ca.1,100 feet, only the first pitch and last 35 feet went free; the remainder of the route yielded moderate and difficult aid. We gave the "+" rating for the potential ledge fall on pitch 5. In typical Zion fashion, the climbing was quality and fairly sustained. It was possibly the last wall to be done before the initiation of the park's backcountry permit fee. For the descent, we rappelled the *Monkeysfinge* route. Two anchors were added at the second and fourth (counting from top to bottom) *Monkeysfinge* stations on the way down.

PAUL TURECKI

**Streaked Wall, Latitudes, Second Ascent.** It was reported that in early November, John Varco and Bryan Gilmore made the second ascent of *Latitudes* (VI 5.9 A4+) on the Streaked Wall. Varco first teamed up with Greg Grasso to climb, fix and haul to Rubicon ledge. He then spent nine days with Gilmore on the upper eight pitches finishing the route. (*Climbing* 176)

**Twin Brothers, Levels of Doom, and Isaac, Middle Earth.** It was reported that Amanda Tarr and Eric Rasmussen put up a new 14-pitch line, *Levels of Doom* (VI 5.9 A3+), to the right of *Peyote Dreams* on the Twin Brothers, in late September. In late November, Rasmussen and Luke Miller climbed *Middle Earth* (VI 5.11c A4), a 19-pitch bottom-to-top crack climb to the right of *Tricks of the Tramp* on Isaac. (*Climbing* 174)

**Zion, Road Kill.** It was reported that, while filming a video about big wall climbing, Jeff Lowe and his "student," Scott Thompson, put up the route *Road Kill* (V 5.11 A4), a nine-pitch route on an 1,100-foot wall near the park's west entrance. (*Rock and Ice* 83)

SAN RAFAEL SWELL

**San Rafael Swell, La Piñata.** On November 9, Franziska Garrett and I were surprised to find the big hulk of a desert tower adjacent (west-northwest) to Mexican Mountain still unclimbed. After driving the Mexican Mountain Road and parking at its terminus, we waded across a shallow section of the San Rafael River. We then weaved our way up the northern flank of Mexican Mountain before traversing westward to the tower. Unsettled weather steered us toward the eastern side, where we climbed a short pitch (5.10 A0) to a prominent ledge on the south ridge. Then, a 60-meter pitch led over 5.8 slabs to a short, steep A1 bolt-hole-bolt section and some nailing and free climbing to the top (5.9 A1). We rappelled the route, *La Piñata* (II 5.10 A2), after savoring wide-angle views of the Swell.

JAMES GARRETT

FISHER TOWERS

**Fisher Towers, Various Ascents.** It was reported that Crusher Bartlett and Dave Levine climbed *Beaking in Tongues*, a seven-pitch route on the west face of the Oracle that was rated "somewhere between A2+ and A4" and used no bolts. On the south face of the Oracle, Kevin Chase and an Englishman known as Heavy Duty climbed *Nightmare on Onion Creek* (5.3 A4). Heavy Duty and Keith Reynolds put up a new route on the north side of the Citadel that used very few bolts. Tim Wagner made the second ascent of the Jim Beyer route *Deadman's Party* and soloed Beyer's *Intifada*. (*Rock and Ice* 80)

**King Fisher, The Hazing.** It was reported that Eric Kohl, Bryan Law (joined by Pete Takeda
on the final push) climbed *The Hazing* (5.8 A3) on the west face of the King Fisher. Also, Stevie Haston (U.K.) reportedly freed *Phantom Spirit* on the Echo Tower at 5.11-5.12. (*Rock and Ice* 81)

*The Titan, The Wasteland.* It was reported that Walt Shipley and Bill Lee nailed “what may be the Titan’s last natural line,” *The Wasteland* (A3+ 5.8), an 1,100-foot nine-pitch route that required roughly 35 bolts. It lies on the tower’s west face, in the obvious chimney left of Scherezade, and generally follows the gargoyle arete beside the Finger of Fate. (*Climbing* 176)

*Doric Column, The Big Nasty.* It was reported that Bill Lee and Walt Shipley put up a new 600-foot route via the “obvious” line on the Doric Column’s southeast face. *The Big Nasty* (A4 5.9R) was climbed over three days in November; ten holes were drilled for progress. (*Climbing* 176)


In May, Mike Baker and I made the first ascent of the western prow of River Tower via a four-pitch route called *The Flow* (III 5.8 A2). The 450-foot route climbs the tallest portion of River Tower and had been previously attempted by an unknown party.

CAMERON M. BURNS

**CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK**

*Factory Butte, Clarification.* I was an interpretive park ranger at Capitol Reef National Park from June, 1992, through October, 1994. During my time there, I set my sights on a prominent monolith called Factory Butte.

Rumors among the locals were that it had not been climbed, which I doubted because of its prominence and because of the famous climbers who got their start in the Torrey area. The approach and the base of Factory Butte are made of the clay/silt mudstone of the Mancos rock type, which erodes