

feet. The main ledge was reached at three A.M. on June 23 by Warren and Glen after 19 hours of continuous climbing. During the next two days, we cleaned the pitches of bolts and pitons and rigged fixed lines for prusiking on the third attempt. This took place from October 7 to 13. Warren, Glen and I (George was unable to join us) carried supplies up the talus and spent the major part of two days hauling them to our former high point—the main ledge. This equipment included several 7/16" nylon climbing ropes, 1200 feet of 3/8" nylon hauling line, 12 gallons of water, a large supply of food, sleeping bags and other climbing equipment. The first pitch above the ledge diagonaled upward and to the right. Of exceptionally severe class 6 climbing, requiring 34 pitons and three 1/4" bolts, it took Warren eight hours to lead. Two five-inch wide footholds provided the belay stance. The next day, October 10, Glen continued, using 4 knife-blade pitons, 2 horizontals and 12 bolts (mostly 3/16" x 1") to reach the base of a 220-foot overhang, which is interrupted by small roofs and required belay in slings. A long lead up an excellent piton crack filled with weeds and dirt and a short pitch brought us to a small tree beneath a large roof. Warren led straight out over the ceiling using bong-bongs (oversized angle pitons) on very strenuous and difficult 6th class. Above the roof he was able to climb 20 feet higher to two small sloping ledges. The prusik of this pitch was at least 25 feet from the wall with a 1200-foot drop below! We bivouacked on the ledges in anticipation of the summit the next morning. The final pitch, overhanging to the last, proved difficult 6th class up to a right-angle chimney. At 12:15 P.M. on October 13 we reached the top. In summation there were 11 pitches, all class 6, up the 1100 feet of overhanging wall. We used 111 bolts and 135 pitons. The ascent took a total of 18 days to complete. Anyone wishing to repeat this ascent should bring a large supply of 1/4" bolts, as many of these were removed to conserve hangers and nuts for the 3/16" bolts.

ALLAN MACDONALD, *Sierra Club*

*El Capitán, Southwest Face.* A completely new route was made on the 3400-foot face of El Capitán by Chuck Pratt, Tom Frost and Royal Robbins. Three separate pushes were required to finish the climb: September 12-13 (two full days), September 15-16 (one day and one night), September 19-24 (six full days). The 36 pitches needed about 500 pitons but only 13 bolts. This climb has been reported as the longest and most difficult yet completed in Yosemite Valley.

STEVEN ROPER, *Sierra Club*

*Higher Cathedral Spire, Northwest Face.* The first ascent was made on