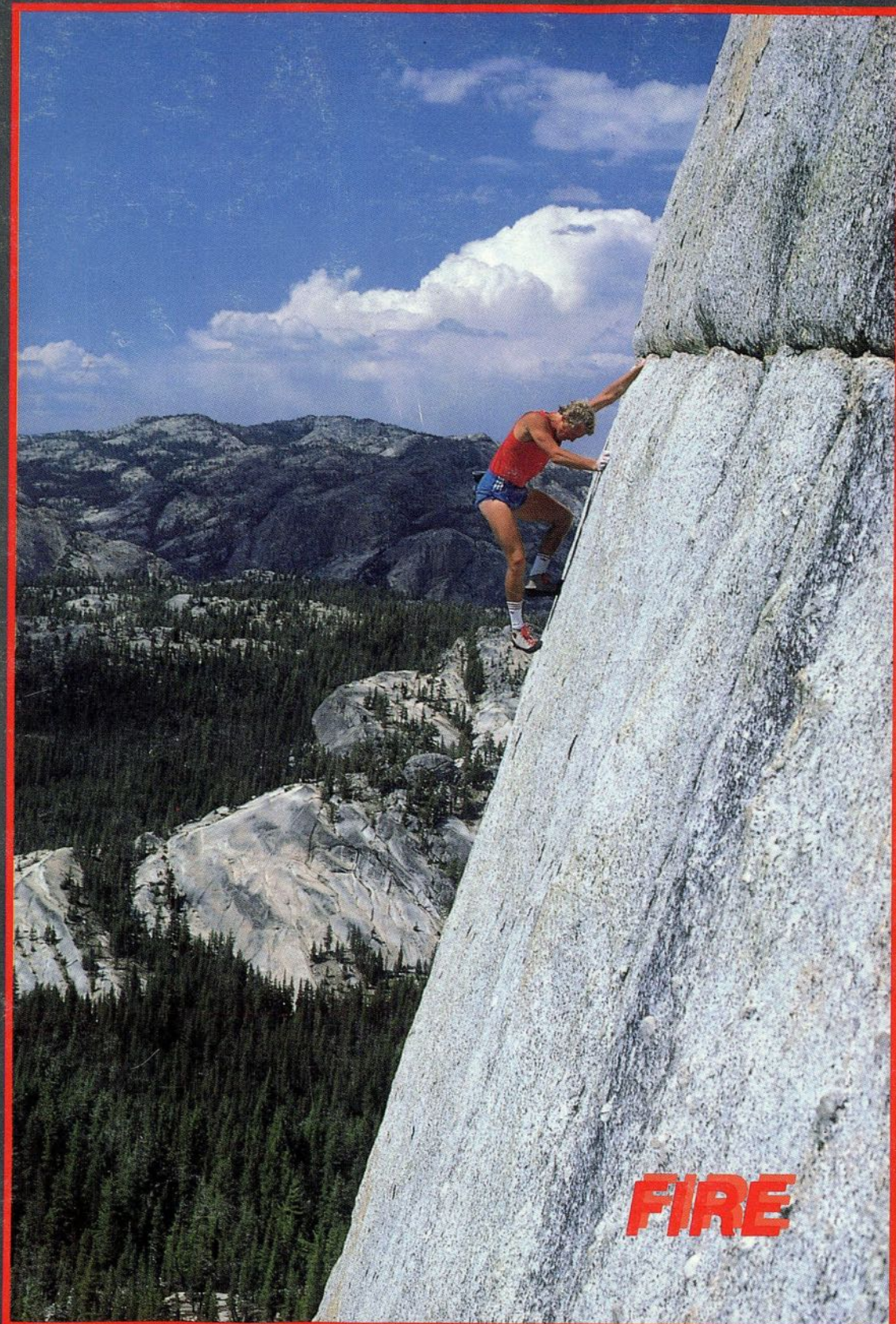


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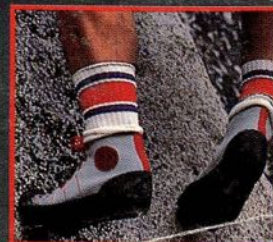
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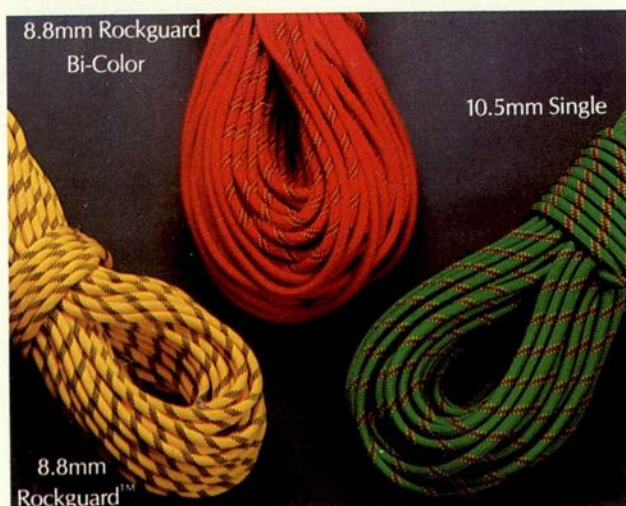


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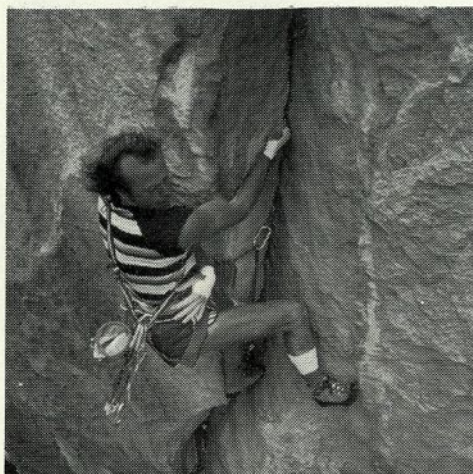
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

OCTOBER 85 N° 92



Todd Skinner on The Gunfighter (5.13), at Hueco Tanks State Park near El Paso, Texas. Photo: Paul Piana.

22

A Profile of George Hurley

Alison Osius talks with this prolific climber, whose career spans nearly three decades.



26

South Side Story

An introduction to wilderness rock climbing in the Southern Sierra, by Greg Vernon.



DEPARTMENTS

- 5 Basecamp
- 20 A & C
- 50 Suppliers
- 52 Equipment
- 56 Expeditions
- 61 Training
- 65 Reviews
- 70 Letters
- 75 Classified

35

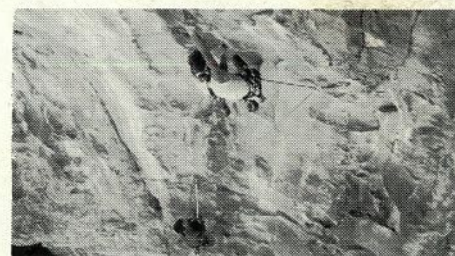
Icicle Creek Canyon

Jeff Smoot surveys one of Washington's best-kept secrets.

38

Hueco Tanks

A surprising look at this premier Texas area, by Dave Head.



CLIMBING

44

Betamax

Neil Cannon finds a new language of route description in the Shawangunks.



46

Burn & Rage

The first of two essays on climbers and age, by Barry Greer.

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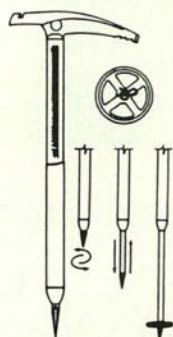
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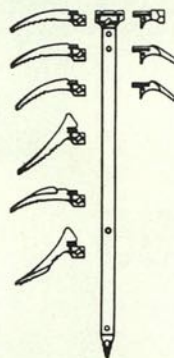
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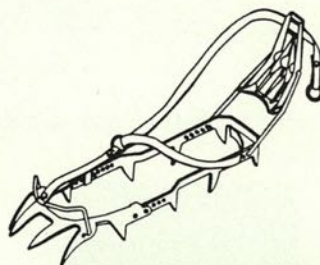
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CORRECTIONS

On Sunset Rock in Connecticut, Chad Hussey followed Ken Nichols on **Supernatural**, not Mike Heintz as reported in *Climbing* #90.

ALASKA

Jack Tackle and Jim Donini made the first ascent of the East Face of **Mount Hunter** in the Alaska Range. Nine days were spent on the route, which started with 18 pitches of difficult mixed climbing, followed by 20 more of ice. The descent turned into something of an epic when the pair dropped one of their two ropes near the summit, and were forced to make about 40 short rappels to descend the Notheast Ridge; they reached the glacier with just 25 feet of rope left between them. (Correspondent: Jim Donini.)

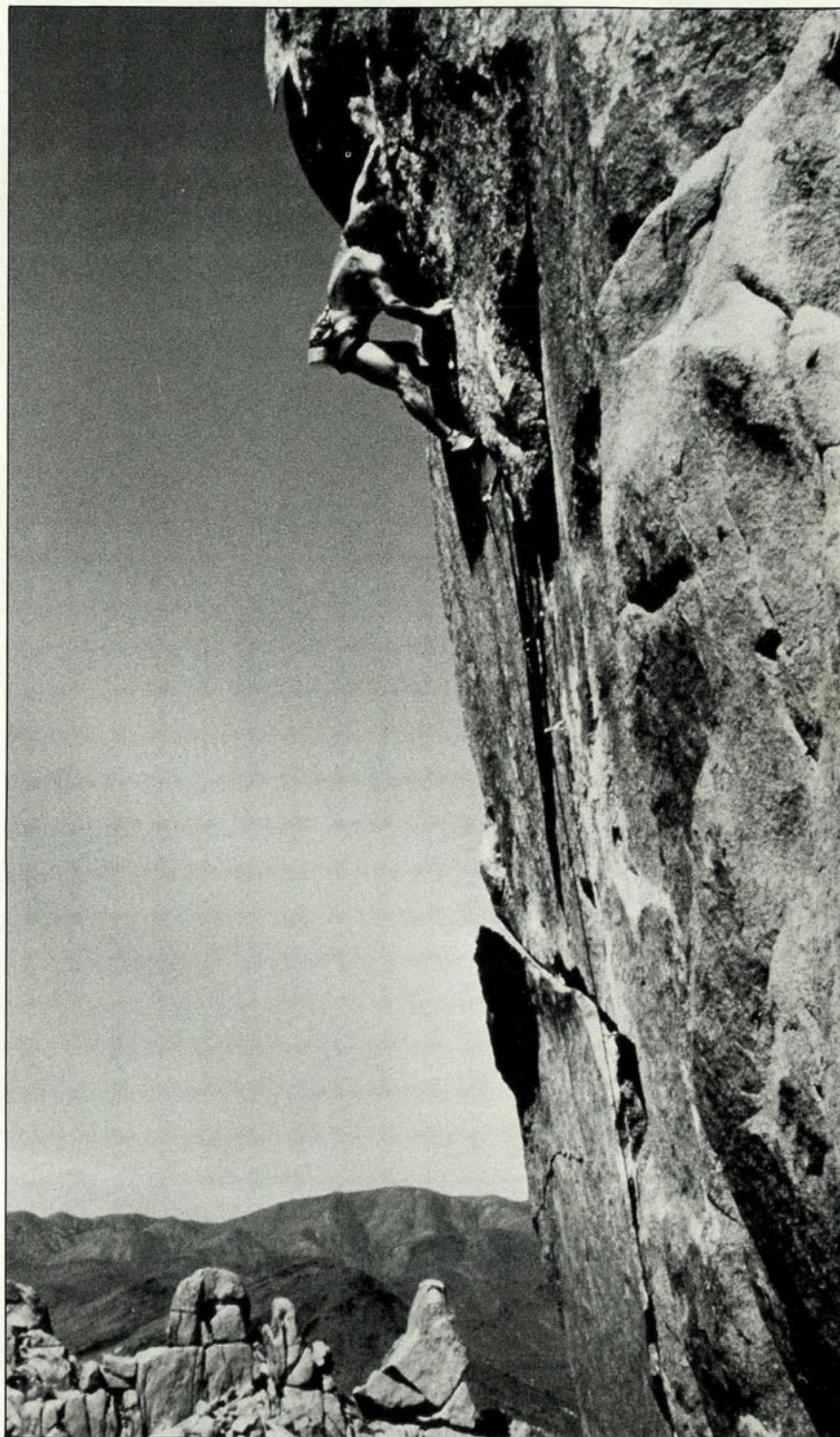
CALIFORNIA

In **Joshua Tree**, Dan Goodwin made the first ascent of *Apollo* (5.13), located about ½ mile up from the parking spot for *Equinox* on the left. The route follows a shallow flaring finger crack leading to a small roof with finger holds above; the seam ends here in a 4 ft. blank section, where a lunge is required to reach a thin flake. The crack eventually expands and arches left allowing fist jams. A thin knifeblade and a bolt were placed on rappel prior to the ascent, and the route took ten days to complete.

Climbers were active both on the big walls and short free climbs in **Yosemite Valley** this season. On El Capitan, Charles Cole produced a new A-5 route in a 12-day solo effort. The climb begins right of *Mescalito*, joins that route for its middle section, and where *Mescalito* veers right from the "Bismark," the ~~Gale~~ **Route** continues straight up. **SPACE**

Randy Leavitt and Greg Child climbed *Cowboys In Space* between *Tangerine Trip* and *Zenyatta Mendatta*, joining the latter for its final pitches; the route has two A-5 pitches. John Mittendorf made the first solo ascent of *Never, Never Land* in 5 days, with 3 pitches fixed. Ellie Hawkins soloed the route as well a short time later. The second female solo ascent of El Cap was bagged, however, by Sue Harrington who did *The Zodiac*.

In the beautiful Tenaya Canyon, Mike Corbett and Steve Bosque finally completed *Tenaya's Terror* (VI, 5.9 A-4) after last year's unsuccessful attempt. Starting at a point approximately 150 ft. right of the regular *South Face* of Mt. Watkins, the climb essentially parallels that route, joining it for the two pitches leading to Sheraton Watkins; from here, the route is inde-



Dan Goodwin on *Apollo* (5.13), Joshua Tree. Photo: Anne Marie Weber.

pendent again until a pendulum reaches the last pitch of the *South Face*.

The *Bob Locke Memorial Buttress* received its second ascent by Bob Harrington and Alan Bartlett; as well as doing a

variation of the third pitch, they reported the route to be of high quality. As an additional note to the report in *Climbing* #91 of the new route on the Leaning Tower, *Disco Strangler* required approximately 25

bolts to complete. And as a final note, Chuck Clance managed to climb a wall in the Valley without being arrested!

A number of rapid ascents of long routes took place this year, including a one day (hammerless) ascent of the *Lost Arrow Direct* by John Mittendorf and Dave Schultz. Rick Cashner and Mike Corbett did a couple of Grade VI's with Valley floor start and finishes, the *Southwest Face* of Liberty Cap first, then the *Direct Northwest Face* of Half Dome. On the latter, Cashner took a 60 ft fall on the 14th pitch, which resulted in painful rope burns for Corbett; from here, Cashner assumed all leads to the top.

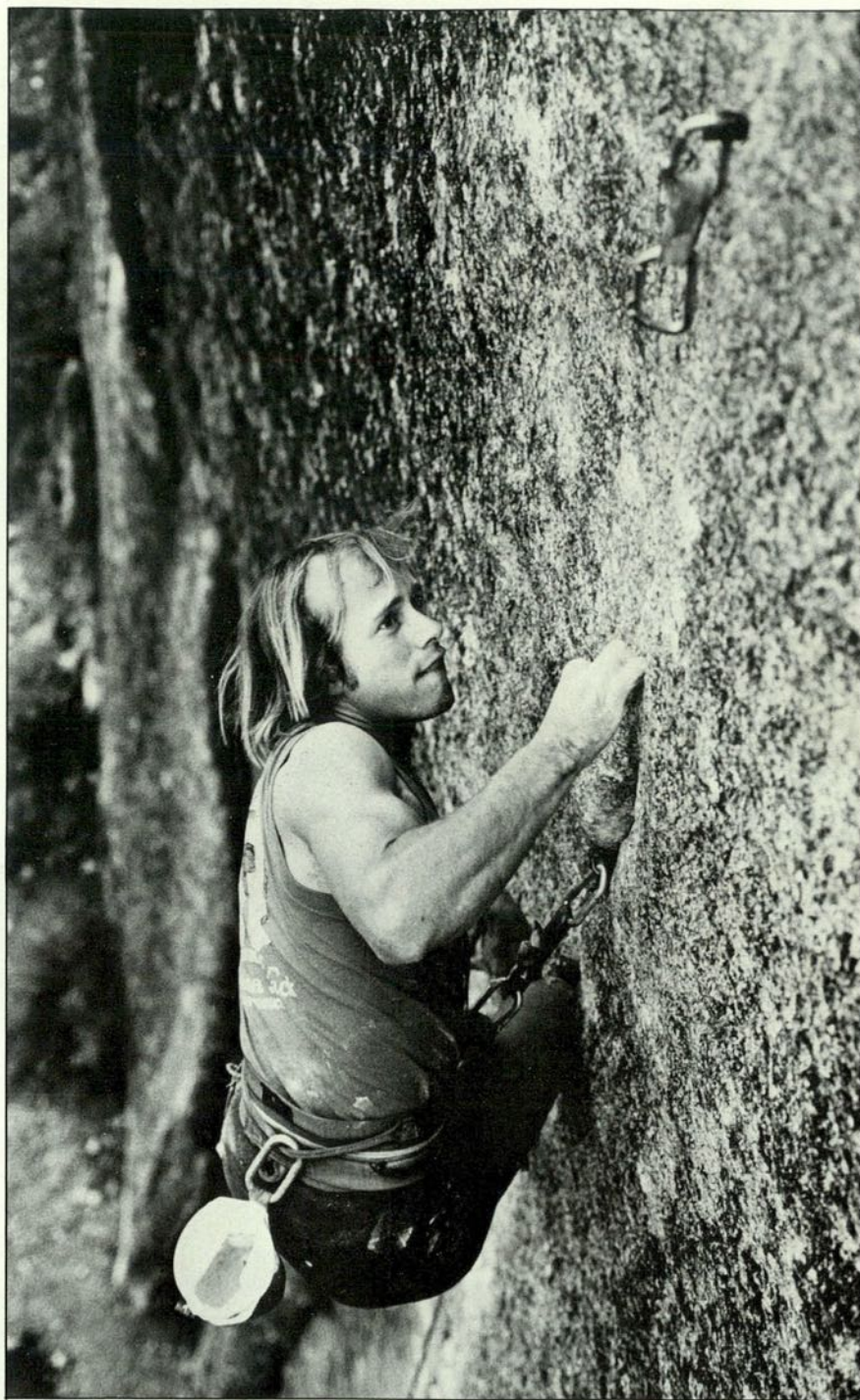
In an incredible show of drive and endurance, Peter Croft managed to free solo an outstanding series of Valley classics. In the span of a day, and with the aid of a bicycle, he started with the *Steck/Salathe* on Sentinel Rock, then went on to the *Northeast Buttress* of Higher Cathedral Rock and finished with the *Snake Dike* on Half Dome.

Swiss climber Romain Vogler, with various partners, also made a number of rapid ascents in the Valley. After twisting his ankle walking into Camp IV and hobbling around on crutches for ten days, Vogler, Austrian Peter Bober and Iranian Payerman climbed *The Zodiac* with one bivouac; three pitches below the top, Vogler free climbed the "A-2, #4 Friend corner," an incredibly exposed 5.11 pitch.

Shortly after this, Vogler and fellow Swiss Rolf Rauber climbed two Grade VI's in a very short period of time. After fixing the pitches to Sickle Ledge on *The Nose* on July 9, the pair hiked to the base of the *Northwest Face* of Half Dome, where they fixed the first 5.10+ pitch and bivouaced. Starting at 4:30 am July 10 with a light rack and one 9mm rope, they climbed that route's 24 pitches in 5 hours, topping out at 9:30 am; the best time previously had been Max Jones and Mark Hudon's 1979 ascent in 5½ hours. After descending to Mirror Lake, they caught the Valley shuttle bus to Curry Village, where they were met by friends who drove them to El Cap Meadows. After a swim, some fruit and a change of clothes, they started up their fixed ropes on *The Nose* at 2:15 pm. They were benighted below the Great Roof, but continued to Camp VI before headlamp failure stopped them at 1:15 am July 11. They started again at 5:30 am and reached the top of El Cap 2½ hours later, having covered 58 pitches from the base of Half Dome to the top of El Cap (including the walk in between) in a total of 27½ hours.

In the free climbing arena, a great deal of effort was focused on the Cookie Cliff this spring. Kim Carrigan and Geoff Weigand established *America's Cup* (5.12c), a thin seam left of *Red Zinger* which had been attempted previously by several strong parties; the route begins with steep face moves past a bolt.

On the extreme right side of the cliff, Kurt



Todd Skinner on *The Renegade* (5.13d), Yosemite Valley. Photo: William Hatcher.

Smith and Dave Hatchett climbed *Ray's Pin Job* (5.12b) and slightly further right, *Something for Nothing* (5.12d). Both are in super thin crack systems, and the party reported two and three falls per route respectively.

Todd Skinner made a free ascent of the initial thin crack pitch of an old aid line, *The Stigma*; however, the climb sparked controversy among locals. Correspondent Don Reid comments: "Raising the standards at the cost of poor ethics seems to

have been the theme of discontent. With protection placed on rappel, rehearsing of moves from aid, and finally, a yo-yoed lead from an 'end of the pitch' high point, most locals felt, 'Why bother, might as well top-rope.' Further irritation set in when signs were hung from the wall indicating that the route was now a free climb and that the numerous fixed pins should not be removed." The route is, nevertheless, a very hard one. Skinner re-named it *The Renegade* and commented on the grading: "If

I were to use the Yosemite Decimal System as it exists in Yosemite, the route would be 5.14." He rated it a "conservative" 5.13d.

As witnessed by millions on ABC Wide World of Sports, Ron Kauk and Jerry Moffatt made the first all free ascent of the Lost Arrow Spire from its base to tip. They climbed four new pitches right of the *Direct Route*, joined that until the Second Error, then followed the *Lost Arrow Chimney* and finally the tip with its 5.12 finish.

On Higher Cathedral Rock, Peter Croft made the first free ascent of the entire *Mary's Tears/Crucifix*, cleaning the crux prior to freeing it and returning the next day to climb the entire route. Scott Cosgrove and partner repeated the route a few days later and confirmed its 5.12 rating.

Sorrowfully ignored by locals was a complete free ascent of the *North Face Rostrum Route* by Kim Carrigan; all 5.11 variations and the final 5.12 roof pitch were used, and no falls were taken. Croft free soloed the route as well, not just once but twice (the second time "for pictures"), taking the popular *Blind Faith* exit rather than the roof.

A series of previously un-soloed climbs were made by Werner Braun, including *Anticipation* (5.11b), *Cream* (5.11a), *Steppin' Out* (5.10d), *Vendetta* (5.10b) and *Twilight Zone* (5.10d).

Late in last year's unusually cold winter, the following ice climbs received attention. Scott Cosgrove and Walt Shipley climbed *Tombstone Falls* five pitches up on Sentinel Rock. Shipley, Werner Braun and John Mittendorf climbed three ice pitches 200 yds. right of Nevada Fall; a 20 ft vertical section gained entry to the area. Kelly Rep and Bill Russell climbed a five pitch route to the right of *Silver Strand Falls*, naming it *Blunt Trauma*; the first was on near vertical ice, the other four on mixed ground.

During the winter, Don Reid and Ron Skelton established a few new routes on Parkline Slab. *The Hawaiian* (5.10a) frees an old bolt ladder via friction at the beginning of its second pitch and continues 1½ pitches higher. A short distance left they found *Color Me Gone*, a three pitch 5.9. Further left is *Sawyer Crack*, with a 5.9 variation traversing left on 1½ in. jams.

On the same cliff as *Torque Convertor*, but at the extreme east end, Reid climbed *Stealth Technology* (5.11a).

Johnny Woodward and Dimitri Barton climbed *Romantic Tension* (5.10d) and *Klingon* (5.11c). A 200 ft. 4th and easy 5th class approach slab and a steep, scary 5.10a face pitch are common to both; *Romantic Tension* liebacks the wide flake above, while *Klingon* underclings the roof to the right. Both then continue for another pitch independently, reaching the slab adjacent to *Gait of Power*.

From the ledge atop the second pitch of Reed's Direct, Blazing Buckets (5.9) climbs up and left on large knobs to meet

the right side of Reed's Pinnacle; the route was free soloed by John Mittendorf.

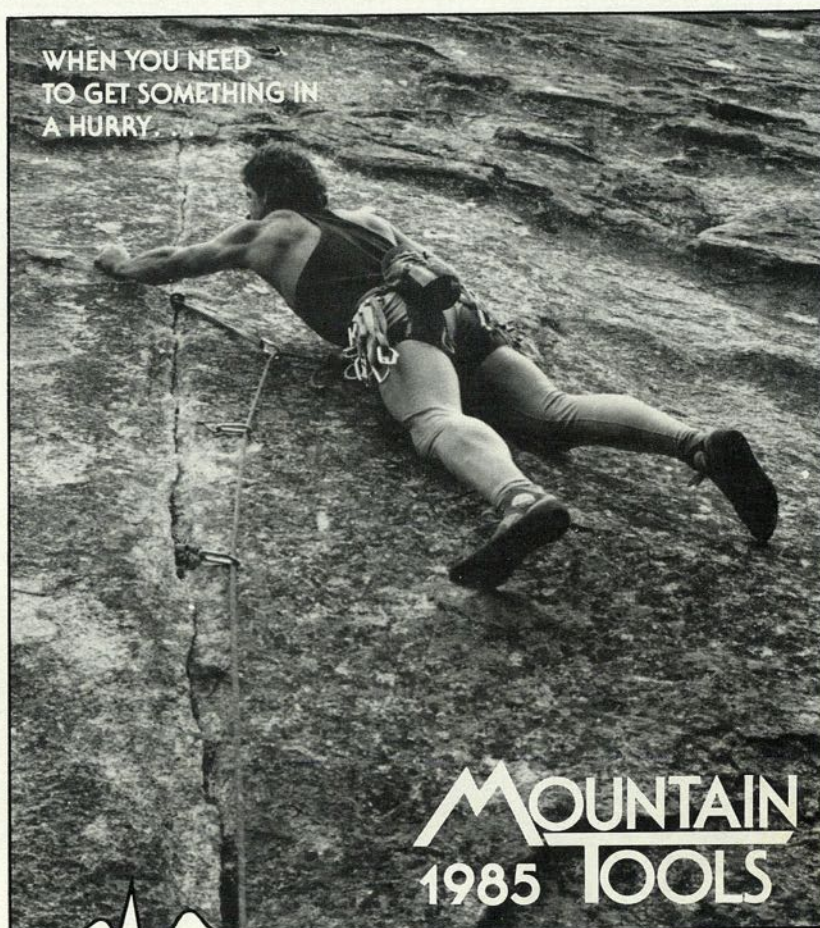
At the base of El Cap, 20 ft. right of Wendy, Ken Ariza and Eric Kohl climbed *Where's The Reef* (5.10c), liebacking and underclinging a right-facing dihedral.

The 1959 *Lower Yosemite Fall-West Side Route* first pitch was free-climbed by Ariza, Kurt Smith and Dave Griffith. This aesthetic pitch of finger locking was called *Ten Years After* (5.10d), and has become a summertime favorite due to its location. Smith and Chris Beigh climbed *Mist Fitz* (5.11 +), which joins the same bolt/pin rapel stations as *Ten Years After*; starting in

a thin crack to the right, a bolt protects the crux traverse right to another crack.

Dimitri Barton and Steve Geberding created the first all free way up the Ahwahnee Buttress by climbing *Moan Fest* (5.11a); from the top of *Serenity Crack* (Sunset Ledge), roofs and flakes are followed to a traverse right to corners. Four independent pitches then rejoin the *Ahwahee Buttress*. The crux is the third pitch above Sunset Ledge, where knifeblades are useful.

A short distance right of *Facade*, *Fish-fingers* (5.11b) follows a very thin right-diagonal crack; the route begins either



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

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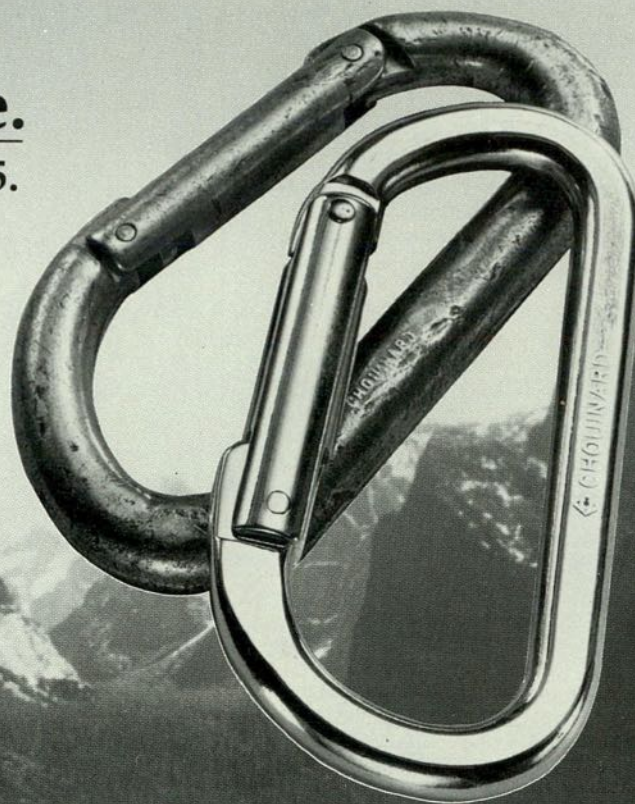
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with direct 5.10d face moves, or a 5.10c face traverse from a thin 5.9 crack immediately left. The route was climbed by Johnny Woodward and Maria Cranor.

Charles Cole and John Mittendorf climbed a three pitch route in the Arches Terrace area, *Cryin' For Momma* (5.9+).

Immediately left of the start to *Electric Lady Land* on Washington's Column, Tommy Thompson and Ken Ariza climbed *Tom Cat* (5.10b), a one pitch crack climb that varied from fingers to chimney.

On Half Dome, Cole, Mittendorf and Rusty Reno climbed *Deuceldike* (5.8+), using five bolts and joining *Snake Dike* near its finish. Right of this, on the margin of the South Face, the trio produced the amazing *Autobahn* (5.11c); 12 pitches of difficult climbing lead to 5.4 summit slabs, five of them 5.10 with the 5.11 crux on the tenth pitch.

On Glacier Point Apron, *Thunderhead* (5.11d) received its first free ascent by Johnny Woodward and Maria Cranor; the crux is on the second pitch. Woodward and Chris Peisker made the first free ascent of the crack just left of *Dancin' Days* at Wawona Tunnel to produce *Landshark* (5.11d).

Previously unreported was the first free ascent of *Arches Terrace Direct* (5.11a) by Dimitri Barton, as well as Dan Webster and Jim Campbell's first free ascent (5.11b) of a 50 ft. section left of the third pitch on the *Right Side* of Goodrich Pinnacle, and Werner Braun and Scott Cosgrove's variation to *Hot Line*, going left (5.11d) from the second to last pitch of the standard route.

Bob Ost and Norman Boles climbed *Sleight of Hand* (5.10b), a one pitch thin crack and face climb starting at a tree 40 ft. right of *Face Card* in the Royal Arches area and ending at that route's bolt belay. They were working on a second pitch which was completed by an unknown party while the pair was vacationing in Mexico.

At **Sugarloaf**, Tony Yaniro's testpiece *Grand Illusion* (5.13c) saw two more ascents. Hidetaka Suzuki climbed the route on his 4th day after two falls, while Kim Carrigan climbed it on the second try of his 2nd day, with fewer than ten total attempts, probably the fastest the route has been done to date. Suzuki also made the second ascent of *Silly Willy Crack* (5.12d) at **Lover's Leap**.

At **Tahquitz Rock**, Jack Roberts and John Allen made the first free ascent of *The Last Judgement* (5.11d); the route had first been climbed in 1975 by Fred Zeal and Eric Erickson and partially aided on pins. Roberts and Allen also climbed a direct finish to *El Camino Real; Pigs in Bondage* (5.10a) leaves the lieback pitch at the belay, goes up and left over a bulge and finishes up a blank slab with one bolt for protection. At nearby **Suicide Rock**, Todd Skinner made the 2nd ascent of John



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Long's *Hades* in "an easy afternoon at 5.12c."

At **Mickey's Beach** near San Francisco, Dan Goodwin free climbed a long-standing aid problem on the same rock as the *California Beach Crack* to produce *Scorpio* (5.12d).

Located near Jenner (50 miles north of San Francisco), **Goat Rock State Park** offers some of the best small crag climbing on the northern California coast. The Sun-set Boulders were discovered in 1981 by local climber Joe Nickerson, who reportedly spent more than 20 hours gardening and then cleaning the cracks and faces, then systematically bagging first ascents.

With three main boulders and a dozen smaller rocks, there are over 30 routes to date on faces up to 45 ft. high, mostly on vertical or overhanging rock. Many are suitable for leading or soloing. The rock is Franciscan type, with solid horizontal edges and abundant RP sized cracks for protection or aid. Although a couple of easier routes exist, most are 5.9 or harder, with the best routes usually 5.10 and above.

Set above the Pacific Ocean in a meadow, and with a year-round season, this is an attractive and rewarding stop for climbers visiting the San Francisco Bay area. More information and a topo can be obtained by writing: Joe Nickerson, PO Box 201, Duncan's Mills, CA 95430.

(Correspondents: Don Reid, Romain Vogler, Jeff Smoot, Bob Ost, Dan Goodwin, Hidetaka Suzuki, Jack Roberts, Paul Piana, Craig Peer, Joe Nickerson.)

COLORADO

Spring came early to the Boulder area, and Christian Griffith proceeded to clean up a few old aid lines in **Eldorado Canyon**. After some effort, he free climbed the remaining few moves on *Tourist's Extravagance* (5.12+/5.13-) to yield a fine, sustained climb. Then he free climbed *The Red Dihedral* (5.12+), one of the most spectacular lines in the area. This involved wild overhanging stemming with tiny nuts for protection; at one point Griffith took a long fall, pulling out one of the old aid bolts, and later led this section clipping into a fixed RURP. He also completed the often-tried original finish to the third pitch of *The Wisdom* (5.12), and had a superb day of climbing in February, making the third ascent of *Rainbow Wall* (5.13-) as well as ascents of *Genesis* (5.12+) and *Psycho* (5.12+) with a total of just three falls.

