

*Peak 11,440+. Spring Lake Wall, "That's a Sheer Cliff" Route.* The north face of Peak 11,440+ in the Mineral King region drops sheerly into Spring Lake. Unknown to Vern Clevenger and me, Fred Beckey had climbed the right side of the face earlier in 1975. As we veered from the unofficial trail to approach the face, a backpacker began yelling at us excitedly, "Come back! Come back! That's a sheer cliff!" We decided that his quote would be a fitting name if we could climb the wall. The center of the face had several dihedrals rising vertically nearly 1000 feet. Rashly, Vern and I began the climb at two P.M. after our approach from the roadhead. We thought if all the climbing was free, then we could finish the climb by dark. Late in the day we had climbed only two F9 pitches, one of them poorly protected and devious. We descended and returned the next morning, climbing two more F9 pitches up cracks, chimneys, and bulges before the route eased back into lower angle F7 and F8. By noon we reached the summit. NCCS IV, F9.

GALEN A. ROWELL

*Middle Palisade, East Face.* On August 31, Tim Ryan and I climbed a new route on the east face of Middle Palisade (14,040 feet). We cramponed up to the highest point of the glacier. Tim led the first pitch, the most difficult of the climb; this delicate traverse went directly up from the bergschrund, then descended to the left. The next pitch traversed an easy 60-foot ledge, then went up a very loose chimney. The following pitch traversed left on the face, then led up to a belay beneath an overhang. After another pitch upward, the route traversed left around a corner into a broad chute that led up to the first notch south of Middle Palisade. From this col, we traversed to the right for one pitch before ascending to the summit ridge. NCCS III, F5.

JOHN D. MENDENHALL

*Mount Sill.* On July 15 Woody Stark and I climbed Mount Sill by a new route that starts from Lake 11,672 in the Glacier Creek drainage. We started toward the glacier routes, but instead of turning left toward the glacier, we climbed the headwall seen from the lake. Once on the ridge, we traversed to the summit. One rappel was used to avoid aid.

RICHARD H. WEBSTER

*The Needles, South Face of Wizard.* In mid-April, Dave Black, Fred Beckey, and I did a new seven-pitch route on Wizard. Visible from the road, and on the approach from the southeast, is a prominent crack system. We followed the system for five pitches of jamming and chimneying to a large ledge beneath the massive summit block. We then