The Saber. From Sky Pond in Loch Vale one views the slender ridge of the Petit Grepon and to the right and east of it rises a great red corner, 1000 feet high. Dean Moore and I made its first ascent on July 13 in five hours. After climbing unroped for 300 feet, we came to the base of the buttress proper. Finding cracks in the smooth red rock, we climbed up 25 feet, left for five and back right for 15 and over a small overhang and a difficult slab to a foothold belay. The second lead ascended left around an overhang to a small ledge and then up an 85° wall to a grassy terrace. A traverse right on grassy ledges took us to a vertical crack system, which we climbed to a separated pillar belay. The next lead of enjoyable face climbing took us to a flat ledge, 40 feet from the corner proper. We traversed left up a difficult crack into a chimney and finally onto a good belay platform below a smooth overhang. We followed thin slabs left around the overhang and climbed broken rock to the summit ridge. Several hundred feet of unroped climbing and one roped lead finished the ascent.

LAYTON KOR, *Colorado Mountain Club*

Five New Routes in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Layton Kor made a series of new routes, all of extreme difficulty and calling for much direct aid, on the 2000-foot walls of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. On the Painted Wall route, Kor and Jim Disney attacked a vertical and often overhanging arête and had to bivouac before completing the climb. Kor describes the Porcelain Arête, also on the north side of the canyon and just east of the Painted Wall, as the most spectacular arête in the entire canyon. The route, climbed with John Kerr, took 9½ hours. Kor also climbed the Balanced Rock Wall with Kerr, the Russian Arête with Larry Dalke and the Shining Buttress with Huntley Ingalls.

Lone Eagle Peak. Jay Orear and I did a new route on Lone Eagle Peak in July. From Crater Lake the route rose straight up just northwest of the north face until we reached the lower part of the upper buttress. There an exposed, one-rope-length traverse led onto the buttress's north face, which we climbed several hundred feet to the base of the top pinnacle. A short traverse to the east under the top pinnacle brought us to a series of pitons, indicating that we had joined a normal route, which we followed to the top.

JOHN SOPKA

New Mexico

Venus Needle. This very spectacular tower of crumbling sandstone is located 17 miles northwest of Fort Defiance, Arizona, just over the New Mexico line. In the chill of morning on November 7, Layton Kor and I