along the Muir Trail. The left side of this 3000-foot northeast wall was climbed by Beckey and Jones in 1970. On July 14, David Wilson and I ascended a more direct, very prominent arête that leads to the south summit (IV, 5.10b). On parts of the trail, I found myself without a partner but eager to climb. In Evolution Valley, there is a conspicuous rock peak, *The Hermit*, which was first ascended by a party in July 1924 that included my mother. The final 20-foot summit block is so rarely climbed even today that the Sierra Club register is placed below it. My Mom's party threw a hemp packer's rope over the pinnacle to get to the top. In July 1988, I thought I spotted a reasonable route up the steepest part of the east face, but when I began soloing in running shoes, I found myself on 5.8 and tried to traverse left to easier climbing. Unable to find a way, I did a second 5.8 pitch and then a third. The rock was very solid with each crux a quite similar short but steep hand-crack. The summit block itself is at least 5.7. While camping on the upper basin of the King's River, I was struck by the beautiful north arête of *Vennacher Needle,* a 12,996-foot peak just south of Mather Pass. On July 12, I soloed an 800-foot 5.8 route that ascends the skyline as seen from the trail, directly above a dark, hole-like overhang near the base of the wall. Vern Clevenger and I ascended the north buttress of the west summit of *Acrodectes Peak*, a 13,183-foot peak near Baxter Pass. The 1000-foot 5.10a route was up very shattered diorite that makes it hard to recommend when so much fine rock remains unclimbed in the rest of the High Sierra. Just south of Donohue Pass is a prominent ridge at the head of Rush Creek that forces the Muir Trail to detour east before continuing into the Minaret region. On July 1, Jim Jackson and I ascended a conspicuous crack on the steepest section of this 350-foot face (5.9). Many harder routes remain to be done on either side of this one. We certainly didn't exhaust possibilities along the trail. Few, if any, technical climbers with ropes and hardware have visited areas that are several days' walk from the road. I doubt that I'll ever again have the chance to travel the whole trail with a pack train for food, climbing equipment and photo gear.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Ruby Wall. In September, Malcolm Ives and I added a third new route to this fine wall, "Wide Sargasso Sea." Our climb takes a direct line to the summit, staying right of Galen Rowell's 1982 route until the summit dihedral. Eight pitches with a delicate (5.10b) crux constitute this highly enjoyable route. Descent was made to the north into the large gully bounding the face, with four rappels.

ROBERT J. PARKER

Bear Creek Spire. In February, Bill Kerwin and I made the first winter ascent of this peak via a new route on the south face. Starting on slabby rock uphill of Rowell's routes, we took a direct line to the summit through the upper steep headwall and finished just ten feet left of the summit block (9 pitches, 5.9). The

PLATE 52

Photo by Galen Rowell

***Arctic Dreams* ascends Southeast Face of P 12,880+ near Mount Whitney.**

climb was done in a day from Peppermint Pass; we returned to Rock Creek that night.

ROBERT J. PARKER

Tower Peak, Northeast Face. In September, John Nye and I climbed this face via a long, shallow corner system (5 pitches, III, 5.9).

AL SWANSON

Hawk's Beak, West Face. This peak is 11,120 feet high, a quarter mile south of Kirkwood Lake. It is a crest peak, helping form the northern boundary of Yosemite National Park. It is listed in the old Smatko guide, but does not appear in the Roper edition. John Nye and I climbed the nine-pitch west face in September (III or IV, 5.9+).

AL SWANSON

Three Teeth, Southeast Tooth, Northeast Face, 1987. In September 1987, Bruce Runnals and I climbed this five-pitch route left of the original Rowell-Jones-Beckey route. All five pitches were 5.10 (III).

AL SWANSON

Moro Rock, East Face, Sequoia National Park. In June, James Cook, David Hickey and I climbed this outstanding eight-pitch route on the lower east face of this grand monolith. The line follows a two-foot-wide quartz dike for the entire route. It is interesting face climbing on steep knobs protected by an occasional bolt and tied-off knobs. On the fifth pitch after some 30 feet of free-climbing, we were faced with an ominous blank headwall, well over 90°. The next 200 feet of this headwall was overcome with some strenuous aid-climbing consisting of many rivets, a few bolts, rurps and an occasional hook or tied-off knob. Higher, free-climbing resumed after a difficult step left at the end of the last bolt ladder. The climbing remained challenging and quality the whole distance (IV, 5.10, A3). In July, David Hickey, Christy Atases and I decided to make an ascent of this wild-looking route on Moro's east side right of the other route. The first pitch and one-half had seen some attempts. We passed the old high point on our first try, finding the climbing to be quite exciting (5.10) and were left at the mercy of a huge left-facing double overhanging corner. This feature was the most prominent landmark on the route and actually was our main attraction to do the climb. Seven hours and many nuts later, I succeeded in surmounting this formidable barrier, climbing clean, except for a string of rivets past a deadly loose section. We decided to return to earth and resume the next day. Only David and I returned the following morning, Christy bowing out to enable the two of us to move faster. We continued up more steep corners (A3) and exited via a