

*Mount Russell, Startrekkin'*. In July Alan Bartlett and I climbed a new route on the southwest buttress. It is located between the Direct Buttress and the Mithral Dihedral. After sharing the same start as these other two routes, we continued up a vertical crack past a small overhang for several pitches to the top. High quality rock and exposure make this route well worth the approach. NCCS III, F10.

ROBB DELLINGER, *Buff Alpine Club*

*Consumnes Gorge*. In February Ron Vardanega and I put up three new routes on the dome across the river from the popular bouldering area: 1). *Grandma Buttons*. Go over the overhang at the bottom of the central crack system. Traverse above the arch one rope-length on knobs to a belay bolt on a clean apron below a prominent overhang. Climb the overhang and continue straight up. NCCS II, F8. 2). *Grandpappy*. This was climbed with Steve Iverson. Do the overhang again, then go up the center of the slab left of the central crack system to a belay bolt above and left of a shaky flake. Continue up the fine slab above past three bolts to a belay bolt. From here, go straight up to the unrope area. NCCS II, F9. 3). *Grizzly Green*. Go up to the ledge with two bolts at the base of Gutenburger Wall. Walk to its left end by a small oak tree. Go up an overhang to a pocket, then up and right to a poor bolt, then left and up a slab to a bolt. Continue up the slab to a crack and then up and left to a bolt. The slab above leads to the finish. NCCS II, F9. One should note that the owners of the property want climbers to use only the trail from the bridge at Bucks Bar, not the trail from the upper parking lot. Also, they don't want campfires. They are good people, and in order to keep this fine area open all users should respect their reasonable requests.

BOB BRANSCOMB

*P 13,267, Clyde Spires, North Face*. Al Stone and I climbed this route following the left couloir. Follow the main couloir for several hundred feet, then traverse left to a small subsidiary couloir on the left wall of the main couloir, and follow it to the summit ridge exiting between the two spires. The route contains about 600 feet of fine climbing on mixed ground. NCCS III, F7.

MARTY ROSS

*Mount Russell, Beowulf's Revenge*. In October Fred Beckey, Mark Fielding and I climbed the farthest line to the north on Russell's west face. The route starts among ledges in a semi-rotten chimney approximately 100 feet left of an obvious large right-leaning arch. The first three pitches go up and left with continuously improving climbing. From the fourth pitch to the top the rock is high quality, the climbing exposed, and the belay ledges roomy. The last fifth-class pitch is an exposed tra-

verse left onto smooth stepping stones and finishes in a classic F7 layback. NCCS III-IV, F8.

MARIE GRAYSON

*Mount McAdie, Northeast Face.* Mike Daughtery, Jeff Lee and I climbed this face in July. A large bowl is evident from Consultation Lake. Enter a recess below this bowl by traversing from the east (exposed fourth class). After entering the recess, climb mixed third and fourth class to the bowl and headwall. Exit the bowl to the left and climb directly up for 2½ pitches. After gaining the east buttress, climb to the summit via the north side of the buttress. NCCS III, easy fifth class.

WOODY STARK

*Tranquility Dome, Blind Ambitions.* In August Fremont Bainbridge and I climbed a new route on this dome near Mammoth Pool Reservoir. Our route is to the right of Visions (*A.A.J.*, 1976), and lies between the central arch and the prominent, left-facing dihedral system to its right. Starting about 200 feet up the right edge of the face, climb left to a small ledge. From here, climb up and right to a bolt, then past another bolt to a belay bolt. The next pitch follows two bolts to a belay bolt. On the fourth pitch, rather than climbing into the dihedral above, cross the face between the book systems to a bolt. This bolt protects the crux move to a belay from thin pitons at the base of a crack system. The last pitch follows these cracks to the main dihedral. NCCS II, F10.

CONRAD VAN BRUGGEN

*Bear Creek Spire, South Face, British Chimney Route.* On July 5, I took Nigel Gifford, a veteran of British Army expeditions to Nuptse and Everest, on a day climb in the gentle wilderness of the High Sierra. While I hoped to introduce him to a challenging climb in my home mountains, I never anticipated that I was leading the two of us into an alpine epic. The approach from Rock Creek normally takes a brisk 3-hour walk. In the early summer of an unusually high snow year, we spent eight hours traveling through the worst sun cups we ever experienced in any mountains anywhere. The crests would not support body weight, while the troughs, always a few inches deeper than thigh-height, were filled with icy water. The one existing route on the south face, climbed in 1970, is, to the best of my knowledge, unrepeated. We chose a prominent chimney on the west side of the 1200-foot wall. The first few pitches were of medium difficulty and straightforward. Then came an overhanging alcove that we climbed by delicately bridging against a pillar of rotten snow. Hidden from view was the upper chimney, which had a back wall coated with a foot of bulbous water-ice. After numerous efforts to place nuts behind the ice, to throw #11 chocks over the top into a slot, and to climb the ice in EB's, I discovered, to my chagrin, that the chimney could be