

*California—Yosemite*

*Sentinel Rock, North Face.* In September Dennis Hennek and I prepared to attempt the sixth new route on the north face of Sentinel Rock, starting 75 feet left of the Robbins-Frost route. After carrying food, water and equipment to the base of the face, we fixed the first pitch and returned to the valley floor. On September 8 we hiked back up and began climbing. After slowly climbing free a short distance, Dennis began nailing. Rurps and knife-blades took him to a large roof, which he passed using an *wrp* (smaller than a rarp) and a bong-bong. On the next pitch I nailed slowly up the rotten granite, driving several rurps into the crackless rock. Dennis then nailed past some huge blocks to a small ledge. It was nearly dark when I had cleaned the pitch and so, finding a small ledge, I also prepared for the night just below Dennis. On the second day we climbed only three awkward rather than difficult pitches, passing the prominent band of ceilings halfway up the face about noon. Three pitches of easy nailing on the 10th brought us just below Sentinel's eastern summit. Dennis led up poor cracks. Rurps and knife-blades driven directly into rotten seams of granite brought him to easier climbing before he manteled onto the summit. (N.C.C.S. VI, F8, A4.)

KENNETH BOCHE

*Yosemite Climbing.* Interest in Yosemite climbing seems to be growing internationally. There were three ascents of the El Capitan Nose, one by a two-man French team. Later in the season a group of British climbers, including Don Whillans, arrived for several weeks of climbing. All the British who climbed in Yosemite were very successful, completing such routes as the Salathé-Steck route on the west face of Sentinel Rock and the northwest face of Half Dome. The climbing techniques required in the Yosemite presented no problem to the British, whose talent and versatility place them at the pinnacle of the sport. In general, however, little new was done. We look forward to a more active season.

CHARLES PRATT

*Phantom Pinnacle, Center.* In early May 1965, after several futile starts, Joe Faint and I made a new route up the center of Phantom Pinnacle. We began from a large ledge at the bottom of the face. A short section of direct aid brought us to a thin ledge beneath a prominent ceiling, which we passed on the right via a chimney. From a ledge at the top of the chimney a difficult step let us enter a very hard crack. Above this pitch we found an odd-width jam-crack, the beginning of one of the finest pitches of the climb, a steep pitch on jug holds, leading to a