

*Sequoia National Park.* On the Memorial Day weekend, Herb Laeger and I added another classic route, *Aspire*, on the magnificent 1200-foot west face of the Fin, facing Castle Rock Spire. We started 150 feet up and right of a prominent pine growing at the base of the original Silver Lining route on the apron. This new route winds its way up and slightly right for 9 continuous pitches, paralleling Silver Lining most of the way. (IV, 5.9.) Foxtrot Dome is the best looking piece of rock on the Mineral King road between the Lookout Point Cliffs and Atwell Mill. It faces east on a hill about a mile to the north of the road and is easily recognized by the long, slender left-facing corner which winds up the center of the face. Park at the creek and walk up the hill to the base. After an easy pitch, Eddie Joe, Roy Swafford, Barry Fowlie and I found a rusty old bolt at the real start of *Foxtrot Corner* proper. Above this, we found no evidence of anyone. We descended the south side of the dome. (II, 5.10, 3 pitches.) From Courtwright Reservoir, looking north, one's eye is drawn to several elegant domes all in a row on the east of Dusy Creek. The dome farthest to the north is Locke Dome, which is the largest of all the formations in the area (1000 feet), two miles north of the reservoir. Access to the area is via the four-wheel-drive road from the reservoir past Maxon Dome; it takes a couple of hours. In July, Herb Laeger, Harold Seiden and I did the first route, *Best of the West*, on the impressive west face. We chose what appears to be the only reasonable line directly up the center of the face, connecting discontinuous cracks with 11 bolts. The climbing is excellent on beautiful rock. (IV, 5.11 + , 8 pitches.) *Knob Business Being Here* is a short route, a variation of Levity's End, which gets to one pitch above Condor Watch Ledge on Moro Rock. In February Ron Carson and I climbed two spectacularly steep knob pitches, one below and one above Condor Watch Ledge. The first pitch comes up to the right side of the ledge (bolts), and the second takes the bold, extremely steep line of knobs above the very left end of the ledge for 165 feet to belay knobs. (II, 5.10 + .)

DICK LEVERSEE, *Pro Leisure Society*

*Watchtower and Castle Rocks, Sequoia National Park, 1984 and 1985.* The easily accessible and exposed 8-pitch route, *Watch Out*, is on the central main face of the Watchtower about 30 minutes easy hiking from the Lodgepole Campground. Ron Carson, my wife Eve and I completed this route on July 28, 1984. It has several difficult traverses and requires route-finding capabilities. All natural protection was used and the rock was generally clean and solid, but not throughout. The only aid on this 1000-foot, steep climb was a 10-foot section near the start of the fifth pitch. This section would go free if the crack were cleaned or a large needle-like loose flake were pushed off. If free-climbed, it would probably not be harder than the rest of the route. *Watch Out* (IV, 5.11, A3) is between the Timex route (A.A.J., 1984, page 165) and the nose of the Watchtower. A trail to the top of the Watchtower provides an easy descent to the Generals Highway. On May 26, 1985 Patrick Paul, Ron Carson, my wife Eve and I completed *Silver Lining* (IV, 5.9) on the Fin of Castle Rocks massif. Nine

long pitches on some of the most beautiful face climbing in California make this climb a must for the High Sierra climber. The setting is spectacular, the rock excellent and the route has substantial 5.9 on every pitch. Natural protection is supplemented with bolts where needed, but often there are thought-provoking runouts. The route ascends the longest section of the west face of the Fin for over 1100 feet and passes the prominent block on its right side during the seventh pitch. Access to the Fin is via an old WPA trail which ascends the 4000-foot gain from the bridge at Hospital Rock. Three days are recommended for the climb and water is usually available in the gully between the Fin and Castle Rock Spire for a few weeks after Memorial Day. A 165-foot rope is recommended. A rappel route starting at a manzanita bush near the top of the Fin's narrow summit ridge avoids a tedious climb down. Two ropes are needed and three bolts have been placed at each rappel point.

HERB LAEGER, *Unaffiliated*

*Tombstone Shadow, Big Baldy Dome, Sequoia National Forest.* In May, Roy Swafford, Barry Fowlie and I climbed a four-pitch route which starts in a huge left-facing corner on Big Baldy's south face. Steep but easy climbing up the corner leads to a pitch of precarious climbing up an overhanging, leaning finger-crack and chimney. Easier climbing then led to the summit. The loose blocks which helped the route earn its name are now removed. (III, 5.10.)

E. C. JOE, *Stonemasher Alpine Club*

*Nowhere To Run, South Buttress, North Mountain, Kings Canyon National Park.* Along the "Motor Nature Trail" and above a Park Service residence rises a prominent pillar of rock. In May, Bill McConachie, Barry Fowlie and I found that the route had five outstanding crack pitches, from fingers to off-width. The crux was the fourth pitch. (III, 5.11.)

E. C. JOE, *Stonemasher Alpine Club*

*Artesian Route, Charlito Dome, Kings Canyon National Park.* Situated next to and just south of the famous Charlotte Dome is a large southwest-facing slab. A right-facing corner on its upper half and a peculiar spring of water halfway up mark the route. In June, moderate but serious face climbing to the corner and two crack pitches put Dick Leverage and me on the summit of this fun back-country route. (III, 5.9.)

E. C. JOE, *Stonemasher Alpine Club*

*Kings Canyon Climbs.* "The Matterhunk" is our unofficial name for the huge limestone peak formation a mile south of Boyden Cave on Highway 180 on the south fork of the Kings River. In October Herb Laeger, Eddie Joe and I climbed the dramatic 1500-foot northeast arête from the Boulder Creek trail to the summit, staying as close to the edge as possible the whole way. Descent is via the