

on a wooden sign points down a dusty road to the "Valley of the Gods." Ron Wiggle and I spent a few days in 1974 exploring this isolated valley and reconnoitering its numerous climbing possibilities. We climbed the highest and northernmost free-standing monolith in the area by an obvious direct line on its northeast side. Routine aid took us to a sloping bench near the midpoint. The balance of the route was up and into a dihedral of chunky, decaying white and red rock with only marginal safety. The final few feet were climbed on denser rock, partly free, with sound chocks for protection. Our only difficulty was an increasing wind pummeling hot sand into our eyes. We rappelled our ascent line, carefully dislodging much of the threatening loose rock on our way. NCCS III, F7, A3.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

*Sewing Machine Needle, Southern Canyonlands, Lake Powell.* In May, dressed for the early desert summer, Fred Beckey, Reid Cunduff, Lou Dawson and I turned onto a dusty road between the bridges over the Dirt Devil and Colorado Rivers. Twenty-five jarring miles later, we were belaying my car down an arroyo as we rebuilt an old mining road that took us a few miles nearer to the thin 300-foot Sewing Machine Needle. The next day we carried loads up the talus slope and belayed Dawson up 150 feet of steep rubble to a belay stance. It snowed and we retreated. The following morning we regained our lines and exchanged duties above. In the recurring freezing rain Lou Dawson elected to lead and reached the summit a few hours later. NCCS III, F8, A2.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

## Arizona

*Totem Pole, Monument Valley.* Ken Wyrick and I were hired by Universal Studios to "put the rope up" for the filming of the desert part of the movie *Eiger Sanction*. We spent 14 days on the Totem Pole and its nearby walls. Our duties were primarily to work with Clint Eastwood, stuntmen and the climber-cinephotographers, Pete White, Mike Hoover and Peter Pilafian. Our ascent was the fifth. At the end we cleaned the Totem Pole of its bolts and pitons as requested by the Navajo Council. Thus ended an era of climbing on what is surely the thinnest, tallest sandstone tower in the world. All climbing is prohibited within the tribal park and the law is energetically enforced by the Navajo police.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

*Earth Angel, Long Canyon.* In the spring of 1974 Ross Hardwick and I found and climbed the largest of the sandstone towers yet ascended in the Sedona-Oak Creek area. Earth Angel is a lofty 800-foot beauty

poised against a secluded canyon wall several miles north of Sedona. The eight-pitch route follows obvious cracks and chimneys up the tower's front. The sixth pitch is noteworthy, as here one is faced with a layback or with tunneling behind a gigantic pillar ominously late for its date with the forces of gravity. Either alternative leads one to a secure ledge above the pillar. Descent was via five rappels down the north side. NCCS IV, F10.

SCOTT BAXTER, *Sindicato Granítico*

### Idaho

*Mount Leatherman and Other Winter Ascents, Big Lost River Range.* Rick Albano and I made the following climbs, which we believe were the first winter ascents: Mount Leatherman, up the west ridge and down east ridge, on March 19, Class V; P 11,899 (west of Leatherman) via south ridge, on March 18, Class IV; P 12,023 (southeast of Leatherman) via west face and south ridge, on March 21, Class V. The Class V climbs both had pitches of F5, loose rock and high avalanche danger. Despite these factors, the range offers reasonable scope for winter climbing, especially for long ridge traverses.

WILLIAM MARCH, *Idaho State University Outdoor Program*

*Huddleson's Bluff, South Fork of the Clearwater River.* On October 19, 1973, we crossed the cold river and hiked downstream to the wall. In the morning we crossed the sometimes very exposed ledge at the base of the main wall to where Dave had left a fixed rope from his previous solo attempt. The second pitch leads through the two most obvious roofs on the Wall near two large patches of white rock. The rope drag became so great that Dave ended the second pitch just above the corner of the second roof. From here he nailed up a right-leaning, slightly overhanging crack until it petered out. He then traversed left on skyhooks until he got to the chicken heads that lead up to the partially dead belay tree. The fourth pitch ascends the rock to the left of the dirt-filled crack, wandering back and forth until a ledge 20 feet below the top is reached. From the tree up, the climbing was all moderate and free. The aid climbing was strenuous and difficult. It took us a day and a half to complete the climb. NCCS III, F7, A4.

C. MICHAEL HOLT

*Little Roman Nose, Southern Selkirks.* Mark Guthrie and I did the first ascent of the north face on September 27. We climbed the obvious dihedral that can be seen from the lake below it in four pitches of mixed free and aid climbing; the climbing was predominantly free. The first pitch is easy class five; the second goes around a tree to the left and up