

October 13, 1974 after fixing the first pitch the evening before. The route follows a continuous crack system (a right-facing dihedral) which is very obvious from the trail. The first three pitches are free, with some strenuous sections; most of the fourth pitch is aid, with some bottoming crack problems. Grade III; F8, A3.

FRED BECKEY

*Witch Tower, The Needles, West Face.* The first route on the impressive west face was done November 17, 1974 by Dave Black, Steve Eddy, and me; the beginning is from a short pillar over 100 yards south of the divide notch. The climb is superb, and would be a classic anywhere. Four of six pitches are F9, with not a loose stone on the climb, which is largely small face holds or thin jams—continuous all the way to the summit ridge south of the pointed tip. The first pitch goes straight up a crack ending in hard fingertip jams; one continues up until convolution moves spread one across left under an overhang (F9); bubbly small holds continue over a pitch, where awkward jamming takes one under a blocking overhang. The left side is possible after much probing (F9), with not much to work on; finally an improbable traverse to the right takes one to a layback heading for the summit spine. Grade III, F9.

FRED BECKEY

*Four Gables, North Peak via East Face.* This was a new route, done June 15, 1974 with Mike Levine, following the buttress on the face seen plainly from the highway north of Bishop. Once on the buttress, reasonably sound granite led the climbing to a sharp crest about 500 feet below the summit. Very shattered rock forced a traverse left into a steep snow gully, which was taken to the summit ridge. NCCS II, F6.

FRED BECKEY

*Spring Lake Wall.* A color photo in a packer's brochure shows this face to good advantage. The north-facing wall is about 700 feet high, rises above Spring Lake (Middle Fork Kaweah drainage), and is reached by an uphill grind from Mineral King. Robb Dellinger, Debbie Winters and I placed the first route on this attractive face July 14, 1974, following essentially a direct crack and dihedral system to the summit. The rock is very good and the climbing continuously excellent. NCCS III, F6.

FRED BECKEY

*Mount Russell, South Ridge to East Peak.* This very prominent crest is really a continuation of the main divide from the Whitney-Russell col. (It is the left profile as seen from Upper Boy Scout Lake.) Greg Thom-