley Buttrass, Eagle Eyes. In July 1973, Mark Gaynor, Ken Boche, and I climbed a new route up the west face of Crowley Buttrass in the Nelson Lake area. The climb began in a chimney on the right. After 100 feet we exited from the chimney to the left and climbed a F9 jam-crack for another 100 feet. We proceeded up and left for 600 feet of F7 to F9 to the summit. NCCS IV, F9.

CHRIS VANDIVER, *Unaffiliated*

Mount Conness, West Face, Rosy Crown Route. In June 1974, Gary Colliver and I put up a new route starting 300 feet to the right of the Harding route. We climbed free for a full 150 feet. The second pitch went free until the crack became shallow. We passed a roof with aid and then climbed free to a loose-looking flake. From here the path of least resistance (F9) and 8 more pitches led to the summit. NCCS IV, F9, A2.

CHRIS VANDIVER, *Unaffiliated*

Bubbs Creek Wall was climbed on June 8 and 9, 1974 by Mark Losleben, Mike McGoey, Reed Cundiff, and Fred Beckey by a new route.

Fuller Butte, Northeast face, White Dike Route. This very enjoyable four-pitch free climb was done April 21 by Dave Black, Jim Black and Fred Beckey. The dike makes the polished granite possible; the climbing is continuously interesting. Bolts were placed at several belay spots and also several times to protect long run-outs. NCCS II, F9.

Wells Peak, East Face. This face, north of The Smokestack and Adams Rib, resembles Mount Whitney in miniature. Reconnaissance located a good start and some very continuous face climbing. The final ascent was made on February 23 and 24, 1974, by Jack Roberts, Allen Bartlett, and Fred Beckey. Except for a few moves of aid on the second pitch, the entire climb is free, and on generally good rock. Three consecutive steep pitches led from a bivouac at the foot of the wall to a broken terrace. Higher, a long crack system leads to the apex of a pillar. (A weird mantling traverse and an overhanging free problem are the key areas.) Rock directly above proved unyielding, so the party made a short rappel to the gully south of it, then continued several more pitches to the summit. Descent was by a snow gully on the north. NCCS IV, F8, A1.

Sunrise Wall. This is the prominent east-facing granite wall just above the trail to Nelson Lake, across the divide from Tuolomne Meadows. Karl Kaiyala, Reed Cundiff, and I made the first climb of the wall on

October 13, 1974 after fixing the first pitch the evening before. The route follows a continuous crack system (a right-facing dihedral) which is very obvious from the trail. The first three pitches are free, with some strenuous sections; most of the fourth pitch is aid, with some bottoming crack problems. Grade III; F8, A3.

FRED BECKEY

Witch Tower, The Needles, West Face. The first route on the impressive west face was done November 17, 1974 by Dave Black, Steve Eddy, and me; the beginning is from a short pillar over 100 yards south of the divide notch. The climb is superb, and would be a classic anywhere. Four of six pitches are F9, with not a loose stone on the climb, which is largely small face holds or thin jams—continuous all the way to the summit ridge south of the pointed tip. The first pitch goes straight up a crack ending in hard fingertip jams; one continues up until convolution moves spread one across left under an overhang (F9); bubbly small holds continue over a pitch, where awkward jamming takes one under a blocking overhang. The left side is possible after much probing (F9), with not much to work on; finally an improbable traverse to the right takes one to a layback heading for the summit spine. Grade III, F9.

FRED BECKEY

Four Gables, North Peak via East Face. This was a new route, done June 15, 1974 with Mike Levine, following the buttress on the face seen plainly from the highway north of Bishop. Once on the buttress, reasonably sound granite led the climbing to a sharp crest about 500 feet below the summit. Very shattered rock forced a traverse left into a steep snow gully, which was taken to the summit ridge. NCCS II, F6.

FRED BECKEY

Spring Lake Wall. A color photo in a packer's brochure shows this face to good advantage. The north-facing wall is about 700 feet high, rises above Spring Lake (Middle Fork Kaweah drainage), and is reached by an uphill grind from Mineral King. Robb Dellinger, Debbie Winters and I placed the first route on this attractive face July 14, 1974, following essentially a direct crack and dihedral system to the summit. The rock is very good and the climbing continuously excellent. NCCS III, F6.

FRED BECKEY

Mount Russell, South Ridge to East Peak. This very prominent crest is really a continuation of the main divide from the Whitney-Russell col. (It is the left profile as seen from Upper Boy Scout Lake.) Greg Thom-

sen, Ed Ehrenfeldt, and I made the climb on September 15, 1974. The climbing over and around a serrate crest of granite teeth is quite spectacular and provides a number of short problems. The nearness of the summit-route gully to the west offers escapes, and is therefore a detraction to any claim of boldness. NCCS II, F7.

