

flared slot that Vern led with a great deal of finesse and much cursing. NCCS IV, F10.

ALAN BARTLETT, *Buff Alpine Club*

*Wells Peak, lower half of East Face, December's Children.* This route on Wells Peak, in the Wheeler Crest area, was climbed in December by James Wilson and me. It follows the only crack system just right of the center of the face. The fourth pitch starts in a left-facing book, but as further progress becomes improbable, one works around the corner to the right to easier ground. NCCS III, F10.

ALAN BARTLETT, *Buff Alpine Club*

*The Needles, Warlock Needle, Romantic Warrior.* In October John Peca and I spent three days on this magnificent seven-pitch route. The route is located on Warlock's steep west face, on the southernmost of the three massive summit towers. A scramble to a small ledge leads to steep aid cracks (A2, all clean except for one hand-placed piton that we fixed). Higher, free climbing up jamcracks and face climbing (F7) end at a hanging belay 160 feet up. Then a fantastic lead (F7) up a long, colorful corner continues to a sloping belay ledge. The third lead is a long aid pitch up a steep crack. Work up and right, then left and up, to a hanging belay on bolts (A2, all clean). A spectacular and difficult aid pitch (A4) follows a thin diagonal face crack up and right from the belay. Two bolts and easier aid climbing lead to Excess Reality Ledge—a small stance. A few moves up a right-facing corner and a mantle lead to a huge sloping area and a traverse right (F6) to a fixed piton. At this point, lower down about 30 feet to a short arch and friction right, then up, to a fingertip crack (F8) that leads to the base of the enormous summit dihedral—the Book of Deception. A long aid pitch (A2) follows this book to a ledge for belay. The summit pitch is short. A few moves of aid and face-climbing lead to Warlock's south summit. NCCS IV-V, F8, A4.

EDWIN C. JOE, *unaffiliated*

*The Needles, Warlock Needle, Imaginary Voyage.* In August Dick Leverage and I made an ascent of this five-pitch route up the east face of Warlock Needle. The first lead starts in a long, left-slanting jam-crack on the right-hand portion of the east face. Steep jamming ends at a semi-hanging belay far up the wall. The second pitch continues up the diminishing jam-crack to where one must step out of the crack and face-climb upwards to a short left-facing open-book and a sloping belay ledge below a chimney. Steep buckets lead up to the chimney. Climb the chimney to a small ledge below huge blocks. A right-facing corner and a ramp take one to the terrace below the summit block. We climbed