

tem took me to a recess beneath the band. Double rope and almost every type of piton from chrome-alloy knife-blades to giant bong-bongs came into use during about 100 feet of nailing. When one knife-blade piton gave way, I found myself swinging freely in space some seven feet lower. Getting back to free climbing above the line of pitons proved difficult because of rope friction. Some hard and spectacular moves around a corner ended matters at a convenient ledge. From here we alternated leads, keeping them short, and stayed on or near the true crest. Twice we turned overhangs by slab-walls on the right. The final pitch was a route blazer up scanty holds, a true finger traverse, and then a hard pull-up into a body crack that split the summit block. The entire ascent required about 40 pitons, mostly medium and giant angles.

FRED BECKEY

*Flying Buttress, West Lone Peak Basin.* On September 15 Fred Beckey, Dan Davis and I made the first ascent of the buttress to the north of the main peak. Fred led the first pitch, which consisted of a difficult start on microscopic holds; the top portion eased off into some fine jam-crack climbing. I led the second pitch with 30 feet of free climbing, a section of direct aid on four knife-blades and a bolt and 40 feet of enjoyable chimneying. After another short pitch led by Dan, we were confronted with a mass of overhanging blocks. Fred led up for 40 feet on rotten rock and then placed three bolts to the corner of a roof. He next placed a two-inch bong-bong and was lowered to let a fresher man finish the pitch. Dan took over and after reaching the high point, made one more direct-aid move and finished with some excellent free climbing. We finally reached the end of the climb with Fred clearing the last pitch in the dark. The route required 30 pitons and four bolts.

TED WILSON, *Alpenbock Climbing Club*

*North Face of South Peak of Lone Peak.* The first ascent of this face, often called the Question Mark Face because of a large question mark near the top, was completed by Fred Beckey and me on September 15. We went in a straight line up an almost single crack, which diagonals up to the left and passes just to the right of the question mark. The first 350 feet of this nearly vertical climb required continuous direct aid; the final 100 feet were very difficult class 5 with very poor protection. In places piton cracks were very bad, and seven bolts were used: three to anchor the two hanging belays, one for safety on the final pitch and the others for aid. About 70 pitons were used in the 21¼ days on the face.

DAN DAVIS