FRED BECKEY

Kettle Dome, West Face. The first climb of this face was done on October 20, 1974 by Walt Vennum, Phil Warrender, and me; the route is on the right side (long side) of the face, near where it corners to the south. The route is all face climbing, much on small holds, with a shortage of protection opportunity, especially on the first pitch. About 6 pitches. NCCS II; F7.

FRED BECKEY

Clyde Palisade, Primrose Ridge. This prominent crest adorns the north face of Clyde Palisade to end on the west summit. It is very visible from Glacier Lodge and usually divides the light from shadow. Dave Black, Mike Graber, and I made the first climb in late July, taking most of the day from a high camp at about 12,000 feet where a rock outcrop breaks the glacier. Icy snow led to the lowest portion of the very thin crest (this is just west of the spur that continues north). From here 13 demanding pitches took us to the summit, with each pitch religiously staying on the crest; 3 of the pitches were a minimum of F9. NCCS IV, F9; all chocks.

FRED BECKEY

"Hair-raiser Buttress," Granite Basin. Vern Clevenger and I climbed this route in June. The route ascends the only prominent, pitted buttress in the middle of the Granite Basin group. We started off some boulders slightly uphill from the low point and center of the buttress and then took the central line for three pitches to the top, always following the area most solution-pocked. The final pitch is the crux, some F9 and considerable F8, all protected by bolts. NCCS II, F9.

THOMAS HIGGINS

Sugarloaf Dome, Southwest Face. This face was climbed in June by Fred Beckey and me. Sugarloaf is the prominent formation across the Merced River from Bonnell Point in Little Yosemite Valley. Leave the trail at a point where you walk next to a cascade and gain a bushy ledge below the southwest face. Starting just left of the left-most tree on the ledge, climb several difficult free pitches to a point where you nail a short crack to a tree. Climb up and right for a pitch and nail a small short arch

