

the right side of the face and climbed six pitches all free except for 30 feet up into the base of the huge red dihedral that extends from a third to halfway up the right side of the face. From the top of the dihedral we worked left on ledges to the center of the face below the headwall. This required very steep aid climbing up several different cracks. The 14th lead put us on a good ledge above the headwall, and one more pitch up a steep crack led up the right side of the prow below the spectacular ledge of the Harding route. (The ledge appears on the cover of *Ascent*, 1972.) From here we followed the Harding route to the summit. We were disappointed to find five or six totally needless bolts on the first two leads. Fortunately they soon came to an end; the climb is only partly flawed by their presence. We carried 25 nuts and 25 pins and found we could have used more nuts, though through the upper headwall we used a number of thin pins. NCCS V, F9 or F10.

JEFF LOWE

*Mount Russell, Southwest Buttress.* On September 1, Gary Colliver, TM Herbert, and I climbed a steep crack in the south-facing western-most buttress of Mount Russell. Two horrifying cracks are apparent when the buttress is viewed from the western side of Whitney-Russell Col. We chose the less horrifying left-hand crack and found the climbing steep but surprisingly easy. Four pitches of F7 to F8 climbing, then easier 5th, 4th, and 3rd class leads to the summit. The first pitch is loose and requires caution if one is desirous of company on the summit. I climbed to the base of the right crack from whence Gary led a deceptively easy traverse to the bottom of the left crack. Colliver strung out the second lead well up into the F8 crack. TM led "the most enjoyable crack I've ever led" with only a minimal Herbertian F7 whimpering. The last difficult pitch is a moderate short chimney with a tricky traverse left to easy cracks on the western side of the buttress. The fourth pitch ended at the top of the vertical crack directly above our starting point. We climbed clean and hammerless. NCCS III, F8.

DON LAURIA

*Sorcerer Needle, North Face.* A new route was done by Greg Thomsen and me on April 21, 1973. Awkward chimney pitches from the east gully lead to the uphill (north) notch. Starting slightly west is a textbook series of parallel cracks that lead to the summit in two pitches. These begin with mostly aid placements, then gradually taper to thin, enjoyable free climbing.

FRED BECKEY

*Balloon Dome.* After an abortive attempt in 1971 to find Balloon Dome, I returned in 1974 with the indefatigable Black brothers, Dave