Eric Doub, along with "Clear Dan" Grandusky and another, climbed a fine new line up the arete left of *Grandmother's Challenge*. *Spur of the Moment* (5.11-) climbs the arete, then moves right to the belay below the roof on *Grandmother's Challenge*; it then underclings a roof back to the arete, again providing some excellent and spectacular climbing.

In August, Dale Goddard established

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The Evictor (5.12c) on the Rincon Wall. The route follows the first 20 ft. of *Center Route*, then goes left to a tiny corner with a thin crack. Several attempts were required, and protection is marginal with sustained thin moves.

On Hawk Eagle Ridge, Steve Ilg and Gene Ellis climbed *Indicator Mechanism Crack* (5.9+) starting on *Stanglehold* (about 10 ft. uphill from *Cinch Crack*) and continuing up the *Crab* dihedral until an obvious vertical flake leading to an overhanging, off-size crack on the right was followed. On the Woods Quarry Wall up Skunk Canyon, Ilg made a roped solo ascent of *Non-Friction* (5.8+), working up and left past bolts until a 5 ft. traverse right under a pine; an obvious flake system completes the route.

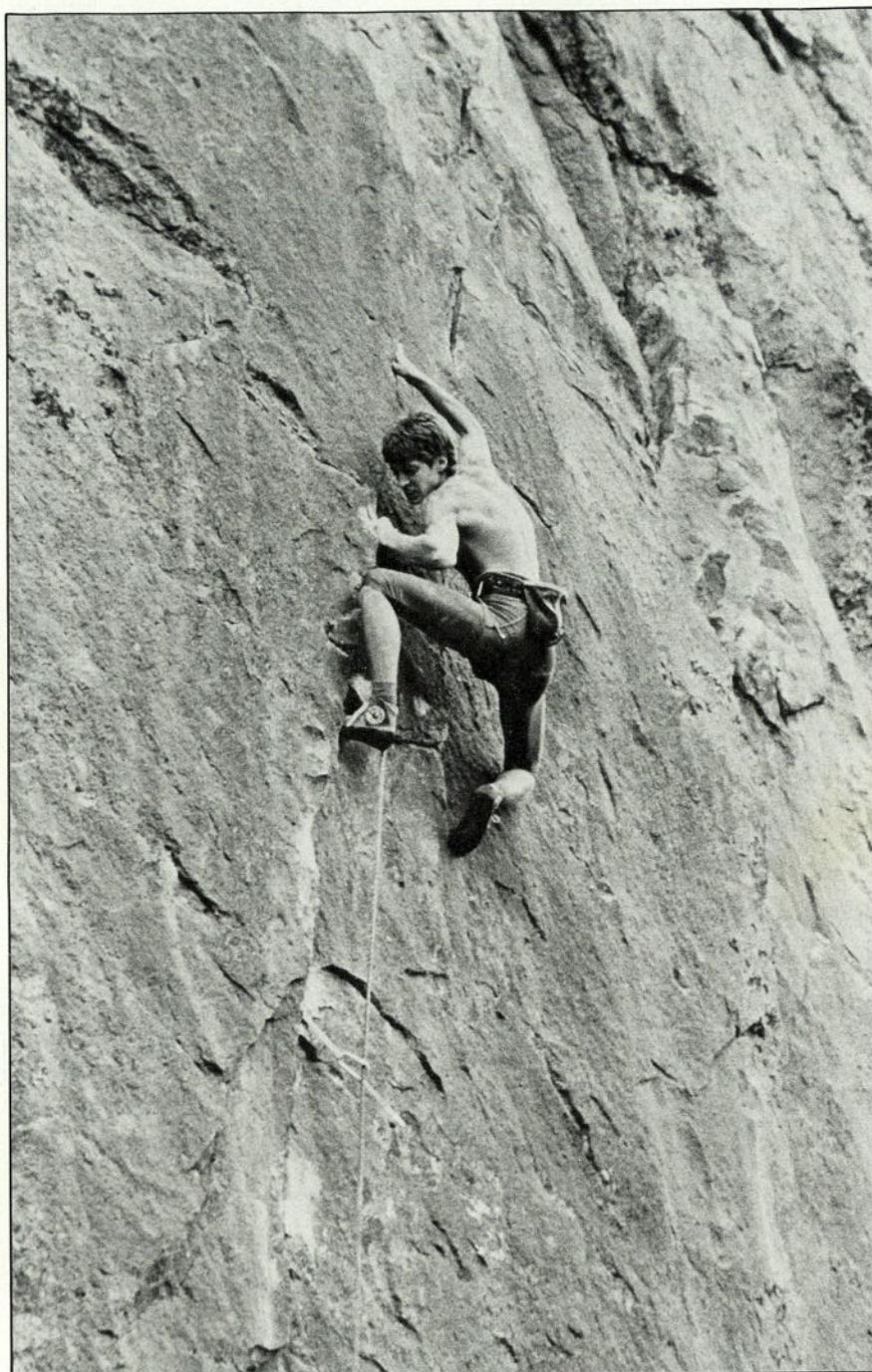
In the **South Platte**, Christian Griffith and Henry Lester free climbed the finger crack on the front side of the Bishop (5.12b) in a one day effort. On the Dome, Marlene Griffin and Joe Burke completed a new, two pitch friction route. *Stars of Mars* (5.10 R) starts next to the *Burke/Box/Ball Route* traverses up and right over steep walls to the right edge of the roof line; the second pitch is easier, but a full 160 ft. long. With 15 to 30 ft. runouts on brittle holds, this is one off the more serious routes on this rock (the final runout is over 100 ft., but easy). All bolts were placed on the lead, and neither climber used chalk.

On the Cathedral Wall in **Rocky Mountain National Park**, Dan Bradford and Angelo Delacruz discovered a fine line just to the left of the *No. 1 Buttress Route*; *Blackstar* (II 5.9-) follows the intersection of the southeast and east faces on a well-defined upward traverse of the wall. Six pitches of slab, crack, and chimney climbing on solid steep rock lead to the crux, a 40-foot classic chimney with a chockstone, forming an offwidth. This route is better protected and employs a greater variety of techniques than most Cathedral Wall Routes and deserves to see more ascents.

Ed Webster and Layton Kor climbed two new routes on the limestone in **Glenwood Canyon** in August. *The Prison Wall* (III, 5.8) is the second major wall upstream from the International Buttress, and yielded an 8 pitch route with loose rock, routefinding difficulties and an exposed finish; this is also the first route to be done on this wall.

The following day, the pair climbed *Many Bands* (III, 5.9) on the steep wall opposite the Hanging Lake parking area. Steep face climbing on buckets, excellent limestone, good protection and an exciting roof on the 3rd pitch made for a classic climb that deserves repetition. "As good as the Dolomites," according to Kor.

The **Independence Pass** area near Aspen saw some activity as well. Bob



Dale Goddard on *The Evictor* (5.12), Eldorado Canyon. Photo: Bob Goddard.

D'Antonio climbed a number of the harder classics, including second ascents of recently-established *Maile's Way* and *Pirate Corner*. With Bob Wade belaying, D'Antonio made a free ascent of *Master's Headwall* near Dragon Rocks, working out the crux moves at 5.12; although the route was reported as free in the recent guidebook, there is some doubt as to the validity of this claim, and local consensus is that D'Antonio made the first free ascent. He also made the first free ascent of an old aid route on the front face of Cove Rock; *Treasure Island* (5.11+) features a long tech-

nical stretch at the crux, followed by easier but very strenuous climbing to the top. Michael Kennedy used aid to place a protection peg at the crux, while two pegs had been left in place higher up from the original ascent. Kennedy, Wade and Chris Landry climbed a direct finish to *Cryogenics* on the first Grotto Cliff; *Absolute Zero* (5.11+) follows parts of the original aid finish to the route, with a crucial protection bolt being placed on aid.

(Correspondents: Dan Hare, Steve Ilg, Joe Burke, Michael Kennedy.)



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NEW YORK

A new guidebook supplement last fall, and a dry spring this year, spurred activity at the **Shawangunks**. On the Trapps, a number of new routes were completed, some of them surprisingly easy.

Just left of *Fancy Idiot*, Todd Swain and Andy & Randy Schenkel climbed *Swain Song*, a poorly-protected 5.7+. Just right of *Jacob's Ladder*, the same trio added *No Pro* (5.8), again with minimal protection.

Jeff Gruenberg climbed the thin seam left of *Stirrup Trouble* at 5.11, and with Russ Clune, topped the 5.12- face just to the right. Slightly left of *Easy Overhang*, Ivan Rezucha and Annie O'Neill climbed a thin flake to produce *Twisted Sister* (5.9).

Moving down the Trapps, *The Jane Fonda Workout* climbs a corner through a ceiling just right of *Land's End*, and was topped by Clune after an attempt to lead it sent a huge block flying towards his belayer. Further along, Swain soloed a 5.10- thin seam left of *Three Vultures'* first pitch, and with Schenkel climbed the arete right of 50/50 to create 60/40 (5.8). The same pair also climbed *Deadline* (5.8), a scary overhanging face crossing *After the Prick*.

In the near Trapps, Gruenberg and partner climbed the huge roofs between *Fat City* and *G String*, producing *Land of the Giants* (5.11+). A direct finish to *Eenie Meanie* was found by Vadim Marcovalla and Maury Jaffe, climbing the final overhangs at 5.7. To the right of *Honky Tonk Woman*, Swain and Iza Koponicka added the exciting 5.9 face climb *She's the Boss*.

In other news, Australian Kim Carrigan repeated both *Intruders* (5.12+) with no falls, and *Vandals* (5.13-), confirming their difficulty and quality.

Finally, a few notable solos were recently completed. Jeff Gruenberg soloed both *Foops* (5.11) and *Yellow Wall* (5.11), probably the most impressive solos ever at the 'Gunks, while Paul Pomeroy and Todd Swain completed a marathon 32 routes with a total of 5375 vertical feet of climbing in under nine hours climbing time. (Correspondent: Todd Swain.)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Most climbing areas have their "last great problem." Some areas have several. New Hampshire has virtually none. A flurry of activity at the highest level has all but wiped out the region's most coveted first ascents.

With snow still on the ground, Jim Surette and Hugh Herr, with help from Neil Cannon, free climbed a former aid route, *Swain in the Breeze* (5.12) on **Humphrey's Ledge**. An extremely steep face climb with bolts at the crux, it also sports a mantel that you just wouldn't want to blow. Just above and unreported previously, Todd Swain and Mark Wallace climbed the exposed arete as a direct finish to *Treetotalers* (5.10).

Next, **Cathedral Ledge** was brought to its knees by Surette and company. Can-

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Hugh Herr on Stage Fright (5.12+). Photo: S. Peter Lewis/High Exposures.

non and Surette warmed up by each doing a repeat of last year's prize *Tourist Treat* (5.12). Sadly, Cannon was then called from this life and moved on to Colorado, leaving Surette behind to clean up a bit. Cannon's wit and charm as well as his uncanny ability to envision a line where obviously none existed, will surely be missed.

First to fall by Surette and John Burke was *The Creation*, a bolt-protected face

climb just right of *Camber* first attempted years ago by Jim Dunn et al. Extremely difficult face/friction moves (5.12) and it's all yours.

Next in line was the notorious *Armageddon*, a route first aided on hooks by Doug Madara in 1975 and the scene of many spectacular wingers since. People had been trying to repeat the route for years; free climbing, aiding or anything in between. Surette simply bouldered it out

with John Bouchard at 5.12-. At the left end of the cliff, *Western Lady* got a direct finish by John Strand at 5.11+, snatching an obvious line. Definitely needing a bolt to ensure safe passage, Strand just couldn't be bothered and ran it out.

Another often tried problem was the remaining aid on the first pitch of *Delight-maker*. Surette and Alison Osius scampered away with it at 5.11+. Bob Parrott and Surette also climbed a direct finish to *Mordor Wall*, a 5.10 dike with minimal protection. A variation to *Funhouse* named *Incipient Arete* was done by Rich Baker, taking the arete just left of the 5.8 start at 5.10.

The early season's most noteworthy accomplishment came when, after spending an estimated 20 days, Hugh Herr finally made the lunge on *Stage Fright*, just left of *Airation*. An honest 40 feet of 5.11 and 5.12 climbing with difficult protection gained a minimal stance. The crux moves followed with the only protection being a macabre Slider stuffed optimistically into a flaring hole. A sharp 5.11+ finger crack polished it off. Rated conservatively at 5.12+, the pitch must surely rank as one of the most dangerous hard leads in the country.

On **Whitehorse Ledge**, a gorgeous face just above *Loose Lips* led to *Swinging Hips* (5.10+), by Jim Ewing and Larry Hamilton. Below the South Buttress, Surette and Burke sneaked off with the first free ascent of *Steak Sauce* (5.12), a route previously attempted by hordes of good climbers.

On **Band M Ledge**, Parrott and Jay DePeter climbed *The Mother of Invention* (5.10 A3), a three pitch line left of the *Standard Route*. DePeter later freed the second pitch at 5.11.

On **Sundown's Far Cliff**, George Hurley, with Tess and Jim Cederholm, climbed *Tess* (5.7). At the **Outback Cliff**, Hurley climbed several new routes. With Joe Hayes, *Jericho* (5.8) received its first recorded ascent. A jumbled pile of rocks which had to be trundled off the belay ledge gave the route its name. *Reptilian Response* (5.8), also by Hurley and Hayes, climbs a series of corners one hundred feet right of *Hyperspace*. Also in the same area, and crossing the previous route, was *Belfrey* (5.8), a deceptive overhanging crack/corner system climbed by John Tremblay and Hurley. Loose flakes and a family of bats makes for an entertaining time.

Off in the bush on **Owls Cliff**, Michael Hartrich and Kurt Winkler found *Hurt Hawks* (5.9+/5.10-), a two pitch route described as "beautiful, clean crack climbing."

In **Huntington Ravine** on Mt. Washington, Hurley, John Mulgrew and Vic Benes found *Independence Line* (5.8) on the

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Central Buttress. Done in mountain boots, the route is reportedly "more interesting than the usual Pinnacle Buttress route." On Pinnacle Buttress, Ray Omerza and Peter Lewis free climbed the first pitch of *Primal Scream*, an overhanging 5.9+ / 5.10 layback.

Several unusual events added spice to the early part of the season. On Cathedral Ledge, Dave Ross, obviously unaware of his own strength, neatly yanked the flakes off on *Thin Air*, turning a classic route into just another place to go trundling. (Still 5.6, the route has lost none of its charm.) Surette and Bouchard, among others, made the training breakthrough of the century when they tied ropes together and began to repeatedly top-rope *The Prow* (5 pitches, much 5.11). Where will such madness lead? Also of note was a nice afternoon's climbing by Surette. Starting at 2:30 with Parrott, the following routes were ticked off before dark: *Tourist Treat* (5.12), *The Creation* (5.12), *Camber* (5.11), *Airation* (5.11), *Heather* (5.12), *Play Misty* (5.11+), and *Spanking* (5.11+). All these routes are located on the buttress above *Thin Air* and constitute one of the highest concentrations of hard, high quality, high angle, crack and face climbs to be found anywhere.

(Correspondent: S. Peter Lewis.)

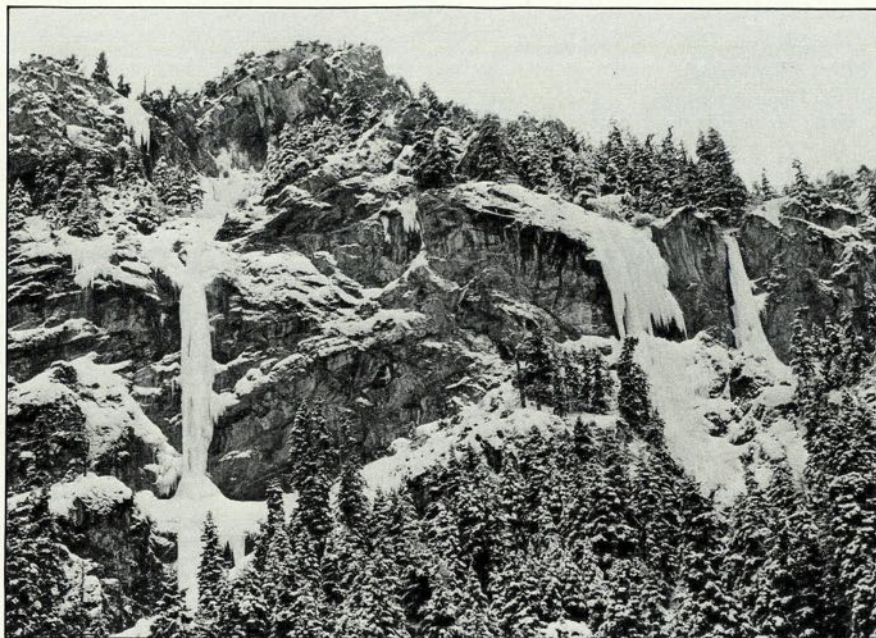
UTAH

Santiquin Canyon, located about 15 miles south of Provo Canyon, was the scene of several impressive new ice climbs last winter. The most prominent was *Angle of Fear*, first climbed by Brian Smoot and Bill Robins. This three pitch route involved climbing an unbroken 200 ft. pillar of 90 degree ice; the crux was the first pitch, which involved "lots of overhanging ice." This classic climb was called "considerably more difficult than anything in Provo Canyon."

In the same area, Mark Bennett and Dick Jeffers climbed *Automatic Control Theory*, a wet, steep icefall 300 ft. west; this two pitch climb also involved mostly 90 degree ice. 100 ft. further west, Bennett and Smoot climbed *The Candlestick*, a 120 ft. pillar.

Little Cottonwood Canyon saw a great deal of activity this spring and summer. On The Egg, Bill Robins and Brian Smoot climbed *Rodeo Girls in Bondage* (5.9+) up flakes and an arete between *Go Van Gogh* and *Valentine Crack*.

Several new lines were climbed on Crescent Crack Buttress. Several years ago, Mark Bennett free climbed *Paraplegic Ward*, re-naming it *DOA* (5.11); to the right of this, Kirsten Davis and Robins found *A Kat That Grumps* (5.7) up discontinuous cracks. In a deep alcove to the right of *Mexican Crack*, Bennett and Robins climbed *Journey To The Moon* (5.10), a chimney/crack problem; the pair also climbed *E.V.A.* (5.10+), which starts



New ice climbs in Santiquin Canyon, Utah: Angle of Fear, Automatic Control Theory and The Candlestick (l to r). Photo: Brian Smoot.

at the top of the first pitch of *Journey To the Moon* and follows flakes over a roof. To the right, Bennett and Robins climbed *Rainy Day Blues* (5.11, A-0) up overhanging cracks and flakes left of *Chockstone Chimney*. Davis and Robins climbed a face start to the route, *Fairweather Variation* (5.10+) on the slab to the left; Bennett and Robins made the first free ascent. Robins and Davis also climbed the face to the right, producing *Get The Hearse* (5.9+ -no protection). To the right of *C.P.O.S.*, Merrill Bitter and Ruckman climbed *Slam, Jam, Thank You, Mam*, a 5.11+ flake. Bill Simons, Bennett and Robins found *Interplanetary Voyage* (5.11), a large crack through a 15-ft. roof left of *Journey To The Moon*. Several years ago, but unreported, was Ray Darrelle's ascent of the dihedral above the last pitch of *Chockstone Chimney*, *Neptune* (5.8).

On the Fin, Robins and Davis climbed *Beach Comber* (5.5) on the slab below *Intensive Care*, and *Chicken Lips* (5.6) to the right of *Pay the Kitty*. On the Gate Buttress, the pair climbed *This Ain't No Disco* (5.11), a face route starting at the dead forked tree on the approach to *The Flakes*.

The Black Peeler has seen renewed interest, with Davis and Robins climbing eight new routes here, ranging from 5.7 to 5.10+. Bennett and Robins made the first reported free ascent of *Bat Walk* (5.9+). Thomas Koch and Robins climbed *Duck Waddle* (5.11), and were joined by Bennett on *Sports Unlimited* (5.11).

On Lizard Head Wall, Bennett and Robins climbed *Assumption of Risk* (5.11-), a poorly-protected route up the arete left of *Wings of Perception*.

On The Waterfront, Chris Pendelton and Bret Ruckman climbed *Mantles to Mazat-*

lan (5.10+) to the left of the start of *Chicken Holiday*. Bennett and Ruckman climbed *Fluid Dynamics* (5.11-) to the right of the top pitch of *Chickenhead Holiday*.

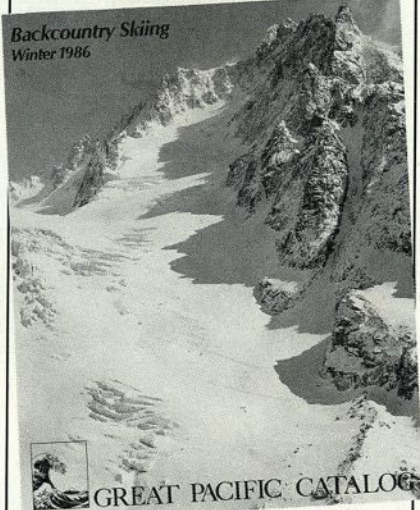
Several new lines were found in the Green Adjective Gully. To the right of *Fat Women's Misery*, Robins and Davis climbed *A Night at the Opera* (5.8) up a dihedral, cracks and a roof, to produce one of the best new lines at this level in the area. To the left of *Oasis*, *Garden Song* (5.10+) climbs a dihedral to a pinnacle and then up a headwall; Robins and Davis made the first ascent. Robins and Smoot the first free ascent. To the left of the last pitch of *Fallen Arches*, Robins climbed *Crazed and Confused* (5.10-), a dirty, poorly-protected dihedral. Tito Black and Les Ellison climbed *Victory Garden* (5.10) to the right of *Solo Slot*.

Local testpiece *Fallen Arches* saw at least two additional ascents. Japanese climber Hidetaka Suzuki climbed both pitches in a single day, while Dan Goodwin made a continuous ascent of both pitches. The latter was a combination of two pitches that were both, at one time, A-3; in 1984, Steve Hong spent considerable time freeing the first pitch at 5.13b, and later managed the second at 5.12. Goodwin made a number of attempts, lowering to the ground and pulling the rope through after each and re-leading while clipping into the protection already in place. After 13 days, he climbed both pitches in a continuous, no rests, no falls push, and later, having taken all the gear out, re-led it again, this time placing all the protection in one push.

Several routes were completed near the waterfall that forms the Great White Icicle. Robins and Davis climbed *Monkey Talk* (5.10, A-1) just to the right of the waterfall

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itself, while Robins and Bennett climbed *Daddy Longlegs* (5.8) starting 100 ft. right and following a thin crack in a slab to a roof. Robins soloed the slab 200 ft. further right to produce *Snow Slab* (5.5). Left of the waterfall, Davis and Robins climbed *Mountain Monkey Swing* (5.9+), and 50 ft. left, Bennett and Robins climbed *Ape Index* (5.10) on flakes and knobs. 400 yds. up-canyon from the waterfall, Robins and Davis found *Griming Gibbons* (5.10), climbing up a face protected by two bolts and over a roof to a ledge.

Bennett, Black and Ted Warm free climbed *The Flying Buttress Route* (5.10), finding marginal protection in marginal rock.

In Bell's Canyon, Bennett and Ruckman climbed *Seams Like Fun* (5.9) on the Far West Bell. In Ferguson Canyon, Bill Simons, Robins and Bennett free climbed the *Buckland Variation* (5.10).

After climbing in Yosemite, Romain Vogler teamed up with fellow Swiss Christian Schwarz for a stay in the **Moab** area. They climbed both the *West* and *North Face* of Castleton Tower in a single day, and later, both *Supercrack* and *Lightning Bolt Cracks* in the Canyonlands. Returning to the Nuns, the pair warmed up on *Fine Jade*, then spotted a new line between the Priest and the northeast end of the Nuns; *Where Have the Wild Things Gone?* (5.11) follows an obvious west-facing corner for two pitches, where a ledge is followed on the east to the second rappel on the Nuns. The first pitch was a difficult lieback protected by many #2 Friends, giving way to intricate face moves; after a hanging belay, the second pitch was sustained finger and face moves. Vogler called the route "...a hard desert classic, very sustained, well-protected and safe."

(Correspondents: Bill Robins, Kirsten Davis, Hidetaka Suzuki, Dan Goodwin, Romain Vogler.)

WASHINGTON

Due to the unusually dry winter and spring, and the efforts of a few, **Beacon Rock** in the Columbia River Gorge has a few more exceptionally fine free routes. *Frozen Treats* (5.10c) was put up on a typical December day (cold, windy and wet), but was the first in a series of short but interesting climbs near the southeast corner. In this same area is *More Balls Than Nuts* (5.11a); as the name implies, this and most of these climbs are best left to top-roping.

Darryl Nakahira and Mark Cartier were responsible for most of the new free climbs at Beacon Rock. These include *Christmas Tree Crack* (5.11d), which finally fell after multiple attempts and multiple cleanings; *Bears in Heat* (5.11b) involves a blind bear hug up a steep arete; and perhaps the finest of the more recent routes, *Ground Zero* (5.11d), first unearthed and aided by Jim Opdycke. *Pirates* (5.11b) received a

free ascent by the same team, thus eliminating another old aid route. A climb that first received an aid/free ascent by visiting climber Bob McGown, *The Idiot* (5.12a), was also recently freed by Cartier and is an extremely thin face and stemming problem.

(Correspondent: Mark Cartier.)

WYOMING

Devil's Tower saw considerable activity early this season. Dennis Horning and Jim Schlunkman established *McCarthy's Brother*, a two pitch face climbing route on an arete just to the right of *McCarthy North Face*; they reported fun face and crack climbing with a few 5.10a moves at the end of the second pitch. Schlunkman, Dick Guilmette and Steve Gardiner climbed *Rangers Are People Too!* (5.9), consisting of two short pitches leading up to the top of the southwest shoulder and the beginning of *Southwest Direct*. The route follows an obvious hand and finger crack on the right side of the shoulder.

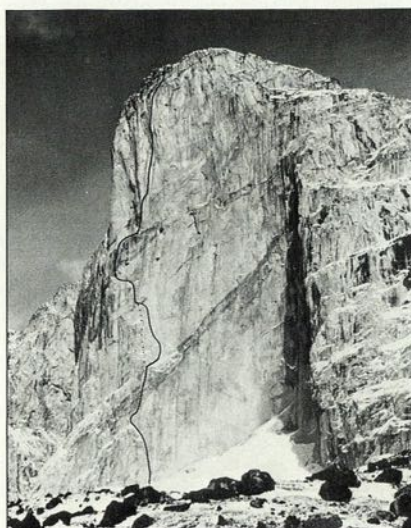
At **Vedauwoo**, Mike Fredericks, Layne Kopischka and Joe Cupps added a face climb up a short wall left of *Master Blaster*; *Sort of a Homecoming* is reported to be an enjoyable 5.10a route and has two bolts for protection. To the right of *Ghost Dance*, Paul Piana added *New Mutant* (5.12d). This climb involves very difficult moves and continuous pumping flared jams. About a week of effort over the course of the spring was required to put together the moves; most of the protection placed during these attempts was left in place until the route was completed. The protection is good, but very hard to place due to the strenuous nature of the route. A two bolt anchor was placed near the top of the crack to facilitate lowering off, as the rock above is very rotten and would require rapel-placed bolts for protection.

(Correspondent: Paul Piana.)

CANADA

On **Baffin Island**, Earl Redfern, Tom Bepler, Eric Brand and John Bagley made the first ascent of the *West Face Direct* on Mt. Thor. The face, approximately 4500 ft. high, had been climbed to the major ledge system at 2/3's height by two parties previously, both of which had opted for easier finishes well to the left. This year's climb followed the steep upper dihedral directly to the summit.

After spending ten days fixing ropes on the first 900 ft., the four climbed the remainder of the route in a single, 33-day push, hampered by poor weather and rockfall in the lower sections. As they gained height, the rock and the weather both improved; only a few bolts were required for progress on the 36 pitch route, although almost all the belays and bivouacs (with a 2-level, 4-man hanging tent) were on bolts. The descent was made



The West Face of Mt. Thor, with the West Face Direct marked; a section of the Japanese route on the lower face, avoided due to rockfall, is dotted. Photo: Eric Brand.

off the easier back side of the mountain. They rated the route a Grade VII, 5.10, A-4 due to its length and seriousness.

(Correspondents: John Bagley, Eric Brand.)

KARAKORAM HIMALAYA

An Italian team made ascents of both **Gasherbrum I** and **Gasherbrum II** in the Baltoro region. Gianni Calcagno, Giambattista Scanabessi and Tullio Vidoni climbed Gasherbrum II via the 1975 French route on the *Southeast Ridge*, reaching the summit on June 6 after two days climbing, with another day for the descent. Agostino Da Polenza and Pierantonio Camozzi climbed Gasherbrum I by a very difficult new route on the *Northwest Face*, reaching the summit of Gasherbrum I after a three day ascent of another new route on the *North-Northwest Face*. All three climbs were done in alpine style, and are all the more notable for the poor weather conditions they were made in (only 3 or 4 good days in 35).

NEPAL HIMALAYA

25 expeditions were active in Nepal during the 1985 pre-monsoon season, although 30 permits were granted by the Government. This is in contrast to the 45 parties which visited the Nepal Himalaya during the 1984 pre-monsoon season; this sharp decrease is almost surely the result of drastically increased costs introduced over the course of the past year, with peak fees almost doubling, and staffing and equipment requirements increasing dramatically. Costs for a small U.S. team attempting a 7000m peak can run \$4500 and up per member when wages and equipment for the liaison officer and four basecamp staff, peak fees, airfare, equip-

ment and other expenses are added up. This is beyond what most climbers can afford, and with the possible exception of large, well-funded expeditions, will have the predictable result of fewer expeditions visiting Nepal.

Altogether, 20 peaks were climbed by 17 teams, with relatively good weather being the norm. However, seven people were killed as well.

Two expeditions were active on **Mt. Everest** (8848m), a 21 member American team led by David Saas, with Jim Bridwell as climbing leader, made an unsuccessful attempt on the *West Ridge Direct*. Peter Athens and Robert Anderson made a summit attempt from the team's fifth camp at 8300m, but were turned back by poor weather at 8550m. Anderson and Jay Smith made a second summit bid, but were turned back at the same point again. The route was fixed with rope in its entirety to facilitate descent.

A large and strong Norwegian team made a routine ascent of the *South Col*, placing a total of 17 members on the summit. Chris Bonington, at age 50, briefly held the record for oldest man to have climbed Everest, (and survived, unlike Czech Josef Psotka (50), who died after his climb in 1984). Pertemba Sherpa made his third ascent of the peak; Sundare Sherpa climbed the peak for his fourth time, while Ang Rita made his third oxygenless ascent. American Dick Bass reached the summit with David Breashears and Ang Phurba, becoming, at 55, the oldest man to have climbed Everest.

A seven man Japanese team led by Naoe Sakashita arrived in the Khumbu with an ambitious plan to climb **Taweche** (6501m), **Cholatse** (6650m), **Ama Dablam** (6812m) and **Cho Oyu** (8021m), all in alpine style, on a moderate budget and within a single month. Makato Ishibashi, Masayuki Ariake and Hideaki Shibuya reached the summit of Cholatse via the *South Ridge*, while Sakashita, Kazuhiro Onomura, Haruo Toyoda and Kazuo Yagi climbed the *Southeast Face* of Taweche. They then moved basecamp to Ama Dablam, which was climbed via the *West Face* (a new route) by Sakashita and Ariake, and via the *Southwest Ridge* by Ishibashi, Toyoda and Yagi. Unfortunately, Ishibashi fell to his death during the descent, and after cremating his body in Pengboche, the rest of the team returned to Japan.

A 12 member Italian team also climbed Ama Dablam, fixing ropes and three camps on the northeast side.

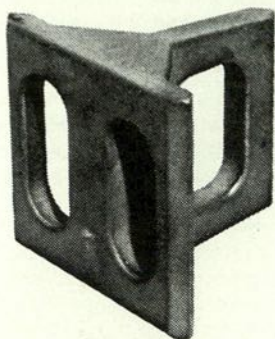
Seven Spanish climbers reached the summit of **Cho Oyu** (8021m) in two groups via the *Southwest Ridge*, after establishing four camps up to 7400m. A Polish/American team was also active on the peak. Poles Miroslaw Gardzielewski and Jacek Jerierski climbed via the *Spaniards'* route, while Mark Richey and Rick Wilcox attempted the *East Ridge*, turning back at

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about 7800m in the face of technical difficulties. The American pair then climbed **Ngoyzumbakang** (7743m) by the *South Ridge*.

Eight members of an Austrian team climbed **Pumori** (7161m) via the *Southwest Face*, and three Spanish climbers reached the summit of the peak via the *Southeast Face*.

An Austrian team climbed **Manaslu** (8163m) via the *East Ridge*, however one member was killed descending from the second summit bid. A Hungarian team put two members on the summit of **Himal Chuli** (7893m) via the *South Face*, but lost two members earlier in a heavy storm.

A 15 member Yugoslav expedition made the first ascent of the *North Face* of **Yalung Kang** (8505m), establishing four camps at 5720m, 6520m, 7150m and 8100m. Borut Bregant and Tomo Cesen reached the summit after a 10 hour climb on April 22, but Bregant fell to his death on the descent just above the last camp. Cesen was forced to bivouac and reached the camp the next day.

A strong American/Canadian team failed in their bid to climb **Kangchenjunga** (8586m). John Roskelley and Kim Momb reached a high point of about 7900m on the *North Ridge* and were turned back in the face of high winds and fatigue. With Gregg Cronn, Laurie Skreslet, Robin Houston and Jeff Duenwald, they had fixed ropes over 27 pitches of difficult mixed and ice climbing on the *North Wall* to reach the ridge proper at about 7000m, and established three camps. Cronn and Skreslet were climbing a day behind the lead pair to make a second summit bid; after Roskelley and Momb's retreat to Camp II, Cronn and Skreslet spent a rest day at Camp III at about 7400m. Cronn awoke at 2 am with a severe headache, body chills and other symptoms of cerebral edema, and the pair started down at first light. Being able to make only two steps without a rest, and showing no improvement on reaching Camp II at the crest of the ridge, Cronn continued down the fixed ropes, eventually reaching base camp late in the day, supported by Skreslet, Momb and Roskelley. After a day of rest, he suffered no lingering symptoms. This is a good example of a potential tragedy averted by the quick, decisive action of a tight-knit group of climbers.

Both the Rumanian and Japanese teams active on **Gurja Himal** (7193m) were successful in placing members on the summit, but both suffered fatalities.