PLATE 62

**Tom Higgins and Vern Clevenger on
Hair-raiser Buttress, Granite Basin,
California.**

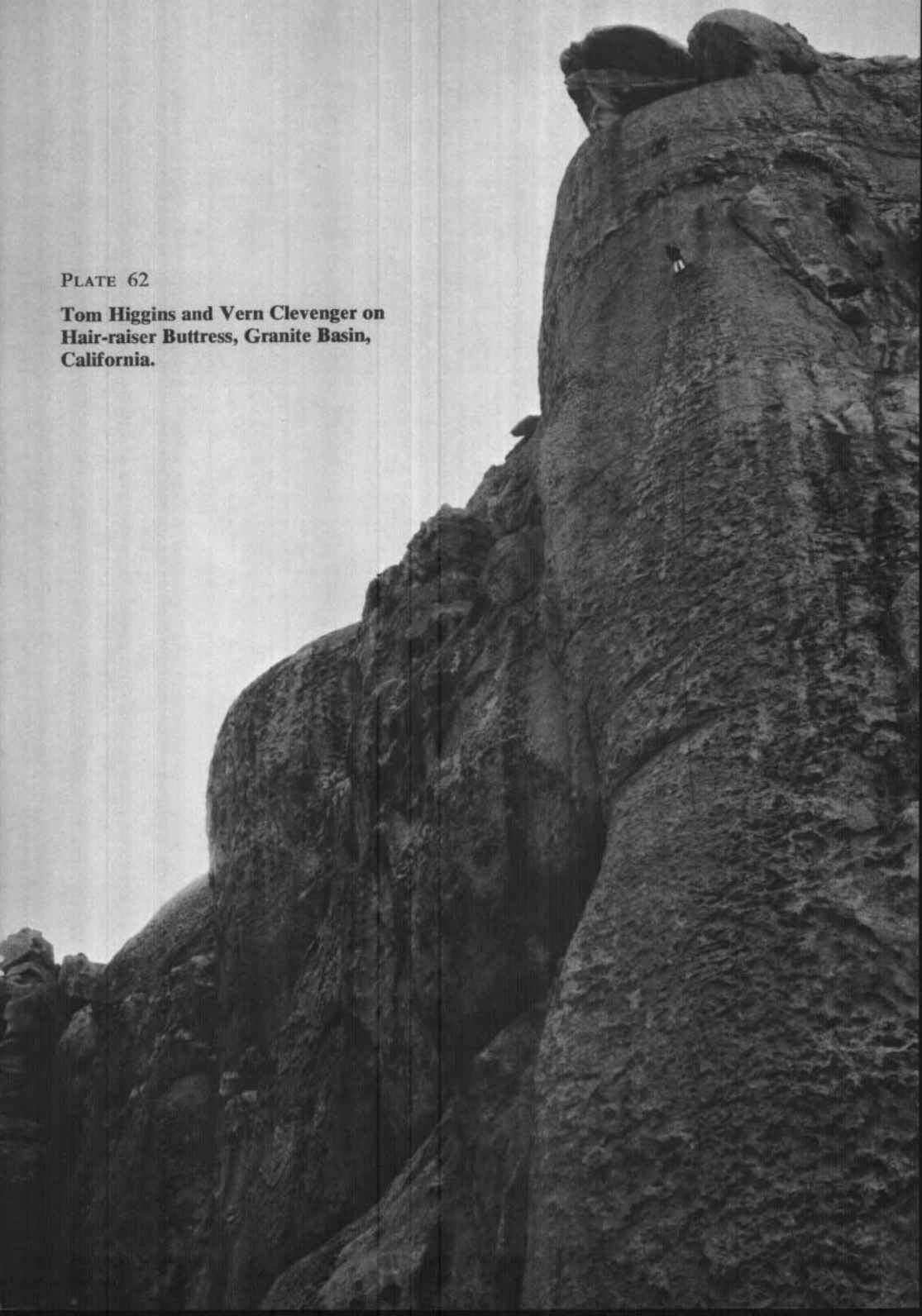


PLATE 63

Photo by Nancy Wyrick

Rappelling off the TOTEM POLE.

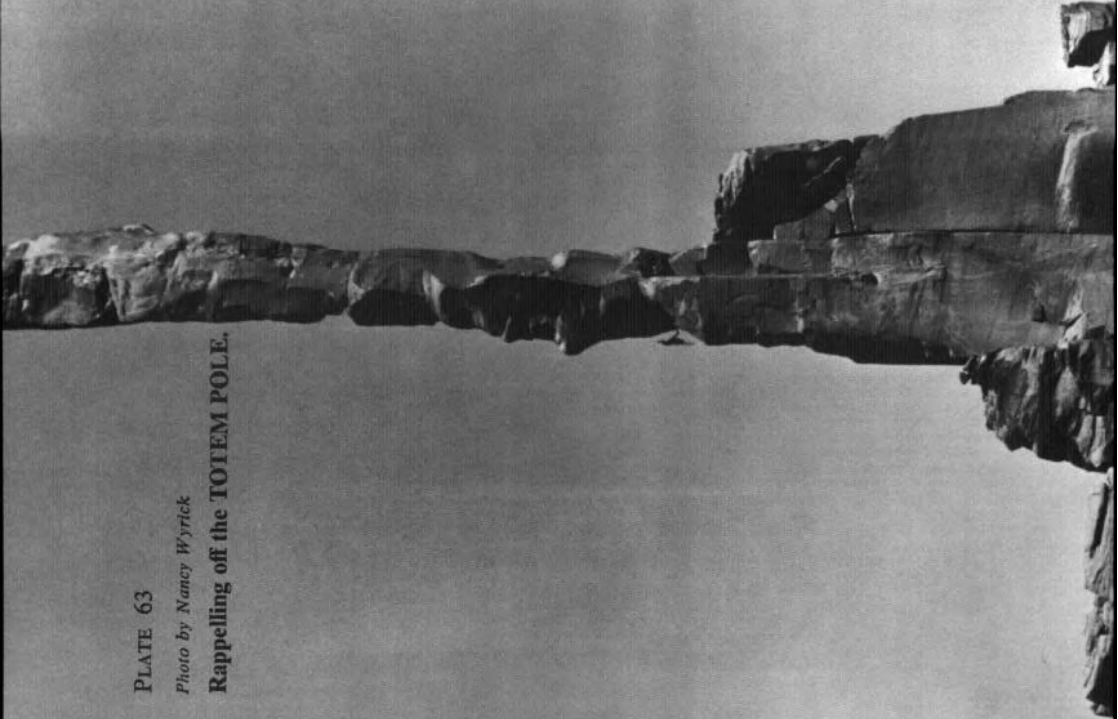
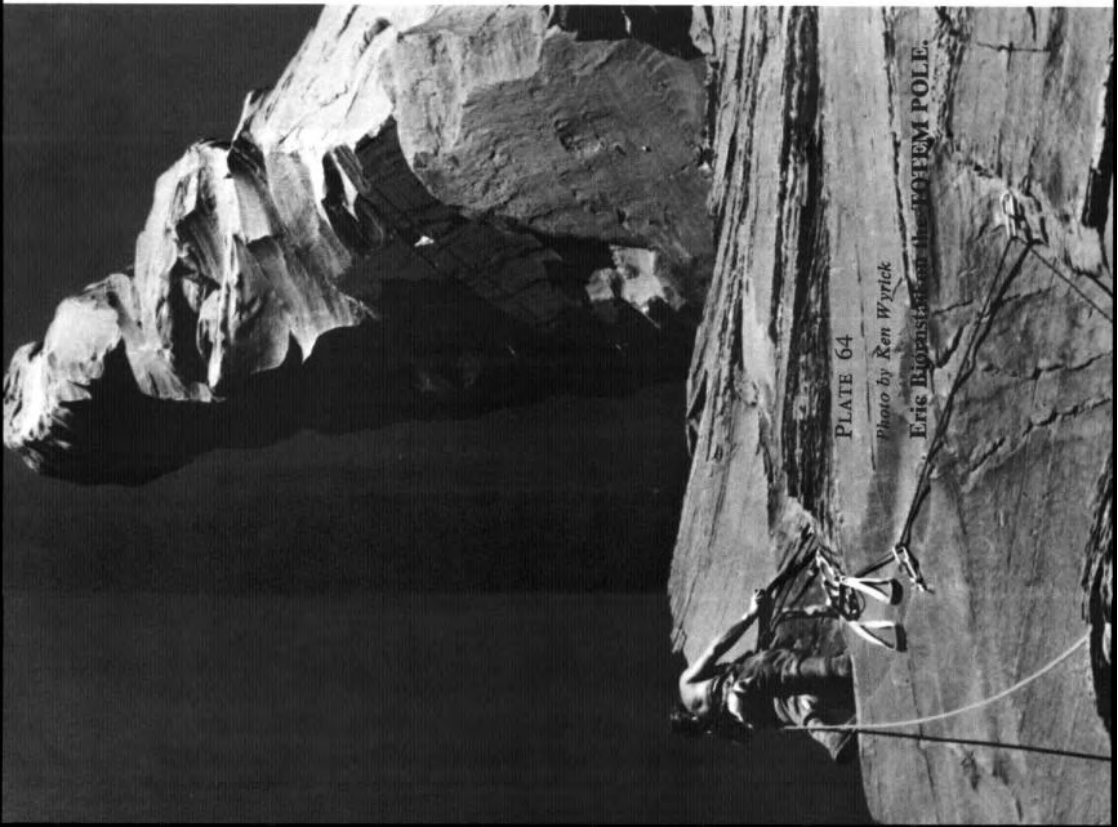


