

on July 14 we climbed the 1300-meter-high southwest face of P 7979 on the eastern side of the Ruth Gorge, 1½ miles northwest of Glacier Point. We climbed a gully to a snow basin and snowfield and thence onto a ridge where there was good rock with some UIAA V+ and some mixed climbing. We descended the north side where we had eight rappels until we could descend the glacier to the Ruth. Because of continuing good weather we chose a 1000-meter-high rock buttress of P 7500 ("Tower of London South"), which lies ¼ miles northwest of P 7979. On July 17, we started up to do the climb alpine-style. We got to the summit after 20 difficult pitches at 8:30 A.M. the next day. (UIAA VIII+, A2 or 5.11d, A2.) The weather was perfect. That same day, we descended rappelling and down-climbing. We were flown out on July 22.

HANNES ARCH, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Dan Beard, West-Face Couloir.* In May, two women living in Alaska, Carol Snetsinger and Dori McDannold, climbed Dan Beard (3127 meters, 10,260 feet) by a new route above the Ruth Amphitheater, the prominent couloir in the west face.

*The Throne, P 6500 and North Troll, Little Switzerland.* The Pika Glacier is an arm of the Kahiltna Glacier some 15 miles south of McKinley. Jerry Handren and I established Base Camp at 5300 feet, equidistant from the Royal Tower and the Throne. We had six consecutive days of good weather in May and climbed early to assure optimum snow conditions. We ascended the large snow couloir that divides the south face of the Throne (7390 feet). About 250 meters above the base, we crossed a tricky rock band (5.7) and then continued another 125 meters up the couloir to the summit ridge. We did not ascend the 50-meter summit block, due to fresh, loose snow. We descended the couloir on rappel from horns and an occasional bollard. (III, 5.7.) P 6500 lies southeast of "Hobbit King" (6910 feet). We climbed a class-4 rock-and-snow ridge to gain the base of the prominent southeast rock face. We climbed the face in two 5.7 pitches to attain the narrow, exposed summit ridge, along which we continued for two short mixed pitches to the top. We descended the summit cone on the opposite side to a corniced ridge which took us to the western shoulder of the snowfield on the southwest face. The descent of the snowfield is safe only in stable snow conditions. This was possibly a first ascent. (III, 5.7.) The "Trolls" are two summits of about 6900 feet just south of the Throne. We ascended the steep west-facing 60° snow couloir between the Trolls to just below the col. We traversed north, skirting the cornice at the ridge to reach the base of the southwest wall (four roped pitches). We then climbed five mixed pitches of 5.7 to the summit of North Troll. We descended ten meters west to a cave and rappelled the face adjacent to the ascent route to the snow slope at the base of the couloir. (III or IV, 5.7.) This was a new route.

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