

*Kearsarge Pinnacle No. 6, West Face.* On July 4, Liesl Day and I climbed what we believe to be a first ascent of the west face of Kearsarge Pinnacle No. 6. From the notch between Pinnacle No. 6 and No. 7 traverse east into a gully and climb over an overhang. Ledges and short cracks lead to the beginning of a prominent open-book. Climb halfway up the book and traverse on a tiny ledge to the right until a higher ledge can be reached by a fingertip traverse, to a large shoulder south of the summit. Steep excellent rock leads from here directly to the summit pinnacle. NCCS I, F4.

RICHARD HECHTEL

### California — Yosemite

*Arcturus, Northwest Face of Half Dome.* Late in the afternoon of July 18, Dick Dorworth and I arrived at the base of the northwest face of Half Dome. It was like a furnace there. The spring, as we had feared, was dry, but luckily we discovered a trickle elsewhere which saved us a 1000-foot descent through thick brush for water. We started about 80 feet right of the normal route, and climbed a little over a pitch that day, bivouacking on the wall. In the morning we continued straight up via rotten, dirty climbing to a bivouac a rope-length apart just below the great traverse of the regular route. I was mucking about in the darkness, trying to get the hauling bag up to a better ledge and using two Jūmars to protect myself while climbing around on broken ledges and thinking I should use only one Jūmar — it's so much simpler — when the Jūmar holding my weight came off and there I was hanging by the other, wondering once again if I have been lucky or smart to be alive after twenty years of climbing.

The next day we followed the regular route across the traverse, and then up the dihedral at the end of it. But instead of moving right into the flake system that the standard route follows, we continued straight up. We suffered greatly from the heat and thought about Charles Ostin and Rick Sylvester, who were trying the Integral route on the face of El Capitan. "Boy." I told Dick, "that wall is almost 3000 feet lower than us, and looks directly at the sun. Those poor bastards must be frying. They don't have a chance." The upper part of this route is much more elegant than the lower half, but there are two dangerous pitches where loose blocks threaten both the climber and belayer. One is a 15-foot pillar fractured by an almost imperceptible horizontal crack about halfway up its length. The wrong use of even a nut might bring it down. At the other place, an aid crack meets a chimney, the mouth of which is choked with blocks. Lassoing a block further back helps reduce the danger of disturbing those