PLATE 64

Photo by Ken Wyrick

Eris Bismuth on the TOTEM POLE.



to a large ledge. From the left end of the ledge, join the Salathé route and climb up and right for two pitches more to the summit.

MICHAEL WARBURTON

Nevada

Rainbow Mountain (Mount Charleston), Solar Plexus Route. The route keeps well east of the great arch on the south face of the Solar Wall, south-facing and often warm in the desert sun. It was virtually all face-climbing, much on small holds on solid sandstone. The blankest portion of the climb just barely works out, with the key traverse possible only because of the soundness of the mini-holds. The climb was done on March 3 by Alan Bartlett, Stan Molenski and me. NCCS III, F8.

FRED BECKEY

Utah

Bootleg Tower, Day Canyon, Moab. Day Canyon is one of dozens of pristine canyons, rarely visited, only a few miles from Moab. Though few have towers, Day Canyon, home of an early bootlegger, has several challenging ones. In 1974 Terry McKenna and I made the first ascent of sandstone Bootleg Tower. NCCS I, F8, A2.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

Echo Rock, Window Route. Echo Rock, a few miles southwest of the Moab airstrip, was first climbed six years ago. In 1974 Ken Wyrick, Terry McKenna and I made a new route, the north edge, on this 275-foot sandstone citadel. We started on the east flank, a lead below an eight-by-ten-foot square tunnel which runs completely through the rock. Once within this phenomenally square passage, it is apparent that the window is the product of eons of wind, rain and frost erosion. The second lead took us through the window from east to west. With a shoulder-stand we climbed a high-angle jam-crack, using chocks and pitons for aid. Near the top of the pitch, the crack split the wall in two. The tower thins and gives an engaging view to the exposed other side. A short traverse to the right from beneath the summit overhangs put us on the top of the most amazing tower structure I had ever seen. Since our ascent, the Window Route has been re climbed four times. NCCS III, F7, A2.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

Valley of the Gods, Southeast Utah. Driving south from Mexican Hat, you get fleeting glimpses of thin sandstone towers to the west before the highway bends its way toward the Arizona border. An arrow

on a wooden sign points down a dusty road to the "Valley of the Gods." Ron Wiggle and I spent a few days in 1974 exploring this isolated valley and reconnoitering its numerous climbing possibilities. We climbed the highest and northernmost free-standing monolith in the area by an obvious direct line on its northeast side. Routine aid took us to a sloping bench near the midpoint. The balance of the route was up and into a dihedral of chunky, decaying white and red rock with only marginal safety. The final few feet were climbed on denser rock, partly free, with sound chocks for protection. Our only difficulty was an increasing wind pummeling hot sand into our eyes. We rappelled our ascent line, carefully dislodging much of the threatening loose rock on our way. NCCS III, F7, A3.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

