

*Peak 12,563, Northeast Ridge.* On Fourth of July weekend I soloed this prominent prow in Granite Park near Pine Creek Pass, finding no evidence of a prior ascent. (Grade II, 5.6.)

GALEN ROWELL

*Peak 13,198, Ruby Wall.* The east face of this peak is a vertical, 900-foot wall that is reflected in the waters of Ruby Lake, near the Mono Pass trail. On July 10, Mike White and I approached the face entirely on snow for the last 1500 feet, due to the extreme winter. The climb begins near the middle of the wall in a chimney system that is not obvious as seen from the lake. Continuously challenging pitches of 5.8 to 5.10 led us to the point where a scary ramp slanting leftward allowed us to traverse into the easy summit dihedral two pitches below the top. (Grade IV, 5.10.)

GALEN ROWELL

*Mount Whitney, Northeast Ridge.* After more than a dozen ascents of this mountain by what I assumed to be all different sides, I was most surprised when Claude Fiddler pointed out an unclimbed ridge on the highest peak in the 48 contiguous states. On the morning of July 26, I awoke to lightning and storm clouds at a 12,000-foot camp under the east face of Whitney with Claude and Vern Clevenger. We were about to give up and descend when a spot of blue opened in the western sky. By the time we reached the base of the route just south of the Whitney-Russell col, the upper air was clear and mist was rising from every peak and valley. Difficult pitches of 5.9 and 5.10 alternated with scrambling along one of the most spectacular arêtes to be found anywhere. A rappel was necessary in one place to drop fifty feet over an overhang into a notch. The three-and-a-half hours of roped climbing ended at the top of the Mountaineer's Route, ten minutes from the main summit. What had looked like a bust turned into one of the finest Sierra days any of us had experienced. We glissaded 2500 feet down the east side back to camp, ran through flowers and late spring melt back to the valley, soaked sore muscles in a hot spring, and watched our window in the week's bad weather close again as a double rainbow glistened in the first evening raindrops. (Grade III, 5.10.)

GALEN ROWELL

*P 9011, "Leopold Dome", Burt Miller Route, 1981.* After hiking six miles around Courtwright Reservoir, climbing a few pitches and sitting out a rain-storm, Alan Swanson and I were nearing the summit of the "unclimbed" P 9011. Upon seeing a hook hole and an aid bolt above, we realized the route matched the description of the Burt-Miller route on the south face of P 9547, Maxson Dome (*A.A.J.*, 1978, p. 525). The only difference is that the route is actually on the southeast face of P 9011. This was perhaps the first free ascent. We refer to the formation as Leopold Dome in honor of conservationist Aldo Leopold. (NCCS III, F10.)

STEPHEN MCCABE, *Manx Mountaineers*