

Arizona

Owl Rock. Across the highway from Agathalan rises the red obelisk called Owl Rock. Harvey Carter and I studied a route that had already been attempted but the rock seemed sounder on the opposite, west side. We took the better part of two days, climbing cracks high onto the west face and then bolting up a smooth south nose to the summit area. Equipment used included 20 pitons and 14 bolts. The second day, April 26, was made miserable by an intense desert wind. The exposure and doubtful reliability of some of the aid pitons made the climb memorable.

FRED BECKEY

Baboquivari Peak, Southeast Buttress Chimney. This dominant pyramidal peak is located 60 miles southwest of Tucson. The southeast buttress chimney is a prominent crack which rises 650 feet from a diagonal ledge that cuts the east face and ends in a notch on the southeast ridge. On October 17 Dan Jones and I completed its first ascent in a fairly strenuous three-day climb involving nine fifth-class pitches which included seven direct-aid moves. We made two bivouacs on the face.

JOANNA MCCOMB, *Sierra Club*

Utah

Echo Tower, Fisher Towers. Nestled against the La Sal Mountains, not far from the Colorado River east of Moab, lies the pink and orange skyscraper city of the Fisher Towers, weird, bizarre shapes honed strangely by the desert wind. Fragile ridges are sculptured into forms ranging from totems to the Gothic; one ridge has been dubbed "Ancient Art." Five of these sandstone sentinels are colossi, and only two, the Titan and Fisher Tower, had been scaled up to this year. Echo Tower, midway between these two, rises 540 feet on the short face, and is perpendicular to the nth degree. Harvey T. Carter, Eric Bjornstad and I reached its fearsome summit on October 19, spending over five days on the ascent, with two bivouacs made on the summit push. Much of the route lay up a very vertical couloir with its inside walls sculptured into a continual succession of caves and overhangs. Placing bolts was slow work; in all the tower took 55 pitons and 71 bolts. The crux free climbing was an extreme F8 friction chimney rib, led by Carter, just above the first bivouac ledge. The hard labor of getting up the great succession of overhangs made the reward of reaching the exposed summit greater than on most climbs.

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