

"*Vanishing Angel*". On August 13 Jim Hudock, Stan Hollister and I climbed the 200-foot elusive "Vanishing Angel". This prominent needle can be seen only from two short stretches of highway north and south of Moab before it vanishes into the higher Windgate cliffs. Due to the pacifying desert temperatures in August and the difficulties in locating the spire from mid-valley, our little angel involved three days of labor. The upper halo repelled the first several efforts to nestle aid pins by spilling Hollister 25 feet and later me 15 feet. I finally negotiated the soft Keyenta cap with chocks, bat-hooks and 2½ quarts of water. NCCS I, F7, A3.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

The Southwest

Climbing Ban in the Navajo Reservation, New Mexico and Arizona. Dr. Earnest C. Anderson of the Los Alamos Mountaineers has forwarded us the following letter, pointing out that the Navajo's policy has now been changed and that an *absolute* and *unconditional* ban is in effect. Dr. Anderson suggests: "In view of the uncompromising attitude of the Navajo Tribe, climbers would be well advised to stay away from Ship Rock, Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, Todilto Park and all other areas under their jurisdiction."

May 12, 1971

A letter to Rock Climbers:

Many requests come to the Navajo Tribe for permission to climb one or more of the monoliths on the reservation. It is the policy of the Tribe to prohibit anyone from climbing any of these monoliths: Shiprock, Rainbow Bridge, the Totem Pole, Spider Rock, and any and all others.

A practical and easily understandable reason is the nature of the rocks themselves, which cannot withstand unnecessary attrition to any degree. This has been argued by various would-be climbers, but the Tribe is making no exceptions.

A second reason and one that admits of no argument is that the monoliths of the Navajo reservation are considered sacred places. To climb them is to profane them. Protests have been and still are being made by the Navajos about the unauthorized scaling of reservation rocks.

It would be well here to mention the Tribal prohibition against collecting petrified wood, minerals, pottery shards, gem stones, or anything else found on the surface of the ground. This material is the property of the Navajo Tribe, and it wishes to keep it where it belongs, lest the reservation be denuded of some of its picturesque treasures.

Come and visit us, look and photograph as much as you like; you will

be welcome. But please respect our prohibitions and let us keep the wonderful Navajo reservation as beautiful as it is.

Sincerely,

CHARLES S. DAMON, *Director*
Navajo Parks & Recreation Department,
The Navajo Tribe

Idaho

Climbs near Redfish Lake, Sawtooth Range. About 2½ miles from the end of Redfish Lake Julie Brugger and I found a dihedral on the east end of a slab north of the trail. The climbing reminded me of Glacier Point Apron. All six pitches were aesthetic, clean and relaxing. NCCS II, F8. On July 5 Julie Brugger, Earl Hamilton and I climbed the pinnacle directly behind the first climb. We started on the left on what looks like a ridge from the distance. A fairly difficult pitch to a tree led to two easier ones to a ledge. Twenty feet of slanting crack go to a ledge that goes left around a rotten section. From the ledge's end we climbed the face right of a chimney to delicately balanced chockstones. Two more pitches got us to a huge tree and another to the top of a subsidiary pinnacle. We went up and right for a pitch and up a wide crack followed by a 150-foot traversing pitch. We traversed right another 70 feet and climbed a chimney. Finally we climbed a slightly rotten dihedral to a belay right on the skyline. NCCS III, F9.

MARK WEIGELT

Montana

Granite Peak, North Face, Beartooth Mountains. On July 12, William Chadwick and I climbed the north face of Granite Peak (12,799 feet). The approach from the Mystic Lake hydroelectric plant took 1½ days. We bypassed Huckleberry Lake to the east and after 4 miles of boulder hopping reached the large snowfield below the face. The large lake below the snowfield was also bypassed to the east. We began the ascent about 1:30 P.M. After an hour of easy step-kicking up the 30°-45° snowfield (about 1500 vertical feet), we were at the base of the 1200-foot rock face, the large bergschrund having presented no problem. To avoid deep, soft snow on the face, we elected to attack the left (east) side of the middle pillar. Climbing was mostly moderate 5th-class rock interspersed with a few snow-filled couloirs and chimneys. By dark, we were still two leads from the summit and spent a chilly night on a small, slanting shelf watching the shooting stars and distant village lights. The next morning, Chad started a lead of artificial climbing which led up a slender, square-topped tower which forms the apex of the middle pillar, but after determining that we had insufficient hardware to complete it, he retreated, traversed east from our bivouac ledge, and negotiated a small overhang to a good belay spot. From there, I was able to work