

of Lot's Slot. In all this somewhat complicated route has nine pitches, angling slightly left and containing a section of unprotected F9 face climbing and one entire pitch which is almost horizontal. The fourth climb, *August 11th Start*, provides a different, more difficult, and apparently preferable beginning to the Vas Deferens route. Keith Hadley and Buck Tilley first climbed this variation on August 11, 1978. It begins about 75 feet to the left of Lot's Slot and provides four pitches containing F5 to F9 climbing, before joining the previous route at the fourth belay stance in broken blocks in the middle of a friction slab.

Another part of Death Canyon rock which has attracted climbers is the Sentinel Turret-Omega Tower section. A new route, *Bee Line* (III, F8, A1) on the Turret was made in 1975 by Jim Beyer and Jerry Cantor, starting to the left of the normal Turret route. A prominent F7 white open book in the center of the face above was an important feature of the climb. Beyer returned in July, 1979 with Misa Giesey and climbed the route free (F9). On Omega Tower two F9 climbs were made by Charlie Fowler and Dennis Grabnegger. The first contained four pitches while the second, called *DCD*, was made with Kent Lugbill but had only two leads. Farther to the east another new route was made on the buttress to the right of the gully and stream east of Sentinel Turret. Charley Gunn, Jim Schubert, and Gordon Brooks made the climb (II, F7) in July, 1976, by scrambling several hundred feet up ledges on the north-east side of the gully. Beginning near a large, vertical chimney, the route angled right and up for two leads until a long F7 traverse to the right was made below an arch. After crossing the arch, a second F7 ceiling was passed on loose blocks.

*Buck Mountain, Stewart Draw Buttress.* A new area for convenient rock climbing was found by Yvon Chouinard and Kathrene Collins in July, 1980 on the buttress rising on the south side of Stewart Draw, the traditional approach for the regular route on Buck Mountain from White Grass Ranch. The first route, *Peaches Direct*, contains five pitches and lies near the center of the buttress. With one pitch of F8 difficulty the route ends at the uppermost pinnacle at the top of the buttress. A second route, *Spigolo Nero*, starts farther to the left, but also finishes at the top tower after F7 or F8 climbing. The short approach adds to the attractiveness of these climbs.

*Avalanche Canyon.* Several new climbs have been discovered in the general vicinity of Lake Taminah in the north fork. The larger of two steep buttresses directly north of the lake now has two routes. In August, 1978, Yvon Chouinard, Kent Lugbill, and Rich Perch completed a five-pitch F9 ascent starting to the right of the obvious gully at the left side of the face. Subsequently Lugbill and Wendy White returned to make a second route near the right edge of the face. After scrambling up the toe of the buttress, they found F8 and F9 pitches leading to the top of the same buttress. A third climb, *Yukon Jack Arête*, was made on July 29,

1979 by George Montopoli and Bob Howard. When one ascends the talus field below Lake Taminah, this sharp arête is seen 1000 feet above the gully blocked by a huge block. From Taminah a traverse below the cliffs to the north was made to enter the gully above the block. Then three leads were made, the second up a very fine dihedral in white quartz rock. This F7 lead was followed by an open book and overhang of equal difficulty.

Rising south and slightly east of the forks of Avalanche Canyon is *Abandoned Pinnacle*, the location of two additional climbs. The first, *Lost Route*, was climbed on July 7, 1979 by Mike Munger, solo. The climb started in a group of dead trees and involved F9 moves in three out of four pitches before exiting in easier rock leading to the summit of the pinnacle. Six days later Munger returned with Buck Tilley to make an even more difficult ascent, *Alone Route*, to the right of the previous climb. After starting from the same place, just east of the canyon forks, an F8 diagonal traverse up to the right brought them to an F10 headwall. The remaining four leads were progressively less difficult, F9, F8, F6, and F5. Descent from both ascents was made easily down to the southwest.

*Cloudveil Dome, South Face*. This prominent face has yielded three new routes. The first, *Cut Loose*, was climbed on August 2, 1977 by Yvon Chouinard and Rick Black on the right portion of the face. The start was about 30 feet to the right (east) of the chimney forming the right end of the upper of the two parallel crack systems which diagonal up and left across the south face. The first pitch to a large ledge was followed by two leads of crack and face climbing, passing a roof on the left. The fourth lead is the crux of the climb, F10 and consistently difficult for its 140 feet, but the protection is good and the rock is excellent. One may then make a short lead to the right-hand (east) ridge which is followed to the summit, or by angling left stay on the south side of the peak until about 300 feet to the right of the summit. A second and longer route, more nearly directly up the center of the face, was made on August 15, 1978 by Mike Munger and Rick Liu. It begins well left (west) of the right end of the lower of the two parallel diagonal crack systems mentioned above; four leads are required to reach this first system. Three more leads, all F8, brought the party to the upper crack system. The last three leads of this important route extend from the upper system to the vicinity of the summit. A third route, *Contemporary Comfort*, was climbed on September 2, 1978 by Charlie Fowler and Bill Feiges. This route followed the lower crack system, past one F10 pitch to reach a dihedral leading directly upward instead of continuing diagonally left (west). A total of eight or nine leads were made, including difficult rock above the upper crack system.