

the southeast face and the large recess mentioned in the Jones/Rowell/Becky description. One hundred feet of exposed third class ends on a flat ledge, the beginning of the climb. Four pitches up and right lead to the base of a steep, shallow crack that is followed for two very long pitches. The route continues almost straight up for several hundred feet on beautiful knobs, and ends abruptly on the unusual and spectacular summit arête. The climb consists of twelve long and continuous pitches, and it is the most enjoyable route we have ever done. We carried a selection of 25 chocks and rated the climb NCCS IV, F8.

BART O'BRIEN, *Sierra Club*

*Split Mountain, East Arête of South Summit.* Once called Southeast Palisade, this mountain somehow escaped all of the technical climbing that has gone on in the true Palisade Group, a few miles to the north. From the east, 14,058-foot Split Mountain presents two narrow arêtes dropping 2000 feet each into a basin. In February David Belden, a visiting French guide, joined me in an attempt on the largest arête. We found very mild winter conditions and camped below the arête at 10,500 feet. The following morning we climbed easy rock and snow gullies for a few hundred feet to the base of a sheer wall. Here we found a section of F9 climbing that was all we could manage in the cold weather with mountain boots. Several pitches higher the route reached the crest of the arête and David joyfully yelled down, "Baroque!" For a thousand feet above him the ridge crest was rarely wider than six feet and it was serrated like an upturned saw blade. The teeth were granite blocks varying from ten to fifty feet across. We hurried across the ridge, sometimes roped, sometimes not, until we reached another small headwall, this time F8. After sixteen pitches of climbing we finally reached the south summit—the left side of the "split" for which the peak is named. It took us another full hour to cross the long split to the main summit and we barely reached camp at dark. NCCS IV, F9.

GALEN ROWELL

*Split Mountain, East Arête of North Summit.* This long ridge is not as continuously steep as its neighbor that leads to the south summit, but the total climbing distance is greater, due to several gaps and a long knife-edged section in the middle. In October Fred Beckey and I set out to climb it from Red Lake. After a few hundred feet of climbing, Beckey felt ill and decided to descend. He rappelled down and I continued alone with a few nuts and runners that might have helped in a tight spot. For several hundred feet no moves were harder than F7 and the climbing went very quickly. Then I came to an F8 squeeze chimney, which although strenuous, was quite safe. Above, the angle lowered and I

scrambled easily along a narrow ridge crest for hundreds of feet until I reached an area of large gendarmes. One seemed to be sheer on all sides and a route I tried to the left wouldn't go. After considering a retreat, I found a traverse to the left via a short F8 layback above a small ledge. From there the route went up and down over great gendarmes until it gained the summit edge. The 2000-foot climb took an hour and forty-five minutes from the point where Beckey turned back. The rock was overall quite sound and similar to that of the main Palisade Group. Only on the first few pitches were there any number of loose blocks. NCCS III, F8.

GALEN ROWELL

*Hot Tuna Tower, Open-Book Route.* This tower is located on the east side of Wheeler Crest and is visible from U.S. 395 at the beginning of Sherwin Grade, north of Bishop, California. It is the largest tower in a pink band of granite that intrudes the otherwise grayish granite rock. An open-book splits the east side of the tower, but ends in a ceiling two pitches from the summit. In February David Belden and I made the laborious 3000-foot approach to the tower and were surprised to find an F10 section in the easier-appearing lower section of the open-book. Higher, we came across a section neither of us could lead. After many tries I threw a nut over a flake and made a five-foot tension traverse out of the difficulties. When the ceiling itself loomed directly overhead, it was David's lead. He found the rock coated with orange plates and knobs, climbed the pitch quickly, yelled for joy, and rated it F6. The next pitches to the summit were equally enjoyable. The 1000-foot face took six hours and is rated NCCS IV, F10, A2 (one aid move).

GALEN ROWELL

*Mount Winchell, Southwest Arête.* This beautiful knife-edge is pictured on page five of the Sierra Club book, *Gentle Wilderness: The Sierra Nevada*. The route is on the first ridge in from the right skyline which joins the north ridge about a hundred feet below the summit. In May Warren Harding and I skied over Bishop Pass and began the climb early one clear morning. We reached the summit hours later and descended the northeast side. The route began on a broad face to the left of the ridgecrest, then gained the crest and followed it for 1500 feet to the summit. Climbing was moderate fifth class with one F8 section. NCCS III, F8.

GALEN ROWELL

*Reed Pinnacle Area, Old 5.10, Yosemite.* Pat and Paula Ament and I climbed the knobby wall left of Lunatic Fringe in June. This short