A Nepalese Army expedition climbed **Annapurna III** (7555m) via the *North Face*. Pradeep Karki, Ang Kami Sherpa, Surya Bahadur Tamang and Hira Bahadur Magar reached the summit on May 4; two were forced to bivouac on the descent, but reached the final camp the next day unscathed.

In a remarkable *tour-de-force*, Reinhold Messner climbed **Annapurna I** (8091m),

reaching the summit of his 11th 8000m peak on April 24 with Hans Kammerlander. With three other members, the pair had established camps at 5100m and 6000m on the unclimbed *Northwest Face*, and in a five day push from base camp, climbed the remaining distance to the summit alpine style, with bivouacs at 7200m and 7400m.

Obtaining last-minute permission for **Dhaulagiri I** (8167m), Messner and Kammerlander proceeded to knock this one off too. After reaching basecamp at 4600m on May 12, they bivouaced at 6300m May 13, and 7350m on May 14, reaching the summit at noon May 15. This was Messner's 12th 8000m peak — he has just Makalu and Lhotse to go before having climbed all 14 — and Kammerlander's 6th.

A 7-member American team made an unsuccessful bid to climb the *North Face* of Dhaulagiri, turning back at 7000m in the face of bad weather.

(Correspondents: Bhola Rana, Josef Nyka.)

OBITUARIES

On June 1, 1985, **Gaston Rebuffat** died of cancer in Paris at the age of 64.

When asked about his most outstanding exploits in mountaineering, Rebuffat usually referred to the three great North faces of the Alps: the Elger, Matterhorn and Grandes Jorasses. In the early years after WWII, he was the first mountain guide to climb them with clients, making the 8th ascent overall (and 2nd French) of the North Face of the Eiger. In addition, he was from a country which at the time was not well-known for climbing exploits; the French had not even taken part in the fierce competition for the first ascents of these walls.

Rebuffat always saw himself mainly in his role as a guide. He enjoyed climbing not so much for its own sake, but for the excitement it created in his companions. To climb the same route several times did not seem monotonous to him. His happiness had deeper roots: it came from his deep attachment to the mountains, much like the farmer's ties to the land. When a companion hesitated, the guide encouraged him, and when a sudden storm came up, Rebuffat knew the secret: his instinct guided him, his sense of responsibility multiplied his strength, and he directed the party safely back to the hut. Rebuffat loved the difficulty, but hated the danger.

Rebuffat made a very clear distinction between these two terms, much clearer than most climbers make: to challenge the difficulty was a beautiful, sound and vigorous thing, while to expose oneself to danger was merely easy and morbid. On the other hand, the excessive search for safety was a rather vague concept for Rebuffat, one which he thought often hid cowardice. According to Rebuffat, the key to safety in the mountains was "lucidite": being alert and open-minded, and having common

sense and imagination, while not being bound by rules and procedures. The crusade for safety in so much of modern life led — so thought Rebuffat — to a passive, consumer mentality of sitting in front of the TV screen watching other people's adventures.

Through his books, Rebuffat carried his thoughts to a broader public. *L'Apprenti Montagnard*, published in 1946, is a collection of 50 route descriptions in the Mont Blanc Range; it was a systematic and well-designed introduction to that range, taking the reader from the easiest to the most challenging climbs, and suggesting rock, ice and mixed routes in a nicely-balanced variety. The book was updated and expanded in 1974 for the first of a series covering the most important ranges of the Alps.

Etoiles et Tempetes (Starlight and Storm), published in 1956, was an adventure story. The writing is poetic, and has often compared to that of Antoine de Saint-Exupery; in the book, Rebuffat describes his ascents of the six great Alpine North Faces (the Eiger, Matterhorn, Grandes Jorasses, Drus, Piz Badile and Cima Grande). In 1956 he also made his first film, *Etoiles et Tempetes*, followed in 1963 by *Entre Terre et Ciel (Between Heaven and Earth)* and in 1974 by *Les Horizons Gagnes*.

Born in 1921 near Marseilles, Rebuffat's first contact with outdoor life was at the Calanques, where he started climbing at age 17. He first came to the Alps through a government-sponsored organization, Jeunesse et Montagne, where he was an instructor, initiating young people into mountaineering. During the war years, Rebuffat matured and became a real mountaineer, and afterwards was part of a fresh generation in France setting new milestones. One of these was the ascent of Annapurna in 1950, the first 8000m peak to be climbed; Rebuffat was a part of that effort, and although he wasn't a member of the summit team, he and Lionel Terray were invaluable in helping Maurice Herzog and Louis Lachenal reach basecamp safely after their epic climb.

But expedition mountaineering did not continue to fascinate Rebuffat; he was disgusted by the dark side of human relations which often came to the surface during and after expeditions, and deeply disliked the nationalistic vocabulary and the military attitude common to expeditions then. He instead concentrated on the Alps, and the Mont Blanc Range in particular, where he made numerous first ascents (some as late as the 1970's). Many of Rebuffat's routes have become true classics.

Rebuffat's influence has been mainly felt through his books and films. He never wrote memoirs; plans for and dreams about the future were always much more important to him. His films concentrated on the aesthetic aspects of the mountains, accompanied by classical music, and

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Photo: Christian Griffith on Rainbow Wall by Dan Hare

showed climbs of varying character and difficulty. The underlying commentary gave a good idea of what mountaineering can mean to a climber, even for those who don't climb.

To come back to the initial question, the one about Rebuffat's most outstanding exploit: it may have been his brave fight — ten year's long — against cancer. Chemotherapy helped a great deal, but it was Rebuffat's vitality, willpower and "lucidite" that were more decisive. To accept infirmity in a positive way is perhaps a greater challenge to a climber than a difficult climb. Gaston Rebuffat had the strength not only

to accept cancer intellectually, but to survive it physically for ten years.
(Correspondent: Konrad Kirch.)

As we went to press, news came from the Alps that British climber **Roger Baxter-Jones** was killed by a falling serac on the *North Face* of the Triolet, which he was guiding at the time. Baxter-Jones, resident of Chamonix and one of the few fully-certified foreign-born guides there, was a popular figure in British and Continental climbing circles, well-known for his alpine and Himalayan climbs, including an alpine-style ascent of Jannu in 1978.

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— ACCESS & CONSERVATION —

Iowa Rescinds Proposed Climbing Ban

After receiving 50 letters of protest from individuals and clubs around the country, the State of Iowa has agreed to not ban climbing in state parks and recreation areas. Climbers will instead be required to simply fill out a form (there is no fee) and drop it into a registration box which will be posted at each area. Because of "fragile rock formations," climbing will not be permitted at Ledges, Dolliver and Wildcat Den State Parks, and at Mines of Spain area in Dubuque County. The new regulations also state that "Other sites may be closed to climbing if environmental damage or safety problems occur, or if an endangered or threatened species is present."

Many heartfelt thanks to those who supported this effort through their letters and public testimony. If it is true, as a recent article in *Mountain* maintains, that the international focus of climbing has shifted to limestone, then Iowa provides some fine opportunities to get in step with the times! (Correspondent: John Joline)



One climber (requesting anonymity) who frequently uses the wall, was recently ordered off it by the police. He then asked Denver school authorities for a permit to climb the wall. Mrs. Carol, supervisor for Facility Use for Denver Public Schools, had to say no: "Denver Public Schools does not give permits to climb their buildings." Injuries and insurance, obviously, are their main reason, but also preservation of the wall. Chalk marks have sprouted upon the wall here and there. And, unfortunately, some climbers have gone so far as to chisel the mortar from between a few of the stone blocks. This created 1 in. cracks for finger jams, up to the third knuckle, but also created anger and frustration for school authorities. Hence — get off the wall!

City Law doesn't specifically prohibit climbing school buildings but, since it is their property, they decide on accessibility. In the words of Denver's Municipal Code, section 38-94: "It shall be unlawful for any person to loiter, idle, wander, stroll, or play in, about or on any school, college, university grounds or buildings, either on foot or in or on any vehicle, without having some lawful business therein or thereabout, or in connection with such school, college, or university or the employees thereof."

No tickets or arrests, according to the Denver City Attorney, have yet been given or made. Considering that, the wall, although technically off limits, is still accessible. Simply drive up to the wall, don your climbing shoes and chalk bag, and hop onto the righteous, pumping, and magnificent wall; although you might want to keep an eye peeled for that periodically cruising police car.

(Correspondent: Jon Lloyd)

Idle Sport or True Obsession?

Question: Is building upon a school wall loitering, idling, wandering, strolling, or playing? For the Denver school authorities and police, it is; especially the presence of climbers upon George Washington High School's west gymnasium wall.

The wall is a perfect building wall — a spectacular 150 feet long, 45 feet high, with a tan, stone block face offering 1/8 in. to 1 in. hand and foot holds (i.e., 5.7 to 5.9 problems). It's a hard and lengthy traverse (or upward climb if desired), and it catches plenty of afternoon sunshine, absolutely heavenly for that after work or lazy Sunday workout; 20 minutes on the wall and you're pumped. For two years now, its convenient location on Monaco and Leetsdale, just minutes away for many Denver climbers, has made it a favorite building wall. On any day, in any season, any number of climbers can be seen practicing, usually in the late afternoon after school hours, on the difficult, exquisite face.

Consequently, their presence upon the wall, indeed unusual for many people, has drawn the attention of school authorities and police. Result: if you are seen on the wall by police, you will be asked to get off. Since the wall is only partially visible from Leetsdale (a major thoroughfare), the police have to drive into the parking lot to check it out.

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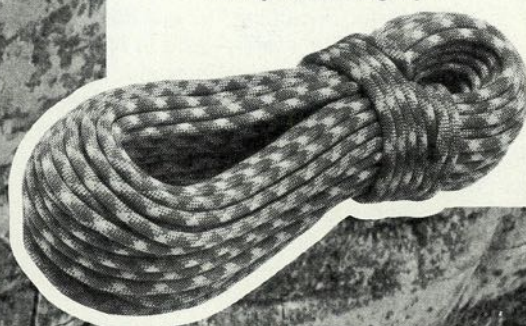
Kim Carrigan in «Dial a Dyne» Mount Arapiles (Australia). Photo Louise Shepherd.

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George Hurley

by Alison Osius

Ask George Hurley, who had his 50th birthday this season, the reason he's climbing his hardest routes this year. "Chalk, Fires and bifocals," he says. Of the last newly-acquired item of gear, "It's not just funny about bifocals. Before, I'd be trying to place a nut and it would be fuzzy."

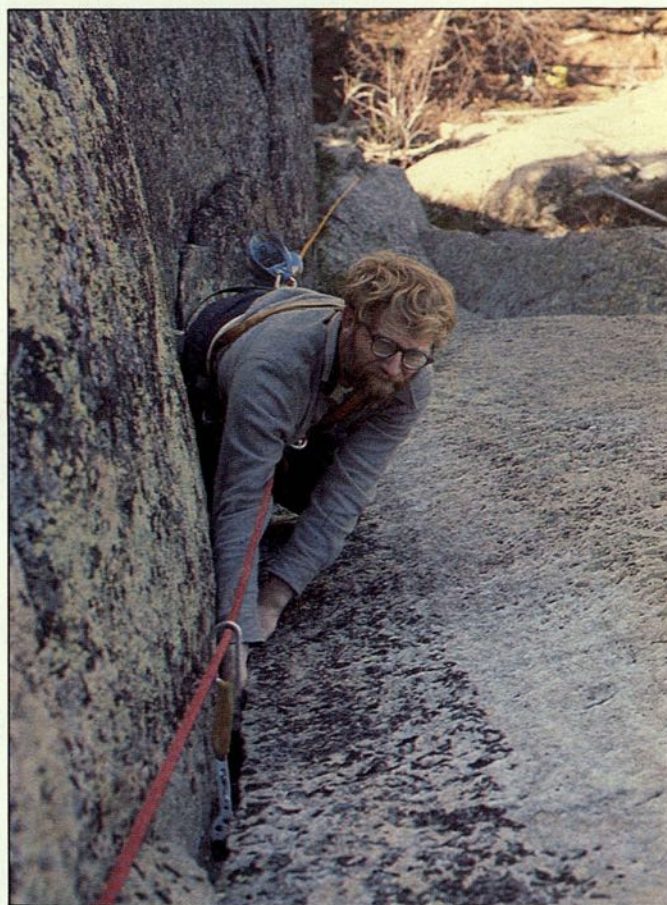
Hurley, of North Conway, New Hampshire, started making first ascents in 1959, a year after he began climbing. The number of those first ascents — across this country and in others — is "beyond count," but certainly in the several hundreds. One of the country's leading climbers in the 60s and 70s, Hurley was part of the first team up the 900-foot Titan, a monolith in the Utah desert, and a 2,000 foot wall in the Dolomites. He and his wife Jean made the first ascents of half a dozen peaks above 15,000 feet in the Ruwenzori, a narrow range on the border between Uganda and modern Zaire. Hurley has put up new routes across the western deserts, Colorado — with four on the Diamond Face of Long's Peak, (including D-7 in 1966, called its most popular route a decade later) — and in New Hampshire.

He is an independent mountain guide, teaching locally and internationally, who admits, "I doubt if there are any other fulltime guides with as much experience," in this country. He has been teaching for 25 years, the past 10 fulltime, guides difficult rock and ice routes (he got a frost-bitten face leading a client up the Black Dike on Cannon) and is known for taking his clients on first ascents up to the 5.9+ level. This season, on his own time, he has been leading solid 5.10, with a few 5.11s thrown in.

Says his wife, Jean, 46, "he's got a better figure than when I first met him. Amazing. You don't expect that, really, after 25 years. To be getting a hunk."

Hurley's routes have been described in *20 American Peaks & Crags*, *50 Classic Climbs in North America*, *Climb!*, *American Alpine Journal*, *Climbing*, and *Summit*. Huntley Ingalls wrote about his, Layton Kor and Hurley's 1962 ascent of the Titan for *National Geographic*, who sent a staff photographer in a plane to photograph the event; Hurley wrote it up for Kor's book *Beyond the Vertical*, saying "We thought about the ethics of being paid for climbing the Titan, and even in that golden age we thought it was a great idea."

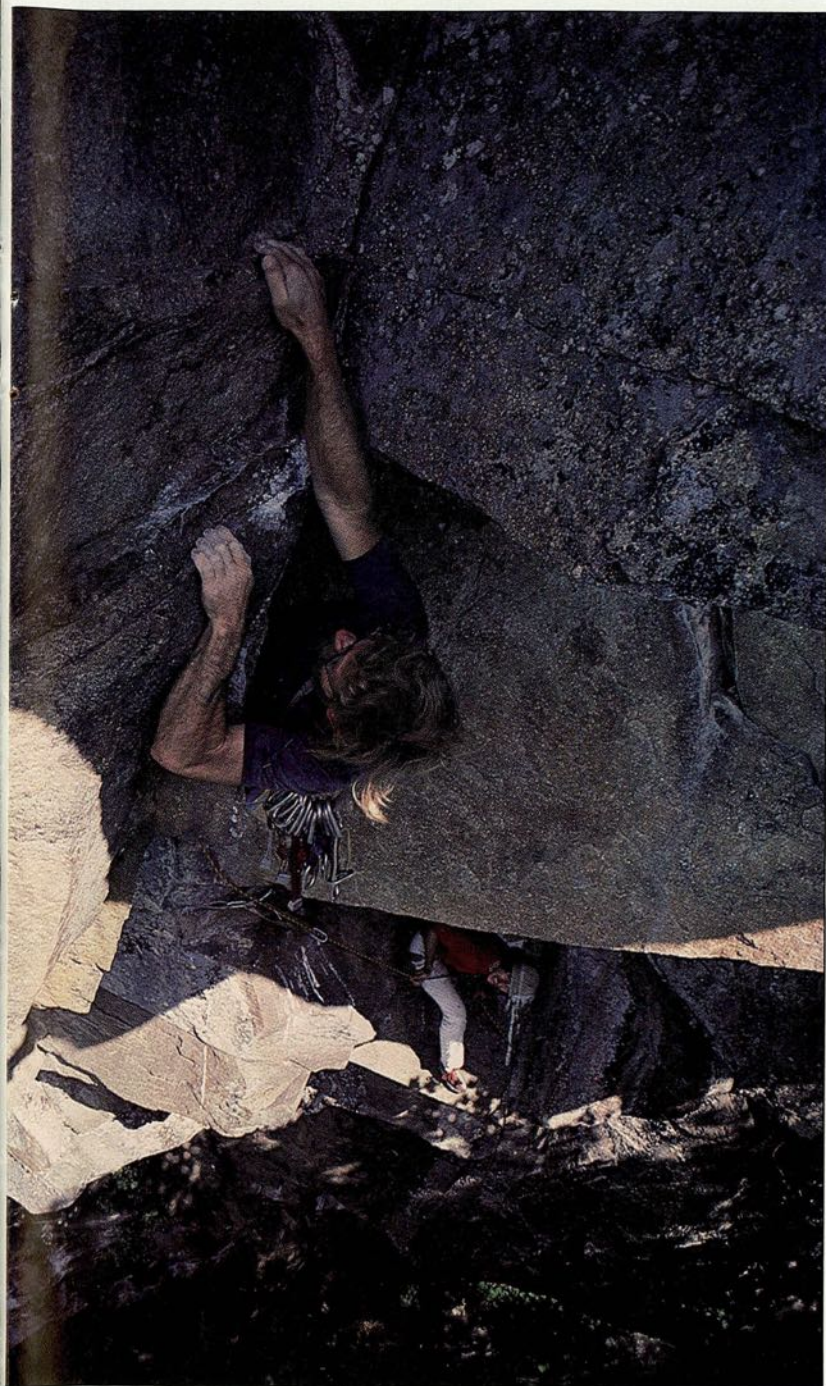
Yet friends and written accounts suggest that Hurley is so low-key as to be overlooked beside other, more flamboyant characters in this country's climbing culture. Says Chris Gill, another climbing instructor, "Whenever I go climbing with George, I try to get him to tell me stories. It's not easy. He's a pretty shy guy."



An on-the-spot example of Hurley's subdued temperament comes from David Stone, who was belaying him on a route at Humphrey's Ledge when Hurley calmly announced "I'm going to fall off," prior to taking a 15-footer onto a ledge. Though he told Stone he was okay, he admitted a few minutes later that he was experiencing some pain. Stone insisted on taking Hurley to the hospital, where it was determined that the foot was bruised and not broken. Stone named the route The Hurley Warning Wall.

Adds Stone of both ultra-polite Hurleys, "It's a joke around here at parties. George says 'I'm going to fall now,' and Jean says 'Well dear, do what you think is best.'"

George met Jean in 1959 when he rescued her and a climbing partner from a shelf near Eldorado Canyon,



Hurley on Stairs Mountain (far left), and on Hyperspace, Sundown Ledge, New Hampshire. Photos: Kurt Winkler, S. Peter Lewis/High Exposures.

Colorado. He sent his students off for a rescue team, climbed with another man up to Jean and her friend, and belayed them while they rappelled. They had made one rappel and were preparing to do another when the rescue group arrived.

Jean recalls, "There were at least 15 people. As I remember, they all tied ropes to me. Things had gone very smoothly. Now they got very complicated." The next time she saw Hurley she was so embarrassed she turned her face away. Nevertheless, they were married a year later. She was then a botany major at the University of Colorado, where George was a graduate student in literature.

The two, who had their 25th anniversary in July, have had a lifetime of climbing and travel together, having gone

around the world twice — once in each direction. They have never had children or owned a house, and until recently never had a car or furniture. Both generally ride bicycles.

The Hurleys are not the easiest people to interview. I ask a question — they are hesitant and modest, and avoid an answer. I have to press, reminding them of a story I've heard. Silences fall. Dinner in their book-lined apartment, where George runs his business, features mushrooms picked by Jean and spice cake baked by George. Jean, who no longer climbs, is a self-styled meanderer, and three years ago wrote and illustrated the well-received book, *White Mountain Mushrooms*. Tonight's mushrooms are chanterelles, marinated in oil and vinegar. "Not a lot of flavor," Jean says critically.

Slowly, the stories come out. In 1962, after a season in the Alps, the two began teaching at Numilyango College in Uganda, where they stayed for two years. They lived in a bungalow from which they could hear panthers coughing at night, and see monkeys, spitting cobras, green and black mambas, and gabon vipers.

Twice they made the three-day walk in to the Ruwenzori, where they climbed half a dozen peaks, those over 16,000 and several over 15,000, seeing no other people.

They barely saw the sun there, using map and compass to find their way in snow, thunder, mist and whiteouts. Sometimes they crawled. "Often Jean would go first on cornices, being lighter," said George. "Sort of like the Arabs and minefields."

On one first ascent, their only watch broke. The day was cloudy, and darkness came suddenly. Thrashing through 10-foot tall heather, George plunged off a cliff, his fall stopped by a solid bush between the legs. "All around me was a strong updraft of air. That told me it was not just a little drop," he said. Jean helped him up, and they bedded down in heather, cold, their raingear ripped to shreds. Morning showed the cliff to be 40 feet.

"The Ruwenzori are dangerous now," Hurley says regretfully, "due to Idi Amin. No one goes in now."

The two also climbed Kilimanjaro from the north, and from Kenya into Tanzania. That, too, says Hurley, "is no longer possible for political reasons."

Coming down off Mt Kenya, the Hurleys were riveted by the sight of a big bull elephant on the trail ahead, who moved only to make little charges at them. Jean had hurt her knee, and could barely walk, let alone run. They were on a ridge crest, the jungle so thick they couldn't go off the trail. In moments elephants were on their right and left, crashing and trumpeting everywhere but behind them. Eventually the Hurleys realized that the bulls were allowing females and young ones to move from one valley to another — when the last disappeared, the Hurleys descended.

After Africa, the two spent 10 months heading north to the Mediterranean — East Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan (where they tried to climb but were halted by avalanche danger), India, Nepal, Burma, Singapore, and Japan, where they climbed extensively. They hitchhiked and rode buses, and flew home to Boulder from Japan.

Both look surprised when asked if climbing together ever

Top Right: Hurley and Bill Forrest on the Doric Column, Utah, 1970. Bottom Right: In the Ruwenzori, 1963. Photos: Hurley Collection.

caused them any problems. Said Jean, "we climbed really well as a team. Fast." Altercation? George seemed perplexed. "We both have a sense of humor, and can laugh at each other and ourselves," he explained.

Hurley recalled other tales. In 1959, after trying the first winter ascent of a ridge on La Plata in Colorado, he was buried and his friend Carl Pfiffner killed in an avalanche. "The myth in those days," Hurley said, "was that avalanches didn't run in trees. This was one of the things that changed the books."

Later, he was in a helicopter crash in the Colorado Rockies. "At 11,000 feet the engine did something called flaming out," he said in typical half-humorous fashion. "The ground was at 10,000 feet. We fell the thousand feet in less than a minute. It was doubly dramatic because the man on one side of me had dynamite, the man on the other side had dynamite caps."

The helicopter crashed into a stand of trees, each about six feet wide, breaking down five or six. One broken end of a tree tore through the instrument panel right between the copilot and pilot, and stopped five inches from Hurley's face.

On the way down he had felt, fairly calmly, that he could not live through this. "Part of that was the change of sound, from the engine to the sudden sound of wind and falling. It was such a change, I thought there was no hope for the five of us. I thought of Jean."

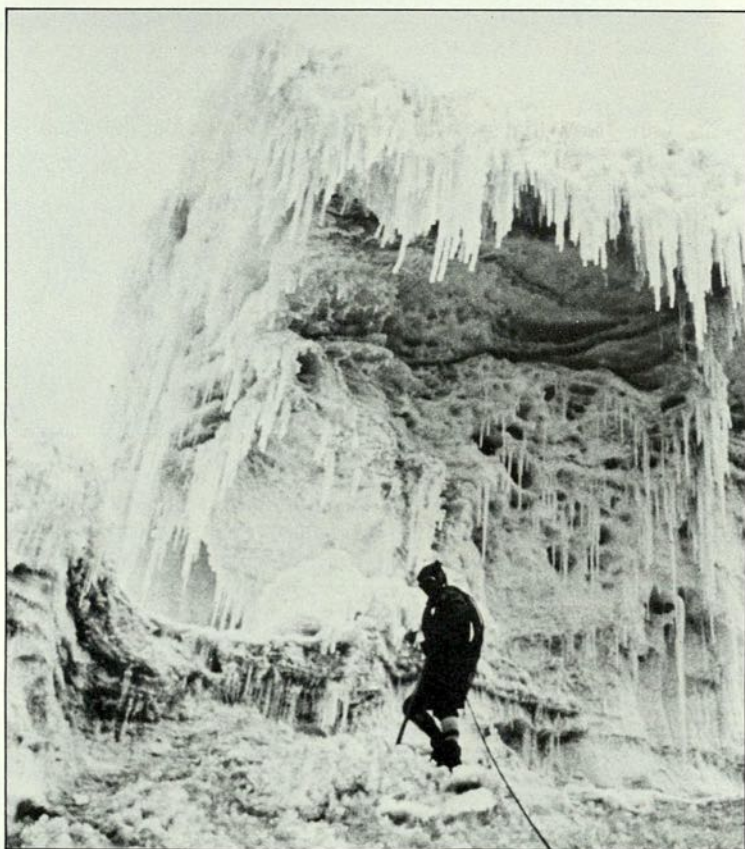
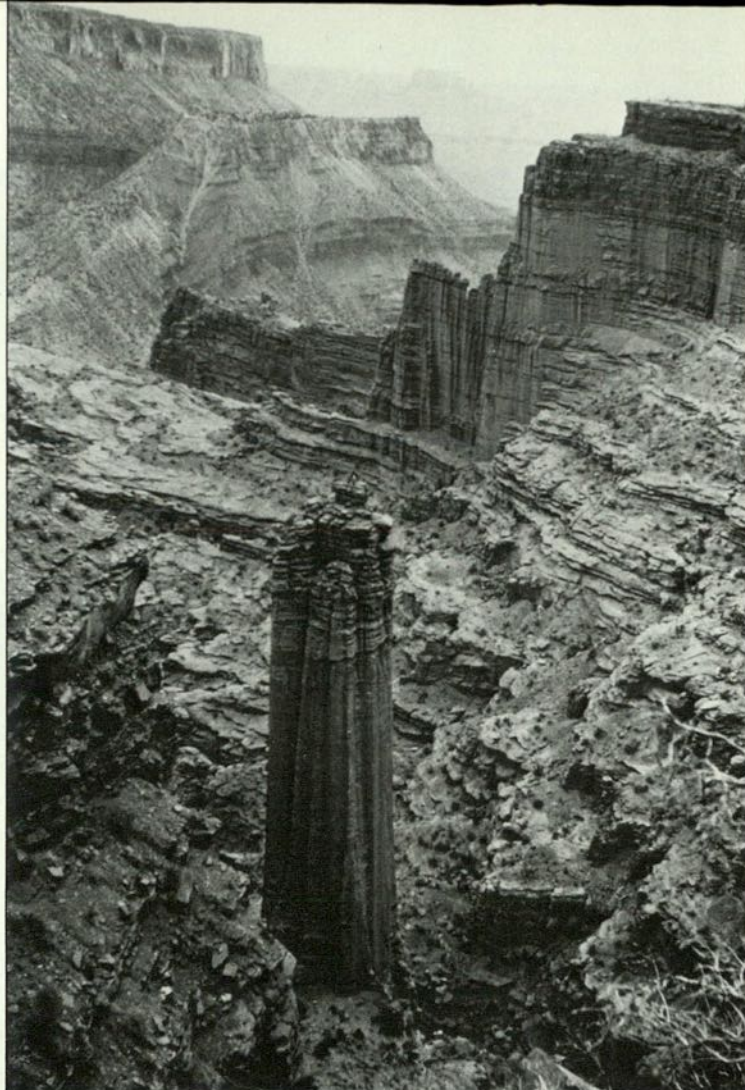
When the five got out of the wreck, its prop was nowhere visible, the tail section gone. The trees and the very deep snow in the Rockies that year had broken their fall.

In 1965, after the African interlude, Hurley taught literature at the University of Colorado for six years. A native of Indiana, he graduated from Ohio's Antioch College in 1958 and received a masters in literature from the University of Colorado. His mother had died when he was 15, his father when he was 17. His parents had lived through the Depression, so they were always optimistic, he said, because things were always getting better. To them he attributes the optimism that has underscored his successful ascents.

Both have long been students at heart. After receiving a joint Master of Art in teaching from both the University of London and Columbia University for her work in Uganda, Jean in 1965-67 also earned a masters degree in art history from the University of Colorado.

In 1971-72 the Hurleys travelled the world again, climbing in Australia and New Zealand, going on to Sri Lanka and India, and repeating much of their last trip. Finally, they spent time in southern Russia — wanting to look at Islamic art and architecture. "We were both scholars for its own sake back then," said George.

They came back to this country and drove from the East to California looking for work. George got a janitor-caretaker job at Mt Bachelor Ski Area above Bend, Oregon, where he worked from 1972-73, climbing in Yosemite before and after. In the 70s, George taught school at the Colorado Academy near Denver, and taught climbing there and at the Colorado Outward Bound School, Jackson Hole Mountain Guides, the Fantasy Ridge School of Alpinism, where he was assistant director, and the Boulder Mountaineer School, where he was director.



His continued desert exploration included an ascent of the untouched east face of Bboquivari Peak, a 7,730 foot monolith near Tucson, with Bill Forrest. Theirs was only its fourth ascent. In a 1970 *Climbing* article on the first ascent of the Doric Column in the Mystery Towers, Hurley wrote, "Belaying in a vertical flute in this rock is like standing below a loading spout at a sand and gravel works."

In the fall of 1978 Hurley left the West for New Hampshire, where he became Chief Instructor for the International Mountain Climbing School (ICMS) and a director of the Mountain Rescue service there. He also became a member of the American Professional Mountain Guides Association.

In May 1984, after a shakeup at ICMS, Hurley decided to become a free agent. "It took a lot of hustling," he said. Jean helped him with PR, ads, and letters to all clients he had ever taught — east and west.

Hurley now offers four trips a year: to Mt Kenya, North Wales and the Lake District, the Dolomites, and Colorado and Utah. Though he works independently, he is also a member of the new co-op, the Mountain Guides Alliance, which also includes Alain Comeau, Ian Turnbull and Kurt Winkler.

"The clients," said Jean, "are an important side of our social life. Living here on West Side Road, we would not meet the editor of *The Harvard Weekly*, or the head of the Princeton astronomy department. Another regular is a priest, and we get some FBI agents." Under stress, according to Hurley, people talk. "I know before anyone else when a prominent lawyer's going to change companies, or when a man's going to divorce his wife."

I worked with Hurley at IMCS for two years. This season, you could say we guided for different schools together, often sharing belays. He can take people out in the rain and bring them back glowing after a good day. Once I was teaching in the rain, feeling spooked and aiding shamelessly on a 5.6 traverse when I looked over and saw George plowing contentedly up wet, unprotected 5.7 friction. "Now that's class," mumbled another instructor behind me.

Asked his best qualities as a guide, he says "I'm conscientious. I don't keep my students waiting. I try to make the day worthwhile, fun, try to leave them feeling good about themselves. I'm considerate. I think I'm funny."

How does he avoid burnout? For one thing, he doesn't train. "It never seemed important enough. I've never climbed very intensely. I've always been a climb-for-fun type. Burnout is less a phenomenon among those who aren't pushing it."

George Hurley is an explorer in a classical sense, exploring places and expanses and countries: external, observable things rather than internal. While much new route activity asks the question, "What can I do?", Hurley remains an example of "Where can I go?" His routes encompass all the standards from easy to 5.10.

The Hurleys have stayed out of mainstream society, are absolutely unmaterialistic, and have never compromised. If theirs seems a precarious living, on guide and teacher's earnings, consider that part of adventure is uncertainty.

George exclaims in the negative when I ask him if he will always guide, but demurs on the question of what comes next. "As long as I'm guiding and enjoying it, and feel I'm doing a good job and am no danger to my clients, I'll keep doing it. I don't plan ahead."

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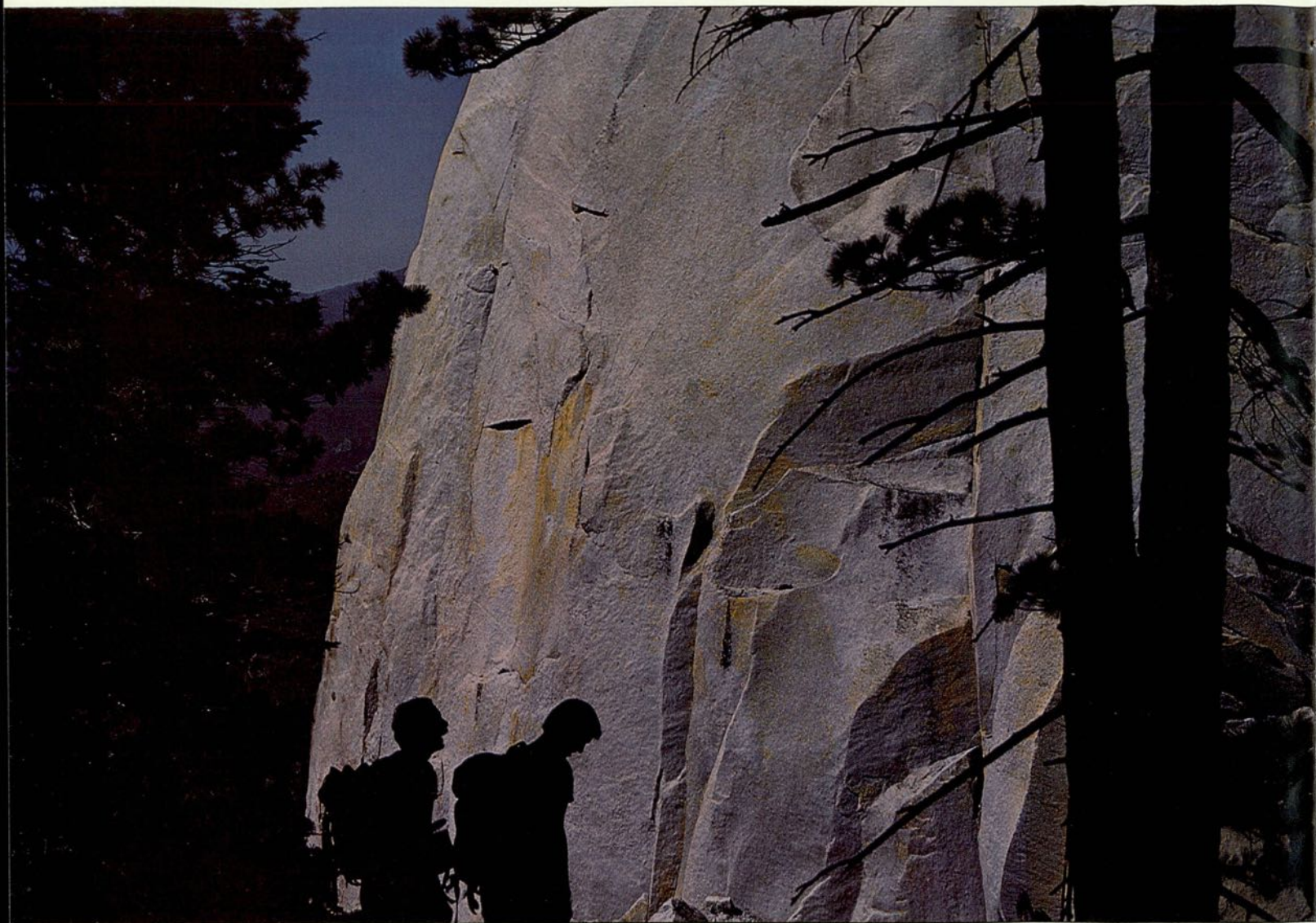
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South Side Story

Wilderness Rock Climbing in the Sierra • by Greg Vernon



The Sierra Nevada is a fault block range characterized by a precipitous eastern escarpment and a forested west side with canyons carved by rivers and glaciers. Granite exfoliation domes were formed as bubbles at the beginning of the uplift of the range and several sheer walls give testimony to the subsequent faulting and scouring effects of ice and water.