Sewing Machine Needle, Southern Canyonlands, Lake Powell. In May, dressed for the early desert summer, Fred Beckey, Reid Cunduff, Lou Dawson and I turned onto a dusty road between the bridges over the Dirt Devil and Colorado Rivers. Twenty-five jarring miles later, we were belaying my car down an arroyo as we rebuilt an old mining road that took us a few miles nearer to the thin 300-foot Sewing Machine Needle. The next day we carried loads up the talus slope and belayed Dawson up 150 feet of steep rubble to a belay stance. It snowed and we retreated. The following morning we regained our lines and exchanged duties above. In the recurring freezing rain Lou Dawson elected to lead and reached the summit a few hours later. NCCS III, F8, A2.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

Arizona

Totem Pole, Monument Valley. Ken Wyrick and I were hired by Universal Studios to "put the rope up" for the filming of the desert part of the movie *Eiger Sanction*. We spent 14 days on the Totem Pole and its nearby walls. Our duties were primarily to work with Clint Eastwood, stuntmen and the climber-cinematographers, Pete White, Mike Hoover and Peter Pilafian. Our ascent was the fifth. At the end we cleaned the Totem Pole of its bolts and pitons as requested by the Navajo Council. Thus ended an era of climbing on what is surely the thinnest, tallest sandstone tower in the world. All climbing is prohibited within the tribal park and the law is energetically enforced by the Navajo police.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

Earth Angel, Long Canyon. In the spring of 1974 Ross Hardwick and I found and climbed the largest of the sandstone towers yet ascended in the Sedona-Oak Creek area. Earth Angel is a lofty 800-foot beauty

poised against a secluded canyon wall several miles north of Sedona. The eight-pitch route follows obvious cracks and chimneys up the tower's front. The sixth pitch is noteworthy, as here one is faced with a layback or with tunneling behind a gigantic pillar ominously late for its date with the forces of gravity. Either alternative leads one to a secure ledge above the pillar. Descent was via five rappels down the north side. NCCS IV, F10.

SCOTT BAXTER, *Sindicato Granítico*

Idaho

Mount Leatherman and Other Winter Ascents, Big Lost River Range. Rick Albano and I made the following climbs, which we believe were the first winter ascents: Mount Leatherman, up the west ridge and down east ridge, on March 19, Class V; P 11,899 (west of Leatherman) via south ridge, on March 18, Class IV; P 12,023 (southeast of Leatherman) via west face and south ridge, on March 21, Class V. The Class V climbs both had pitches of F5, loose rock and high avalanche danger. Despite these factors, the range offers reasonable scope for winter climbing, especially for long ridge traverses.

WILLIAM MARCH, *Idaho State University Outdoor Program*

Huddleson's Bluff, South Fork of the Clearwater River. On October 19, 1973, we crossed the cold river and hiked downstream to the wall. In the morning we crossed the sometimes very exposed ledge at the base of the main wall to where Dave had left a fixed rope from his previous solo attempt. The second pitch leads through the two most obvious roofs on the Wall near two large patches of white rock. The rope drag became so great that Dave ended the second pitch just above the corner of the second roof. From here he nailed up a right-leaning, slightly overhanging crack until it petered out. He then traversed left on skyhooks until he got to the chicken heads that lead up to the partially dead belay tree. The fourth pitch ascends the rock to the left of the dirt-filled crack, wandering back and forth until a ledge 20 feet below the top is reached. From the tree up, the climbing was all moderate and free. The aid climbing was strenuous and difficult. It took us a day and a half to complete the climb. NCCS III, F7, A4.

C. MICHAEL HOLT

Little Roman Nose, Southern Selkirks. Mark Guthrie and I did the first ascent of the north face on September 27. We climbed the obvious dihedral that can be seen from the lake below it in four pitches of mixed free and aid climbing; the climbing was predominantly free. The first pitch is easy class five; the second goes around a tree to the left and up

around a small overhang onto a slab, then up a steep crack to another tree. The third goes out onto the edge of the dihedral, and then works back into the corner to a grassy ledge. The fourth pitch traverses off the ledge (crux) and up and out onto the face to a ramp. This ramp is traversed left back into the dihedral which is followed to the top. There are many possible routes on this fine face. The route was done with nuts only, and no hammer. NCCS II, F8, A2.

