

climbing. Rough unglaciated rock surface and very deep cracks conspired to scrape hands and knees and to tear clothes in serious struggles with cracks. About noon we completed this long and interesting new route. NCCS III, F7, A2.

FRED BECKEY

*El Segundo Buttress, South Face.* The first ascent of this striking buttress above Whitney Portal was made March 21 by Michael Heath and me. The route ascends a crack system past a prominent overhang, then continues up incipient cracks on the nose. Several short blank areas between cracks required the placing of 5 bolts and the use of 5 bat-hooks in drilled holes. NCCS III or IV, F7, A3.

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*The Winged Horse, South Face.* Rising above Lower Boy Scout Lake and just east of the Impala, the rugged summit crown of the Winged Horse rises above an appealing 600-foot south face. Late in the fall of 1969, Dan McHale, Joe Brown, and I completed the three hard lower pitches of the face, each of which involved bits of monumental effort. The route began at a pine tree and soon involved tricky friction climbing (F8, one bolt for protection). The second pitch had an awkward problem as we changed cracks, followed by off-balance nailing of a slanting crack. A pitch up the only dirty area (a groove hard to climb and protect) led to more broken and aesthetic rock on the upper face. Jam cracks and a long chimney led to the summit block. Jack Miller and I completed the climb on November 17, 1970, finding no sign of a previous summit visit. NCCS III, F8, A3.

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*The Sphinx, North Buttress.* From the roadhead near Cedar Grove on the south fork of the Kings River, it is a long uphill hike to the tree-crowned, semi-alpine ridge south of the Sphinx. The Sphinx is an impressive tower near the highest point of a massive rock wedge that has its footings low on the slabs and canyons near the confluence of the Kings River and Bubbs Creek. Though the tower had been climbed, the long smooth buttress above the northern slabs had not. On October 18, 1970, Greg Donaldson, Walt Vennum, and I descended west of the buttress to a point where we could begin a worthy climb. Finding a reasonable entry to the buttress provided two interesting fifth-class pitches. On the crest the dubious places (F6) provided little leeway, but there was always a route. A number of interesting pitches led to the base of the curious summit tower. There we turned to the north flank and worked out a new route to the top. After this enjoyable climb came the drag, walking back uphill to camp. NCCS II, F7.

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