

*Seven Pinnacles on Verita Ridge.* On September 19 Fred Beckey, Steve and Bill Marts, Eric Bjornstad and I climbed six previously unclimbed pinnacles on Verita Ridge. Bjornstad and I climbed the south face of flat-topped Breakfast Tower, which is on the crest near its southeastern end. The first lead, to the top of the south rib, was class 5; the second required 4 or 5 pitons for aid in poor crack. We two also ascended pointed Lunch Tower, below the crest and southeast of Breakfast Tower, by a chimney on its northwest face (class 5). The main difficulty was a traverse into the chimney near the beginning. Dinnertime Tower, the second pinnacle from the southeast end of the ridge, was climbed by Beckey, S. Marts, Bjornstad and me by a crack system on its southeast face (easy class 5). The writer climbed Desert Tower, the last pinnacle, by cracks with rounded corners and crumbly rock on the southeast face. Damocles, which is on the ridge crest just northwest of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, was climbed circuitously by Beckey and S. Marts. From the northeast base the route diagonaled right on a ledge system about two-thirds of the circumference around the tower to a belay spot and then diagonaled back to the left on a finger traverse to a roomy ledge, from which a short chimney was climbed to the top. Another pinnacle, just to the southwest of Damocles and below the crest, was climbed by Beckey and both Martses. From a notch on the northwest side the route swung around to the northeast and climbed a crack and then a slab to the summit. The next day Beckey, S. Marts and I took all day to make the first ascent of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The route ascends to a belay ledge up a direct-aid crack, which starts just to the left of the northwest notch. From the ledge we climbed up and around the north corner and continued up a fairly wide piton crack on the northeast face to the summit. The climb was almost continuously class 6 and required four bolts.

DAN DAVIS

### *Utah*

*The Priest.* Long a landmark near Moab, the 450-foot desert monolith, the Priest had apparently never been attempted by climbers. Waiting for Harvey Carter and me, Layton Kor spent a day in September, 1961 leading the first ascent of difficult Castle Tower of Castleton Rocks. Kor and I set out for the Priest and after a tortuous drive and tedious walk we heard the hammering of pitons above us, but fortunately it was Carter and his wife, who had missed us and were beginning the climb on their own. The first portion ascends on the west face with direct aid and then finishes with an exhausting, exasperatingly tight chimney. At its top, rubble had wedged the gap between the main wall and an open sub-pinnacle on the south to form a good belay stance. The next lead was an

open chimney, all free but very unprotected. We descended, leaving ropes intact, before we spent a full day finishing the climb with two pitches of direct aid on both pitons and bolts. This section included an exciting, free overhang on a very dubious sandstone crack.

FRED BECKEY

*West Face of Lone Peak, the "Book"*. In September, while Fred Beckey and Dan Davis were climbing the Question Mark Wall of Lone Peak, a second new route was being put up the west face by Ted Wilson, Rich and Dick Ream and Court Richards. We climbed 900 feet up the right face of an open book on the south edge of the face, using a system of wonderful, vertical, shallow cracks. The second and fifth leads were of 5.6 difficulty. Two stirrups were used at the end of the second lead to climb a difficult crack to a good belay spot. We used 22 pitons and had excellent protection on the entire climb of 6½ hours.

RICHARD F. REAM, *Alpenbock Climbing Club*

*Lone Peak, Direct West Face, Wasatch Mountains*. In the past the lower slabs had repelled attempts at a direct ascent of the west face of Lone Peak, but the main subject of conjecture was how to solve a great overhanging band about two-thirds of the way up. The only real flaw in this band was a wide vertical crack, but it bulged ominously upward and outward through a triple overhang. Study showed that one could turn this overhang bypassing it on the right via an open-book, but this alternative ended in a bad overhang with a wide flaring crack. On September 1 Rick Reese, Bob Irvine and I packed heavily into the amphitheater. With field-glasses we selected a key groove on the lower face just left of the prominent "S"-crack. Higher, it appeared the climbing would be spectacular; luckily we had brought a good selection of giant aluminum bong-bongs and wood blocks, for it was apparent that a party would be doomed to failure without these specialties. The first difficulty in the morning was a layback that threw one off balance and made the arms ache. Rick led on and worked diligently up a crack marking the previous high point with rusted pitons. He then traversed left on scratch holds to a high-angle groove and continued to the end of the lead on difficult going, mostly 5.7 with some loose holds and often none at all; piton protection was very poor and in retrospect we feel a bolt might have safeguarded matters better. A lead of easier fifth class took us to a ledge where we could survey the overhanging band above. I climbed around a corner on the right to study the open-book but decided to leave it in favor of a direct push up the triple overhang. Moderate to difficult free climbing up a twin crack sys-