

for what turned out to be easier climbing above. After a difficult move off the main ledge we soon reached the base of the blank section, which although as crackless as it had appeared from below, was knobby and relatively low angle. Surprisingly the climbing here never exceeded F6, although we placed a protection bolt fifty feet out on the exposed slab. Higher, we encountered a short F8 crack, but by sunset we were standing on the top of the rock only a short walk from our car which we had optimistically left above us on the Glacier Point Road. NCCS IV, F10.

GALEN ROWELL

## Utah

*Three Gossips, Arches National Monument.* In the Park Avenue section of the monument are several impressive formations, few of which have been climbed. Many have blank, rotten sections at their bases. We chose the northern summit of the Three Gossips in October, since it appeared that good cracks existed. There were cracks, but they were not good. It was Allen Steck's first desert climb and so he got the first lead. He would yell down, "Do you think this one's OK?" "Hell, yes, Steck. Didn't you hear it ring?" Meanwhile I got ready for a fall. But Steck did beautifully and naively pranced up a 100-foot ladder of pins which was removed in minutes. A few hours later we reached the summit. The upper part was mostly free; a hidden four-foot-wide chimney splits the summit block. The route lies on the side opposite the road. NCCS II, F7, A3.

STEVEN ROPER

*Gothic Nightmare.* The Gothic Nightmare was the last of the three Mystery Towers to be climbed. It lies 34 miles east of the Fisher Towers and 20 miles east of Moab. Don Briggs, George Hurley, and I had teamed up in 1969 for first ascents of the Doric Column and the Citadel. The rotten rock techniques we learned on those ascents enabled Don and me to reach the summit of the Gothic Nightmare on April 20. On reconnaissance probes Hurley, Jon Hough and I had nailed the first pitches up a rotten crack on the north side. This reconnaissance indicated that the 300-foot crack could be climbed to the summit ridge. The major problem was traversing west along and around the many stone gargoyles that were perched along the knife-edged ridge. Briggs and I spent half a day completing the rotten crack to the summit ridge, and a day and a half

weaving our way to the top of the summit block. We named our winding route along the summit arête "The Traverse of the Goblins." It is mainly on the south side of the tower, and is the most spectacular traverse I've seen in the desert. NCCS IV, F7, A3.

WILLIAM FORREST

*Zeus Tower, Moab.* Last September, after an aerial reconnaissance and a spectacular dune-buggy ride, Fred Beckey and I arrived at our newly discovered desert spire. The climb of the thin 200-foot needle took two days, a few pitons between free moves and 35 bolts. NCCS III, F5, A2.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

*The Lighthouse.* Located ten miles east of Moab, the Lighthouse is a prominent sandstone spire rising above the south rim of the Colorado River canyon. On June 1 Harvey Carter, Tom Merrill, and I reached the overhanging summit by an east-face route that I had started the previous fall with Ian Wade. The route starts on the southeast corner and follows an obvious crack system for two leads, one free, and one aid, to the large ledge on the east face. A strenuous chimney and a delicate ridge pitch lead to a second ledge below the summit, a large, ball-shaped block of sandstone perched on a narrow base. The summit was surmounted by casting a rope over the top and jumaring up. The climb required two bolts. NCCS III, F8, A3.

GARY ZIEGLER

*Castleton Tower, North Chimney.* Castleton Tower, 20 miles east of Moab in Castle Valley, was first climbed by Layton Kor in 1962 up its southeast side. On the north side the natural break that splits the rock starts out as two narrow cracks in the corner of a dihedral. 150 feet above the base, the break becomes a chimney that widens as it goes higher. Allen Erickson and I climbed this new route on April 2 in five hours. A shoulder-stand gets the climber started. Ten feet higher, he passes an overhang on the left, using cracks in the slightly overhanging wall. Above a small ledge 50 feet up this pitch, the climbing becomes more difficult and is very sustained. The wall is vertical to overhanging and is climbed with jams and laybacks. The crux of this pitch is the bulge 130 feet up. Two pitons will be found ten feet above the bulge for belay anchors. These mark the beginning of the chimney. The first 30 feet consist of a difficult