C. MICHAEL HOLT

The Elephant's Perch, Northwest Face, Sawtooth Range. On September 6 Bill March and I climbed the northwest face of the Elephant's Perch. There is a prominent, left-facing curving corner starting about halfway up the face. The climb follows this feature and the principal difficulties are to gain the base of this crack. Start several hundred feet left of the corner and scramble for two pitches up a shallow gully chimney until level with the base of a prominent curving orange crack. At this point, traverse right on a large ledge and descend 15 feet onto a ledge and tree. Above is a wide crack with a dead tree jammed in the upper part. Climb this for 100 feet. F9, A2. Make a skyhook move for aid to gain a ledge at the right. Above is a superb, V-shaped chimney. Climb the wall on the right and gain the chimney at 20 feet. Continue up the chimney for 120 feet. Pitch 3: Traverse up and right to large detached flake, tension traverse right to gain the foot of the prominent corner which is climbed to a ledge, and belay below a bush. Pitch 4: (100 feet) Use two points of aid to gain crack on the left and climb this free to a small belay stance. Pitch 5: (120 feet) Continue up the crack using some aid. Pitch 6: (150 feet) Climb an awkward chimney crack and continue more easily to summit. NCCS III, F9, A2.

JEFF SPLITTGERBER, *Idaho State University Outdoor Program*

Montana

Lost Pinnacle. Between the chain of lakes and Sunlight Basin lies a small area of granite faces and pinnacles. On a warm weekend in August I hiked into the area and crossed wobbly boulders, raging creeks, and fought my way through vicious thorned bushes to an obscure and lonely pinnacle above Sunlight Basin. I climbed the short north ridge to a notch and then ascended a thirty-foot corner to the top. NCCS I, F3. A variation in an off-width crack provided the second ascent, both made on August 30. NCCS I, F7.

ALAN J. KEARNEY

Shoshone Spire, Bitterroot Range. About three miles up Blodgett Canyon is this triangular rock of solid granite. The upper face is reached by climbing three pitches to the large ledge system at the base

of the face. The following two routes, done by Elliott Dubreuil and me, start from this ledge. *South Face*. From the ledge climb the right side of the overhang on the left side of the face. Second pitch ends in a hanging belay in a bottomless cave. Climb the roof of the cave on the right and continue straight up. The fourth pitch ends at the top. If done clean, this route has some long runouts. Although it was June 27, it snowed on us while we were climbing the last two pitches. F8. *In Memoriam*. July 9. This climb goes up the middle of the south face starting from the large ledge. The first pitch goes up a crack where a long lost-arrow is needed for protection. Climb up to a bolt (F9) and up 25 feet to an unprotected mantle (F9), then left to a crack. The next three pitches are all F10. Continue up the crack to a difficult smooth dihedral and a belay on top of a pedestal. Climb up the crescent crack, traverse right on the horizontal dike and climb the overhang. Last pitch ascends crack to the summit with a difficult thin section near the top. F10.

STEVEN EDDY

Wyoming—Wind River Range

Temple Peak. On August 12, Woody Stark and I climbed Temple Peak by a new route that starts from Temple Pass. We climbed up talus to the base of the spire between Silver Saddle and the Class-4 route, around its right side and then up to the saddle above it. From here three chutes go up the northeast headwall between the summit of Temple and the class-4 chute. Our route went up the left chute with the window at the top. Care should be taken with ice and rotten rock high in the chute. NCCS II, F7.

RICHARD H. WEBSTER

Spider Peak, Northeast Buttress. Spider Peak is a remarkable remnant of the high-level erosion plateau of the northern portion of the Wind River Mountains. Brian Leo, Steve Jackson and I made an interesting new climb on August 31, following slabs and cracks on the steep minor buttress on the east part of the very ice-polished north face. NCCS III, F8.

FRED BECKEY

Arrowhead Mountain, North Face. The rather hidden north face of this peak is one of the many surprises in the northern part of the Wind Rivers. The central and western portion of the face is glacier polished. From a camp below the peak on September 5 Andy Carson and I vetoed getting stuck on what appeared to be poor cracks systems there and followed the line of a prominent rib on the face which ends just east of the summit. NCCS II or III, F7.

FRED BECKEY

Sulphur Peak and "Cutthroat Spire", North Faces, Wind River Range. In September, 1974, Lou Dawson and I made two new routes near Peak Lake above the upper Green River. We climbed a really fine mixed route of some difficulty on the north face of Sulphur Peak. We followed a steep ice gully for six 150-foot pitches, then climbed six pitches up a series of chimneys and cracks in the center of the face. This route is similar to the one described by William March in *A.A.J.*, 1975, page 137, but takes a more direct line. We found a piton in place shortly after leaving the ice, probably left by March for his tension traverse. NCCS III, F9, 55° to 60° ice, no aid, 6 hours, 1600 feet. The following day we climbed the north face of the prominent gendarme right (west) of Sulphur Peak, which we tentatively named "Cutthroat Spire." We found no trace of previous parties. The route consisted of three easy pitches on the lower rock band, five up a moderate icefield and six up the final tower. Three of the pitches on the tower involved extensive and difficult aid climbing. NCCS IV, F9, A-4, 45° ice, 1600 feet.

