

Pitch 3: A deep, third-class chimney leads to a vertical chimney below trees and a huge ledge. Pitch 4: Climb the dihedral (F8) through a wild chimney to a huge chimney flake, which is laybacked to a good belay ledge. Pitch 5: Step around the corner to the right and face-climb to the top of a large flake and bolt. Head right, then up past two bolts, traverse right and then up large holds to a ledge and pine tree. Pitch 6: Climb a finger crack on the left end of the ridge (F8) to the summit. NCCS III, F9.

DICK LEVERSEE, *Unaffiliated*

*The Needles, Merlin Dome, Unbolt the Gate.* In December Dave Seres and I climbed this route on the left side of Merlin Dome. Begin on a very bushy ledge system about 400 feet up. From the upper bushes, the first pitch starts up a short crack and ends on a small ledge higher up. (Rappel slings were found here.) The second pitch traverses diagonally left to a belay beneath a large cave. The third pitch goes up and right (almost entirely unprotected) to end on protectable ground where the fourth pitch is obvious to the summit. NCCS III, F8.

DICK LEVERSEE, *Unaffiliated*

*The Needles, Magician Needle, Magic Dragon.* In January Neil Carlos and I climbed this 13-pitch route. The first half of the route ascends directly up the spine of the huge buttress (Trojan Horse) which ends halfway up the rock. The long, unprotected pitch after the Horse's head is followed by a thin crack pitch to the left of the large dihedral. After the next obvious pitch, one long or two short pitches of easy face climbing end at the belay bolt on Black Magic. Two more long class 3 or 4 pitches lead to the summit overhang (F8). All nuts. NCCS III, F8.

DICK LEVERSEE, *Unaffiliated*

*Tuttle Creek, Clean Willy's Escape.* Alan Roberts and I climbed this route in June. It lies on the Keystone Wall above Tuttle Creek's south fork. It follows the prominent crack and chimney system just right of the Locksmith's Route (Beckey-Roberts). At one point a traverse right was necessary to gain a new crack system. After five pitches we rappelled off the route, rather than continue up the broken 4th and 5th class to the top. NCCS III, F9.

ALAN BARTLETT, *Buff Alpine Club*

*Mount Russell, The Mithral Dihedral.* This excellent route ascends the large left-facing dihedral just right of the Direct Southwest Buttress; the routes probably share the first one or two pitches. Alan Roberts and I climbed it in July via five pitches of sustained, spectacular jamming.