There are numerous fairly accessible domes all over the Western Sierra, most providing a wilderness type climbing experience, while the brunt of the climbing traffic is borne by Yosemite and the formations along US Highway 50.

This article will be restricted to the Southern Sierra, or more specifically to those areas located on the Sequoia National Forest map and including the watersheds for the

Kern and Tule Rivers plus some Eastern Sierra areas in the Whitney area and south. One would hope that climbers from other areas in the Sierra will someday be inspired to tell the world about the glories of their home turf.

The technical climbing history of the Southern Sierra may be divided into three eras: Pre-1975, 1975-1980, and 1980 to present. The pre-1975 time frame is represented somewhat in Roper's guide and consisted mostly of the exploits of Fred Beckey and companions. Some of the published accounts are vague as to where the climb went on what formation, while several of these climbs remain the classic line to do in the area. An amazing number of climbs first done using some aid go free at the relatively moderate levels of 5.9 and 5.10.

Among the true classics done in this period are Castle Rock Spire, South Arete of Hermit, Southside of Warlock Needle, Pea Soup on Voodoo Dome, West Face of the Witch (now Inner Sanctum), South Arete of Premier But-tress, South Face of El Segundo Buttrass, and the Lock-smith on Keyhole Wall.

Around 1975, several climbers from the Bakersfield area and the San Fernando Valley began a flurry of new route climbing, essentially developing the Needles, Kern Slabs, Elephant Knob, Parker Bluffs, and Dome Rock during the next five years. The level of the climbing difficulty kept pace with developments in Yosemite. This same group of people, older and wiser, has kept exploring new areas, stumbling into several classic wilderness climbing areas including Domelands Wilderness, Hermit Spire, Scodie Crest, Book Rock, Castle Rocks, and the many rock formations in Sequoia National Park. There is so much untouched rock in the Kern Valley that this bunch will still be putting in new routes when they're 80.

Around 1980 a new breed of cat started to make an appearance on the scene at the Needles, pushing the standard to 5.12 and establishing several bold face lines. Several routes done partially on aid began to go free at 5.11 and sustained 5.10 level.

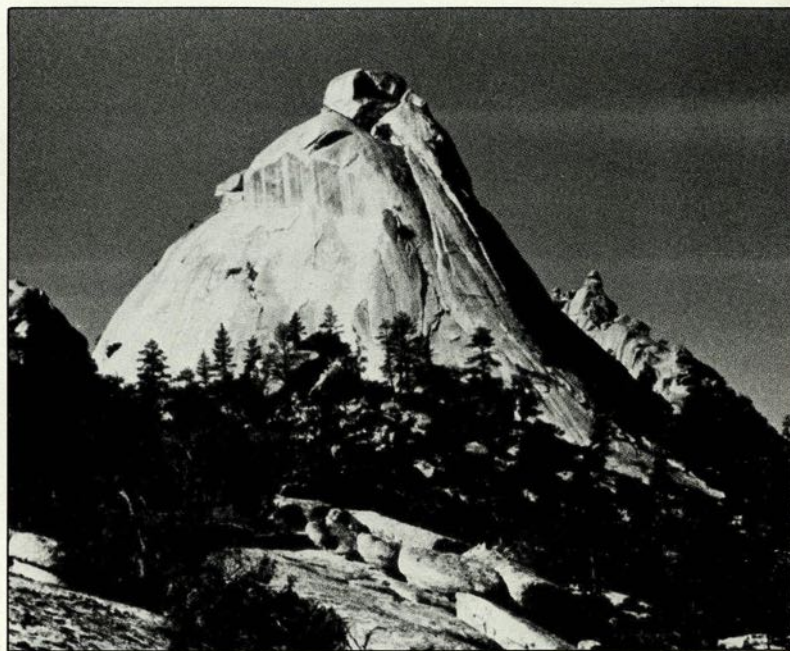
It is somewhat amazing, though, that the Needles are far from completely developed, that plum routes keep getting discovered at the 5.8 level, that you can go to the Needles or anywhere else in the Kern Valley nine months out of the year and not see another party, and that the excitement of doing a Fred Beckey or Herb Laeger route remains the same now as surely it did on the first ascent. The rock, its surroundings, and the spirituality of the Southern Sierra have changed little since climbers first tread upon it just 15 years ago.

The climbing scene in the Southern Sierra, or lack of it, is the ultimate attraction or the greatest drawback of the area, depending on personal preference.

The number of active climbers in Kern and Tulare counties could probably be counted on fingers and toes. There is no place to "hang out" and no good place for climbers to meet other climbers. It's basically you and your partner on the rock in a wilderness environment. No competition ethics, no rock "police," no drug culture.

The lack of a competitive climbing atmosphere will probably serve to keep the Southern Sierra from ever being crowded in spite of any publicity the area receives. Climbing here will always be a rather solitary adventure. Another feature which serves to keep the climber population down is lack of documentation of the area and established routes. Although considerable literature exists in past issues of climbing magazines and the *American Alpine Journal*, it is not packaged into a format that will easily lure people into the area.

Eddy Joe and Dick Leversee put together the *Climbers Guide to the Kern River and Environs*. While the guide is a



Opposite Page: Climbers silhouetted against the Charlatan (Needles). **Photo:** Greg Epperson. **Above:** The north side of Radiant Dome; Beckey's Route (5.7/5.8.) goes up cracks and dihedrals just left of the sun/shade line. **Photo:** Greg Vernon.

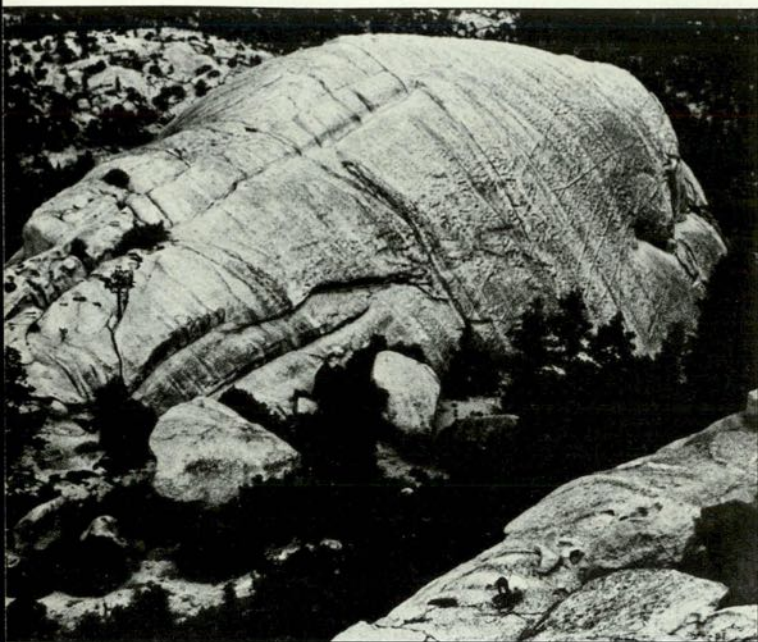
good compilation of what has been done up to 1983, route descriptions and locations are vague or incorrect in some cases and ratings are inconsistent, which can be expected for routes which have been climbed only once or twice. In defense of the authors, they attempted to satisfy everyone on the guidebook issue and ended up satisfying no one.

An old guide of Owen's Ridge has been around since 1976 and represents about 2/3 of the routes that exist on the Ridge. There is very little local interest to update this guide, although Xerox copies may be obtained from the Ridgecrest locals.

The Southern Sierra itself is elegantly discussed in two volumes of *Self-Propelled in the Southern Sierra* by J.C. Jenkins. These books are available all over Southern California. They contain maps, trail information, and trip suggestions from short day hikes to long ski tours.

Climbing and camping equipment may be purchased in Bakersfield from Dick Banner at Bigfoot Mountaineering and in Ridgecrest from Fred Camphausen at Mountain High and at Todd's Outdoor Supply. Both Dick and Fred can put you in touch with locals who can show you around the area.

For all those who fall in love with the Southern Sierra, please take care of it as your own, lest I play the apologist for having written this article.



DOMELANDS WILDERNESS

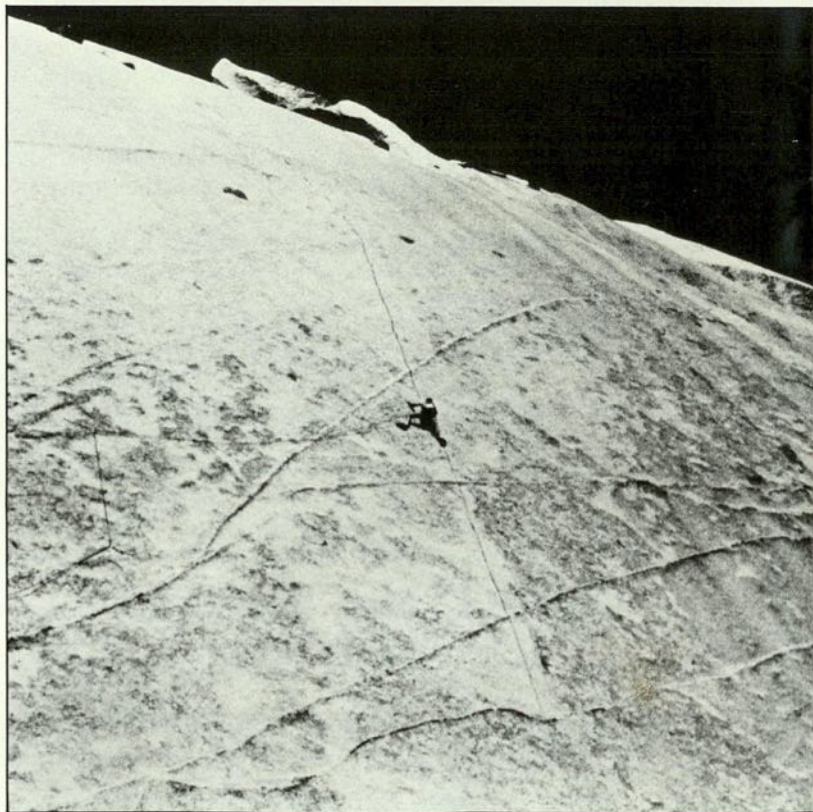
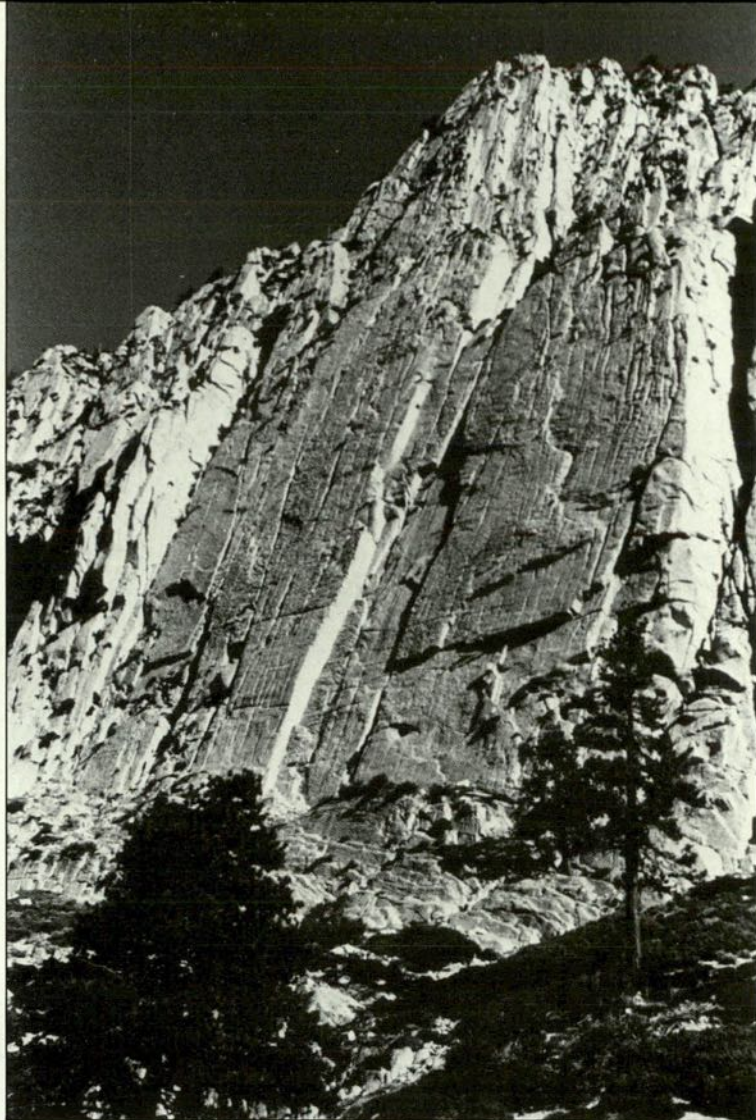
With a name like Domelands, and a location around 200 miles from Los Angeles, one would expect to find rock climbers exploring every formation in sight, but it is rare to see another party here.

Unmaintained trails add a measure of primitiveness to the Domelands experience, which is spiced by a healthy rattlesnake population. A unique variety of rock types is found here: smooth, polished granite, bubbly chickenheads, perfectly-cleaved cracks and funky water grooves. The climbing at Domelands can be conveniently grouped into four areas.

Rockhouse Basin is a primitive valley at the eastern flank of the wilderness and contains the South Fork of the Kern River. It is reached from U.S. 395 via the Sherman Pass (Kennedy Meadows) road. Shortly after the crest of the Sierra Nevada is reached at the top of Nine Mile Canyon, an eleven mile dirt road leads into the basin.

The ridge to the west of Rockhouse contains Herlihy Dome (aka Rockhouse Peak), the high dome of the wilderness (8383 ft.). Only one technical route has been done on this formation (the south buttress). The rock is of outstanding quality. Many fine lines wait to be done by those with the energy to hike the 2500 ft. to the rock. Several short routes may be found on slabs closer to the river.

White Dome and its satellites dominate the south end of Rockhouse Basin. Only 3 routes have been done on White, although the potential is enormous. The rock is covered with chickenheads making face climbing on high angle rock both enjoyable and well-protected by tying off the chickenheads with 9/16 in. runners.





Far Left: The East Face of Moon Dome. Top Left: Keyhole Wall in the South Fork of Tuttle Creek. Bottom Left: Scott Loomis on Loominocity (5.10 +), Radiant Dome. Photos: Greg Vernon. Above: Paul Clark on the 2nd pitch of Airy Interlude (5.9), Witch Needle. Photo: Lotus Steele.

On the east side of the river, opposite White Dome, is the Dihedral Wall, noted for some outstanding crack climbs — most containing interesting roof problems as well. Rock-house Basin is usually accessible from April to October.

The northern area of Domelands is one of the most scenic areas in the Southern Sierra. Rising up from Trout Creek are a set of formations known as Radiant Dome, Steamboat Dome, Columbia Dome, Moon Dome, Block Tower, and the Sardine Wall. Most of the climbing activity has been on Radiant and the two adjacent formations, Moon and Sardine.

Steamboat and Columbia Domes are practically virgin rocks with two known routes on each. Steamboat, east of Radiant, derives its name from its smokestack-like summit. Columbia, west of Radiant, has a beautiful face dropping into the Trout Creek drainage. Steamboat may be accessed via the Tibbets Creek trail. Woodpecker Meadow, north of Trout Creek, may also be reached from the Sherman Pass Road.

The third area is centered around Manter Meadow, most popular of all backpackers' destinations in Domelands. One mile north of Manter is the Lone Ranger rock with three routes. Two miles north of Manter is Bart Dome, one of the gems of Domelands. There are currently five routes

on Bart up to six pitches in length, with several lines yet to be done. Behind Bart are a number of walls and outcroppings which dot the eastern slopes of Siretta Peak. Almost all are virgin. The most noteworthy of these is the "Banded Cliffs" which have seen no climbing attempts, and the "Knuckles," a formation which looks like a clenched fist. Knuckles has five established routes, 3-5 pitches in length. There is room for a few more.

Access to Manter Meadow is via a four mile, mostly downhill backpack from Big Meadow. Big Meadow is reached via the Cherry Hill Road which intersects the Sherman Pass Road about six miles east of the Kern River. The road is generally open from late May to November.

The fourth area is also reached on the Cherry Hill road by driving past Big Meadow into Taylor Meadow. The ridge south of Manter contains Church Dome, Taylor Dome, and several satellites. An hour's hike from Taylor Meadow brings one to the rocks. The best climbing is on the satellite formations as the main domes tend to be broken and decomposed. The rock itself is interestingly eroded granite with wild chickenheads and knobs.

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

One of the most diverse and beautiful areas on earth is Sequoia Park, where there is some of the most spectacular, isolated, and classic rock climbing in the United States. Yet, like other Southern Sierra areas, you will likely be climbing in solitude. The amount of exposed granite in Sequoia is vast, and high quality routes may be found a short walk from your vehicle to areas 25 miles from the nearest road. Indeed, many fine rock climbs await the



ambitious in the Sequoia backcountry.

The most spectacular climbing in Sequoia is at Castle Rocks, in the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River. The approach involves bushwhacking, 4000 ft. of gain, and water is unreliable. The climbing is worth it.

The Angel Wings and Hamilton Dome offer a spectacular setting for those willing to carry gear 16 miles along the High Sierra Trail. The more adventuresome will find great sport in the cirques surrounding Moose and Big Bird Lakes. Some day a group of climbers is going to hire a packer to take them into Deadman or Cloud Canyon where they will probably spend the summer doing new routes. It will make a nice article.

The rock of Tokopah Valley will appeal to those who desire long routes a bit closer to the road. Dominated by the Watch Tower, this area is popular with both hikers and skiers. Shorter routes may be found at Chimney Rock, three miles from General's Highway near Stony Creek Lodge; on the Baldies, just off the General's Highway; and at Moro Rock, a popular tourist attraction. Moro Rock does have some grade IV's. A beautiful view of Castle Rocks and other formations in the Kaweah drainage awaits one on the summit.

A compilation of many of the routes done in the area has been maintained by a climbing ranger at Lodgepole.

LONE PINE AREA

The south face of Lone Pine Peak has long been known and appreciated for its long mountaineering routes in a setting of solitude. Less well known are the rock walls in the next drainage south.

Above: Rock 2 on lower Owen's Ridge. Photo: Greg Vernon. Right: The East Face of Warlock Needle, with a climber visible in the lower left on Giant Steps (5.10). Photo: Mike Lechlinski and Mari Gingery.

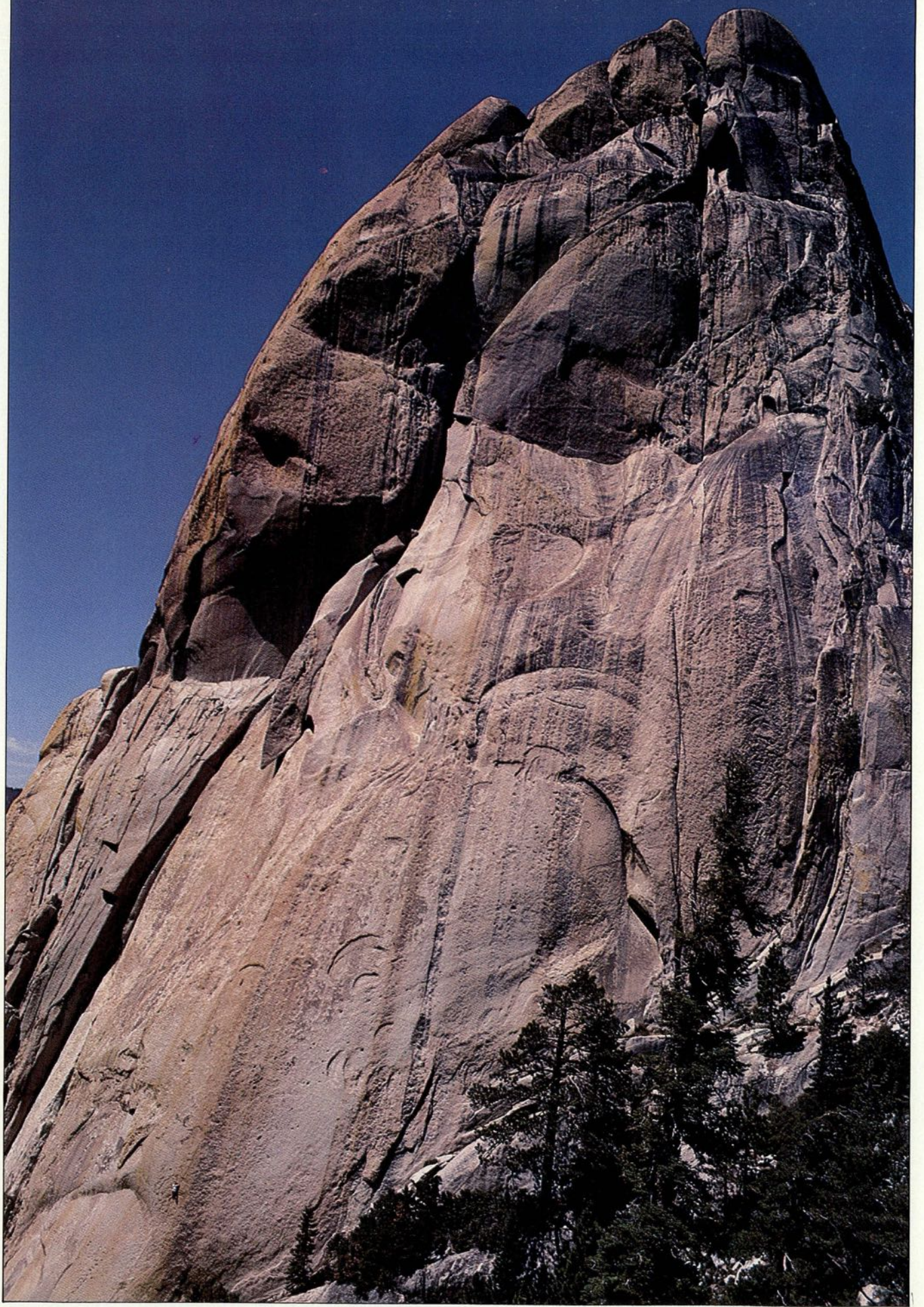
The east-tending ridges between Mts. Langley and Russell are studded with granite walls and outcroppings of various quality — some readily accessible, some not. The rock is generally unglaciated, somewhat grainy Sierra granite, much like Owens Ridge.

The Tuttle creek drainage itself is split at the Stone House, a structure built by a religious cult. An unmaintained trail exits left into the South Fork drainage. About 1500 ft. higher is the base of the Keyhole Wall, named for an arching dihedral system which resembles an old keyhole. Routes here are 2-3 pitches in length and are exited via full rope length rappels.

Further upstream is Tuttle Creek Obelisk and the spires of the Sierra crest between Langley and LeConte.

The Tuttle Creek drainage is virtually unimpacted and very little evidence of human presence is seen. Take care to keep it that way. A wilderness permit is required and may be obtained in Lone Pine.

The rock climbing at Whitney Portals offers a fine diversion for those who desire a technical climb in the High Sierra without having to backpack. In addition to the rock above the Portals campground, the route on the south face of Thor, the Carillon ridge, the east face of Whitney, and the north east ridge of Lone Pine Peak are easily day hiked for those in good shape. The east buttress of Whitney is a mountaineering classic.



For those who like to backpack into an obscure area, the west face of Mt. Russell has some of the finest climbing in the High Sierra.

Tuttle Creek trailhead is reached by turning off Foothill Drive (Tuttle Creek Road) onto Granite View Road, about a mile south of the BLM Tuttle Creek Campground. Foothill Drive is reached from Lone Pine via the Whitney Portal Road or the Lubken Canyon Road 5 miles south of Lone Pine. Bouldering is found in the Alabama Hills (please respect private property) and at Kern Knob, a boulder-strewn mound about 4 miles east of Lone Pine.

Whitney Portals, of course, has a paved road leading to the Mt. Whitney trailhead. There are several nice top rope problems on the boulders around the campground.

KERVILLE AREA

Nestled in the center of the southern Sierra, Kernville serves as training center for world class kayakers, fishing is excellent in the Kern River and nearby Lake Isabella, and a run of the Kern River is one of the better white water thrillers in the West. Kernville, as well as being the gateway to the Needles, the Golden Trout, Southern Sierra and Domeslands Wildernesses, is itself surrounded by excellent rock.

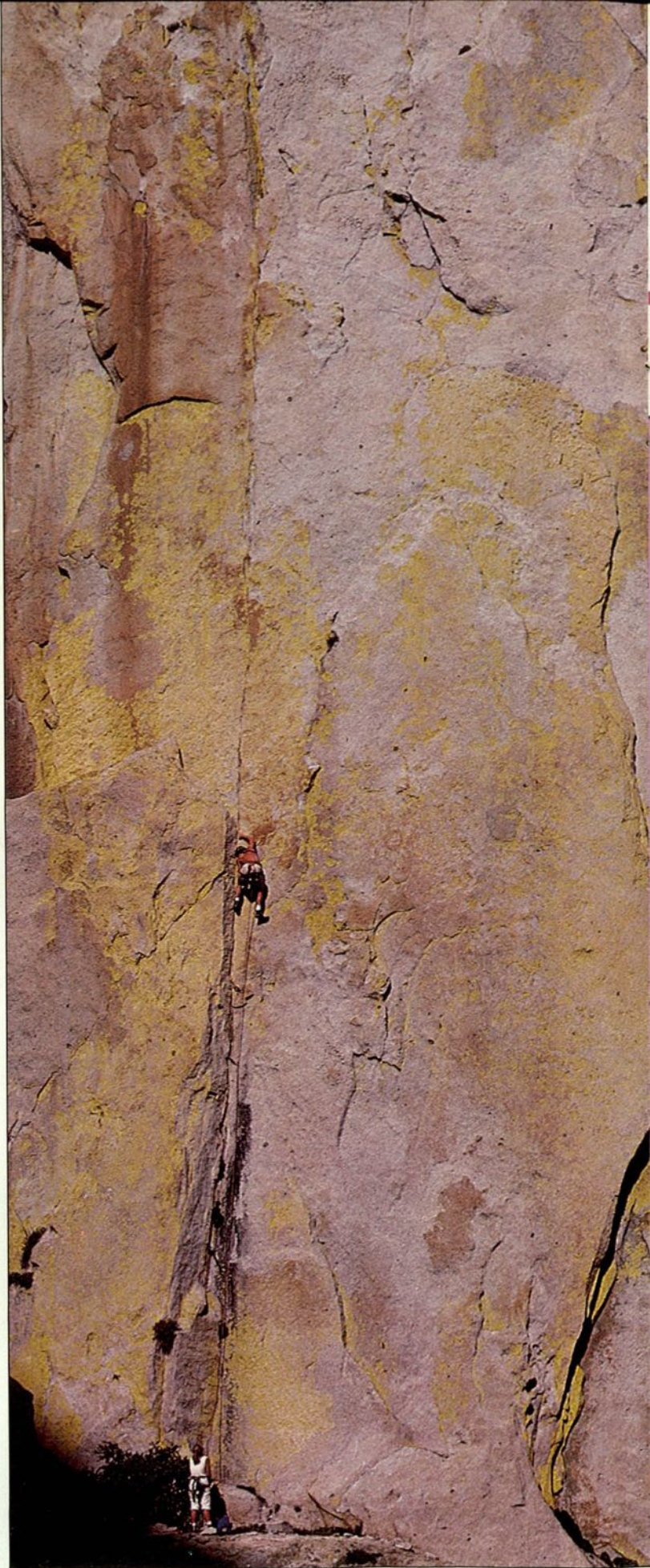
There are four climbing areas of note in the Kernville area. The first, Kern Slabs and adjacent rock faces upriver, is five miles north of Kernville overlooking the river. Most of the routes are face climbs on thin edges although some fine thin cracks are found. Camping is found in any of the Forest Service campgrounds along the river and at several river access points. April and May offer the best view of the river runners and outrageous wildflowers.

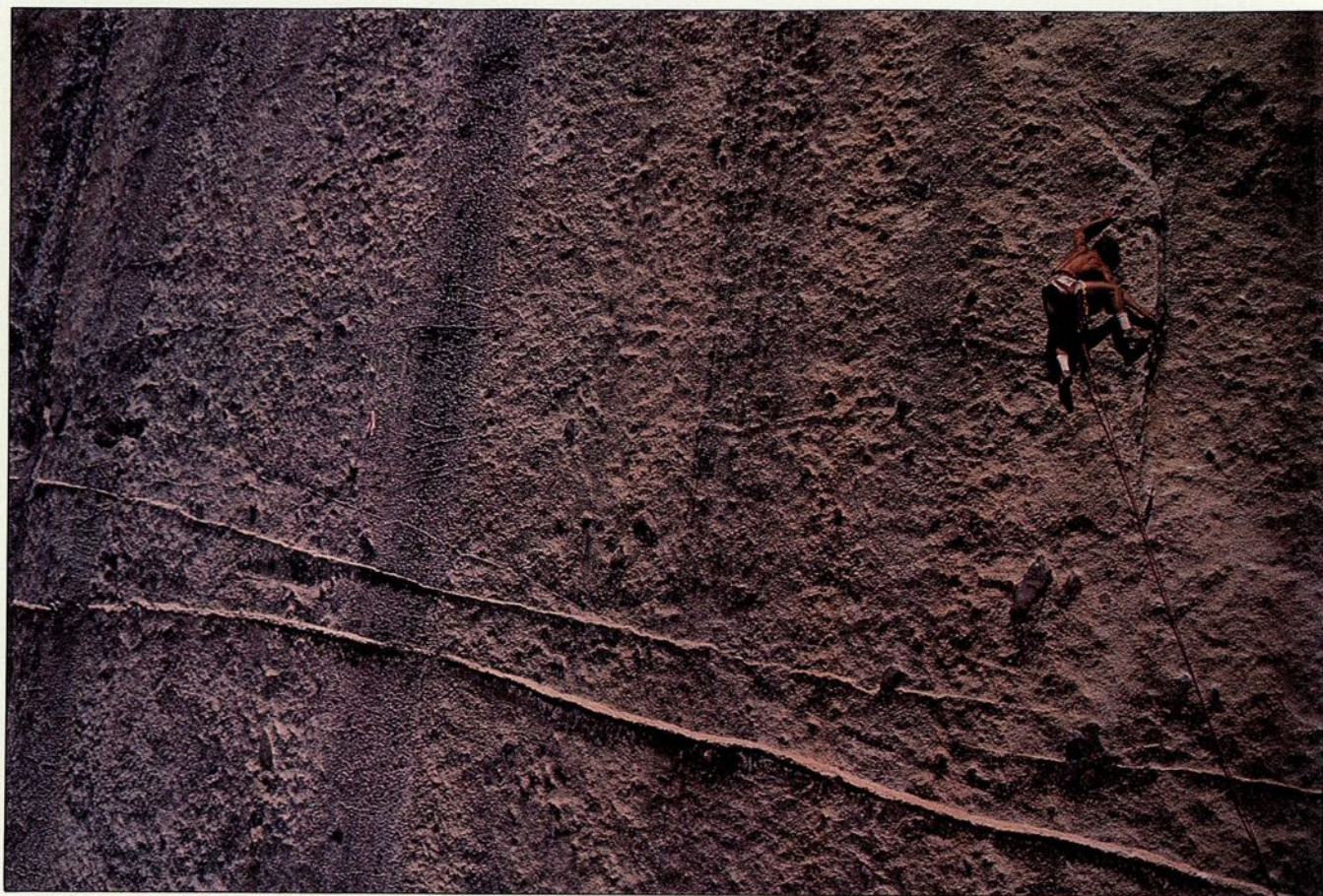
About 12 miles north of Kernville and 1.5 miles east of the road is Book Rock, a 300 ft. wall with a giant dihedral. About two miles north of the Salmon Creek Falls viewing turnout, a graded road heads east and then south. Follow this until you are on the ridge leading to the formation. A 40 minute hike gets one to the formation. There are currently seven fine routes here. The rock is very good, the only unpleasantness being an abundance of vegetation including poison oak at the base.

Further north is Johnsondale, above which lies Parker Bluff with several routes of all levels. A steep 20 minute hike from the highway brings one to the rock. It is south facing at the 4500 ft. level, allowing climbing most of the year.

Six miles past Johnsondale and just past the scout camp is Elephant Knob. The rock is to the east of the road and looks like an elephant's trunk when viewed from the south. A devious bit of dirt road driving gets one below the formation, leaving a half hour hike to the rock. Parker Bluff and Elephant Knob share a rare charm in being rarely visited yet quite accessible. Close to a well-traveled paved road yet somehow isolated. So very typical of the Southern Sierra.

One area that does require effort to reach is the northern





Left: Dick Leversee on the first pitch of Thin Ice (5.10), a Needles classic on Sorcerer Needle. Photo: Paul Clark. Above: Jim Evanca on Between Nothingness and Eternity (5.10) on Dome Rock. Photo: Greg Epperson.

crest of the Scodie mountains. The Sierra Nevada south of Walker Pass is studded with exposed granite crags, many lichen covered, several clean. The culmination of this is Scodie Spire, about six miles east of the town of Onyx. It will take a truly dedicated climber to scale this crag — a classic monolith looking defiantly on the many who pass by — and just over 100 air miles from LAX.

