

George Bloom, Ray Jewell, and I completed the first winter ascent of the direct north buttress on Mount Morrison. The first day's climbing, mostly F7, was the most challenging. The holds were small, the cracks few, the rock rotten, and the rockfall frequent. Hardhats are recommended. Soft iron pitons seemed to secure better in the brittle rock than the chrome-molly pitons. Nightfall the first day found us on top of the crux of the climb, the headwall, a 60-foot overhanging wall. The lead ropes were used by Les Wilson to lead this A3 pitch up the two brittle cracks. We spent the night in belay seats, slings, and tied to small steps. The second day, above the wall we climbed toward the obvious rusty chimney. After ascending the chimney, we rappelled down the other side into a couloir, climbed up to the ridge and along the ridge to the summit. Cold clear weather was enjoyed on the two-day climb. NCCS IV, F7, A3.

TED HAMM, JR., *Unaffiliated*

Stonehouse Pinnacle, Stonehouse Peak, Trinity Alps. During the late spring, Frank Yager, Bill Griffin, and I hiked seven miles up to Lower Canyon Creek Lake in the Trinity Alps to climb a 1000-foot pinnacle on Stonehouse Peak. Our route followed the most prominent dihedral for eight pitches of mixed climbing and required a bivouac. We found the granite almost as good as Yosemite's and we recommend the Trinity Alps for enjoyable rock climbing. NCCS III, F7, A2.

BRUCE PRICE, *Unaffiliated*

"White Elephant", Southwest Face, Joshua Tree National Monument. With some probing we found a long face, almost four pitches, in a large formation east of the main campground, which we dubbed the "White Elephant". The ascent was made on February 7 by Brian Gochoel and me. The entire ascent was free and on good rock with a maximum of F8 on the last pitch to the summit.

FRED BECKEY

California-Yosemite

The Prow, Washington Column. Call me Glen Denny. In June, I was near Dinner Ledge on the Washington Column. All day I had been watching Robbins and Mike Covington chipping away at Royal's latest pipe-dream: a new route up the smooth face between the south and east faces of the column. They had started the previous afternoon, climbing 300 feet to reach a ledge for the night. Someone had placed a bomb in

Cuv's mind and after he had placed 11 bolts late the second day, it went off, blowing to the winds any ambitions to whittle away at the slowly yielding wall. So Mike came down, and I, being handy, went up. We slept on the same 300-foot ledge and during the next three days swung leads up the center of the elegant fin. The wall is narrow, only 200 feet across. And it's *thin*, too. Expanding flakes, rarp cracks — that sort of thing. The smoothest wall, says Robbins, that he's ever been on. Still, we used only 38 bolts. 1300 feet. A fine, interesting, *different* route. It starts at the rope-up place for Dinner Ledge, goes up an easy dihedral on the right, up a creased face on the right, up a thin corner, left around an overhang (loose here), and up to a good ledge via a terrifying sky-hook move (Robbins was scared); then follow bolts and cracks for four pitches to the top of a strange dihedral (Strange Dihedral); a zig right, a zag left, up to Tapir Terrace, then into the big corner leading to the summit, where after two pitches it zags left to a long platform and up the crack above to the rotten top. For a better way: at the long platform, try dipping around the corner to a chimney behind a 300-foot flake. This may provide an avenue through the summit crud. NCCS VI, F7, A4.

ROYAL ROBBINS

It is also regretted that *Tuolumne* was misspelled throughout the *A.A.J.*, 1969.

Sentinel Rock, North Face. On July 5 and 6, Chuck Pratt and I established the seventh, though probably not the last, route on the narrow, vertically fractured north face of Sentinel Rock. We began in a jam-crack (about halfway between the beginnings of the Frost-Robbins and Herbert-Chouinard routes) which ended beneath some blocky overhangs. An aid pitch led around these on the right to two parallel vertical cracks. Three pitches of easy, enjoyable aid up the right-hand crack brought us to more dubious climbing. Hooks, an occasional free move, and more nailing brought us up and slightly right. Then we climbed intricate aid upward, tension-traversed left, and gained a new crack system just at nightfall. After stringing hammocks from bolts which were too close together, we both spent an uncomfortable night though we had plenty to eat and drink. The next morning we climbed two pitches up the "crack system" which was in reality a shallow groove, often dirt-filled with little or no real crack. We used rurps and bongs primarily in that section. When the grooves ended, three bolts and a liberal number of hooks, rurps, and knifeblades,