

North Palisade, West face. The Palisade Range offers California's most alpine climbing on 14,000-foot peaks fluted with ice gullies that rise above cirque glaciers. Almost all the technical climbs have been in this picturesque setting on the eastern side of the range, and the longer arêtes and buttresses facing west have long been neglected. To reach them entails the crossing of at least one high pass. David Wilson and I found out how simple this dreaded walk really is after the Fourth of July weekend. It took us exactly two hours with packs loaded for a wall climb to crest 12,000-foot Bishop Pass, formidably graded for grandmothers by the Forest Service, and another two of stumbling in the talus while looking in awe at the several miles of two-to-three-thousand-foot granite buttresses that came before our goal, the west face of North Palisade. In the evening light, these snow-free cliffs rose in a deep red wall above the blue lakes of Palisade and Dusy Basins. I had thought that the west side of North Palisade would offer only discontinuous slabs until I saw and photographed the range from the air some years ago. One image showed a dead vertical thousand-foot wall rising from the talus until it merged into a steep arête that ended on the summit ridge between North Palisade and Starlight Peak. At dawn we were on this wall, climbing easy fifth-class rock for three pitches until a smooth, slightly overhanging headwall faced us into four pitches of F9 and F10 climbing. Protection was adequate, but in shallow, discontinuous cracks characteristic of the fine-grained diorite in this part of the Sierra. From shivering in the shadows and numbing fingers in cracks, we exited onto a fine, sunny arête. One particularly serrated section of crackless towers forced us into a gully for a few hundred feet, but otherwise we continued roped climbing to the summit, which we reached at three P.M. on a perfect day. That evening we ate dinner at a lake in Palisade Basin and walked out to the roadhead in the moonlight. NCCS IV, F10.)