MICHAEL KENNEDY, *Elk Mountain Climbing Club*

Colorado

Climbs in Rocky Mountain National Park, 1975. Ever since David Rearick and Bob Kamps in 1960 first climbed the Longs Peak Diamond, the impressive alpine wall has been appreciated both as a test piece and for its esthetic qualities. Other firsts since then, besides 15 new routes and variations, include a winter climb by a new route by Layton Kor and Wayne Goss and a partially new route solo by Bill Forrest. The 1970s ushered in a new era of free climbing standards and techniques; with it came attempts to climb the Diamond free and clean. Most attempts concentrated on the Diamond-7 route on the left side of the precipice, where the rock is more climbable. Bit by bit skepticism gave way to reality and finally in early 1975 two Boulder climbers, Wayne Goss and Jim Logan, climbed the Diamond all free and clean. They followed the first four pitches of Diamond-7 and then traversed to the Black Dagger Chimney. Finding this too wet, they continued right to Forrest's Finish, which they followed until it was possible to traverse back left to the top of the Black Dagger Chimney. There one final pitch separated them from success; spurred on by approaching darkness, Goss led up a nearly blank wall in a slight rain to finish the climb at Table Rock. On this all-free climb there was no yo-yoing on leads, resting on protection, pitons or Jümars. The ascent took 12 hours. Shortly afterwards, there was another first for the Diamond: Stephanie Alwood, Molly Higgins and Laurie Manson completed the first all-woman ascent via Diamond-7. They had one hanging bivouac after a first night on Broadway. In mid-July James Dunn and Kris Wood climbed the Yellow

PLATE 65

Photo by Ken Williams

**North Faces of Sulphur Peak (left) and
Cuthroat Spire, Upper Peak Lake Area,
Wind River Range, Wyoming.**



Wall route all free. They climbed to Broadway in poor weather, did 4½ pitches to join Forrest's Finish and eventually completed the climb as Goss and Logan had. The pitch above the Black Dagger Chimney was the crux for both. The Yellow Wall start involved several days of climbing due to persistent rain, but they did the route all free and clean. Two new routes were done on the Diamond between the Obelisk and Curving Vine routes. Bob Dodds, Ron Olevsky and Paul Kasputts climbed the first crack left of the Curving Vine to Obelisk Ledge; they traversed a short way right and finished the climb at Table Ledge. The climb took over a week (NCCS V, F8, A2). A few days later George Hurley and Bob Bliss put up a second new route a few feet left of the previous one, all clean with two pitches of aid. Hurley said it was easier than Diamond-7 and may prove an alternative to that crowded route. They took a single day (NCCS V, F8, A2). In late August Tobin Sorenson and Bruce Adams rappelled to Broadway from Chasm View and repeated the Dodds-Olevsky-Kasputts route with several important variations; they mention one F10 pitch. They did the climb free and clean in a single day. Other impressive firsts in the park included the second and first all-free ascent of the northwest face of Chiefs' Heads. The route, first done in the early 1960s by Layton Kor and Bob Culp, had defied numerous later attempts. In July Bill Westbay and Dan McClure did the climb, eliminating the aid with two F8 pitches. On Lumpy Ridge, a low-lying rock-climbing area also in the park, two women distinguished themselves by being the first women to complete F10 climbs; they both swung leads with their partners. Diane Russell climbed the notorious Crack of Fear on Twin Owls, leading pitches one and three. Molly Higgins did the Turn Korner route on Sundance. Near Twin Owls, John Bachar did the first free solo of the difficult Golums Arch, a strenuous F10 finger crack. James Dunn did another impressive first on the Twin Owls, Peaches and Cream (F11). The summer was tragically marred by the death of Diana Hunter, who slipped while soloing above a climb which she and her partner had just completed on Cathedral Wall in the Loch Vale of the park.

MICHAEL COVINGTON

Taylor Peak, East Face. The east face of Taylor Peak is situated above Sky Pond in the Loch Vale region of Rocky Mountain National Park. Early in April Doug Scott, Doug Snively, and I established a new route there in semi-winter conditions. The route ascends a right-leaning snow ramp which begins about 60 meters left of the prominent prow which dominates the center of the east face. We followed these two pitches to the base of a large prominent snowfield which we climbed unbelayed for 300 meters to steeper, safer territory. Using the steep band of snow and rock for protection we climbed up and left for three

itches to a spectacular snow bench. One more pitch up and right got us to the top, which we reached in the early afternoon. The climbing although not difficult was a little precarious due to snow and ice balconies which periodically swept the route. The major problem was to keep from being hit by the tombstone locomotives.

