

buttress of white granite laced with 5.8 cracks, which I managed to solo with a tail line to haul my pack with water and a camera. From there, an exposed, easy ridge angled higher to another headwall with more 5.8 climbing just below a prominent pinnacle a few hundred feet from the top. Getting past the 100-foot-deep notch separating the pinnacle from the mountain proved to be the highly exposed crux of the climb on perfect rock. (III 5.8)

GALEN ROWELL

Mount Huxley, North Buttress, Left and Right Sides. As seen from Evolution Lake, the north buttress of Mount Huxley (13,086') rises into a classic horn split by a deep cirque. In July, Dick Duane and I climbed a series of perfect finger cracks on the left side up to a long, fractured ridge of giant blocks that leads to the summit. A 5.9 pitch ascending a one-inch crack splitting perfect alpine granite offered some of the best rock climbing in the entire High Sierra, Tuolumne Meadows included. The rock looks as if it were quarried yesterday. While Dick and I were climbing this route (III 5.10a) on the left side of the north buttress, Hans Florine and Jerry Dodrill made a very similar new route (III 5.10a) up long clean dihedrals on the right side of the cirque. We met on the summit and descended south to Sapphire Lake.

On the same trip, Hans and I noticed a surprisingly featureless 250-foot cliff above Sapphire Lake. Late one afternoon, we headed up the only obvious cracks on the right side of the cliff. They begin beside a large block, traverse left on a ramp, then go up and left on a vertical wall to the top. The 5.11a face climbing crux came on the third and final pitch, where Hans traversed right onto the open face and back left again 30 feet higher to avoid an overhanging seam that we both had backed off from leading.

GALEN ROWELL

UTAH

ZION NATIONAL PARK

Zion, Various Ascents. During late winter, Dan Stih and I made the first ascent of the Altar of Sacrifice, as well as the remaining four Towers of the Virgin in Zion National Park. Over three days in early March, we climbed and fixed the grotesquely loose gully (on the southeast side of the formation just across from the Quinn route) that leads to a large plateau. Much credit needs to be given to Dan for leading the worst of the rotten chimneys, often totally unprotected and in excess of 5.10. Steve Burgess of Switzerland also helped out for the first two days on the lower section of the route.

Once on the plateau, we jumared food, water and a full aid rack, as well as winter gear, to the hanging valley at the base of the towers. On March 8, we climbed three long pitches (5.10+ AI) of chimneys on the south side of the Altar that led to the summit. The second of these pitches was choked with thick ice and Dan was forced to use his piton hammer and a long angle piton as ice tools for about ten meters. Three holes were drilled for belays and six protecting chimneys above the plateau were drilled below the plateau. On top we built a five-foot high cairn on the edge of the east face, commemorating my late friend Chris Clark, who was killed in November, 1995, climbing in the Sierra. A summit register is at the base of the cairn, which can be seen through the spotting scope at the visitors center.

The rest of the towers are approached from the plateau. The Rotten Tooth (4th class) and the Broken Tooth (5.10, four pitches) were climbed in one day. These are the two smaller tow-

ers left of the Altar, and are the names given by the rangers. The Witch Head (5.10, five pitches) was climbed via the west face. This is the huge formation just right of the Sundial.

The Sundial (5.10+, seven pitches) was the last of the towers we climbed. Originally traversing across the east face, we attempted a route on the south face. After two death pitches on the horrid Whitecap sandstone, we retreated and climbed a route on the northwest face to the summit, thus having made the first ascents of all of Towers of the Virgin. We believe that water possibly exists in two pools year-round, the first beneath the south face of the Altar Of Sacrifice, and the other (and more likely) in a deep slot beneath the north face of the Sundial in a previously unexplored valley.

RON RAIMONDE

West Temple, Gettin' Western. On April 30, Andrew Nichols and I made the third ascent of *Gettin' Western* on the east face of the West Temple, one of the biggest walls in Zion.

In 1990, Brad Quinn and Darren Cope made the first ascent of this proud line. Several efforts over eight days eventually brought them to the summit. (Darren's uncle made the first ascent of the West Temple in the 1930s.) In 1993, Doug Hall and Doug Byerly made the second and first free ascent, an outstanding effort that included a crux pitch of 5.11 thin hands crack with minimal protection behind a hollow flake. Doug and Doug spent two days ascending and descending the route.

Andrew and I set off at midnight. Slightly lost, we climbed three pitches through a rock band to gain the lower flanks of the east face. We arrived at the base of the wall at about 4 a.m. and started climbing. The first 1,500 feet offers hard climbing on steep cracks (many 5.10 pitches with the occasional point of aid). By 2 p.m., we were eating lunch under a huge pine tree that sits on a ledge at about mid-height. Climbing the upper half of the route was somewhat like gardening, for the steep walls were covered with various types of plants, grasses and trees. They all offer good handholds. By 8 p.m. we pulled onto the top of the route.

We spent the night on the shoulder of the West Temple. In the morning, we set off for the main summit. The descent proved to be devious and very dangerous. Many loose blocks abound on the upper flanks of this proud sandstone mountain.

JONNY ALLEN, *unaffiliated*

Right Twin, Paca-Lolo Dreams. From October 15-October 20, Brad Bond, Bryan Smith and I climbed a new route, *Paca-Lolo Dreams* (V 5.9 A3-, seven pitches) about 350 feet right of *Peyote Dreams*. The climb begins in a 5.9 hand crack that had been climbed previously. Another pitch of free climbing and a pitch of aid gain the base of a major corner with a hand crack. This corner pitch is shared with *Lost in Transit*, a route that begins to the right of *Paca-Lolo Dreams*. After the major corner, three quality sustained aid pitches climb some splitter thin cracks. We placed six anchor bolts and six aid bolts in addition to drilling two incomplete holes for aid. I would encourage subsequent parties to complete the drilling of the two holes on pitch 5 and fill them with half-inch angles. No bolts were placed at belays shared with other routes (i.e., the first pitch and the corner of *Lost in Transit*).

BOULOS AYAD, *unaffiliated*

Temple of Sinawava, Soul Craft. On December 12, Karen Hilton and I completed the first ascent of *Soul Craft* (VI 5.11 A4+) on the steep wall left of the *Monkeyfinger* route. In