OWEN'S RIDGE

Nine miles west of the junction of US 395 and California Highway 14, the crest of the Sierra Nevada is dominated by 8500 ft. Owens Peak. Extending from its summit for six miles east is a ridge of exposed granite easily visible from the road. Much of this rock has never been touched by climbers, especially on the north side, due principally to long approaches.

The rock is typical Southern Sierra granite: Fairly broken up with a grainy surface and black knobs protruding here and there.

The area has gotten a reputation for being loose and grainy and the locals hope that the reputation remains. In fact, the rock is no worse than Joshua Tree. The higher one gets on Owen's Ridge, the better the rock. Northern exposures generally offer better rock than southern exposures.

Climbing originated on the "ridge" by a group of China Lake employees who eventually formed the China Lake

Mountain Rescue Group and spent much of their training time there. Most of the 60 or so established climbs are 5.8 and below, and there is considerable potential for more routes.

Most of the climbing was done on the "lower" ridge on what were imaginatively labeled rocks #1, #2, and #3. Rock #2 has a large block on its south face. The base of these rocks is about 6000 ft. and climbing is usually pleasant on the south side during the winter and the north side during spring and autumn. Owen is one of the few places in California where multiple pitch routes may be done in the winter in relative comfort.

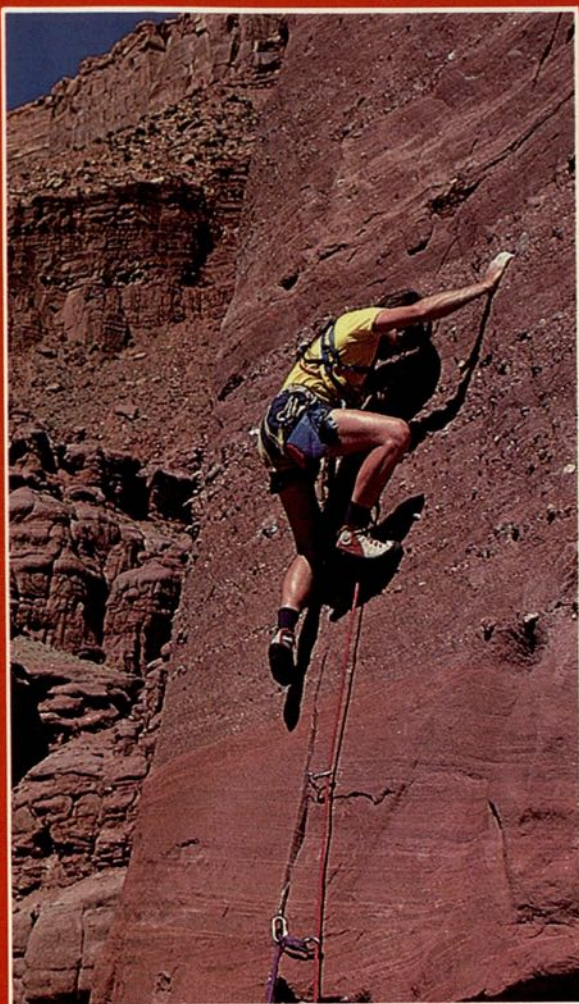
The rocks at the 7000 ft. level went untouched until 1983 when a slab dubbed the "Easter Wall" was finally developed. The nicest rock on the ridge is here. Of the 12 routes done, only three have seen second ascents. The north side of the lower rocks have several hard looking crack lines waiting to be done.

Owen's Ridge is approached via a nine mile dirt road up Indian Wells Canyon. The road turns off Hwy. 14 a couple 100 yds. north of the Indian Wells Lodge. High clearance vehicles are recommended as the road tends to be rough. Condition of the road is variable. The road ends at 5500 ft. near the creek. A use trail leads to the lower rocks. The upper rocks are a 1500 ft. trudge. There are some very nice boulders near the creek. Wildflowers are superb in April and early May.

THE NEEDLES

The crown jewel of the Southern Sierra, this small area provides some of the finest crack climbing in the United

CALMA ADHERENCIA



Climber: Ed Webster, Fisher Towers

Photo: Likhitwonnawut

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States. Indeed, those who appreciate an area of quiet and solitude consider the Needles the best summer cragging in California.

There are several routes which are super-classics yet see few ascents. One of these is "White Punks On Dope" (5.9-) on Voodoo Dome, a 5 pitch route which requires practically every technique in climbing. For some reason I consider it the best moderate route in California.

Voodoo Dome is most pleasant in the spring and is remarkably undeveloped. While a large fraction of the cracks have been done, there remain some classic looking faces as well as some nice looking short routes on the satellite formations which surround the main dome. The "dark side" of Voodoo is virtually untouched.

The hike from Needlerock Creek parking area gains about 1500 ft. to the base of the climbs.

The main Needles are located five miles east of the Great Western Divide Highway about 45 miles north of Kernville. A three mile dirt road departs the highway one mile north of the Ponderosa Lodge. A two mile trail leads to the base of steps leading to the fire lookout. The climbs are approached from this point. The dirt road is usually open from June to October.

Above Lloyd Meadows at the southern boundary of Golden Trout Wilderness is Hermit Spire. It is appropriately named as it is seldom visited. Access is best via Forest Service roads from the Great Western Divide Highway. The rock is of the same quality as the Needles and gives rise to longer routes.

While the Needles boast many classic cracks, outstanding face climbing is featured at Dome Rock, with everything from vertical knob climbing to pure friction. A few very nice cracks are also found here.

One may virtually drive to the summit of Dome Rock and hike to the base of the climb. The turnoff is well marked a few miles south of Ponderosa Lodge.

BOULDERING

While boulders are practically everywhere in the Sierra Nevada, two areas in the Southern Sierra stand out for the number, variety, and quality of the boulder and top-rope problems.

Fossil Falls is located adjacent to US 395 about four miles north of Little Lake and 35 north of Ridgecrest on land maintained by the BLM. Take the Cinder Road exit and follow BLM signs to the parking area. A short hike gets one to the cliffs. The rock is solid basalt, some of which is water polished.

The area is noted for vertical cracks and roof problems. Large gas pockets provide some interesting climbing as do exposed traverses on jugs and vertical ledges. Down canyon are boulders with some difficult problems. Large chocks and long slings are needed for most top rope anchors.

The "Wagonwheel" boulder field offers climbing on knobs, thin edges, and narrow cracks. Mantles, laybacks, and face climbing are featured here. This is a designated BLM dirt biking area, but contrary to being a disturbance, the bikers often provide an admiring audience.

This area is located on the Trona/Red Mountain Road, which connects US 395 with Highway 178, about ten miles southeast of Ridgecrest. Camping is good with magnificent views. It also enjoys breezy sunshine when it is storming elsewhere. □

ICICLE CREEK CANYON

WASHINGTON'S BEST-KEPT SECRET BY JEFF SMOOT

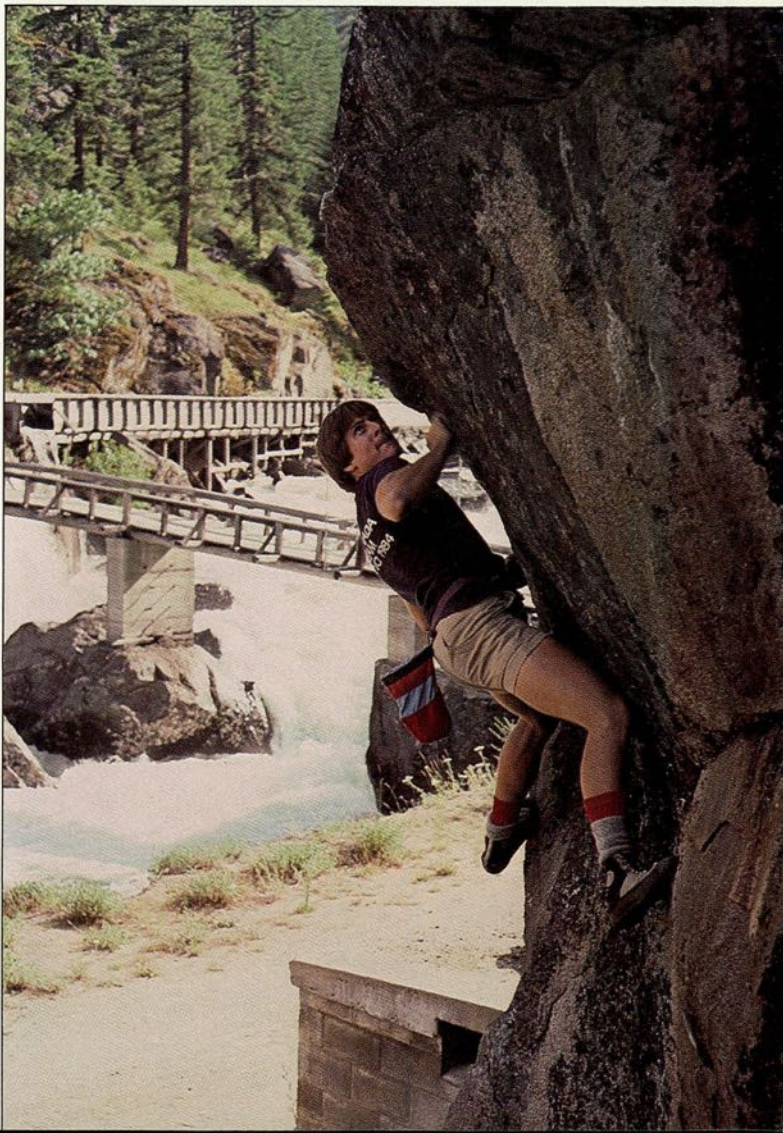
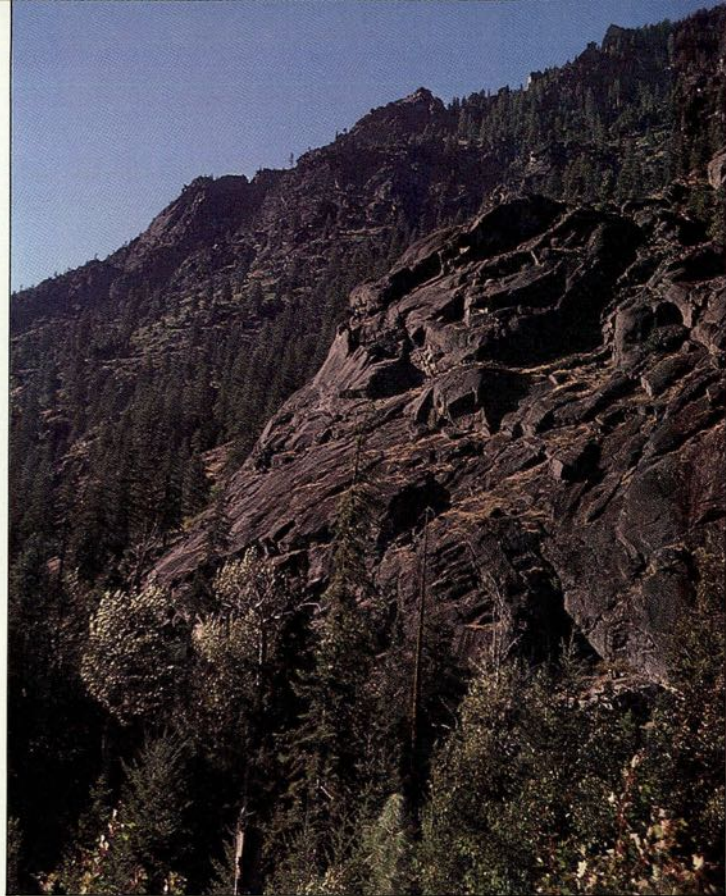
On a particularly blustery December day several years ago, two friends of mine were driving along U.S. Highway 2 through the Tumwater Canyon toward Leavenworth, in a vain search for climbable ice. Unable to locate anything promising, and not wanting to return to Seattle having done nothing, they decided to head up the Icicle Creek Canyon road and see what might lie there. They, like many others, had no idea what they would find in the Icicle. They were very surprised to discover one of the more significant climbing areas in the Pacific Northwest.

Every year someone "discovers" the Icicle Creek Canyon in one manner or another. Many beginning climbers are brought here for instruction; once introduced, they often return to test themselves against the wide array of rock climbs ranging from the easier slabs of Mountaineer's Buttress to the wildly overhanging cracks of Givler Dome. Local climbers put much effort into the hardest routes here, especially when other popular crags are too crowded, as they so often are on weekends. There is always solitude within the Icicle, if you know where to look.

An evening of bouldering or top-roping in the canyon, after a day's climbing, is a popular way of winding down. Climbers gather in various places about the canyon, drawn by the climbs, the solitude, or by the company of others. But the Icicle is not merely a place to waste the afternoon hours in idle pursuits! Dozens of new routes are done here each season, and for the most part go unrecorded.

It is not uncommon to establish a bold "new" route, only to find a fixed pin or a sling at the top of the line. There are routes seemingly everywhere, yet despite the proliferation of lines, the canyon's vast potential has gone virtually

Top Right: Icicle Buttress, with Eightmile Buttress behind. Bottom Right: Mike Jakubal on a boulder problem near the Snow Creek parking lot. Photos: Jeff Smoot.



untouched. Many know of Givler's Dome and Classic Crack, but few have heard of Careno Crag or Memorial Buttress. Why? Who can say? Many tremendous cliffs have lines promising magnificence and difficulty to rival nearby Castle Rock — yet even the locals, who in any other area would have done hundreds of routes on these fine cliffs, have hardly begun to explore them.

Perhaps it is because there is no guidebook to the Icicle. Long regarded as a practice area, only recently has the Icicle been taken seriously as the magnificent area it is. Thus, the need for a guide has only just been realized. As for who will publish this guide, no one is certain. He would be breaking a longstanding tradition by doing so — but would hopefully encourage an explosion in the canyon, where there is much to be done.

Maybe it is the lichen or the dirty cracks which keep the Icicle hidden from the climbing community. But once unearthed, the climbs in the canyon are among the finest and hardest in Washington. At Index, climbers almost enjoy route cleaning, in a perverse sort of way. Why not in the Icicle? Certainly there is enough here to motivate any climber to grab his trowel and wire brushes and head for the rocks!

Another excuse, and a poor one really, is the fact that most of the crags in the Icicle require a tedious approach, something that few climbers seem willing to undertake without a substantial reward. However, upon seeing these walls, slabs and spires, few would argue that the reward is not substantial.

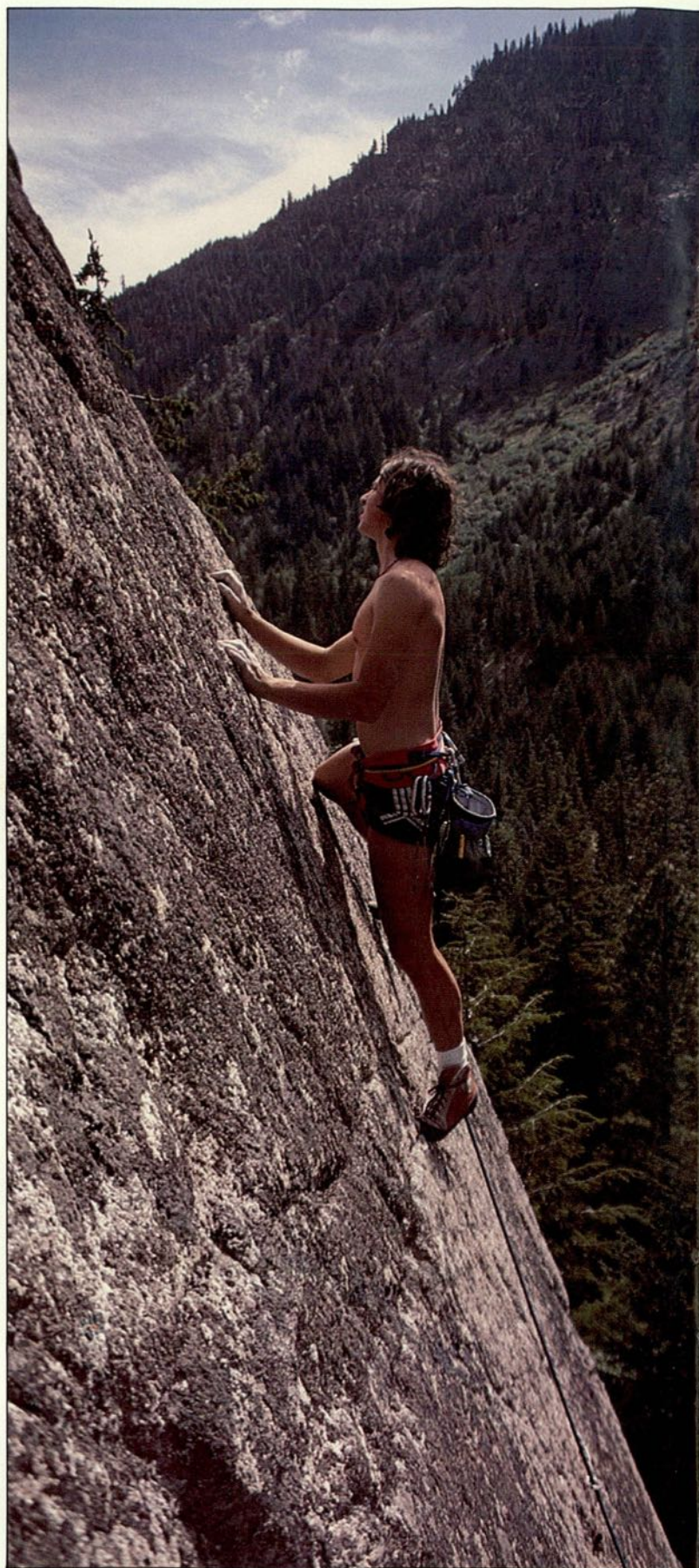
Even the laziest of climbers should be sufficiently inspired to attempt dozens of new routes. Perhaps this attitude would change with the publication of a guide — perhaps not. Some remain firmly opposed to the printing of a guide to the Icicle, hoping that the canyon will remain a secret for each individual to rediscover in his own time — and perhaps they are right. Time will tell.

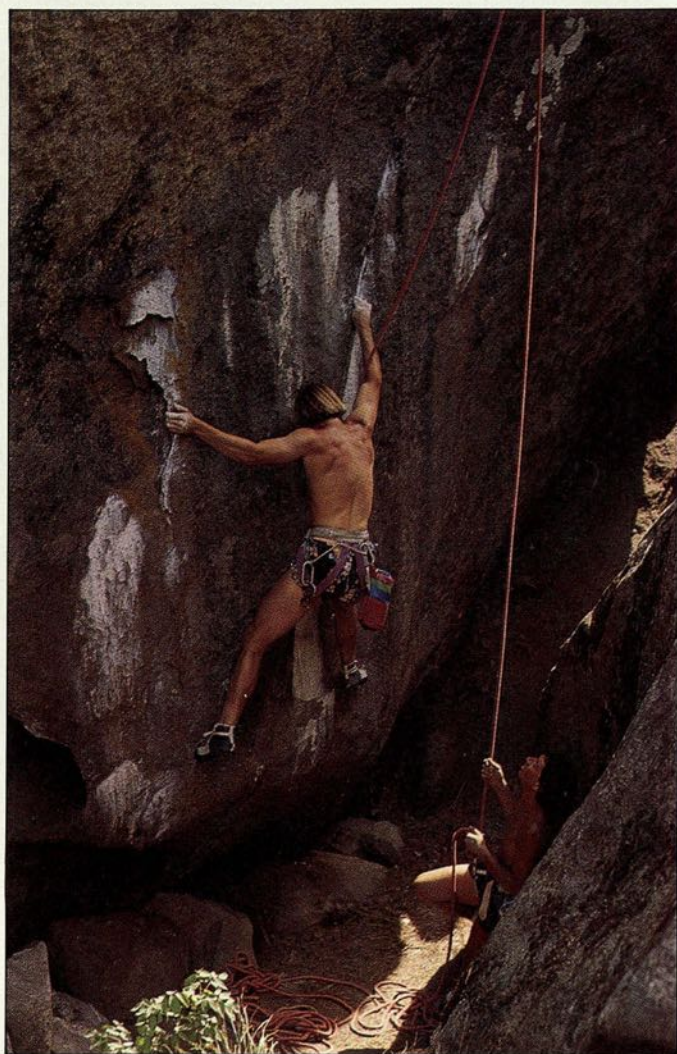
Classic Crack and Givler's Dome are among the best known climbs in the canyon. This is partly due to agreement upon the names of these formations and routes. Some climbs in the Icicle are known by three or more names, which leads to some confusion among climbers when trying to describe a route or cliff. For instance, the popular and well-concealed Air Roof was supposedly called Floatation Baby by the first ascent party. Later it became Floatation Overhang; the latest deviation has become the most popular. Another example is Z-Crack, also known as Zig-Zag, The Mark of Zorro, etc. Hopefully a guide would take the proper measures to end this nightmare, re-establishing the original names of formations and routes.

Whatever the rocks may be called, the climbing remains superb.

The climbing in the Icicle is very diverse. There are numerous routes ranging from boulder problems and top-rope routes to single and multi-pitch climbs of seven pitches and more. There are numerous walls hundreds of feet high with perhaps only one route recorded on them — multitudes of cracks and slabs awaiting discovery — entire crags of Eldorado scale awaiting their first ascent!

The rock in the Icicle Canyon is a granodiorite of the



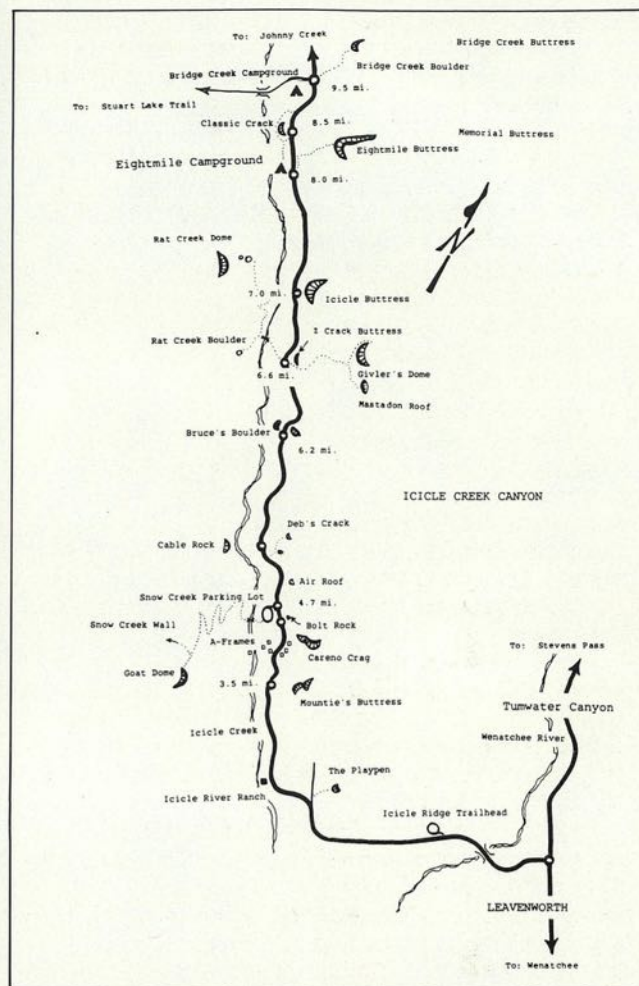


Left: Nicola Masciandaro on the Bridge Creek slab route (5.7). Above: A Slice of Pie (5.11 +), a secluded toprope problem near Bruce's Boulder. Photos: Jeff Smoot.

Stuart Batholith which forms the entire Stuart Range, although it doesn't seem nearly as clean as the rock at higher elevations. Some have compared the canyon's rock to the quartz monzonite found in Joshua Tree, and in some cases this comparison is somewhat justified, as the rock is usually very rough — making for excellent friction where slabs can be found. Due to abundant fracturing, most of the climbing in the Icicle is crack climbing, with a few exceptions.

The weather in the Leavenworth area is fairly reliable, making the area popular with Seattle climbers as well as locals from early spring until late fall. Even when it is raining in Seattle, the canyon is a pleasant and even sunny place to climb, although it tends to be on the hot side during the summer months. The winter months are usually cold enough to freeze several of the small waterfalls in the Icicle, providing good technical ice practice. Rarely is it warm enough in January to rock climb in the canyon.

The Icicle has long been the gateway to the higher peaks of the Stuart Range, such as Mount Stuart, Dragontail

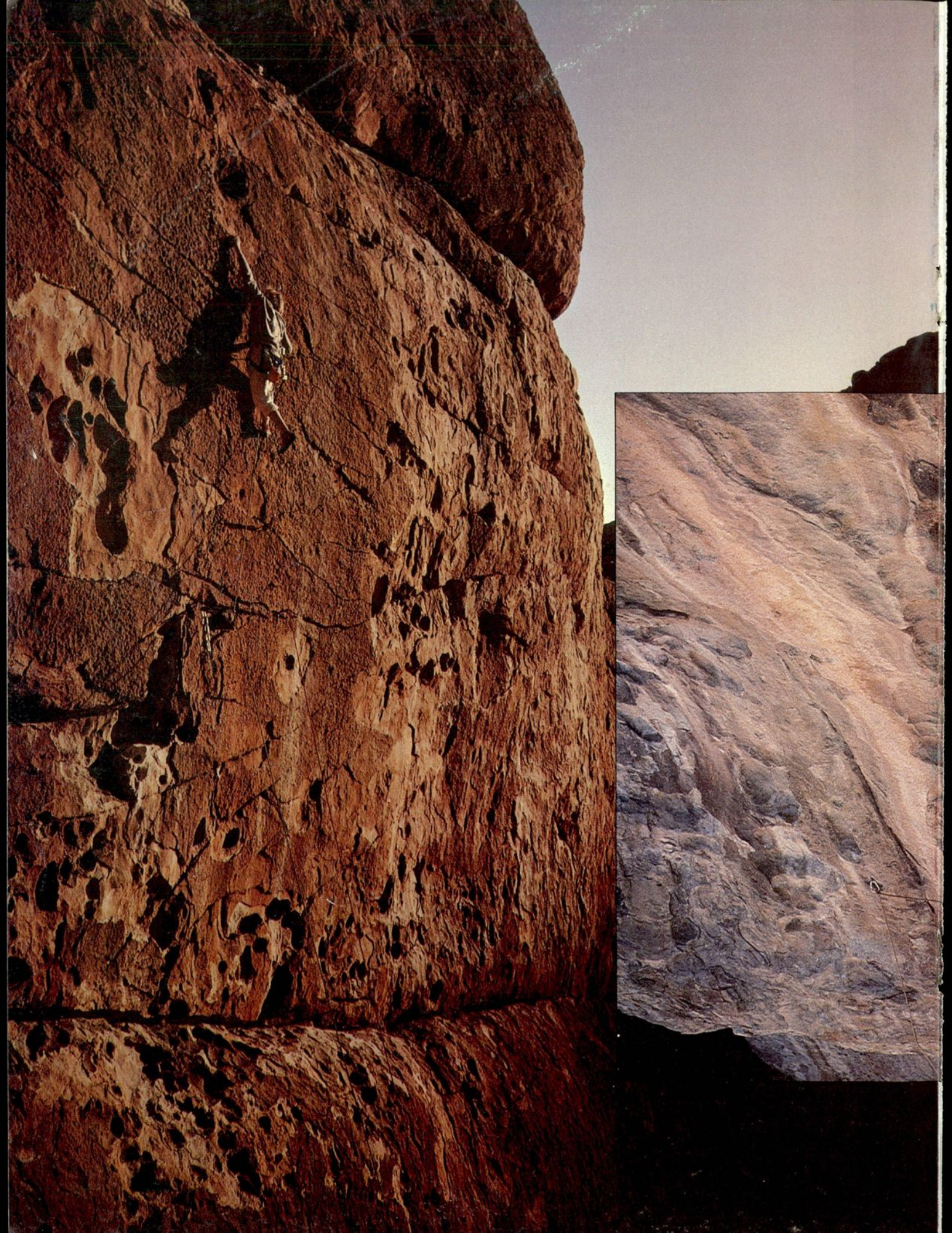


Peak, and the fabulous Enchantment Lakes area. Climbers enroute to these higher places have not, however, ignored the Icicle.

Fred Beckey's vintage guidebook to Leavenworth makes note of a "difficult lieback crack" near the Stuart Lake trailhead. This supposed lieback turns out to be Classic Crack, the popular jam crack at Eightmile Campground. The early author and his contemporaries were apparently not well acquainted with modern jamming technique! The crack is, however, a difficult lieback.

Early pioneers, especially those of the Madsen generation, practically had the entire canyon to themselves. These climbers established a few climbs in the Icicle, but usually let their efforts fade into obscurity, only to have them rediscovered by later climbers, who in turn have established their own climbs. But, unlike the early climbers in the canyon, modern rock climbers have begun to record their routes. And the canyon is slowly gaining the recognition it duly deserves.

It is only a matter of time before the Icicle experiences a climbing boom. The canyon has played an integral part in Washington's climbing past — it will no doubt play an important role in the future of Washington climbing as well.



Hueco Tanks

A Texas Fantasy • by Dave Head



Todd Skinner on Gecko Master (5.11); Lizard King (5.11-) takes the line of huecos to the right. Photo: John Sherman. Above: Fred Nakovic on Optical Promise (5.11+). Photo: Dave Head.

Everyone knows there isn't any climbing in Texas — or so everyone thought. But that was back in the old days, when Texas climbers were something of a novelty. How could there be any climbers from Texas when there isn't anything to climb down there?

Unbelievable as it may seem there *is* climbing in Texas, and the sport is alive and doing well in the state. Way out in West Texas, where the horned toads are as big as jack rabbits and rattlesnakes could swallow a whole cow, stands an oasis in the desert, Hueco Tanks.

Like a gift from heaven, the area must have been sent to save Texas climbers from the frustration of having nothing to climb. Hueco Tanks State Historical Park is located approximately 32 miles east of El Paso off U.S. Highway 62/180 (the El Paso to Carlsbad Highway) on Ranch Road 2775 in El Paso County. Approximately 860 acres in size, the park contains many rock passages and narrow canyons in which the climbing is concentrated.

The rock is syenite porphyry, which occurred as an igneous intrusion into an older sedimentary rock that surrounds it; this intrusive event happened about 34 million years ago. The older sedimentary rock eroded away, exposing the 350 foot tops of the intrusion as buttresses of premium rock. The outer surface has been hardened with a desert varnish, giving the rock a black to reddish-brown color. This desert varnish, called "iron rock" by the locals, provides excellent, iron-hard climbing holds. Another distinguishing feature of the rock is the presence of *huecos* (Spanish for hollow or empty), which pit the faces of the rocks. Geologists believe that these huecos were carved in the rock by wind-blown sand, and their presence gives the rock a peculiar appearance that provides amazing rock climbs in incredible holds.

Hueco Tanks is well known for the Indian rock art scattered throughout the park. Archeologists believe that primitive man inhabited the area some 10,000 years ago, hunting the now-extinct Mastadon. The passage of time brought other desert dwellers to the area, and most of these groups developed primitive agriculture or hunted small game, leaving behind some of the most distinctive rock art in the area.

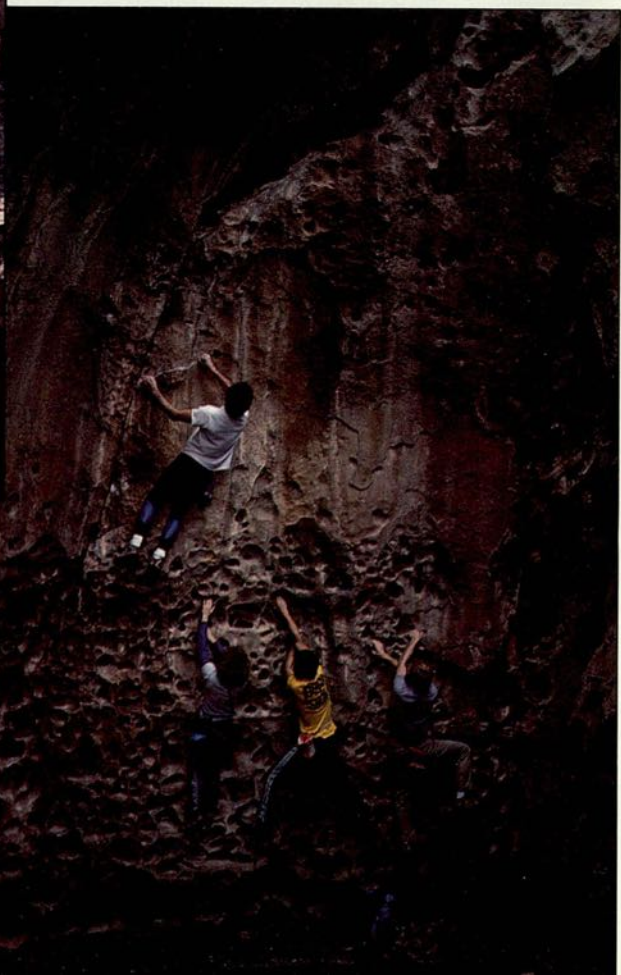
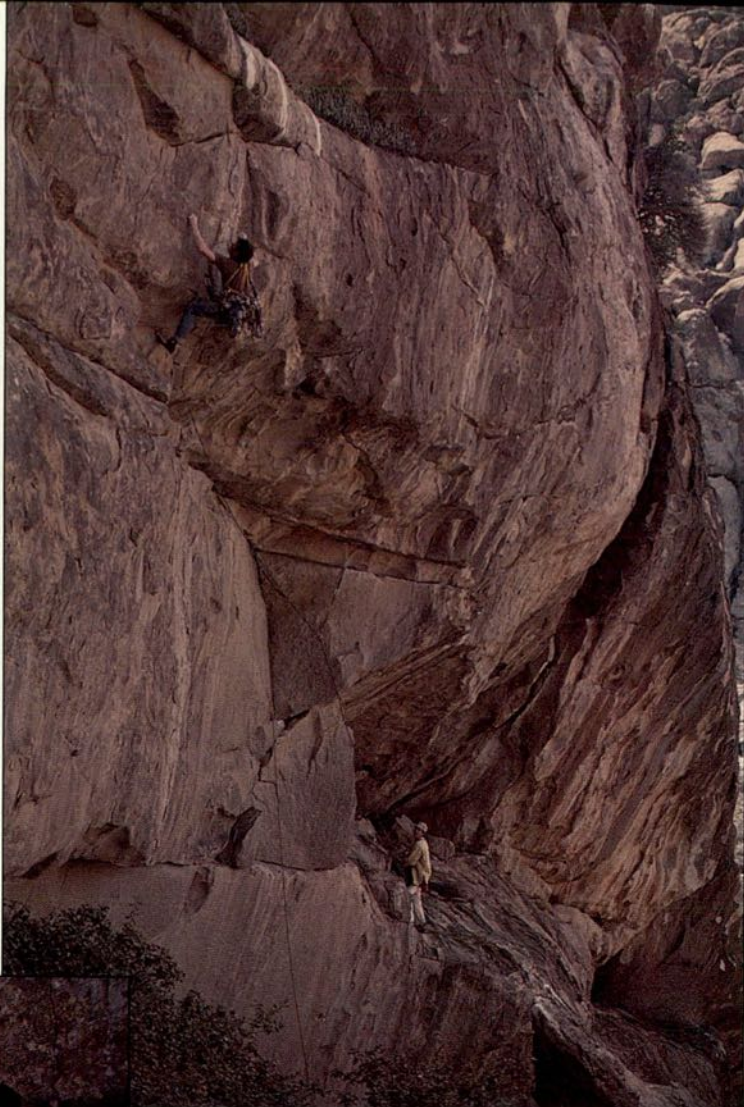
Hueco Tanks was designated a State Park in 1969, but climbers have visited the area since the 1950s. It is rumored that Royal Robbins was stationed at Fort Bliss in the 1950s, and some of the early unexplained bolts have been attributed to his presence. The State Park Service discouraged technical climbing in the park until the mid-1970s, warning that the rock was too loose. This has since proven to be false, and it wasn't until the late 1970s that the majority of the obvious routes began to be established.

