

July. The route started near the right side of a large tarn in the basin below the face. We headed up scree for 1000 feet to a large gendarme and climbed to the right around it. We continued up steep fourth-class, staying right of the rock outcrop. At the top of the outcrop, we moved left to a prominent arête just east of three large gullies. Two crux pitches went up the arête to easier climbing and the summit. In July, we three climbed Bearly Done (I, 5.10a) in the Bear Raid Wall, which is just off the Kearsarge Pass trail, a short distance past Flower Lake. We started at the lowest part of the wall and climbed an arête to a ledge below an offwidth crack. We moved right and over a bulge to a layback crack, which went up and right to a large ledge. An easy traverse took us right into a gully leading to the trail above the cliff. No Bear Wall is the south-facing wall west of Bench Lake in the Kearsarge Pass area above the waterfall seen from Bench Lake. It has many crack systems. In July, we same three climbed ten short routes on this wall on the north side of the valley.

MINGO MORVIN

California—Yosemite

El Capitan, Muir Wall, Attempted Free Ascent. On April 15, Kurt Smith, Greg Epperson and I embarked on a ground-up free ascent of the Muir Wall. Our plan was to free-climb each pitch in redpoint or pinkpoint (gear left in place) style. We personally felt this was the rawest form of free ascent and necessary for a route of this size and difficulty. We intentionally did not preview or rehearse pitches from above. Free ascents of the Nose and Salathé routes relied heavily on those tactics. No member of the team had previous knowledge of the route. By keeping to these rules, the adventure level remained high. To preserve the integrity of aid climbing, we often had to rely on marginal protection to avoid placing bolts. We added only one bolt to the original ones on the route, although bolts were placed to badly damaged anchors and also on our own variations to the route. We reached Mammoth Terraces on April 29 and fixed ropes back to the ground. The climbing to this point would make an excellent one-day free climb, with three pitches of 5.12+ and one of 5.13. Delayed by rain and snow, we didn't resume climbing until May 9. We then freed to one pitch above Grey Ledges by May 13 and again fixed ropes to the ground. On May 20, again after a delay by weather, we began working on what we thought would be the crux pitches. Kurt freed the long dihedral above the Grey Ledges, and I freed the traverse right out of the dihedral, following a line below the original bolt ladder. We reached the Grey Bands on May 26. Between May 26 and June 4, we jümaered 45 gallons of water and 20 days of food up to our high point. On June 4, we tossed our ropes and committed ourselves to a grand adventure. We followed the Muir to the top of its 21st pitch, then did a five-pitch variation to the right. We crossed back left over the Muir in its 26th pitch to reach the "Ledge for Two," left of the Muir. From here, Kurt led a full-pitch face traverse left across the Shield headwall to reach Chickenhead

Ledge on the Shield/Magic Mushroom routes. We were stopped by the second pitch off this ledge, an A2 knifeblade corner. Having failed to free this, we continued to the top, aiding the next pitch too. In total, we freed 32 consecutive pitches. The route has 14 pitches of 5.12 and three of 5.13, making it the hardest free climbing to date on El Capitan. On top on June 13, we were met by rangers, who cited us for having used a power drill to place bolts, and we were eventually fined \$185 apiece. Out of 47 bolts we placed, only one was on the original Muir Wall route. All bolts were placed ground-up style, and we tried not to change the climbing for anyone aiding the route. We feel that all bolts will be happily clipped, and the only complaint will be that we didn't place enough.

SCOTT COSGROVE

The Nose, El Capitan, First One-Day All-Free Ascent. In September, Lynn Hill one-upped her first free ascent of the Nose on El Capitan done a year ago in four days, climbing the entire route in a 23-hour push (VI, 5.13b). An article on this achievement appears earlier in this *Journal*.

California—Sierra Nevada

Climbs in the Sierra Nevada. The Sierra high country experienced a great deal of climber activity during the summer of 1994, but little energy was expended on new routes. The 1993 publication of *Sierra Classics* may have inspired climbers to plan trips into the back country to bag previously uncelebrated gems. As the word spreads about the quality of newly climbed routes, fewer climbers may cue on the older classics. Of course, there is the challenge of finding a fine new route. At least a couple of the following routes may deserve to be awarded classic status in the years to come. Thanks to R.J. Secor and others who sent me the following information, some unreported from some years back. *Black Pyramid*, East Face: first ascent in August, 1979 by Kevin Rivett and David Babich. This route (I, 5.7) climbs the featureless wall to the left of a prominent, loose crack in the center of the east face. After three pitches, it goes fourth-class to the top. *Mount Tyndall*: first ascent in 1994 by Daniel Roiman, Gus Benner and Sergio Aragon. This route (II, 5.6) ascends the face of sound rock between the chute on the east face and the buttress of the northeast arête. They ascended the middle of the face toward right-facing layback cracks to the north face and class-3 scrambling. *Matterhorn Peak*, The "Maze:" first ascent by Roitman and Aragon in 1994. The route (II, 5.6) ascends the face to the right of the east couloir. The right (northern) side of the face is steep and smooth and the left is relatively broken. The Maze ascends the broken face, getting its name from the many variations possible. *Obelisk*, "Poultry in Motion:" first ascent by Ellen Holden and R.J. Secor on September 25, 1994. This route (II, 5.7) ascends the knobby face between Los Pollos Locos and the