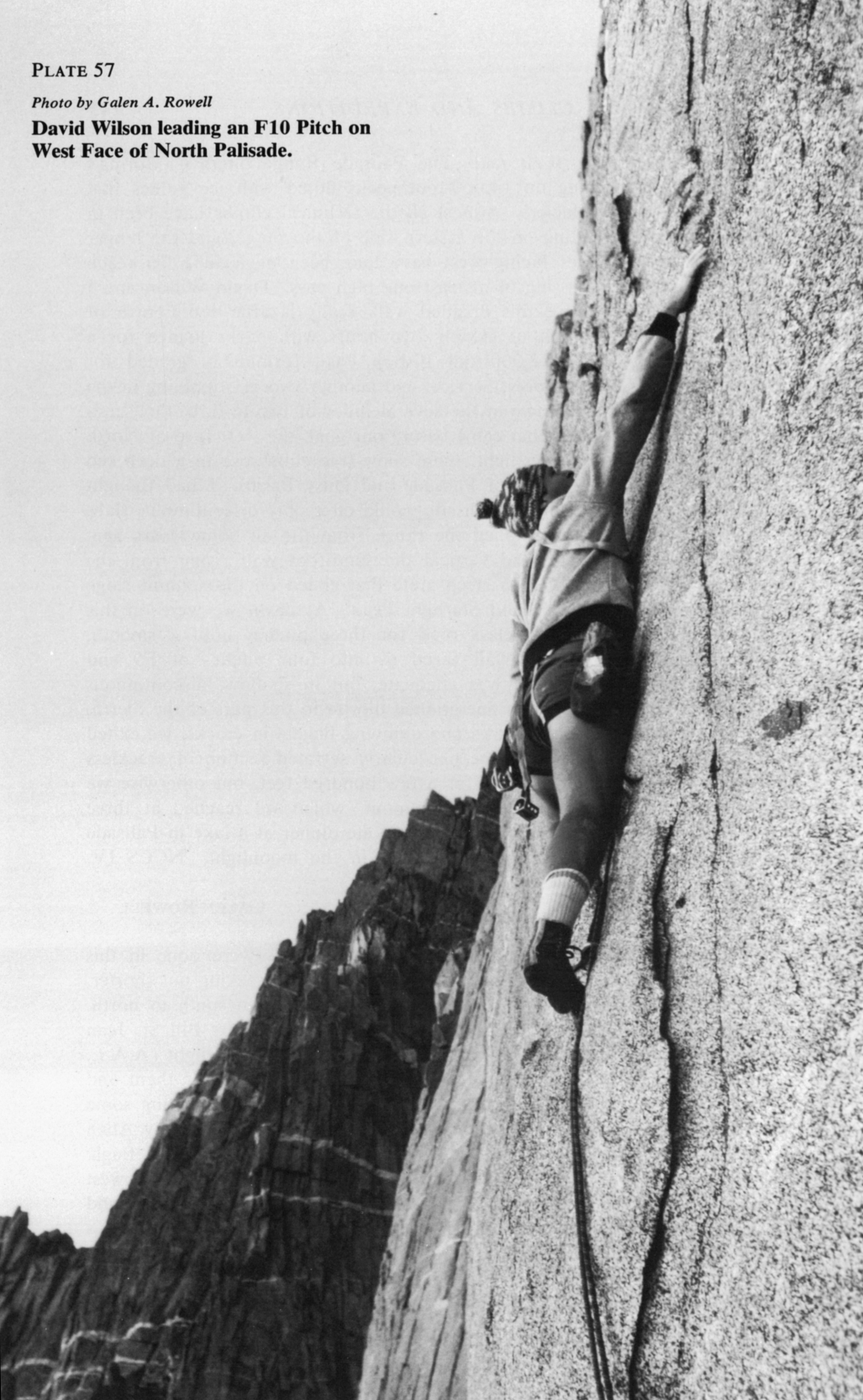
GALEN ROWELL

Wheeler Crest, 1980. A number of fine routes were done in this area near Bishop in 1980. In general, climbers were seeking out shorter, harder routes than in years past. The routes are listed south to north. 1. *Soaring Eagle Tower, John Birch Society.* Climbed by Bill St. Jean and Rick Wheeler, March 1980. To the right of Chicken Delight (A.A.J., 1979) is a series of roofs. This route starts to the right of them and climbs up and right (hence the name) for several pitches, passing some bolts. NCCS II, F9. 2. *The Bastard.* Climbed in April 1980 by Allen Pietrasanta and Bill St. Jean. Down and to the right of Soaring Eagle Tower is a large formation known as Bedrock Tower. It is the lowest formation in the orange band. This route lies on the tower behind and slightly to the left of Bedrock Tower. Near the left side of the face is a smooth, rounded buttress. Start in cracks on the right side of the

PLATE 57

Photo by Galen A. Rowell

**David Wilson leading an F10 Pitch on
West Face of North Palisade.**



buttress, and, when possible, traverse left to reach cracks on the buttress itself. A more direct line seems desirable. NCCS III, F8. 3. *Bedrock Tower, Fred Flintstone*. Climbed in April 1980 by Tony Puppo and James Wilson. Near the left side of the face is a right-facing book. Right of it are three left-slanting cracks/grooves. This route ascends the left groove and the face above it past two bolts. An easy chimney leads to the top. NCCS II, F10. 4. *Bedrock Tower, Barney Rubble*. Climbed in April 1980 by Alan Bartlett and Bill St. Jean. This route follows the right of the three grooves to two bolts near its top, then up and left into knobs, then back right across a steep face and up to a stance. Climb up and right past two bolts, then up cracks, finally moving left into the easy chimney of Fred Flintstone. NCCS II, F10. 5. *Bedrock Tower, Hanna-Barbara*. Climbed in April 1980, by Alan Bartlett and Will Crljenko. To the right of the preceding routes, climb a right-slanting book/trough. From its end, climb up past several bushes to the base of a thin crack. Ascend the crack to a fixed pin, then move left to a knobby area. Easy but unprotected face climbing leads to the top. NCCS II, F9. 6. *Bedrock Tower, Yabba-Dabba-Doo*. Climbed in April 1980 by Alan Bartlett, Ron Overholtz and Tony Puppo. Near the right side of Bedrock Tower, a large left-facing book starts a pitch off the ground. An easy pitch leads to the book, which is ascended to a roof. Surmount the roof, then follow the smaller left-leaning book above to easier climbing and the top. NCCS II, F10. 7. *Little Grey Pinnacle, East Face*. Climbed in April 1980 by Alan Bartlett and Bill St. Jean. This is the small tower down and right from Cobblers' Bench (A.A.J., 1979). It is the last formation in that section of the grey band. Ascend cracks on the prow of the pinnacle, then move up and left past two bolts. A long pitch leads to the base of a chimney, which is followed to the top. NCCS II, F9.

ALAN BARTLETT, *Buff Alpine Club*

Mount Silliman, Sequoia National Park. In June 1981, Guy McClure and I did two new routes on the west ridge of Mount Silliman. From 10,000 feet, a short way below Silliman Lake, the southern face of this ridge rises in a long series of steep granite slabs. One route was five pitches, F7; the other was seven pitches, F8. Many other routes are possible on this cliff, a three-hour walk from the Lodgepole campground. The rock is excellent with good crack systems. A Class 3 walk-off can be found by proceeding west once on the ridge. F7, F8.

PETER CUMMINGS

Northpeak, Deliverance. In August 1980, Jack Roberts and I climbed this route that ascends the narrow face between the 30° snow couloir and the F8 chimney. Nine pitches led to an unroping spot, a long way