Climbing at Hueco Tanks can be deceptive at times, with seemingly impossible faces going at moderate levels. North Mountain has the longest routes in the park (1-3 pitches); most of these are steep and spectacular face climbs, making this the most popular mountain in the park.

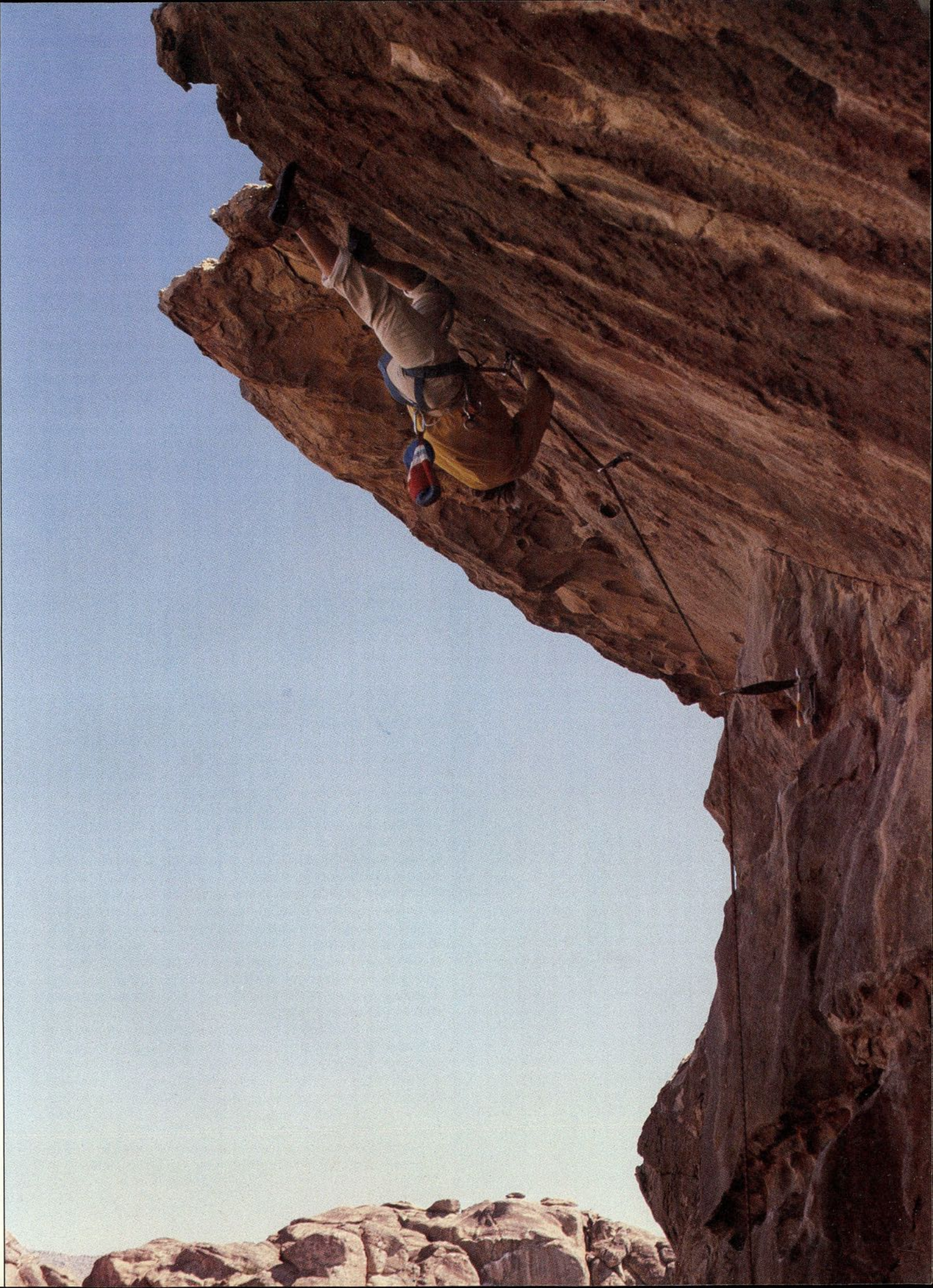
However, the majority of the area is composed of jumbles of large boulders and obscure and hidden walls 40 to 150 feet in height scattered throughout the park. The lesser crags contain an amazing number of vertical and overhanging climbs, with anything from 40 foot roof cracks to 150 foot overhanging bucket routes. Although Hueco Tanks has numerous roped climbs, here are also an unlimited number of boulder problems to choose from, and many visiting climbers do nothing but boulder for weeks on end. It is, quite literally, a boulderer's paradise.

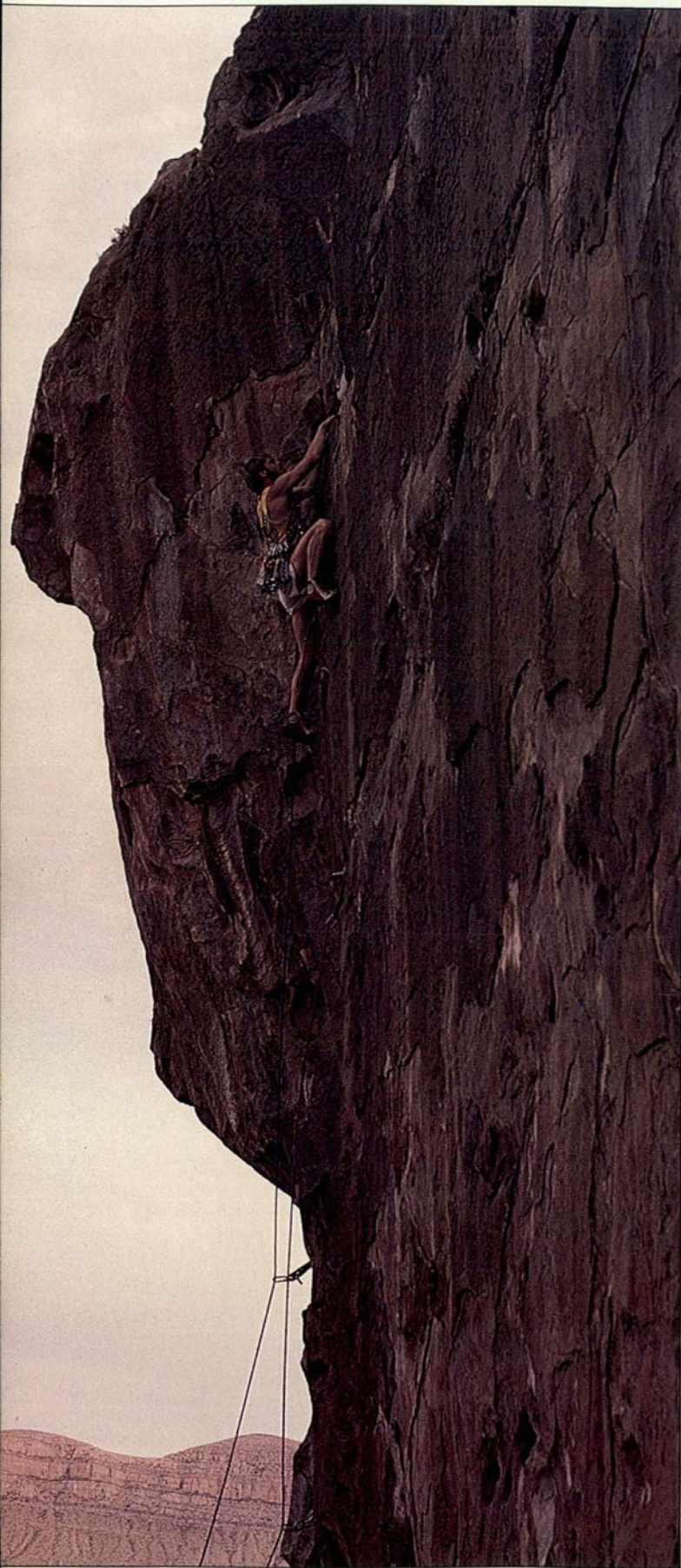
A few minutes' stroll from the parking lot along flat, manicured trails will bring one to the base of most climbs, and the only difficulty encountered is finding your way through the many mazes and corridors to a particular climb. Much of this guesswork has been eliminated with recent publication of a guidebook to the area. (See review in this issue. — *Ed.*)

Hueco Tanks is located in the northern part of the Chihuahuan Desert, and the weather is very mild all year



Above: Skinner bouldering Obscured by Clouds (5.11-). Top Right: Mike and Dave Head on The Wild, Wild West (5.12-) on the Doldrums Wall; Central Latitudes (5.11+) climbs the bulging white wall above the belayer, while Horse Latitudes (5.11) climbs takes the overhanging crack behind. Bottom Right: The difficult-to-find Round Room; 75 feet in circumference, this unique bouldering situation lends itself well to pursuit races and time trials. Far Right: Skinner on Biko Roof (5.12). Photos: John Sherman.





Paul Pomeroy Jr. on Texas Radio (5.10-).
Photo: John Sherman.

round. The low humidity makes it possible to climb even on a hot 105° summer day, as long as you pick a route in the shade. Desert temperatures typically vary greatly between day and night, with a 20° to 40° difference being normal. Many find the summers too hot for their liking, although locals claim that judicious siestas, early starts and late finishes make climbing possible on even the hottest days. Fall is the best time to climb here, with fairly long days and moderate temperatures. It hardly ever rains in the fall, so sunny pleasant temperatures from 70° to 90° are normal. Winters can be characterized as mild; however, you should be prepared for anything, as it could be sunny and 80° one day and blowing snow the next. Generally, as long as the sun is out it is possible to climb no matter what the temperature is, due to the numerous sheltered and sunny areas. Unfortunately, spring can be the worst time of year, mainly due to the horrendous dust storms that seem to blow for weeks. The weather is basically unstable and winds gusty. Nevertheless, for the most part, Hueco Tanks is a year-round place to climb.

Hueco Tanks is a State Park, maintained by the State of Texas, and a fee of \$2 per car per day is charged to enter the park. An annual permit is available for \$8, allowing unlimited entry to the park for one year. In addition to the entrance fee, there is a camping fee of \$6 per night per campsite, with a limit of 10 people per campsite. Clean restrooms, hot showers, picnic tables with a shelter covering, water and electricity are all included in this fee.

Being a State Park, the area falls under the rules and the regulations of the State. Climbers visiting the area should take notice of these rules, as they are strictly enforced and an unsuspecting visitor could be kicked out of the park or even worse, find himself in the county jail. Two rules that climbers in particular should be aware of are that no alcoholic beverages are allowed in the park, and that the placement of pitons and bolts is prohibited.

Climbers should also be aware that Hueco Tanks is a historical park, and that, in the Park Service view, any recreational activities are purely secondary. This is an unfortunate viewpoint which has hindered climbing in the park, most notably in regard to the replacement of bad bolts. Hopefully this will change some day, but in the meantime a few suggestions may be helpful. Please pick up any litter that you may encounter. Spray painting the rock is a major problem, and anyone doing so should be reported to a ranger. Climbers should be aware of the Indian rock art; there are many of these pictographs around certain boulder problems and you should be careful not to destroy them by careless foot or hand placement. It is up to the climbers visiting here to maintain a good relationship with the Park Service.

A guide book covering most of the major routes and bouldering in the area is now available, either locally or through Yahoo Publications, 4207 Prickley Pear, Austin, Texas 78731. Other information on the park may be obtained by writing or calling Hueco Tanks State Historical Park, Hueco Tanks Road, RR 3, Box 1, El Paso, Texas 79935; (915) 859-4100.

But then, why would anyone want to come to Hueco Tanks? Everyone knows that there isn't any climbing in Texas. □

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What is "Wicking" anyway?

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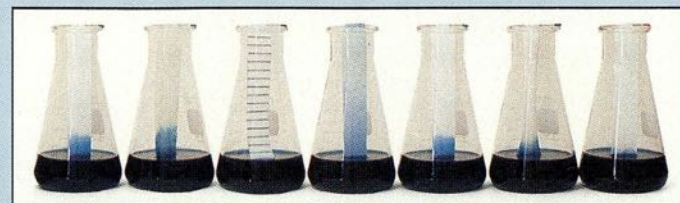
Normally polyester is a water-hating, or hydrophobic, fiber. The surface of each Capilene fiber has been permanently altered to become water-loving, or hydrophilic. Thus, each Capilene fiber has a thin skin that absorbs moisture while

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The wickability of Capilene . . .

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Betamax

by Neil Cannon

"Once the sequence is known throughout the land evvvvvvvvverybody will do it"

(Hugh Herr after narrowly escaping death.)

"Ya just bone into da Sawicky, hit da piss, pinch da wrinkle, and dyno for da vista cresta. It's in da hole."

(Jack Malesky, letting the sequence be known.)

From the Shawangunks, land of climbing innovation, comes Betamax, the language of route description so specific that it cannot be distinguished from the routes themselves.

"Yeah, Sudden Death, it's out there. You scum out on this sloper then make these bicepian power moves to da hang and get these bad RP opps and a T-Bone in some over-kiln. From there you bone to da volcanic board and match. Tweek moves left, and hit a shoulder scum. Miss and you're talus food." (Jerrry.)

"Place in the preform, and it's airfall" (Gottaliev.)

"Hiiiiideous chiropractic tweek. Haaave it Mo. Pump it to the sky." (Clone.)

"Be the buck." (Otis Freedman, Mayor of the Shawangunks.)

What are these people talking about?

Try this one:

"Slap, melon, slope, match, place, heelhook, pinch, Sawicky, undercling, undercling, five RP, four RP, double kneebar, lever, single kneebar, shake out, three Rock, two Friend, edge, stack, stack, beef" That's forty feet of climbing with no prepositions. I'm all for being terse, but what happened to the rest of the English language? Did this guy take one too many head-first screamers?

No. In fact, a climber confronted with the route described above would find this *petit deja vu* more conducive to success than turning over his diet planning to the Ethiopian Government and trading his racquetball club membership for a Bachar ladder and snake pit.

"Climbing beyond your abilities."

"Getting in over your head."

"Sticking your neck out too far." Remember these antiquated phrases? Well, you can forget them.

"Yeah, with full Beta it's casual", says the jovial Malesky, the originator of Betamax, so named after a popular video recorder made by Sony.

"Ahh, dat's it Granny. Little more body English and you hit da piss. Dyno for da buck and womb-out at da rest." Malesky gives quiet encouragement to one of a busload of senior citizens from Paramus, New Jersey, who have come to attempt some of the newer Shawangunk 5.12's. Granny, or Cynthia Wienstein, age 74, is a widow. After her husband died she moved from Southern California, and became a Shawangunks regular. She is fluent in Betamax. Following Jack's instructions with precision she pulls the crux easily.

"Casual, I can't believe Moffat failed on this. Noway it's twelve-a. It's just no way as hard as Objective Z", she exclaims, mantling onto the belay. Objective Z is a Shawangunks neoclassic that required many attempts before the Betamax was worked out. Interestingly, the direct start to Objective, Infantive, was seiged over a period of days by a group of linguists using a thesaurus. The local consensus is that the newer variation (Infantive) was climbed in very poor style.

Cynthia readies the belay and brings up her partner, Guido Cavilletti, age 81. He takes a fall nearing the crux.

"Pops, ya had it in da bag. Just match on da wrinkle and ya got beef." Jack advises.

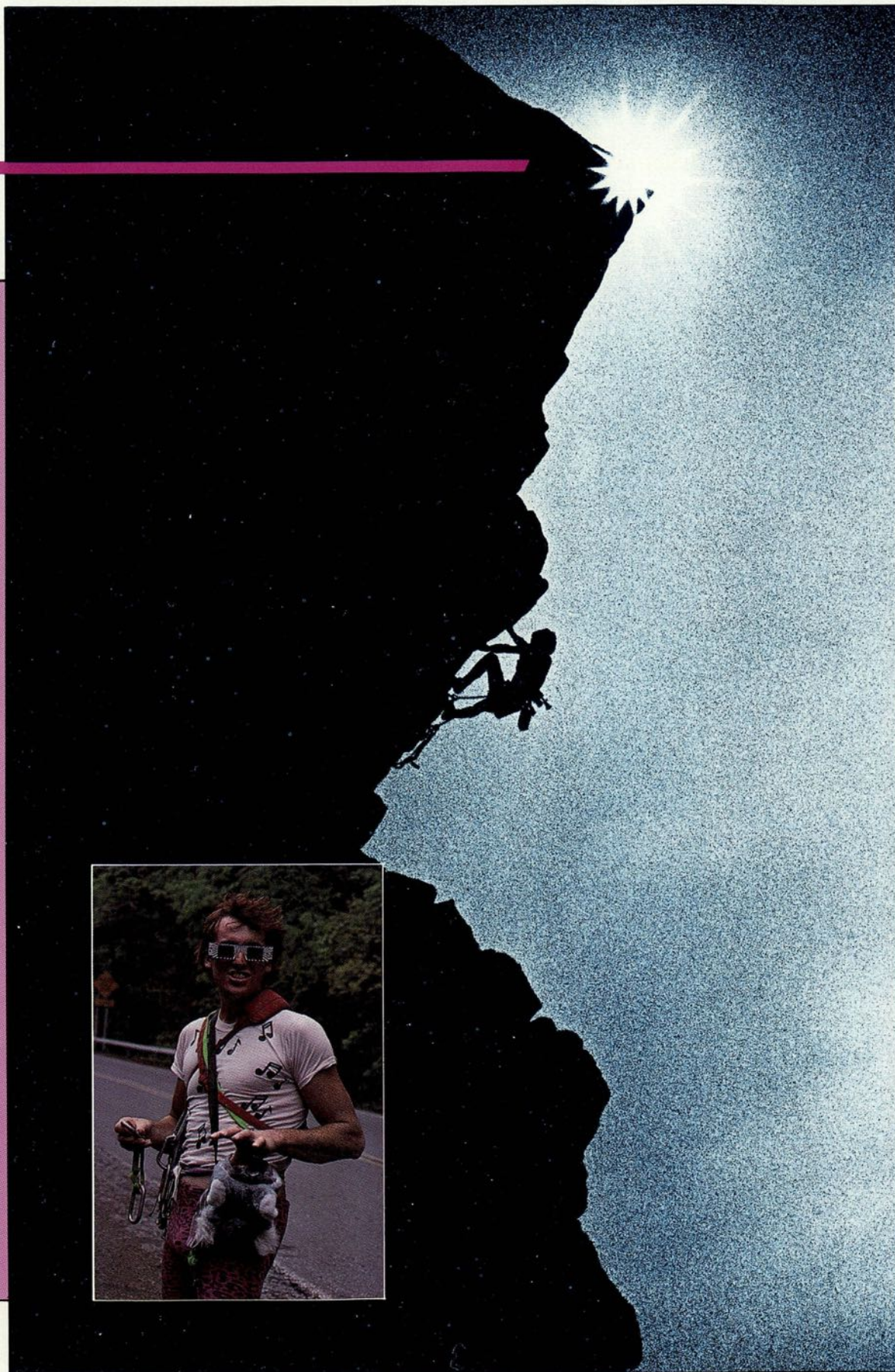
"I know. I know. It's been like this all week. She floats. I flail. I gotta get new batteries for this hearing aid."

Malesky is currently working on a series of cassette tapes titled "50,000 Shawangunks Cruxes". He expects to have them out by next fall.

"Yeah, a set a dese and a Walkman'll make de old Guidebook obsolete. Dese are somada most incomparable classic cruxes out Dere", muses Malesky.

Indeed they are, Jack. Indeed they are.

Hugh Herr on the 2nd pitch of Cinnamon Girl. Inset: Australian Mike Law. Photos: Tony Herr, Russ Clune.



Burn & Rage

—The first of two essays
—on climbers and age
———by Barry Greer

He stood in my office door wearing his mountain best: three-quarter shank Pivettas, wool pants with red suspenders, plaid lumberjack shirt, beard and perpetual grin of good cheer. He had stopped by to pick up the report he wrote the previous term. We chatted for a moment, not about the report but about mountains, about his heading for Adams to ski during winter vacation, about his wanting to go to Alaska before he was 40, and had a wife, kids, and blown knees.

I laughed in his 21-year-old face. Rude, yes, but I'm pushing 40, both my knees have been blown, I've had cancer, a laundry list of injuries, and somehow I still chug up a scree slope faster than the average pedestrian. This student of mine had stumbled over age bias, over the irrational fear of growing old, as if once over 35 or 40 all serious physical activity, including mountain climbing, from bouldering to Alpinism, had to cease.

Physical changes do come when the years add up, but much of what is *supposed* to happen to older climbers is just that — supposition, cemented in place by the myth of youth.

The myth of youth is based on an assumption that youth and success go hand in hand, as if intellectual and emotional maturity gained through years of experience are not part of any rags-to-riches, anonymity-to-fame story. The influence of this myth is easiest to see in sports. Baseball players, for instance, work up through the farm system right after high school or college. If they don't make the majors by their mid-20s, their chances get slimmer and dimmer each year closer to 30. An old man in the majors is 35 pushing 40. By 40, if not before, a player gets nudged into retirement or into the role of player-coach as Pete Rose was recently.

The myth of physical accomplishment ending at the mid-30s and early 40s is reinforced by excessive awe given to those who have the audacity to compete when they are supposed to be over-the-hill. Sports announcers fell all over themselves with amazement when 37-year-old Carlos Lopes won the 1984 Olympic marathon in record time at 2:09:26. They forgot that a few years back 41-year-old New Zealander Jack Foster ran a 2:11:18 Olympic marathon. At age 44, Foster finished the Olympic run 17th in a field of 67.

Sports writers still marvel when they mention Hoyt

Wilhelm, who pitched major league baseball at 49, George Blanda, who was an NFL quarterback and place kicker at 50, or Gordie Howe, who, at 50, played NHL hockey with his sons.

The mountaineering world has the same mythic, myopic view of age. The career progression of a professional climber appears similar to that of any other professional athlete. Climbers work up through the farm system of local crags, then attract the attention of scouts and sponsors by putting up a first or two or more, then moving on to big time routes anywhere from Patagonia to the Karakoram. If this theoretical normal progression is followed, the career climber hits the top of his profession in his early to mid-30s, with five years to spare before the inevitable blown knees. Certainly by 40 or 45, with his major achievements behind him, the pro climber becomes the player-coach, running a climbing school or guide service, planning and leading expeditions, or, for the best-known of the best, marketing a clothing and equipment line.

When this myth is challenged, the young tigers like my student friend run to the history books. They mention that Edward Whymper was 25 when he won the Matterhorn race, that Maurice Herzog, at 31, was the old man on the 1950 French Annapurna expedition, that Andre Heckmair was 32 when he led the first Eigernordwand ascent in 1938, that Edmund Hillary was 34, at the peak of his career, when he stepped atop Everest that day in May 1953. The point is rammed home by stating that most high-standard climbers these days are in their 30s, 20s, or even younger, a fact that the great H.W. Tilman, even in his day, had sense enough to realize when he was well past his prime for high altitude mountaineering in the Himalayas.

Oddly, Tilman, though he appears to admit recognition of age, as usual does so with a wry smile. In *Nanda Devi*, he observes "that the age limit for high climbing, previously put at 35, seems to have expanded, for our party was of all ages from 21 to over 50, but I do not want to imply that either of the extremes is the best." Tilman knew enough not to judge by age, and he also felt the Himalayas were getting a bit crowded when he decided to "retire."

The age bias Tilman alludes to still exists, of course. Arlene Blum is more blunt than Tilman about it in her book on the 1978 American Women's Himalayan Expedition to Annapurna I. Blum mentions that three of the climbers were in their 40s "and Joan Firey would celebrate her 50th birthday on the mountain." Blum then raps age bias square in the nose. "The conventional wisdom is that expedition climbers are at their prime in their 30s. But this does not allow for the experience, tolerance and steadiness that often come with age and which more than compensate for a small decrease in physical strength."

The answer my 21-year-old friend might use in reply is

that the loss is more than "a small decrease." Old people, like Blum, who is now pushing 40 herself, are just denying the inevitable. Without a doubt, just ordinary slogging up an established route takes a truck load of energy. A Portland, Oregon, Mountain Rescue pamphlet on energy and respiratory requirements in aerobic mountaineering, written by Steven Boyd, M.D. and mountaineer, estimates that climbing Mt. Hood (11,235 ft.) from Timberline Lodge (6,000 ft.) is equivalent to running a marathon. A 130-pound person would burn 2,500 calories. Another climber, Richard Mitchell, in *Mountain Experience*, calculates that on "a normal weekend a typical Sierra Club mountaineer will perform over one million foot-pounds of work in carrying his or her backpack to camp and climbing to the summit."

Imagine the amount of work done on the Eigerwand or the Lhotse Face. Mountaineering from scree running to 5.14 fingernail cracks takes strength, energy and endurance, as any climber knows. No argument there.

But no conclusive proof exists that age has as much to do with capacity to work hard as the myth of youth supposes. Age categories, such as "youth" or "middle-age," are social categories in the first place and are not some inevitable line drawn in the life cycle. Today youth, tomorrow potbelly. In short, age is more a result of stereotyping than a physiological fact of life. People get "old" all too often because they *think* they are old. At 35, a person is supposed to turn into a pud with flab hanging over his belt, so at 35 that person sits down in front of the tube with beer and buttered popcorn to grow a gut and to avoid social ostracism.

Beyond social expectation, the facts of physical fitness deny the myth. In general, writes Dr. Richard Kenney, chair of the George Washington University Department of Physiology, in *Physiology of Aging*, older people are less "able to adapt to continued stress than the young person. This is seen in acclimatization to high temperatures and to high altitudes ..." In general. At the same time, as physiologists and most climbers know, no direct relationship exists between a certain age and ability to acclimatize. A tragic example of this unpredictable factor was the death of Nanda Devi Unsoeld, who died in 1976 after being at high altitude for several days. The direct cause of her death was never established, but altitude sickness may have had something to do with it. With the 22-year-old woman on the climb was her 50-year-old father, Willi Unsoeld.

At any age, the key to climbing well is keeping fit, maintaining the ability to use oxygen efficiently whatever the individual quirks are at altitude. In plain English, at any altitude, a 50-year-old can be in better shape than a 20-year-old who sits around drinking beer and eating popcorn.

Arlene Blum is right, then. Being over 35 does cause a slight decrease in general physical strength, but how fast a climber grows "old" depends a great deal on how fast the climber wants to grow old and allows the world to make him feel old. That social pressure often causes a lot of nervous, self-conscious looking-back-over-the-shoulder in the mountaineering community, a nervousness evident in more than one *American Alpine Journal* article.

In a 1980 *AAJ* article, Jim Bridwell decried his phenomenal ascent of Cerro Torre, but strangely did so while genuflecting to younger climbers. What Bridwell and his climbing partner, Steve Brewer, "had just done was but a premonition of how fast and well the younger climbers will

do the difficult technical routes in the future." This comment from an "old" man who covered 3,500 feet in one day, a man who survived a 40-meter fall.

Michael Kennedy, in a 1978 *AAJ* article describing climbs on Hunter and Foraker, mentions that George Lowe "tried to inject a note of seriousness into the proceedings by playing the elder statesman, veteran of many harsh epics in the ranges of the world . . . after all, he was over 30 . . . (Kennedy's emphasis)." Though the tone of the remark is tongue-in-cheek, Lowe seemed self-conscious about his age by inference.

In a 1975 *AAJ* article on the Southeast Face of Mount Dickey, David Roberts concludes, tongue firmly in cheek but a bit self-consciously, that he, Ed Ward and Galen Rowell were over-the-hill: "we tended to congratulate ourselves just for getting out every summer; let alone meddling with a big Alaskan wall." Ward was 30, Roberts 31, and Rowell ancient at 34.

That nervous, self-conscious humor about being over 30, from either side of the social watershed, that genuflection toward the rising adolescent superclimbers running up blank walls barefoot, can lead to neurotic paranoia rather than friendly competition. "They eat you alive out there, once you've done something good," whines a panicked Victor Koch in David Roberts' fiction piece *Like Wind and Water*, "The 17-year-olds sit there at Devil's Lake waiting for you to take too long on a 5.9 move, or grab a sling, and they talk all afternoon about it."

Competition in climbing circles, especially among the young, can have a deadly fierceness about it when virility is at stake, but how competition is handled by older climbers, whether gracefully or with fear and self-loathing, is dependent upon emotional maturity. If an older climber tries to remain mentally an adolescent to continue competing with adolescents, that climber will end up in a rubber room with a tranquilizer brain belay.

Jim Bridwell was in his mid-30s when he did his impressive two-day 1979 ascent of Cerro Torre. But such high-standard climbing at that age certainly does not have to mark the apex of a career curve for a Bridwell, a Hillary, or for any other climber, and certainly does not have to mark the end of a vigorous life in the mountains. No climber need look back over his shoulder at 17-year-olds.

In 1952, 38-year-old Tenzing Norgay pushed to within 800 feet of Everest's summit with another man pushing 40, 38-year-old Raymond Lambert. The next year Norgay went to the summit with Hillary. At age 38, Tilman climbed Nanda Devi; at age 40, he went even higher, climbing to 27,200 on Everest without oxygen. At age 40, Edward Whymper made seven first ascents of major Andean peaks, including Chimborazo.

Mountaineering history is saturated with examples of people who ignored the myth of youth. At 56, William Hunter Workman climbed Pyramid Peak in the Karakoram. He and Fanny Workman did much of the initial exploration of that mountain region, but they were no aberration, no freaks attempting to defy the laws of nature and aging. The Workmans were precursors of such creaking old climbing fools as Albert MacCarthy, Norman Read, and John Salathe.

Salathe was in his 40s when he began his legendary climbs in Yosemite. He was 51 at the time of his Sentinel climb.

Albert MacCarthy was 50 in 1925 when he slogged

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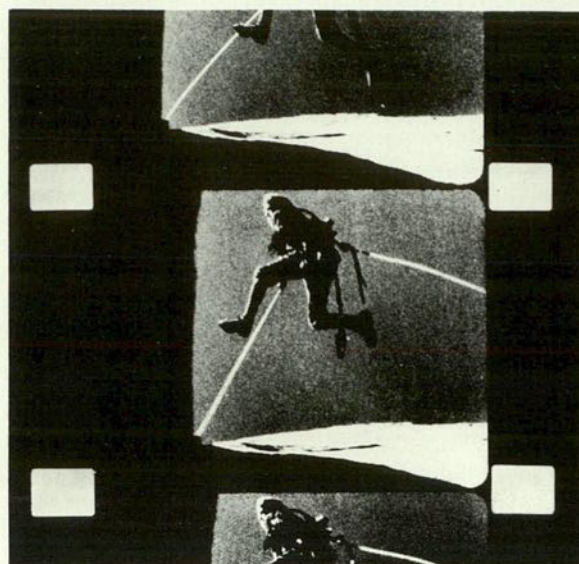
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across the huge summit plateau of Mt. Logan to complete the first ascent. With MacCarthy was young Norman Read, then at the tender age of 35. The next year, MacCarthy went to the Alps on a peak-bagging binge, making 100 ascents in 63 days. Young Norman, at age 60, made the second ascent of Logan in 1950 as part of a two-man team.

In 1963, at the tender age of 33, Walter Bonatti tried a solo of the Eigernordwand. He retreated off the face after being hit by stone fall, which broke one of his ribs, but the harping, gagging gossips of the European climbing community pronounced the great soloist a has-been. Two years later, old man Bonatti did the first Matterhorn North Face *direttissima*, solo, in February, staying 94 hours on the wall to complete the climb in temperatures that plummeted at times to 30 below.

Ricardo Cassin, another European great who could have rested on his laurels in middle age, climbed the Cassin Ridge on Mt. McKinley at age 52 and did his third ascent of the Northeast Face of Piz Badille at age 62.

The first winter traverse of the Eiger, by the way, was completed by Swiss guides Fritz Amatter and Fritz Almer in 1934. Almer was 68 at the time.

Sixty-seven-year-old Jean Juge, president of the UIAA, was on one of four ropes to climb the Eigernordwand simultaneously in 1975. At the first of two bivouacs, Juge lost his rucksack, in which was a wool sweater, his anorak, bivy sack, and down jacket. By the time he reached the summit, he suffered severely from hypothermia, but managed to survive two days more in a snow cave until Swiss Air Rescue Service provided transportation. Irrepressible Juge climbed the Matterhorn North Face three years later. On the descent, he died the death of a mountaineer, collapsing from exhaustion; he did not die in a retirement home rocker in mid-remembrance.

With Juge on his Eiger climb was 45-year-old Yvette Vaucher, who allowed neither age nor gender to interfere with a notable climbing career. She followed in the footsteps of an older contemporary, Loulou Boulaz, who made the third ascent, the first for a woman, of the Grand Jorasses North Face with Raymond Lambert. In 1969, well into her 50s, Boulaz was on the first women's rope with the

younger Vaucher, the first to complete the Cassin Route on Piz Badile.

Vaucher and Boulaz followed a tradition that began with Henriette Angeville, who made the first unassisted woman's climb of Mont Blanc in 1838. That climb began Angeville's career in the Alps at age 44, a career that continued for another 25 years.

