

lateral moraines proved us right. It was a long hike from Mystic Lake with swamp, rockslides and brush, but the climb was worth it. Careful ice work up the long face took us into the narrowing final couloir, where difficult and steep ice climbing led into a rock headwall. Here we traded crampons for pitons and in five pitches of marvellous exposed climbing we reached the summit. We used pitons for safety on each pitch.

FRED BECKEY

Utah

New Routes on The Thumb, Little Cottonwood Canyon. Since the first ascent of the Thumb's south face, it has been felt that a much more direct route to the summit was possible. On July 3 Royal Robbins and I climbed unroped up a low-angle shelf to where the rock shot up vertically. The first pitch went free for a few moves, then required direct aid for four pitons and finished free via cracks. From the first belay point, a smooth granite slab, 15 feet wide, blocked the way. Climbing straight up from the belay, the leader was able to get in a pin head down under an overhang. Thus protected, he passed the 15-foot section by a scampering pendulum swing to a rib on the other side. The lead continued for 80 feet of difficult free climbing to a comfortable stance. An exciting move over an overhang then led to extremely hard finger-tip climbing up two small slanting cracks. A moderate pitch was then climbed to the intersection with the old south-face route. After ascending the large chimney of the previous route, we made a variation by climbing the rest of the chimney. Then low-angle slabs led to the summit pinnacle, where Royal made a brilliant lead of the many-times tried west crack. We used 25 pitons, of all sizes, four for direct aid. (NCCS IV, F9, A3.) A graceful S-crack slices the smooth granite of the Thumb's south face. From the canyon floor, Steve Ellsworth, Mark McQuerrie and I could not judge the width of the crack and so on August 2 we filled our rucksack with every available bong bong to be prepared. About 300 feet of climbing were needed to reach the S-crack. Difficulties began immediately as the first pitch went up the side of a giant flake. Bushes increased the climbing problems, but a semi-hanging belay was soon reached 150 feet up. Above, it looked as if we should have to use direct aid up a wide crack requiring 6-inch bong bongs. Since we had only two for the 80-foot crack, Mark courageously set out to climb it free and soon was solving the repulsive problem by a scraping arm and knee jam. He reached a large ledge but the bottom of the S-crack was still 30 feet higher. While contemplating a bolt ladder, we saw a thin crack to the right, leading high enough to allow a pendulum to the crack. After tedious work, Steve finally reached

a microscopic hold that gave access to the crack. After entering the crack, we found our large angle and bong bong selection adequate. Climbing mainly on aid, but sometimes free, we followed the crack for 250 feet to its completion. Near the top, it flared badly and our 6-inch bong bongs barely gained purchase. We had to tie off the corners so that the leverage would not pull them out. I finally stepped onto a good belay stance. From the top of the crack, we climbed the south chimney and slabs to the summit. No bolts and 45 pitons were used. (NCCS IV, F7, A4.)

TED WILSON, *Alpenbock Climbing Club*

Wyoming — Tetons

Almost all of the new route activity in the Tetons was concentrated in the Death Canyon area. Both the south walls leading to Prospectors Mountain, and the north walls leading to Peak 10552, as well as Buck Mountain itself, were attacked with spectacular results.

Prospectors Mountain, Apocalypse Arête. In the left (east) portion of the north face of Prospectors Mountain is a deep couloir running in a southwest direction; this couloir separates a long and sharp ridge which was climbed on July 14 by Ted Vaill and William Buckingham. This ridge forms the top edge of much of the main north face of the mountain, and it ends at a 10,000-foot tower before turning abruptly southwest to the summit of the mountain. After leaving the Death Canyon trail at about the 7500-foot level, this party found no particular difficulties in the first third of the arête. The 200-foot step in the ridge yielded after a slight traverse to the left and an upward zig-zag. The next section of the ridge went easily until a 70-foot wall was met. Slightly to the right of the crest an F6 pitch past a loose flake put this obstacle behind them. After another easy section of ridge the third step was reached and passed via an F5 jamcrack on small holds. Two towers later the apex of the ridge was reached. The four pinnacles named the "Four Horsemen," of which this apex is the first, extend southwest from this point toward the summit of the mountain. The fourth of these appropriately enough possesses a narrow summit flake which was climbed *à cheval*. The first ascent party then descended to Death Canyon via a couloir to the northwest.

Prospectors Mountain, Raven Crack. This fine Grade IV route, climbed on August 3 by Yvon Chouinard and Mort Hemple, goes directly up the long black crack, or open-book chimney, on the south side of Death Canyon; it starts near the base of Apocalypse Arête. Some exposed scrambling is required to reach and cross the waterfall couloir to the grass slope which marks the beginning of the chimney. Four pitches of F3 to F6 climbing lead up to a ledge at the base of a gigantic overhang. The crux