

the left edge of these ceilings and entered a long, narrow chimney-system reminiscent of the first pitch. Struggling up, he placed a rarp for aid, and then continued free for 30 more feet to the only ledge on the route. We left our hauling bag here, and continued up another strenuous chimney pitch. Then came a long tension lead following the curiously disconnected shallow grooves which are characteristic of the direct north wall. We rappelled back and spent a disquieting night perched on the very exposed ledge only 10 inches wide. On the following morning we nailed two more pitches up the grooves to the summit. The actual climbing time was two full days.

GLEN DENNY

*Mount Brewer, Northeast Face.* Russell McLean and I made the first ascent of this face on September 11. The route starts in the first chimney to the right of the small overhangs on the rib leading directly up the face to the summit. We climbed about 200 feet up this chimney until it overhangs somewhat (loose rock). At the overhang we traversed right about 10 feet on small, exposed holds into the next chimney. We climbed to a chockstone which we passed on the left. Here the chimney opens. Keeping right, we ascended about 40 feet to some slabs and followed them for another 400 feet, where they became steeper. We then climbed up and right eventually reaching the crest to the right of the summit. A short scramble brought us to the top. We placed about 25 pitons for protection. The hardest lead was 5.7.

KENNETH BOCHE

*East Face of Day Needle, Mount Whitney.* The majestic east face of Mount Whitney and its flanking cirque walls present a striking balance of architectural form with the pyramidal main face and the two parallel buttresses of Day and Keeler Needles. Until September 15, Day Needle's buttress or east face was the last of these big walls to remain inviolate. The east face of Whitney has a number of chimney routes, as well as a direct one, and the face of Keeler Needle was climbed by Warren Harding and party a few years ago. Rick Reese and I left Whitney Portal in clear weather on September 13 for camp at timberline beneath Mount Whitney. We left camp near Upper Boy Scout Lake and with climbing packs hiked across the endless talus slopes to the base of Day Needle. We decided on a direct line up a corner of the east buttress. It was a spectacular route, about 1700 feet in vertical height, ending at 14,100 feet, with no escape possibilities. In the afternoon we climbed an ice slope, leaving a fixed rope for the next day, and continued up a few

hundred feet of easy rock to the narrowing of the great chimney left of the buttress. Here I led two fifth-class pitches and we left ropes hanging. The next morning, leaving at daybreak, we alternated leads above our high point and hauled rucksacks with food, water and bivouac clothing. We followed the corner of the buttress, pitch after pitch. The hardest portion was a long dihedral with poor piton cracks that I had to do free, with occasional moves on direct aid. Just before dark I nailed up a vertical corner leading out of a chimney and made an exposed right traverse into another chimney. Here we placed the only bolt on the route to safeguard a terribly exposed and unprotected step across. Since it was now dark, I retreated to Rick's belay niche, where we shivered waiting for dawn. In the morning the climbing continued up the crack, which soon eased and broke into a big belay platform. It was an exposed position. The next two leads traversed the rim of the dropoff to the north and had some touchy moves in jam-cracks. Rick finally crawled through a "cannonhole" narrows and shouted that the climbing was over. Voices were heard, carried by a biting wind; we could now identify hikers on the Mount Whitney trail, just a hundred yards to the west. We hiked to Whitney's summit and descended via the trail. We judge the climb to be a hard Grade IV.

FRED BECKEY

*Clyde Minaret, South Face.* In June, Chuck Wilts, John Evans, Dick Long and I made the first ascent of this exceptional route, by far the finest in the Minaret area. The face is over 1100 feet high and involves class 5 climbing on each of eleven 150-foot leads. The face is a striking formation, consisting for the first 700 feet of a series of slabs tilted to about 70° which end at a ledge two leads below a huge 250-foot dihedral. The route followed the west edge of these slabs for six leads. Above the ledge, the wall steepened and the climbing became more difficult. At this point a pack was lost containing all our food, water and bivouac gear and it became imperative to avoid a night on the wall. The remaining 5 leads (maximum difficulty consisting of only two 5.8 moves) involved climbing of a most satisfying variety. Thanks to good weather, stimulating scenery, and general cooperative spirit of those leading (considering the difficulty of filming and belaying simultaneously, a short 8 mm. film now remains as a memorial to the trip. Contrary to popular belief, those climbing on the faces and buttresses in the Minarets will find the rock to be sound and generally reliable. (NCCS IV-8.)

ALLEN STECK