

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

gully below the north face and back down the trail to Boyden Cave. The climbing is very enjoyable, on good limestone, a rarity in California. (IV, 5.10+, 10 pitches.) In August, Eddie Joe and I hired borros to ferry loads to the junction of Charlotte and Bubbs Creeks below Charlotte Dome. We spent the next 2½ days completing one of the Sierra's only two Grade VI back-country routes. *Crystal Banzai*, on Bubbs Creek Wall. (The Kroger route on Tehipite Dome is the other.) We chose an obvious line of cracks, arches and corners on the longest section of the wall (2300 feet), just left of the center. This line curiously follows a bizarre white crystal band from base to top. The route went 90% free with less than 200 feet of aid and entirely clean. We used bathooks to pass a blank section on the fourth pitch and a total of 15 bolts on the 17 pitches. Start at a big pine 100 yards up and right of a huge, white, left-facing dihedral which marks the beginning of the crystal band. Diagonal up and left, intersecting an obvious ramp, to the "Crystal Palace" (ledge) with its "Dungeon" at the top of the huge white dihedral (3rd pitch). Follow the "Crystal Corner" and arch above up and left to bathooking which leads past four bolts to a small stance (2 bolts). From here we climbed up and slightly right to join the main crack-and-corner system, which followed for five more pitches, ending at "Zero Point Ledge," just above the obvious huge "Seagull Roof." Two more pitches of cracks lead up and slightly left to a good ledge. Above this, climb up and right for 100 feet to the arching right-facing dihedral which is visible from the ground. Here, instead of following the corner system up and right, face-climb left for 20 feet to a large right-facing flake and follow this and the thin crack above for a full pitch to "Dead Tree Ledge." Above, face-climb up and left to gain entry into a huge right-facing corner one pitch below the top. Here, instead of climbing the perfectly blank corner above, face-climb left over the corner to easy knobs which lead to the top. Descent is via Charlotte Creek to the west (toward Charlotte Dome). Recommended rack: tiny nuts to 4" (2 each), 1 #5 Friend, 1 skyhook, 2 bathooks, 2 Leeper cam hooks, hammocks. (VI, 5.11, A3.) In July, Karl McConachie and I finished a new all-free route on the south face of North Dome, above Zumwalt Meadows, *A Tall Cool One*. We followed the obvious continuous crack system to the right of the original Frost route for 11 pitches to the very top of the dome. This is a serious route involving some climbing on less than perfect rock with 8 of the 11 pitches being 5.10 or harder, ranging from finger to off-width cracks. This route is best done late in the season as the third pitch can be very wet and slimy. Recommended rack: Friends-3 each to 4", 1 #5 Friend. (V, 5.11, 11 pitches.)

DICK LEVERSEE, *Pro Leisure Society*

"*Scarlet Slipstream*," Cedar Grove, Kings Canyon National Park. In July, Eric Rhicard, Vaino Kodas and I climbed this 6-pitch climb, four of which are 5.10 and the other two 5.11. The rock is superb and the route follows a prominent red water streak for its entire length. Two 165-foot ropes should be taken to rappel the route, which is primarily protected by 30 bolts, but RURPS, a few