Among American women, Fanny Workman climbed to 23,000 feet at age 47, and Smith College professor Annie S. Peck made the first ascent of Huascaran North at age 58.

It seems strange, given these few well-known examples from climbing history, that Arlene Blum, Jim Bridwell, or any other older climber should have to consider, directly or indirectly, age bias or the myth of youth. The facts of aging among climbers and the myth of youth perpetuated by the near-sighted don't coincide. A closer look at mountaineering history zippers protection, and jerks the myth off its supposition.

These facts and more can be found in Chris Jones' *Climbing in North America*, Arthur Roth's *Eiger: Wall of Death*, Arlene Blum's *Annapurna: a Woman's Place*, H.W. Tilman's *Nanda Devi*, or J.R.L. Anderson's *The Ulysses Factor*, among others. But James Ramsey Ullman, the dean of mountaineering historians, long ago summed it up. "Individuals," he wrote in *The Age of Mountaineering*, "vary greatly in their speed and degree of acclimatization, and neither age, strength nor general physical condition proved a particularly reliable criterion of performance." Ullman concluded that mountaineering is not only for the experts, the young, or the gymnastic rock jocks. "A remarkable number of the great ascents in climbing history have been made by men well into middle-age, and self-knowledge and self-discipline have time and again proved themselves of more value than mere strength, agility or endurance. In the long run, judgment rather than muscle makes the mountaineer."

Judgment rather than muscle is the result of aging, of maturity. Some loss in muscle strength will occur, perhaps at the onset of middle-age, whenever that is, but how much loss and how fast the loss occurs depends very much on

the individual climber. It depends on how well the climber stays in shape, how determined that climber is to continue climbing in spite of social pressure to sit back in a rocker and grow fat. Arlene Blum's 1978 Annapurna team ranged in age from 20 to 49. All were tested before the climb at the Institute of Environmental Stress, University of California at Santa Barbara; all were found to be well above average in strength and endurance, and "there was no decrease in fitness with age apparent in our group — testimony to the value of regular exercise in maintaining fitness."

Climbing standards may also change slightly, may decline with age, but no one climber, even the best of the young, ever masters all climbing skills or all the great routes in a lifetime. The 1966 Harlin Direct on the Eiger required the snow and ice skills of Dougal Haston and the superb rock skills of Layton Kor. Even endurance climbing, super-slogging up the normal routes on Denali or Aconcagua, requires a mental toughness that all the technical skill in the world cannot teach or compensate for.

Age, J.R.L. Anderson surmises in *The Ulysses Factor*, has nothing to do with the urge to explore, to climb. H.W. Tilman, who did not begin his climbing career until he was in his 30s, went on to climb and explore elsewhere after leaving the Himalayas; he went on until he disappeared at sea at age 87. Persistence and curiosity carried him to the ends of the earth long after his "retirement," and he may also have been, being a literate man, aware of Tennyson's "Ulysses": "Some work of noble note, may yet be done," wrote the poet, "Not unbecoming men that strove with gods."

Without a doubt older climbers have many years in the mountains to look forward to if they remember Tennyson's advice. But I don't want to imply that being young, old, or anywhere in between is best, though I will admit a certain pleasure in laughing in the face of a biased young friend as I mention Fred Beckey, Jim Bridwell, Arlene Blum, Kurt Kiemberger, Ned Gillette, Peter Habeler, Andre Heckmair, Vera Komarkova, George Lowe, John Roskelley, Doug Scott, Julie Tullis, or Fritz Wiessner, to name a few who manage to get their creaking old bones up a hill or two now and then, gray hair, wrinkles, responsibilities, blown knees and all.

None of those climbers are history; all have gone on past the myth to works of noble note, to "burn and rave at close of day," to "rage, rage against the dying light." Which is putting it a bit strongly, but Dylan Thomas wasn't referring to alpenglow. ■

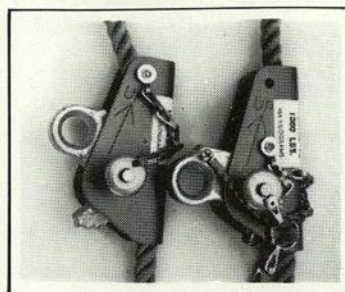


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112 11th Ave. S.E.
Calgary, Alberta

Mountain Equipment Co-op
675 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4Y 2B2

Mountain Magic Equipment
Box 1901
Box 1901
Banff, Alberta
Canada TOL OCO

Thomas Black & Sons Canada
2121 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
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EQUIPMENT

A Look at Winter Clothing Systems

by Marc Twight

I'm too cold at the belays and too hot on the sharp end: the perfect winter clothing system still doesn't exist. Nevertheless, competition is tight in this rapidly expanding market as the trend towards the Super Alpine demands more and more from both climbers and their equipment. Technical advances may change the face of the gear, but the problems and how we address them remain the same.

There are two main theories in choosing winter/expedition clothing: combining several layers of lighter clothing, or wearing a single warm garment (i.e. a down jacket). It is purely a matter of personal preference; I've subscribed to both methods on different occasions, and each has a specific application.

Layering allows you to choose the proper combination based on how hard you are working and the ambient temperature; you might put all your layers on to belay and then strip down when it's time to take the runout. Wearing a single warm garment like the Wild Things Altitude Bibs and using the ventilation zippers to control your temperature means that you don't have to carry the extra layers in your pack; and, at the end of the day, you can zip them off before crawling into your sleeping bag, leaving the sweat-laden bibs outside so as not to soak the bag's insulation.

Layering makes up for the body's evolutionary loss of adaptability, while the single garment theory demands it to adapt to external conditions. But this is a very tricky equation: being too warm means that you sweat and force moisture into the insulation, compromising its efficiency, and being too cold causes you to burn more calories, which requires more food, and the fuel to cook it, both of which must be carried.

High altitude and winter clothing has become quite readily available in this country in recent years. In the past, the gear was just not available unless you were lucky enough to be going to the Himalaya, or perhaps brought something back from Europe or England. Mountain Equipment, Marmot Mountain Works, Summit Research and Wild Things have all pioneered the new wave in lightweight cold weather gear using modern fabrics, insulation and design. Insulated one-piece suits, bibs and Farmer John style garments can now be purchased off the racks thanks to the trend towards winter madness.

Insulated suits are designed for use in

cold weather, and they do their job well. The main advantage is that you can wear a single garment which combines a wind and waterproof outer layer with the insulating layer, and adjust the insulation's efficiency with a number of ventilation zippers. In addition, it's easier to bare your backside though a single layer than through several.

As luxurious as they sound, designs of this type have some disadvantages. A major one is the bulk and weight of the garment, but if you are wearing it all the time this doesn't matter so much. And you should wear it, as it's not something to be carried in the pack against the possibility of adverse weather. There is also the arguable difficulty of ventilating without filling the suit with spindrift.

The worst problem of these suits, however, is that condensation collects in the insulation, decreasing efficiency and increasing weight. Despite claims that shell fabrics are both waterproof and breathable, most fabrics are a compromise between these qualities. Breathability suffers as the fabric is made more waterproof, and moisture is prevented from escaping as quickly as it is produced. In desperately cold conditions, this moisture accumulates in the insulation or condenses on the inside of the shell material because it is too far from the heat source, the body. Frost on the inside of the shell or frozen in its pores impairs breathability. This is also a problem with shells used in a layering system; however, the thinner layers are much easier to dry out once sodden.

As a climbing ranger in Denali National Park, Jon Waterman spends a great deal of time in sub-zero temperatures. He mentions that during the first winter ascent of the Cassin Ridge, the whole team had problems with condensation in their Gore-Tex/Thinsulate suits. Leaving their suits off at night hardened them into armor, but wearing them to sleep started the same process in their sleeping bags. His choice of systems today? Pile and Goretex.

Layers are available in a variety of materials, both synthetic and natural. Fleece and pile have essentially replaced wool sweaters, which are only occasionally seen in the "Je suis un Guide" photos. Between the two, I generally choose pile over fleece, as it dries quicker and tends to be lighter. The rule seems to be that the less windproof a material is, the quicker it dries. An exception is the Summit Research Pro-Bunt Jacket, which is made of polypropylene fleece; the material dries as quickly as pile, yet is as windproof as polyester fleece. Polypropylene is generally restricted to the layer next to the skin, but with thicker weights available I expect to see

more companies making jackets and bibs out of this effective and efficient material.

To top off any layered system, some sort of shell is in order. Although other fabrics can be used, every piece I looked at utilized Gore-Tex, a tribute to how well it works. While certainly not a miracle fabric, this is probably still the best going for winter and expedition use.

Putting your system together requires some accessories. The old saying, "If your feet are cold, put on a hat," still holds true; there are numerous blood vessels close to the surface of the head and neck, and keeping these areas protected is the key of staying warm all over. Remember that you can't always count on wearing a hood while climbing, either because you are wearing a helmet or the hood restricts your vision. You may wear a hat that has a windproof shell, covers your neck, and is comfortable to wear under a helmet.

Doing a technical climb in cold weather requires performance that the hands were not designed for. Knuckles are bashed, fingers are hung from (and the ends repeatedly frozen), and hands are continually being removed from warm, moist gloves and shoved into cold, dry powder snow. Many climb in Gore-Tex/Thinsulate ski gloves; the best I've found are the ones made by Gates, featuring a Tuff-Grip palm which aids in gripping the ice tools and deters abrasion during rope maneuvers. With the addition of overmitts, I found that the lightweight model was adequate for Canadian winter or Alaskan temperatures.

Next year, Gates will offer the Basher, a glove with Sorbothane knuckle pads for gate crashing which will be a boon for ice climbers as well. Also, look for a new glove from Chouinard, which will feature a tough shell and removable liner of different weights for varying conditions.

No matter which insulating system you choose, the ultimate consideration where upward progress is concerned is the weight of your pack. It is essential to make use of everything that you carry. A certain amount of suffering will keep you honest, but food and sleep are necessary elements if you hope to go all out for a long period of time. If your sleeping bag is so warm that you can sleep just in your polypropylene underwear, then you're carrying extra weight; why not sleep in your clothes and carry a lighter bag? Synthetic insulation in the bag will allow you to wear wet clothes inside without losing too much loft, and body heat can help to dry everything out overnight.

If you carry more food, you can get away with a lighter lift support system. Extra calories help keep you warm, and they work all the time, not just at night like a sleeping bag. Fuel is essential; hot drinks warm and revive you, and a hot water bot-



Testing gear in Alaska. Photo: Marc Twight.

tle in the bag keeps your feet toasty and helps dry out wet clothes as well. I give myself a checkbook balance/pack weight total of 30 pounds, and then try to find the most efficient way to spend it.

Before looking at specific products, one last item should be mentioned: the problem of relieving yourself while wearing bib style clothing and a climbing harness. Three designs were used on the bibs we looked at: a vertical zipper extending through the crotch to the tailbone, a rainbow-shaped zipper forming a drop seat, and utilization of side zippers on the legs. The last is not nearly so acrobatic in use as it sounds; you simply unzip the right leg to the knee, squat, and pull the back of the bib across your behind to the left. I prefer the rainbow zipper because it provides the largest opening, and also works quite well for ventilation.

Whatever you do, don't use a pair of bibs with a rainbow zipper and a pile suit with crotch zipper; it seems impossible to arrange a chute larger than four inches in diameter, and if you can't aim well you'll have a mess on your hands.

In the course of looking over these garments and using them in Canada last winter and in Alaska last spring, I changed my mind about a lot of things concerning winter insulation. Some theories were blasted apart, while others were proven out with assurance. When I go to the Himalaya, I'll wear one-piece bibs and layer lighter clothing over my torso. The legs don't seem to require as much ventilation as the upper body, and it's easier to take clothes off and put them on up top as well.

I should mention that all of these systems work, and work well; criticism and praise are the result of personal preference, but how could it be otherwise? Many

other companies produce equipment which is suitable for winter and expedition use, but the basic design principles are all similar. Figure out your own end use, then choose gear that fits *your* needs; above all, get out in the cold and snow and enjoy it.

Mountain Equipment

This company produces the most widely-used high altitude clothing on the planet. Their one piece Gore-Tex windsuit (\$308.50) was the only one cut large enough to fit over a Down Suit, (\$342.00), but you'd have to be shaped like Whillans to wear it without one.

The Kongur 8000m jacket (\$269.95) and salopettes (\$172.00) use a Gore-Tex/Quallofill construction, which, although heavier than down, makes a lot of sense in a wet climate (as the Alaska Range can be). Unfortunately, the shell fabric is so light that even a little contact with the rock did considerable damage.

On both the salopettes and the windsuit, the crotch zipper had only one slider, which had to be unzipped from the neck to the tailbone before you could relieve yourself; the suit promptly filled up with spindrift. By using three sliders on the zipper, it is possible to isolate an opening in the proper location.

These suits have been above 8000 meters more often than any others, so I'd trust them up there.

Mountain Equipment U.S.A., Climb High, P.O. Box 9210, South Burlington, VT 05401.

Buzzard Mountain Gear

Owner/designer Rich Paige of Buzzard Mountain Gear has seven Alaskan expeditions to his credit, an asset which is visible in his work.

Stepping away from the norm, Buzzard

produces an anorak for mountaineering, the Boreas Parka (\$135.00). A zipper extends from the armpit to the waist on one side, allowing access to pile jacket pockets, as well as making it easy to put on and take off. When unzipped, but snapped shut at the bottom, this zipper provides substantial air circulation. The sleeves are extra long, and the torso is cut full enough to accommodate a jacket and vest underneath.

Buzzard's Tempest Bibs (\$135.00) are the best blend of skiing and climbing design I've seen. Like the anorak, they utilize a three layer Taslan/Gore-Tex laminate which is the most durable of the lighter fabrics. These bibs are trim and sport full side zippers for ease of entry. Lycra stretch panels on the sides from the waist up make them fit tight and look sharp.

To complement these, Buzzard also offers a Farmer John style polypropylene suit that stretches and moves well. The Supersuit (\$70.00) keeps your midriff warm without compromising arm motion.

A few things we might change include the zippers on the bib pockets, which ended up right under the waistbelt of my sled harness; and, an additional zipper on the left as well as the right side of the anorak would be great for ventilation and ease of entry.

Buzzard Mountain Gear, P.O. Box 2163, Estes Park, CO 81517.

Summit Research

Designer Joseph Walkuski is a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology, and has applied his knowledge of fabric and fit to a clothing system with an emphasis on function. The Summit Research system is the only one available that encompasses all layers; crotch and underarm zippers match all the way through, from polypropylene underwear to fleece to the outer shell.

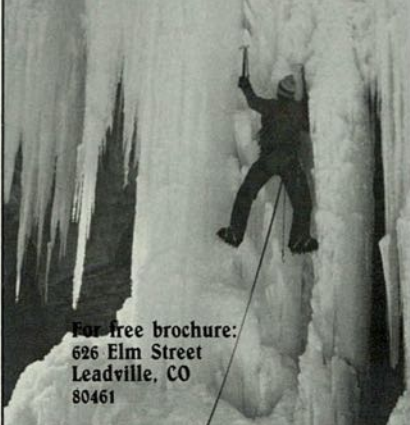
The Pro-Bunt fleece jacket (\$61.00) uses a super expedition weight polypropylene, relatively heavy but quite windproof and rapid drying. The collar is double thick and comes up to the nose, while lightweight pit zippers provide ventilation without excessive bulk.

I was impressed with the Summit Parka (\$170.00) in all respects except for the choice of material, 330 denier Cordura/Gore-Tex laminate unrivaled for its durability. For my tastes, it is too heavy and bulky; I can't imagine wearing it out. However, Summit Research has recently changed to Taslan/Gore-Tex laminate, reinforced with the Cordura at critical points, and this should result in a lighter garment.

The jacket has good freedom of movement in the arms, a very functional powder skirt and the best hood design on the market today. The hood is articulated, and uses the patented Crown Drawstring to stabilize it on the head; the hood moves with the head, is not attached to the jacket and does not impair peripheral vision.

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The Summit Bibs (\$170.00) work well, but are not outstanding. They have full side zippers and a crotch zipper which suffers the single slider problem. The cuff diameter and length are both excessive, and they are made in the same materials as the jacket.

Summit Research, 771 State St.,
Schenectady, NY 12307.

Wild Things

Originally made in a Farmer John style, fitting considerations prompted Wild Things to come up with a bib design (\$175.00) instead. And they are wild! Of all the gear used in Alaska, these were my favorites. They are insulated with Thinsulate and Texolite, but are still thin enough to move freely in. The legs are well tapered through the calf to prevent crampon damage, yet enough Gore-Tex material has been used in the thighs to accommodate step-kicking monsters and permit the Chinese splits. There is one large pocket, big enough for a Walkman, which still doesn't interfere with a pack's waistbelt.

These are definitely for cold weather. During the 0 to 10 degree days in Alaska, I generally wore only expedition weight polypropylene underwear underneath, which speaks well for the efficiency of the insulation. Unfortunately, the fly zipper was a little short, although full side zips allowed easy entry and a rainbow zipper over the butt got my backside out into the cold and back in quickly.

Wild Things, P.O. Box 688, North Conway, NH 03860.

The North Face

Typical of most North Face gear, the Mountain Suit (Jacket, \$225.00; Bibs,

\$195.00) is impeccably engineered. Two layer Taslan/Gore-Tex with a breathable taffeta lining makes this two piece suit move well, and I found it warmer than the three layer laminates. The material in the bibs is doubled over the seat and knees, and with a knee-height Cordura crampon and edge guard on the inside of the leg, these are a fantastic utility grade ski bib for the professional.

Side zippers are linked to a rainbow zipper to form an intelligent, continuous and easily-operated access system. Stretch panels in the torso ensure a tight fit. However, they do need to add a pocket somewhere, as well as lengthen the fly zipper. Crampon straps trap the built-in gaiter, but this should only be used for skiing and it's quite effective for that.

The jacket is cut short and works well with the chest-high bibs. But, where the bib legs are too long, the jacket sleeves are too short, although an innovative cuff design keeps them from creeping up your forearms.

This shell system is well-engineered and good-looking, but unfortunately The North Face has yet to produce any insulating layers to match.

The North Face, 999 Harrison St., Berkeley, CA 94710.

Marmot Mountain Works

Eric Reynolds is well-known for climbing throughout the world, and for refusing to put up with second-rate equipment. The latter is obvious in the two-piece Gore-Tex Alpinist Suit (Parka, \$275.00; Bibs, \$200.00) that Marmot will offer later this year. Marmot has always been on the cutting edge of design and quality, and their reputation will only grow with the introduction of this brightly-colored suit.

The jacket looks like a built-out version of the Marmot Powder Jacket and sports many of the features that have made this such a popular item. Pit zippers keep you cool when the going gets rough, and the powder skirt works very well, having a rubber, gripping elastic at the bottom. The collar ends just below the chin, preventing the zipper icing common to nose-height collars. The jacket has two-layer Gore-Tex/Taslan in most of the body for breathability, lighter weight and freedom of movement, with three-layer fabric in the high wear areas. It is lined with Dri-Zone, a new bi-component knit that wicks better than polypropylene and has a far larger capacity to absorb moisture, resulting in less of that clammy feeling after exertion.

A three piece articulated elbow gives the arms freedom of movement, and the full cut of the upper arm area promotes good ventilation through the pit zippers, although I felt that the cut was perhaps a bit too full and the forearm circumference too small.

I was very impressed with the bibs, mainly for their fit. A full Lycra back keeps them snug through the torso, and they're

cut close all the way to the ankle. A three-piece articulated knee and seat greatly increases freedom of motion, and allows the legs to be cut tightly. Construction is similar to the jacket, with two-layer Taslan throughout and three-layer in the high wear areas. Dri-Zone is used in the torso to just below the crotch. The bibs have full side zippers and a crotch zipper; these, as well as the front and pit zippers on the jacket, match up with those on Marmot's new Polarplus (Synchilla) Alpinist Suit (Sweater, \$88.00; Pants, \$84.00) to make a functional layering system.

Marmot Mountain Works, 3098 Marmot Lane, Grand Junction, CO 81504.

Latok Mountain Gear

Bob Culp's original designs have been tested and refined by Jeff Lowe on expeditions throughout the world, and Latok's O.W.L. System has a sound foundation to expand upon.

The Latok Jacket (\$210.00) is made of 330 denier Cordura/Gore-Tex laminate, but for the weight I'd choose the lighter three-layer Taslan model. The sleeves are long enough, and this jacket had the best freedom of movement in the arms of any I looked at. However, the biceps are bigger than the forearms, which is not the case with most climbers. The chest pockets are easy to get into with a pack on, which was a nice change. A high collar keeps out the elements, but the zipper stops short, leaving the upper collar to be sealed by velcro patches that eventually freeze up due to heavy breathing.

The Khumbu Salopettes (\$175.00) are a nice length at mid-calf, which prevents the indecent exposure common to the knicker/gaiter combination, and makes them easy to move in. Full side zippers get you in and out even with crampons on, and the crotch zipper does the job, although it is as difficult to operate as the other crotch zippers. The addition of stretch panels would allow these to be worn without a jacket; as they are, snow does gain entry in the torso area.

The O.W.L. System is fleshed out with mitts, gaiters and overboots. I found the bunting layer in the mitts difficult to dry out, and once the Tuff-Grip palm had worn through (after about 10 rappels), they soak up water. The Nuptse Overboots were fantastic at camp, but the pair I had weren't large enough to fit over my boots so I didn't actually climb in them.

Latok Mountain Gear, P.O. Box 380, Lyons, CO 80540.

Sport XTC

I found this fleece jacket (\$55.00) from Sport XTC just before leaving for Alaska and picked it up because it fit better than any I had worn, and Steve Amundsen combines the wildest colors possible. The jacket has a European flair, sleek, fast and loud.

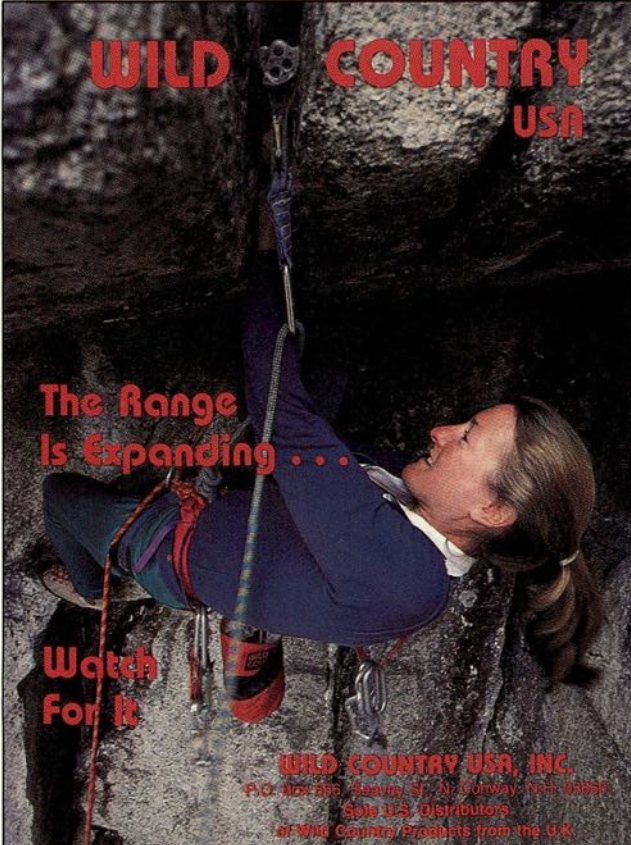
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EXPEDITIONS

Arctic Mountaineering

by Jon Waterman

"... nearly all will say, 'What is the use?' ... If you march your Winter Journeys you will have your reward ..." — Apsley Cherry-Garrard (from *The Worst Journey in the World*)

You want to get away. Far, far away where the in-laws/bill collectors/work can't haunt you. And it's got to be for under 1,500 bucks, yet you don't speak a word of Spanish and you're not willing to risk gastro-intestinal havoc. So you look north instead. North to the land of compelling Robert Service ballads, Santa Claus and the great, ice-locked mountains.

But you know these mountains don't have trams, the approaches are cursed with miles of trailbreaking and, with the exception of the tawny granite in the Alaska Range, the rock is execrable. Not to mention the fact that bad storms will leave you withering in the tent, praying for only a peek at the route through the murk, wondering if you've wasted your time building snowmen, shovelling, and experimenting with the contents of your first-aid kit. Then, of course, there are the accepted perils of a mis-step into a crevasse. Or, if you climb at Messnerian speeds with Messnerian savvy, you'll get grinding headaches, nausea and maybe even pulmonary edema. And as a grand finale, (percentages show this is most likely in arctic mountaineering) if you follow in the footsteps of the redoubtable Maurice Herzog, you'll order all new, yet smaller size shoes when you get home.

So is an arctic peak worth any of the above? Probably not. You would be well advised to spend your \$1,500 on a nice, warm beach vacation.

However, should you still insist on the call of the north and if you're obstinate, tenacious, yet cautious, and a little lucky: the storms will give you time to acclimate and you can dance up blue ice underneath surrealistic cornices, where the rock is frozen into place and you make up for lost time because there are twenty hours of light per day. Plus, on most arctic routes, you'll have the climb to yourselves, as the smart climbers have stayed down south, where it's warm. Or, if you go early in the season, you can watch the northern lights writhe above you at night like mystical, rainbow serpents. If you know how to ski, the renowned storms equal unparalleled powder skiing. In summary, if you're game for an adventure in a remote environment with all the pleasantries of the shelf where



Changing weather on Huntington and McKinley. Photo: Waterman.

you store your ice cream: the glaciers, ridges, faces and walls of the arctic mountains could challenge you for a lifetime.

There is one problem, in that the climbing community has to figure out how to preserve the integrity of these mountains for more than just a short lifetime. For eternity. Take Denali for instance. Human waste dots the snow like Baby Ruths on some of the high campsites, crevasses have become sanitary landfills and fixed rope hangs like spaghetti on anything popular and steep. So, imagine your great-grandson, 100 years from now, making an axe placement into frozen brown matter. Or having his crevasse fall broken because of the accumulating layers of trash. Or jumarring up the profusion of fixed lines on the route which you had labored up alpine-style, a century before. Denali may be the carcinogenic rat, easily more crowded than the rest, but if we think of the potential consequences there, perhaps we can prevent further cancer from maligning Mts. Logan, Sanford, St. Elias and Fairweather. The cure? Simple: crap in plastic bags and throw them into crevasses; carry out all trash; clean fixed ropes. After all, it would be a shame if lazy great-grandsons got up too easily.

On to training. The experience of this writer was to share the middle of a rope between an obsessive, brawny athlete and a classic Brit who, as a concession to fitness, gave up cigarettes for our arctic climb and only smoked substances imported from Acapulco. It was this writer's observation that the non-trained, dope-smoking end of the rope always went faster. Other advocates of strict training have sadly seen this sort of phenomena before,

too. Perhaps it would be safe to say that climbers should prepare themselves in the discipline of their choice (whatever that may be) prior to the climb. It certainly wouldn't hurt to carry a heavy pack in deep snow a few times before departure. Many hardmen scare themselves silly on steep climbs just before going north, which, if nothing else, psychologically prepares them for easier-angled terrain.

Spartans or spendthrifts trying to make do with gear that worked in the Tetons, the Bugaboos, or the Canadian Rockies will have a most memorable trip. The reader should think seriously about double boots, a good tent (bivy sacks won't cut the mustard), a sleeping bag rated to at least -20 F, a shovel, skis versus snowshoes, sleds, etc. Climbers truly committed to alpinism will find ways to make their pack weigh a lot less than the legendary 70 pound "Alaskan pack."

If you really do want to come home, there are several considerations concerning Arctic Mountaineering that will require further thought or research:

Soloing the glaciers is fun like Russian Roulette;

If you can't keep warm like Naomi Uemura did with caribou bones and raw seal fat — cheese, margarine, oil, peanut butter, etc., will work fine;

Altitude sickness can be prevented by a moderate ascent rate or an acclimatization trip up an easier route prior to the climb;

Proper hydration, 4 qts. + per day, is crucial;

If you are completely self-sufficient, no one will have to rescue you (a radio may be a crutch).

THE ALASKA RANGE

Denali, 20,320; Mt. Foraker, 17,400; Mt. Hunter, 14,573; Mt. Huntington, 12,240; Mt. Russell, 11,670; Mt. Silverthorne, 13,220; Mt. Brooks, 11,940; The Mooses Tooth, 10,335; Mt. Deborah, 12,339; Mt. Hayes, 13,832. (Plus many more.)

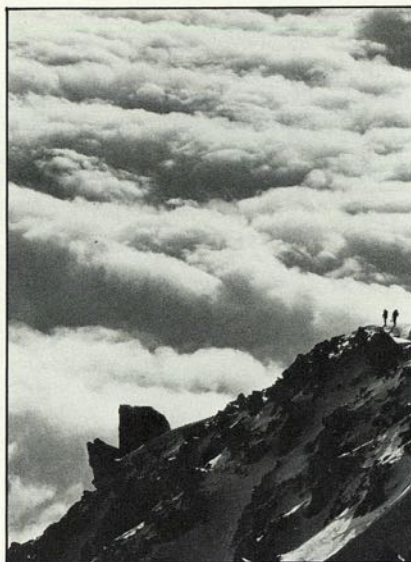
The Alaska Range will always be the most populated range of arctic mountains because Denali is the highest in North America and a magnet for climbers around the world. It draws upwards of 700 people a year. The variety of opportunities available to climbers in these mountains is staggering. There are steep granite walls, mixed routes, straight ice faces and gullies, untouched ski mountaineering terrain, and scenic ski touring on the Ruth Glacier (which has become the second most popular past-time in the Range). Despite Denali's crowds, there are many seldom climbed routes which offer the mountaineer a remote, big mountain experience. Popular routes include: Denali's West Buttress, West Rib, Muldrow Glacier, West Rib and Cassin Ridge; the SE Ridge of Mt. Foraker; the West Ridge of the Mooses Tooth and the West Ridge of Mt. Hunter. Otherwise, climbers can anticipate routes to themselves.

Climbing Season/Weather

Although every year is different, generally speaking, the daylight and temperatures are optimal for Mt. Foraker and Denali from late April until early July. As on most arctic peaks, expect temperatures of -40°F up high and 80°F down low (the reflective heat can be crippling). Climbers on the smaller peaks could start several weeks earlier, although conditions deteriorate below 10,000 feet in June. Summer storms emanate almost entirely from the south, when masses of moist ocean air hit the Range. Typically storms last several days, while more unusual storms rage for a week. June and July, while often warm, tend to be the heavier snowfall months. A snowfall of several feet would not be uncommon. April can have bitter cold days and strong winds, which precludes summit days on the big peaks. May tends to be more moderate. Allow 3-4 weeks, including storm and transportation time for climbs.

Approach

The easily reached town of Talkeetna is the jumping-off point for almost all of the range. White gas is available all over town, yet food is expensive, more so than in Anchorage. Economically minded grocery shoppers should buy foodstuffs stateside. Round-trip flights to the Southeast Fork of the Kahiltina or the Ruth Glacier average \$225 per person. C.B. and V.H.F. radios can be rented from pilots and A.M.H. Occasionally, climbers charter pilots from Denali Park or Glenallen for Mt. Deborah. For northside climbs, such as the Muldrow Glacier, Mt. Brooks, or the northern side of Mt. Foraker, climbers must walk in at least 25 miles to the glaciers from a bus-



Climbers on the West Buttress, Mt. McKinley. Photo: Waterman.

accessed road to Wonder Lake (the road generally opens by the first week of June), or the airport in Kantishna. There is an outfitter who will dogsled climbers' supplies in during the winter.

Hudson Air Services, Inc; Cliff Hudson
Main St.
Talkeetna, AK 99676 (Ph.) 907 733-2321

K2 Aviation; Jim Okonek
P.O. Box 290
Talkeetna, AK 99676 (Ph.) 907 733-2291

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Doug Geeting Aviation; Doug Geeting
P.O. Box 42
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Denali Wilderness Air
P.O. Box 82
Denali Park, AK 99755 (Ph.) 907 683-2261

Denali Dog Tours & Wilderness Freight
P.O. Box 1
Denali Park, AK 99755

A.M.H. (Alaska Mountaineering & Hiking)
2633 Spenard Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99503 (Ph.) 907 272-1811

Denali National Park and Preserve Regulations

Denali and Foraker climbers must submit individual registrations prior to their climb and sign in and out, before and after their climb. Any perceived inconvenience is compensated for by the helpfulness of the rangers in route planning and the wealth of information (photographs and accounts) within the Ranger Station. In 1984 two groups were fined for illegal guiding and one climber was fined \$250 for littering at 17,000 feet. In an effort to preserve the wilderness integrity within the more remote parts of the Park, the Park

Service prohibits commercial flight landings within the boundaries of the old Park.

Talkeetna Range Station
P.O. Box 327
Talkeetna, AK 99676 (Ph.) 907 733-2231

Information Sources

Bradford Washburn's detailed *Mt. McKinley* map (Denali, Hunter, M. Tooth, Huntington, Silverthorne and Brooks) is invaluable for the Alaska Range climber. Washburn has also published a detailed map of the Wonder Lake-Muldrow Glacier approach, (found as a pullout in the 1980 *American Alpine Journal*). Bradford Washburn's high contrasted black and white photographs are the keys which unlock the secrets of arctic mountains. Other maps: Mt. Russell, *Talkeetna* D4; Mt. Hunter, *Talkeetna* D2, D3; Mt. Foraker, *McKinley* A3, A4, *Talkeetna* D3, D4; there is a large scale, 1:125,000, *Mt. McKinley National Park* map which shows old park boundaries and the entire Alaska Range. All are available from the U.S.G.S. The following books are recommended:

Davidson, Art. *Minus 148: The Winter Ascent of Mt. McKinley*. W.W. Norton & Co. Inc., New York, 1969.

Moore, Terris. *Mt. McKinley: The Pioneer Climbs*. University of Alaska Press, College, 1967.

Randall, Glenn. *Mt. McKinley Climber's Handbook*. Genet Expeditions, Talkeetna, Alaska 99676.

Snyder, Howard H. *The Hall of the Mountain King*. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1973.

THE WRANGELL MOUNTAINS

Mt. Sanford, 16,237; Mt. Drum, 12,010; Mt. Wrangell, 14,163; Mt. Blackburn, 16,390. (There are other smaller peaks.)