MICHAEL COVINGTON

Notchtop. In late April Doug Snively and I completed a new route up the steep snow-plastered north face of Notch Top. The climb began from a bivouac situated above the Grace Falls where we followed a snow and rock ramp which led up and right to the base of a large snowfield. In low-angle snow we skirted the first rock band on the right and climbed up steepening slopes to the second rock band. The first pitch led up and left to a belay above the notch on the main wall just across from a prominent spire. From here we diagonaled up and left for 7 pitches on 45° and 50° snow to finish in a col between the Notch Top ridge and Continental Divide. The crux was a long unprotected snow pitch which averaged 50°. Eight hours.

MICHAEL COVINGTON

Ptarmigan Towers, East Side. Tower 2: To the right of the bottom of the 2-4 gully is a deep, wet chimney/gully. On the vertical wall to its right is a prominent and attractive jam-crack, which diagonals up and left for about 300 feet before joining the more broken rock of the "Sunshine Ledges" route. Tom Gries and I climbed the jam-crack (the "Tundra Turkey Crack") in August, encountering three leads of good climbing and even difficulty. NCCS II, F8. *Tower 4:* Just below and right of the top of Tower 4, as seen from Lake Nanita, are two deep, overhanging 200-foot chimneys. We established a route that followed the indistinct northeast corner of this tower, mostly in clean dihedrals a bit to its left, and finishing in the rightmost of the two aforementioned chimneys. The rock was generally good until the crux summit pitch, which involved a very wide, overhanging chimney of crumbling granite. NCCS III, F8 or F9. Both routes were climbed hammerless.

LAWRENCE HAMILTON, *Unaffiliated*

Arrowhead Peak, South Face. Two new routes were established on this appealing face in July. "Artemis" ascends the large, prominent dihedral about 100 feet to the right of the low point of the McHenry-Arrowhead Ridge. Moderate slabs lead to a ledge at the base of the main corner, which is followed for two leads, past several overhangs, to the top. Tom Gries and I did the first ascent. NCCS II, F9. To the east of this lies "Warhead", which climbs the face near its highest part. John Byrd, Tom Gries, and I began this route from a huge flake lying

on a ledge at the slabby base of the wall. Wet and tricky friction was encountered on the second pitch, and the third pitch surmounted the major left-curving arch that blocks access to the upper face by laybacking up a black flake. Above this, very clean and enjoyable climbing followed the left-facing dihedral formed by a higher arch, and continuing cracks and corners beyond. Seven pitches were done, all on excellent granite. NCCS III, F9. Both routes were done clean.

LAWRENCE HAMILTON, *Unaffiliated*

New Route, Glenwood Canyon. In August, Harvey Carter and I completed *The Internationale*, the longest and most sustained route in Glenwood Canyon to date. It consisted of 18 pitches of climbing; many of these were 5.8 or 5.9, and there is one 60-foot section of aid. The climb connects two granite buttresses and a limestone one; we climbed the granite and a third of the limestone on our first attempt, during which we made one bivouac. On the successful climb, we traversed into the limestone band (avoiding the first 10 pitches) re climbed to our high point and finished in good order the same day. The route awaits a continuous ascent, and might be possible in a day to a fast and strong party. NCCS V, F9, A-2 (2000 feet).

MICHAEL KENNEDY, *Elk Mountain Climbing Club*

Notchtop Mountain, East Face, Religion. Australian Keith Bell and I established this long excellent free climb on the highest part of the face in late August, 1973. We began (with a jump) in the left-most of three prominent roofed right-facing dihedrals on the lower east face, well to the left of *Optimismus*. This first pitch was fairly sustained and ended on a ledge to the left of the dihedral's roof. A pitch higher easy climbing was encountered, as *Religion* was crossed by the *Spiral* route's meadows. The steep upper wall was attacked on the fifth pitch, with a long diagonal traverse up and to the left. The sixth pitch then diagonaled for a rope-length back right, in one of the exposed maneuvers so characteristic of the harder Notchtop routes. Climbing continued more or less up the center of the face to a prominent vertical gully that ended a few feet from the summit of the Notch Spire. The last pitch and a half contained several old pins; evidently we had joined the finish of the *South Ridge* route at this point, which went free with one section of very solid F8. Except for the vicinity of the *Spiral* meadows, the climbing on this route was very consistent and worthwhile, comparable to the *Culpe Bossier* route on Halletts. At least four of the pitches involved F8 difficulties. NCCS III, F8.

LAWRENCE HAMILTON, *Unaffiliated*