

Raymond and I began from just inside the couloir south of the Watchtower. The first pitch went up a ramp leaning right. On the second Charlie finished the ramp and then went diagonally right to a belay in slings in a vertical crack above a black dike. When he hauled the pack, it dislodged a rock which bounded down toward me and wedged itself in a crack above my head, temporarily imprisoning the climbing rope. The third pitch went straight up except for a 30-foot flirtation with a crack on the left to avoid a white overhang. On the fourth Charlie climbed free straight up 75 feet (except for one zig-zag right) and then began the first nailing on the route. He soon set up a belay in slings and I pitoned above him to a large, flat, somewhat detached ledge. I then climbed an unpleasant ramp leading left and belayed in slings at the foot of a 30-foot flake. As Charlie was leading the next pitch a three hour period of rain and lightning began. From 20 feet above the top of the flake he traversed right and nailed up to a good ledge. The following pitch, the 7th, was a long, free climb somewhat leftward up a series of cracks to an alcove. From the alcove easier climbing leads 200 feet to the summit. Although this is perhaps the most difficult route in the Cirque of the Towers, with perhaps the finest "line," the actual climbing did not meet the expectations engendered by the beauty of the buttress. The rock is often poor and the belay spots not well situated. Some sling belays can be avoided by shortening pitches to utilize ledges. We often used horns for belay points. (NCCS IV, F9, A3. 60 pitons.)

ROYAL ROBBINS

*Steeple Peak, North Ridge and Upper West Face:* On September 10 Gerry Holdsworth and I got underway from Clear Lake at six A.M., headed for Deep Lake at the base of Steeple and scrambled up easy slabs to the base of the north ridge. The ridge is broken by a shoulder near its top, and direct aid was needed for the last 40 feet below this shoulder. From there a scramble brought us to the base of the great north chimney (another possible route to the summit), from which we climbed upward across the west face to the south ridge. The last 120 feet were climbed up the left side of the south ridge. This enjoyable climb over good rock required nine hours from Clear Lake to the summit. Eighteen pitons were used, six for direct aid. (NCCS III, F6, A2).

RICHARD REAM

*East Temple.* On September 2, Stu Turner, Mike Ermarth, Brad Merry, Ron Shrigley and I did a new route on the northwest face of East Temple. We climbed the talus and slabs to the base of the face, and then ascended a wide and sometimes icy couloir diagonaling the face to the right (west).

About halfway up the face we left the couloir and worked straight up a broken dihedral on enjoyable, sound rock to the summit plateau. (NCCS III, F3).

EDWARD VAILL, *University of Chicago Mountaineering Club*

*Haystack Mountain.* On September 10 Mike Ermarth and I completed the first three leads in the obvious crack which goes vertically up the center of the huge west face of Haystack Mountain, all fourth class; we left one fixed rope. The crack, which was like a dike, was about four feet wide and five to ten feet deep, the bottom being largely high-angle, down-sloping slabs of dark rock which was slightly loose in places. The next morning Rick Reese, Mike and I ascended the third-class slabs to the fixed rope and soon reached our highest point of the previous day. Rick led up the next pitch, which required strenuous stemming over two slightly overhanging bulges in the base of the crack. The crack narrowed somewhat for the following pitch, which was easier. The sixth pitch of the climb consisted of a strenuous stem over some steep down-sloping slabs in the crack, and an awkward move out of the crack where it became an open book facing right for a short distance. The next pitch was a strenuous stem on small holds, quite difficult because the crack was narrowing. I finally worked out of the crack to the left to a ledge providing a good belay spot. Rick led the next pitch, the hardest of the climb. He worked back across the crack, which ended a few feet above in an overhang, and then traversed ten feet to the right to a layback crack. The crack had fairly good handholds, but smooth rock for footholds which sloped away from the handholds enough to make the layback quite difficult. The last pitch consisted of two chockstone overhangs, one of which could be passed beneath and tunneled up, and the other, which could be stemmed to the beginning of the summit slabs. The summit ridge was reached at 1:30 P.M. after over six hours of climbing. Descent was made via a shallow, third-class couloir which diagonals down the north side of the peak to the west. (NCCS II, F6).

EDWARD VAILL, *University of Chicago Mountaineering Club*

*Haystack, Direct West Face.* The smooth exfoliated west face of Haystack, as seen across Big Sandy Lake, is a landmark to climbers hiking in to the Cirque of the Towers area. It becomes increasingly steeper and harder as you move from the more sloping south shoulder to the north, where it rounds toward Black Joe Lake. In 1964 it was climbed by at least three new routes, and when Jerry Fuller and I arrived at Deep Lake, friends told us there was already a party high on the face. We looked, and there certainly was: in fact, exactly on the route I had had in mind