

"Valhalla" Group. Up the south fork of the Hoh River there seemed to be unclimbed peaks about three miles from Mount Olympus on the southwest ridge towards Pelton Peak, reminiscent of the Bugaboos on a miniature scale. After a reconnaissance ended by bad weather in 1970, Glenn Kelsey, Roger Beckett and I were back in the last week of May, 1971 with Dan Michaels, Dave Stevens, Monty Lennox, Dave Haley and Bob Yekel. We headed first for "Woden", the highest of the group. After climbing a steep snow slope and crossing the bergschrund, we reached the summit by a class-four pitch of excellent rock only to be completely demoralized by the presence of a register. Our "virgin" peak had been climbed in 1966 by Ivan Lundgren of Tumwater and Ernest Labistida of San Diego. On the descent we climbed one of the adjoining peaks, also finding a register. A peak of massive proportions, yet lacking height, inspired the name of "Thor", the god of lightning and thunder. "Loki", the mischievous god, supplied the name to the needle-shaped rock. The next day, all but I ascended "Thor" and "Loki" for first ascents. "Loki" was an interesting shinny up its last 12 feet so that one could place a hand on its tip as if it were a flagpole. The next day we all climbed the other peak adjoining "Woden", apparently a second ascent, and then traversed two more unclimbed peaks.

HAROLD L. PINSCH

California — Sierra Nevada

Mount Russell, West Face. While looking at slides taken on a flight over the Sierra Nevada, Galen Rowell was electrified by a striking face on 14,086-foot Mount Russell, one of the finest peaks in the range. On reaching the peak many months later, we soon recognized the unmistakable face. On a cold day in June we started up a crack system near the center of the face and were able to climb free except for 10 direct-aid pitons used on two overhanging sections. The rock is perfect throughout. NCCS IV, F9, A2.

CHRISTOPHER A. G. JONES

Shaw Spire. This free-standing pinnacle at the head of George Creek, nestled under the east face of Mount Barnard, was ascended for the first time in March by Jerry Gregg and me. The arduous 6000-foot approach begins in the Owens Valley below Mount Williamson. Our seven pitches of climbing started at 12,000 feet on the southeast arête. NCCS III, F8.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Bear Creek Spire, South Face. In August I made the first ascent of this steep 1000-foot wall. I was prepared for a somewhat smaller face of more moderate angle as indicated on the disturbingly inaccurate topographical map. At the base of the wall, I reconsidered my solo