

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 $2\frac{1}{2}$ 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

bridged with very wide stemming. We avoided the ice altogether and continued up chimneys and jams to a steep headwall that required a short pendulum near the top. This was our only point of aid on the route, and we have no doubt that a party in less of a hurry could eliminate it. We reached the summit ridge just as the sun set, and decided not to go the last fifty feet for the summit. We had 2000 feet of fourth class rock and snow to descend to reach a campsite on the opposite side where we had left our bivvy gear. We reached the snow in total darkness, and proceeded across two miles of sun cups in EB's. Several times I lost muscle control in my legs because of constant contact, from thigh to toe, with the wet, sun-cupped snow. We reached camp after midnight, where Nigel massaged my feet for a long, long time. The next day we drove 300 miles to get him onto a plane to England with minutes to spare. I lost sensation in one foot for three months, and Nigel must still feel that the Sierra Nevada is a rather formidable range. NCCS IV, F9, A1.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Aiguille Extra, East Buttress, near Mount Whitney. This hiding giant surprisingly had only one route on it, which follows an obvious large dihedral. Kenny Cook and I hiked on July 1 from Whitney Portal to the base of our proposed route, the unclimbed east buttress. The first pinnacle we fourth-classed from the right under a constant barrage of ice and rock from the walls above. The climbing began with a pitch of loose, friable rock (F6) to a good crack at the right of the base of a chimney. Kenny led up the crack (F9) to a good ledge. I climbed up a thin crack and then tensioned into an off-width crack (A2, F9). Kenny went up left (F7) through a slot below a ledge system, up a short F10 section. A little third-classing brought us to a comfortable bivouac. In the morning, the fifth pitch (F7) tended right and ended on a ledge. Some third-class scrambling to the left took us to the large ledge at the bottom of a headwall. A large block on the left formed a perfect hand-crack for 25 feet. Kenny led this vertical wall (F10). I moved up a flaky layback to small footholds and traversed right for 30 feet to a good hand-crack (F8) which ended at a good belay atop large blocks. Kenny led the last pitch from an ice-covered corner to the right. A few aid moves took him up an overhanging wall to F4 climbing and a pedestal just below the summit. NCCS V, F10, A2.

WERNER R. LANDRY

Kerckhoff Dome, "Pinup." In March Brian Cox, Ian and Darien Raistrick and I made a new route on the south face of Kerckhoff Dome. We began on a slabby wall directly beneath a gaping chimney high on the wall above. About 150 feet left of "Centerfold" (*A.A.J.*, 1973, p. 425), we climbed a small rib up to a blind F10 layback and finally belayed on a ledge beneath a prominent arching overhang. Then an awkward move