

the rock was inconsistent, but there were some good sections. On the long summit ridge, the climbing deteriorated to a long scramble. (NCCS II or III, F7.)

FRED BECKEY

*Sonora Pass Crag, Sonora Pass Area.* There is considerable rock-climbing potential on a large rock massif northwest of Sonora Pass. The highway passes just beneath it. Because of its nearness to a road, other climbs have certainly been done here, and there is some evidence of dropped gear. In June, Rick Nolting and I did a reasonably direct climb up the west face, and at least two of the pitches were quite firm. Route-finding is a problem, and some of the lower portions are crumbly. Our climb had a few awkward problems, maybe up to F8.

FRED BECKEY

*Sugarloaf Dome, Kings Canyon Area.* The unsuspected number of granite domes on the west side of the Sierra Nevada is surprising. Alan Roberts and I found a very picturesque dome of the exfoliating type on the high benchland north of Kings Canyon in October, 1979. We chose a route on the bald west face, some 600 feet in height. The line was a classic, with thin crack problems, a strange committing type of overhang, and challenging friction-slab problems. The rock is solid, and in many ways similar to the domes of Tuolumne Meadows, but hidden among the hilly folds and pines in the morning shadow of Mount Brewer. (NCCS III, F8.)

FRED BECKEY

*P 13,355, South Face, Mount Whitney Area.* Attracted to this large wall so close to the Whitney region, yet still unclimbed, Bill St. Jean, Alan Bartlett and I found ourselves on this face last June. Our route follows a line left of center, beginning with a full pitch of strenuous off-width above 12,400 feet, and going five pitches to the lower left end of a gold band high on the face. One pitch along the "Golden Traverse" led to the final rope-length up cracks and over a roof to the summit ridge. NCCS III, F9.

ALAN PIETRASANTA, *Buff Alpine Club*

*P 13,520 and "Bateman's Tower" (P 12,880—one-half mile east of the Thumb).* In June, 1979 our party made two first ascents in the Birch Creek area of the Palisades. Peter von Gaza and Lars Mollor completed a snowy couloir on the north face of P 13,520 (F4-5). Del Johns and I later made the first ascent of "Bateman's Tower," a very prominent pinnacle seen from Birch Creek (named in honor of Paul C. Bateman,