These mountains are found on the southwestern mainland of Alaska, at the convergence of the Chugach and St. Elias Mountain Ranges. The Wrangells lie within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, the single largest National Park. Mt. Wrangell, named for the Russian governor of Alaska in the 1830's, is the highest active volcano in Alaska. It last erupted in 1930 and still vents volcanic fumes today. Within the Wrangells, the rock is mostly volcanic, although other tremendous possibilities remain, such as a 10,000 foot + route on the SW side of Mt. Sanford. The Wrangell Mountains climbing possibilities are not as diverse as most of the other big mountain ranges and climbers will have to look harder for good routes. In 1984, there were 4 parties on Mt. Drum and 5 parties on Mt. Sanford.

Climbing Season/Weather

The climbing season here generally runs from late April until early July. The snowfall is not heavy, although the wind — which roars completely unimpeded, over vast icefields, from the Gulf of Alaska — is



the real nemesis of climbers within the Wrangells. Allow up to 3½ weeks, including storm and transportation time.

Approach

Climbers most commonly approach these mountains from Glenallen or Gulkana, 15 miles apart and 200 miles from Anchorage on the well travelled Glenn highway. Food and white gas, a bit more expensive than Anchorage prices, are readily available from the mid-sized town of Glenallen. The small bushtowns of Chitina, McCarthy and Yakutat are used more rarely for flights into the Wrangells. Ski-plane access can be problematic in the Wrangells because the suitable glacier landing areas often lose all of their snow for landings by the end of April. Smaller SuperCub planes with tundra tires can deliver one climber at a time to gravel strips after the snow melts, which leaves climbers with one day approaches for Mts. Drum and Sanford. The SuperCub rate is \$110/hour, for under 2 hours of rd. trip flying. Some climbers raft the Copper River, or walk it when it is frozen, and make the 30-40 mile approaches through brush and bear country on foot. There is a helicopter available for approx. \$450 per hour, which will fit at least two climbers and conveniently deposit you at the base of the route; in 1984 it crashed, presumably in a down-draft, loaded with climbers. Fortunately no one was hurt.

Gulkana Air Service; Ken Bunch
Gulkana, AK 99588 (Ph.) 907 822-5532

Park Regulations

Mountaineering registration is optional within the Wrangell Mountains. Rangers can be found at the airport (ph. 822-5236), or at headquarters, which is several miles south of Glenallen, near Cooper Center. Permits must be obtained for helicopter landings within the Park boundaries (which includes Mt. St. Elias).

Wrangell-St Elias National Park
P.O. Box 29 Glenallen, AK 99588
(Ph.) 907 822-5235

Information Sources

There are U.S.G.S. maps and Washburn photos available.

ALASKAN ST. ELIAS RANGE FAIRWEATHER RANGE

Mt. St. Elias, 18,008; Mt. Cook, 13,760; Mt. Foresta, 11,960; Mt. Fairweather, 15,300; Mt. Salisbury, 11,970; Mt. Crillon, 12,726.

Both of these areas are perched along-side of the most tempestuous stretch of ocean on the North American coastline: the Gulf of Alaska. The South Face of Mt. Saint Elias is the biggest face in North America, with a vertical gain of 15,000 feet (although much of the face is rimmed with ice cliffs). The Yukon shares the northern half of the mountain and the enormous expanse of ice-fields with Alaska, although there are many more mountains on the Yukon side. The Fairweather Range lies 150 miles southeast of Mt. St. Elias along the coastline. Captain James Cook discovered and named "Mount Fair Weather" in 1778 during his voyage to the Pacific Ocean from England; we can assume he meant that the weather would be fair if the mountain was visible from the ocean, or perhaps he had a sarcastic sense of humor.

Climbing Season/Weather

Lenticular clouds cap the summits as storms move in from the ocean, but unlike Denali or Mt. Logan, these mountains are within 30 miles of the sea, so the storms can hit fast and frequently. Because of this poor weather and huge snowfalls, Mt. St. Elias has had the highest failure rate of any big mountain in North America; yet in 1984 all four parties succeeded, which may have been partly due to the excellent weather reported that summer. Fair-

weather has a similar high failure rate, with more than half of its attempts resulting in failure (15 parties have climbed the mountain). Temperatures are warmer than those on Denali, Mt. Sanford, or Mt. Logan; particularly on Mt. Fairweather, where subzero weather is only common near the summit. Reasonably good conditions were reported during the first winter ascent of Mt. Fairweather, so March and April will offer colder temperatures for approaches and lower elevation climbing. Rain is often reported up to 10,000 feet during the summer climbing season, which traditionally runs from May through July. Allow three-five weeks travel and storm time for Mts. St. Elias and Fairweather. Two-three weeks should be sufficient for the smaller peaks.

Approach

Yakutat, located on the ocean between Mts. St. Elias and Fairweather, is the most common means of approach for these mountains. Since it is an isolated fishing port, plan to purchase all of your food stateside. Contact the local bushpilot about cooking fuel. The only access to Yakutat is by airplane, although it may be possible to charter boats too. Some parties have caught rides on fishing boats for Fairweather and one team in 1980 used their own boat, which was an expedition in itself, for an attempt on Mt. St. Elias. However, Gulf Air Service will offer the quickest, most dependable service for beach landings (wheels: \$165/hour) and glacier or water landings (skis or floats: \$185/hour). A Cessna 185 can fit 2-3 climbers, contingent upon the amount of equipment, and it is roughly an hour and a half of roundtrip flying time to both areas. There have been reports of big Brown bears prowling by camps of climbers on the lower glaciers and beaches from which the walk-ins begin. It is strongly recommended to cook outside of the tents and keep food away from the camp. Again, as in other ranges,

climbers may find more distant pilots (with highway access) for higher rates. There has been a helicopter available in Yakutat. Gulkana pilots will fly climbers to peaks within the University Range (Churchill, Bona and University).

Gulf Air Service; Mike Ivers
Box 37
Yakutat, AK 99689
(Ph.) 907 784-3240

Park Regulations

The southern aspect of Mt. St. Elias lies within the Wrangell-St. Elias Park, so registration is optional. However, flight landings or climbing within Canada must be cleared with customs and Kluane National Park. Climbers bound for the Fairweather Range, encompassed by Glacier Bay National Park, should contact the Park.

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
Gustavus, AK 99826 (Ph.) 907 697-3341

Information Sources

There is a 1/250,000 scale *Mt. St. Elias* map, which encompasses Mts. St. Elias and Logan, and a *Mt. Fairweather*, Quadrangle C map available from the U.S.G.S. And there is an excellent photo article by Bradford Washburn on Mt. Fairweather in the 1981 *American Alpine Club Journal*, pp. 29-35.

YUKON ST. ELIAS RANGE

Mt. Logan, 19,524; Mt. St. Elias, 18,008; Mt. Lucania, 17,150; Mt. Steele, 16,440; Mt. Wood, 15,880; Mt. Hubbard, 14,950; Mt. Vancouver, 15,700; King Peak, 16,971; Mt. Augusta, 14,070; Mt. Alverstone, 14,500; Mt. Kennedy, 13,905. (To mention a few.)

Solitude is the name of the game amongst the largest range of big arctic peaks, on the most extensive, non-polar icefields in the world. Mt. Logan is the second largest mountain massif in the world, with its eight summits set above a 16,000 foot, thirty-square-mile summit plateau. As of 1984, The Hummingbird Ridge on Mt. Logan and the East Ridge of Mt. St. Elias — 13,000 and 9,000 feet of steep, direct climbing to the summits — have had no second ascents! Much of the rock is rotten, (with exceptions such as the North Face of Mt. Kennedy), nonetheless, a lifetime could be spent on snow and ice routes in magnificent, remote settings. The annual number of climbers on Denali outnumbered all of the climbers who have attempted Mt. Logan since its first ascent in 1924. Generally, in the last few years, the routes that receive more than one attempt per year are Mt. Logan's classic East Ridge and King Trench glacier, and the easiest routes on Mts. Steele and Kennedy. Otherwise, climbers can anticipate a true wilderness experience in this range.

Climbing Season/Weather

Snowfalls of up to four feet can be ex-

pected. One should imagine the wet, Pacific storm fronts being pushed over "the sea" of frozen icefields to understand the ensuing snow deposition. Avalanche accidents, due to both slab release and the prolific hanging glaciers, are significantly more frequent here than anywhere in Alaska. The monstrous wind-cornicing effect on the St. Elias Range ridges is comparable to the big corniced routes of Mts. Foraker, Hunter and Huntington. Temperatures are generally the same as in the Alaska Range, although the lower elevations of the icefields get quite sloppy by early summer.

The traditional climbing season runs May-July. Winter winds are reportedly fierce and with the exception of a badly frostbitten team on Mt. Steele: all early-season, winter attempts on the big peaks have been thwarted. Allow up to 5 weeks, depending on the scale of the endeavor, for storm and transportation time.

Approach

The majority of parties approach the mountains from Kluane Lake, within the Yukon Territories, 150 miles northwest of Whitehorse. Food and fuel are both available in Whitehorse. American climbers driving the Alaskan highway will find it best to buy food in Calgary, considering the strong American dollar and the niggling customs officials (be sure to have credit cards or plenty of cash when crossing the border). Yakutat is a reasonable flight approach too, but clearance must be made with customs officials before flying into Canada. (In 1983 a solo climber on Mt. St. Elias, who abused customs and Park regulation — which prohibit soloing — was "rescued," arrested, and put in jail). There is only one Canadian fixed wing operator flying out of Kluane Lake. Prices will vary according to the distance to the mountain; the East Ridge of Logan will cost \$400(CAN) per person for a rd. trip flight, while the King Trench will cost \$500. There is a helicopter available in Haines Jct. which will fly 2 people and gear for \$600(CAN) per hour, when basecamps lack suitable fixed wing landing strips.

Icefield Ranges Expeditions,
Andy Williams
59 13th Ave.
Whitehorse, Yukon Territory Y1A4K6
CAN (Ph.) 403 633-2018,
After April 1, Kluane Lake: 841-4561

Trans North Turbo Air (helicopters)
Haines Junction, Yukon Territory Y0B1L0
CAN (Ph.) 403 634-2242

Kluane National Park Regulations

Climbers will find the regulations to be very stringent. The team must have at least four members and a radio (which may be rented from the bushpilot). The leader of the team must apply to the Superintendent for a permit at least three months in advance of the expedition. In turn, each

member of the group is required to fill out an application and a doctor's certification of fitness. Park headquarters is on the Alcan highway, 50 miles from Kluane Lake. The rangers there are friendly and helpful, and the slideshow is highly recommended.

Kluane National Park
Haines Junction, Yukon Territory CAN
(Ph.) 403 634-2251

Information Sources

Canadian maps are limited to a 1/250,000 scale, with a 200 foot contour interval. Sheet #'s: 115B, 115C, 115G, 115F (E1/2) will cover the range. The U.S.G.S. *Mt. St. Elias* map covers Mts. Logan and St. Elias. Bradford Washburn has some photographs of the range, in addition to the photographs available from Canada. A *History of Mountaineering in the St. Elias Mountains*, by Walter Wood, and back issues of the *Canadian Alpine Journal*, are available from:

The Alpine Club of Canada
P.O. Box 1026
Banff, Alberta CAN T0L0C0

Maps:

Map Distribution Office
Dept. of Energy, Mines and Resources
Ottawa, Ontario CAN K1A0E9

Photos:

Nat. Air Photo Library
613 Booth St.
Ottawa, Ontario CAN K1A0E9

ARCTIC MOUNTAINS REFERENCES

Photos/Denali Map:
Boston's Museum of Science
Attention: Bradford Washburn
Science Park
Boston, MA 02114 (Ph.) 617-723-2500

Maps:

U.S. Geological Survey
Denver, CO 80225

Journals:

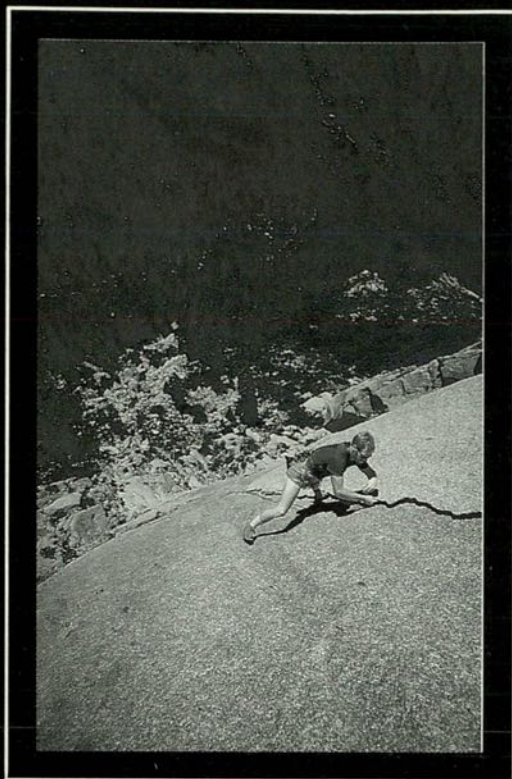
Accidents in N.A. Mountaineering
The American Alpine Journal
The American Alpine Club
113 East 90th St.
New York, NY 10128

The following books are recommended:
Hackett, Peter H. *Mountain Sickness: Prevention, Recognition & Treatment*. The American Alpine Club, NY, 1980.
Houston, Charles S. *Going Higher*. Burlington, VT. 1982.

Jones, Chris. *Climbing in North America*. University of California Press and the American Alpine Club, NY, 1976.

Waterman, Jonathan. *Surviving Denali*. The American Alpine Club, NY, 1984.

Wilkerson, James A. *Medicine for Mountaineering*. 3rd edition. The Mountaineers, Seattle, 1985.



*Les Ellison on:
"Arm and Hammer" (5.10-, A0)
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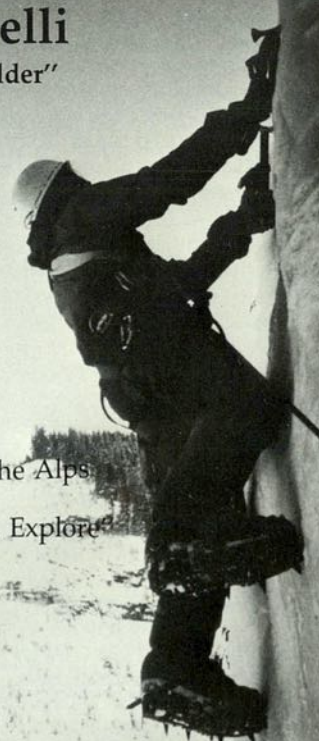
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A Strength & Skill Workout

by Robert Loomis

For more than two decades, top-flight rock climbers have taken climbing seriously enough to dedicate themselves to year-round training using exercises largely unknown to most climbers. This article represents an attempt to demystify the specialized trained programs of top climbers. The focus is on established exercises which have gained acceptance among the dedicated, because of proven success, rather than on training idiosyncrasies of individual climbers.

Philosophically these exercises are based on the notion that weight lifting, while helpful, is of limited value for rock climbing. In climbing the emphasis is on fluid, powerful, and controlled body movement. From this it follows that the majority of training effort should be directed toward exercises that use body weight rather than dead weight for resistance. Simply put, it does more good for rockclimbing purposes to do pullups than to benchpress. The reasons are several. First, exercises which demand the climber to move his body weight, conditions his mind for the real thing — moving on rock. Second, confidence is enhanced. As an example, if a climber can do 10 pullups, in theory he can do a similar number on rock. But what does benchpressing weight tell you that is useful for climbing? Benchpressing doesn't readily translate into one of the requisites for good climbing. What follows is: a) a discussion of individual exercises; b) an outline of my program as an example; and c) closing thoughts on putting a program together.

EXERCISES

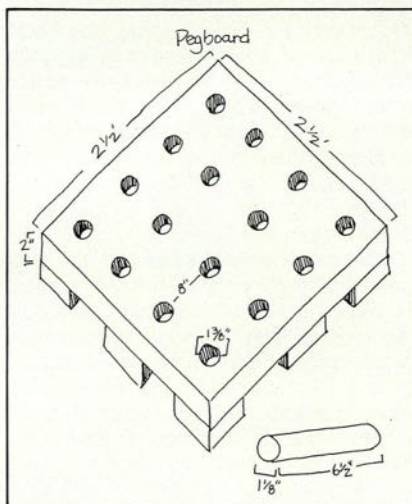
Pegboard

This is probably the most painful exercise, therefore the natural tendency is not to push hard. The way to curtail that tendency is to work against time.

Use is straightforward: Haul yourself up hanging from the pegs inserted in the holes, then while hanging on by one hand, remove a peg with the other hand, insert that peg into a higher hole, then do the same with the lower peg. Good technique requires a straight back, legs spread slightly to prevent sideward movement, rotating your grip over the pegs as a gymnast does in gripping the rings, and keeping the pegs at chest level.

The primary benefit of the pegboard be-

sides developing strength is conditioning your mind to deal with pain. The origin of the pain is the rapid buildup of lactic acid in the forearms which comes from hanging onto the pegs without being able to relax your grip. Blood cannot flow through a contracted muscle, thus the muscle works anaerobically. Learning to deal with this on the pegboard is good preparation for hanging on (contracted forearm muscle), while placing protection.



Find doweling in the following dimensions: 1 1/8 in. x 13 in. Saw the doweling in half for your pegs. Use the hardest wood you can find — oak is best. For the pegboard you need a board measuring 2 in. thick x 2 1/2 ft. square. Drill 1 1/8 in. holes in the board at 8 in. intervals. Mount it to the wall with a lattice of 2 in. x 4 in. Use large bolts at the four corners to do the actual mounting to the wall.

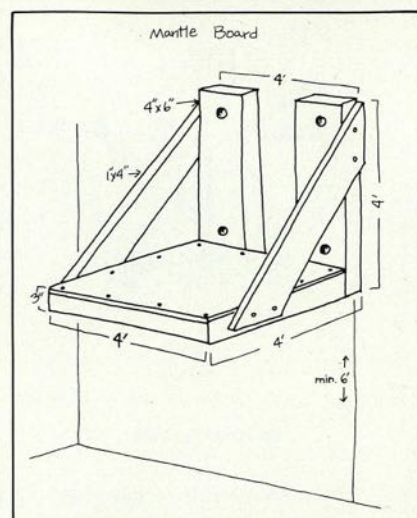
Situps

Do repetitions with a small (i.e., 20 pound weight) held behind your neck, and when sitting up, stop about three-fourths of the way, and when coming down stop a few inches from the floor. This eliminates the rest you get when laying on the floor and when leaning your chest against your knees at the top of the situp.

Mantle Board

This exercise develops strength and technique. Few individuals are able at first crack to do a classic mantle on the board — that is, go from a dead hang to a one arm cock, and press to an upright position. The reason is there is no wall or rock to push against with your feet. Therefore the key is good technique, using: a) a kip (gymnastic term describing a backward kick with the legs which throws the body upward) immediately after reaching the arm cocked position; b) your unweighted hand to pull your body in using the friction of the board.

You need a board measuring 3 in. x 4 ft.

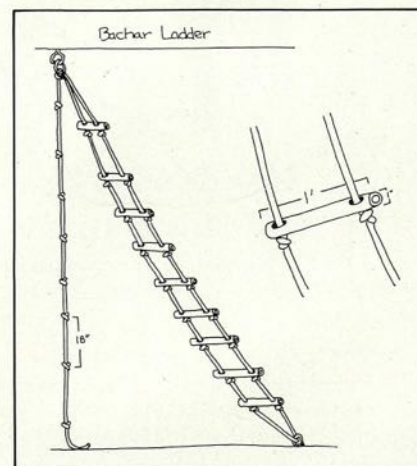


x 4 ft., mounted no less than 6 ft. high so that you can hang without touching the floor. Mount the board to the wall using two 1 in. x 4 ins. bolted to the sides of the board and bolted to two 4 in. x 6 in. x 4 ft. boards which are mounted to the wall using four bolts.

Bachar Ladder

In recent years this has emerged as the single most important training device. Readers are referred to an article in *Climbing* (June 1983) for additional detail.

The acme of effort is to pull up with alternate hands, rather than using both hands on the same rung. Start from a dead hand at the bottom of the ladder, reach for the next higher rung with one arm, grasp that rung, and then reach for the next rung with the lower hand. In the early stages use a kip as you reach for the higher rung. Later you can dispense with the kip. Besides developing strength, the Bachar Ladder conditions the mind to long awkward reaches of the variety found in high angle rock. Some variations are: a) bypass every other rung, for a yard long reach; b) use a small weight around your waist to simulate



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a rack; and c) go up in reverse, that is, climb the ladder as described, but face away from the ladder.

You need an old climbing rope. Without cutting, divide it into equal thirds. Buy 15 ft. of 1 in. PVC pipe, which is then cut to 1 ft. sections. These are the rungs of the ladder. Drill 1/2 in. holes in the ends of the PVC sections. Thread the PVC sections onto two of the thirds of the rope, tying an overhand knot at each place on the rope where you want a rung. Space the rungs at intervals ranging from 15" to 24". Remember to compensate for rope stretch. If you are wondering what the extra third of rope is for, it will be the knotted rope climb which is described later. Now suspend the ladder from a convenient tree limb or ceiling point, not less than 20 ft. high. Anchor the bottom of the ladder by stakes, bolts, etc. The rope will stretch so use prussik knots or mechanical ascenders to take up slack. Rig the ladder so it forms a 70 degree angle with the floor.

Slack Rope

This exercise refines balance and sharpens mental concentration. My preference is webbing rather than chain, because webbing is less forgiving and thus more challenging. However, a chain accomplishes the same result. For additional reference readers are directed to: Burgess, Hovey, *Circus Techniques*, New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1977, p. 138-39 (incidentally this book is rich with other training ideas).

First, use shoes with smooth flat soles — an old pair of rock shoes is perfect. Start by standing at the side of the slack rope with one foot on it; note it is vibrating rapidly. Overcome this phenomenon by stepping hard and rapidly bringing the foot that was on the ground onto the webbing in front of the other foot. Resist the temptation to look at your feet; instead, look ahead at some fixed point for reference, as the rope is vibrating and depriving you of a fixed point of reference. Maintain weight on your back foot — this minimizes vibration. Correcting balance is accomplished by small circular movements on the forearms, which are raised, and lateral movement with your hips. As you become better, try turning around, using a blindfold, juggling objects, bouncing, swinging from side to side, etc.

Collect your old 1 in. runners and sew them together to create a 50 ft. piece. Attach the ends to whatever is convenient, for example, two trees. Use a prussik knot, turnbuckle, or pulley, to take up the slack. String the slack rope over a flat surface as you will be hitting the ground many times at first.

Knotted Rope Climb

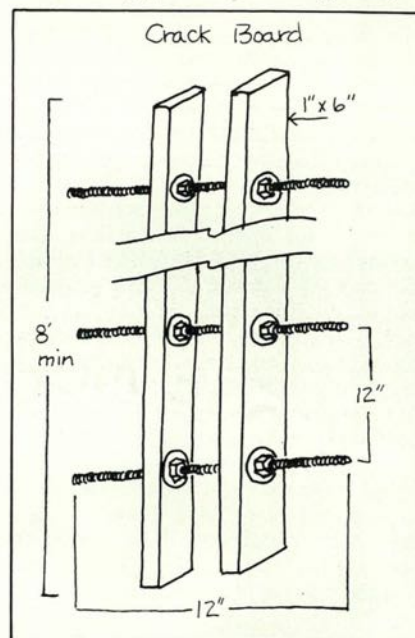
Straightforward — pull yourself up hand over hand without using your feet. As you become stronger, work at climbing the rope with straight legs at right angles to your upper body. An interesting variation is

to suspend two ropes about four feet apart, grab each rope with one hand, then climb the ropes by moving each hand progressively higher on a separate rope. The knotted rope is hard on the hands, so gloves are recommended.

Take the extra third of the rope used to construct your Bachar Ladder, and suspend it from the point in the ceiling, tree, etc., where the ladder is attached. Tie overhand knots in the rope at 18 in. intervals.

Crack Board

This is an excellent skill exercise, which is rumored to have been invented by Tony Yaniro. To use it, employ your best crack climbing technique to whichever width the crack board is set at, and do laps. To create a flared crack close down the back bolts and open the front bolts. Wood has a lower friction coefficient than rock so you need immaculate technique. Consider this a blessing, since experience shows anything you do on the crack board, you do on rock with greater ease. A variation is to suspend the crack board from the ceiling and develop your roof climbing ability.



Pick two boards with dimensions of at least 8 ft x 6 in. x 1 in. Buy 12 ft. of threaded steel doweling of at least 1 in. diameter, then cut it to 1 in. sections. Buy 48 wing-nuts and washers. Drill 1 in. holes in the boards at vertical intervals of not less than 12 in., in horizontal pairs. Push the steel doweling through the holes in one board, thread on the washers and nuts, then do

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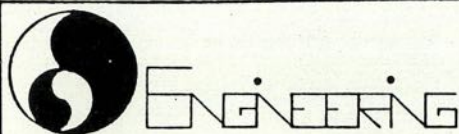
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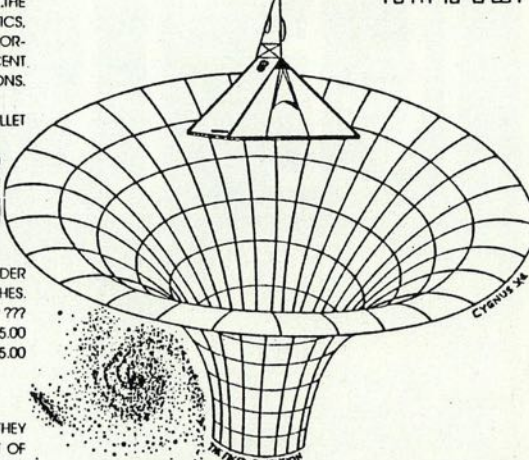
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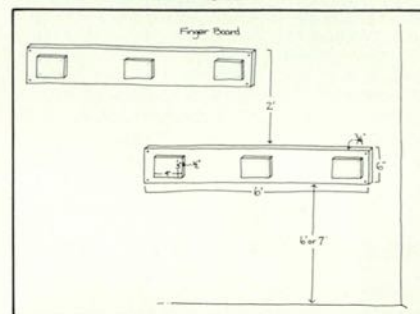
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the same with the other board. Adjust the distance between the boards using the wingnuts. Lash the board to something vertical and stable, such as a drainpipe, tree, etc.

Finger Board

This exercise develops finger strength and concentration. Again use is straightforward, pull yourself up and begin traversing back and forth until your fingers give out. A variation is to nail another board above the first, so you can practice long reaches from an edge.



Find a board with at least the following dimensions: 6 ft. x 1 in x 4 in. Nail it to a wall. Now you can hang off the top edge. If you nail it between two uprights use another board as backing to thwart any temptation to grip the board.

A SAMPLE PROGRAM

After warming up, a typical workout is: a) two sets on the pegboard for perhaps three minutes; b) 8 to 10 mantles, alternating between arms; c) several hundred situps, usually the first 75 to 100 with a weight; d) from five to fifteen repetitions on the Bachar Ladder in two sets; e) from two to five repetitions on the Bachar Ladder, facing away from the ladder, in two sets; f) between two and five repetitions on the knotted rope in two sets; g) about 10 minutes on the slack rope; h) about 10 minutes on the crack board; and i) several minutes on the finger board. Done three times a week.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

These exercises are strenuous. Moments of injury to watch for are: a) the elbows when mantling and coming down the Bachar Ladder — the tendency is to snap the elbow — try using your feet in the rungs to take weight off your arms; b) the finger tendons on the pegboard and finger board — last year I was sidelined for three months with tenosynovitis from these; and c) being thrown on your back by the spring of the slack rope. This is not a complete catalog of potential injuries, so use caution. But remember, there are also rewards.

Try working out with other climbers, it's hard to be motivated day after day, plus other climbers inject some friendly competition into the workout and offers to be a spotter if you need one. Keep the creative juices flowing, these exercises are just a beginning. Oh, and have fun, after all that's why we climb!

REVIEWS

**MountainFilm 1985,
May 24-27, 1985,
Telluride, Colorado.**

Reviewed by Michael Kennedy

MountainFilm has established itself as the American mountain-oriented film festival, and for good reason. Besides the attractions of the town itself and the opportunity to socialize, climb and ski with friends new and old, each year the festival draws more and better films from all over the world — films which very often would not be seen in this country otherwise.

The 1985 festival was no exception, although sold-out evening programs have the organizers thinking of a second theater in the near future. Winners this year were headed by Kathryn Johnston and Iain Stobie's *On the Rocks*, which received the Best Technical Climbing Film/Best Film 1985 award for "originality, honesty, humor and all-around excellence." This was by far the best film at the festival, and I'd venture to say the best film about climbing I've ever seen; it had the audience, climbers and non-climbers alike, literally jumping out of their seats in excitement and was a far cry from the usual dull plodding or heroic posturing of most climbing films.

Best Whitewater Film went to Leo Dickinson's *A Breath of Whitewater*, a good film for the genre; unfortunately, there were too many whitewater films, and the audience suffered from the overdose. William Kronick's *To the Ends of the Earth* was awarded Best Expedition Film and portrayed a lengthy, determined and typically British circumnavigation of the globe via the two poles; cameo appearances by Prince Charles, the expedition's patron, made this "the most Royal film of the Festival."

A Special Jury Award was given to Robert Fulton's *Wilderness: A Country in the Mind*, an original, evocative and brilliantly photographed celebration of wilderness America. Gerhard Baur's *The Decision* won Best Mountaineering Film for "inquiry into the inner thoughts of the soloist . . . and best surprise ending."

Werner Herzog's *The Dark Glow of the Mountains* won Best Mountain Spirit Film, a well-deserved award for this brooding, powerful and, at times, almost frightening look into the psyche of Reinhold Messner. The film, in many ways, raises even more questions about the man than it answers, and the viewer is left wondering whether Messner is a saint, a messiah or merely a talented and industrious madman. But he is human, and one of the most riveting moments of the film (and for me, the festival) sees Messner burst into uncontrolled tears when questioned about his brother Gunther's death on Nanga Parbat — powerful stuff, this.

The many non-award winning films inspired and entertained, especially *Marathon Winter*, a documentary about Stuart Stevens doing all ten World Loppet races in a single winter, including two weekends with back-to-back marathons on different continents. Roger Brown and Barry Corbet were Guests of Honor, for their "contributions, innovations and techniques that helped create the modern sports and adventure film." Dick Bass, fresh from Everest, made a presentation on his recent climb of the peak with David Breasheras; at 55, Bass is the oldest person to have stood on the highest point on Earth, and no matter what, that's a real accomplishment.



I had just two complaints. The first is that I'd like to see more climbing films, although I know that this is a function of what is available in a particular year. The second concerns the length of the evening programs; despite starting relatively on time, they often lasted until midnight or later. Films shown this late invariably suffer. One solution would be to have all of us funhogs sleep in a bit later, but then how could we ski Bear Creek, do a route on the Ophir Wall, and still get to the Skyline Ranch for the picnic in time?

(Many of the films shown at MountainFilm past and present are available in video from Gravity Sports Films, 1591 South — 1100 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84105. (801) 485-3702.)

Readers should note that the Banff Festival of Mountain Films will be held November 1-3, 1985, at the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta. Advance ticket purchase is recommended because of sold-out houses in recent years. Tickets will be available on October 1, and further information may be obtained from: Dorothy Codville, Banff Festival of Mountain Films, The Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta TOL OCO, Canada. (403) 762-6349.

**The American Alpine Journal,
Edited by H. Adams Carter,
The American Alpine Club,
New York, 1985.**

**407 pages, 79 black and white plates,
9 color plates: \$12.25**

Reviewed by Simon King

As I sat down to read the current copy of the *American Alpine Journal*, I couldn't help but wonder how many of the estimated 60,000 climbers in the U.S. have read, seen or even heard of the 'yearbook of amazing feats' published by the American Alpine Club. Sure, there are a few misguided souls like myself who absorb anything even remotely resembling climbing literature, but the majority of climbers would probably take the *Playboy* approach and just study the photos. The AAJ should usually be an exception to this practice, for it contains some excellent articles and reports which truly relate what happens on various climbs and expeditions around the world.

I say 'usually' because the 1985 AAJ is simply not up to par with its predecessors. The blame for this cannot fully rest on the AAC, for they are able to print only those articles submitted to them. However, one cannot help but wonder how many interesting articles were overlooked due to space considerations or editorial appeal.

No one article is the culprit, but rather the collection as a whole just doesn't have the same pizzazz as years past. There is the obligatory diary type account which starts out with the original approach of: "Day 1: We walk up to the site of our old Base Camp at 12,000 feet." The article which precedes this is a short but dull account of a wall climb in the Oman Mountains of Arabia. These two alone will guarantee a swift trip into a deep sleep.

Perhaps the worst use of space in the AAJ is a 33 page report entitled "Classification of the Himalaya" by the Journal's editor, H. Adams Carter. This is a detailed account of all the peaks above 6,500 meters in the Himalaya, listing not only the height in feet and meters, but also the exact latitude and longitude of these mountains. Now, I am not about to belittle Mr. Carter for this monumental study, but the *American Alpine Journal* does not seem to be the appropriate place for such a voluminous work. Perhaps a separate, published report available through the AAC would have opened up those 30+ pages for more interesting articles with a broader appeal.

Two things bother me about the photography. First, the lack of color photos this year. The AAJ is printed on a high quality, brilliant white stock which shows off color for all its glory, but this year the AAJ bypassed its usually inspiring color photos and instead reproduced nine pieces of

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The brass composition of the Pauligk nuts allows a more secure placement than its steel counterparts, while showing little distortion under stress. This same quality allows for the nut to absorb some of the energy of a fall when placed against small crystals and flakes, or when used in softer sandstones.



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artwork created by climbers. The works are well executed and stunning, but they seem a poor replacement for true photographic representations.

The second complaint is with the black and white photos, which are obviously prints from color originals and therefore suffer in the process. Hopefully in the years to come we can see an increase in the number of color plates and an improvement in the quality of the black and white ones.

Not everything in the 1985 AAJ is below standard; in fact, three articles stand out as compelling accounts which are among the finest I have encountered. The "South Face of St. Elias," by Walter R. Gove and Andrew Politz, is an excellent story of an alpine-style ascent on a major mountain which almost ends in tragedy. "Agonizing Decisions," by Dr. Charles S. Houston, should be required reading for all new climbers, and is a good refresher course in responsibility for the seasoned hard man.

Without a doubt, the article which held my attention most was a short piece entitled "Bright Star," by Ed Webster. It deals with the sudden death of his girlfriend in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, and his later solo first ascent on the Diamond of Long's Peak, which he did to celebrate their short friendship together. Anyone who has lost a close friend to the mountains will be hard-pressed not to get choked up over the brief but telling paragraph which deals with her actual death.

No review of the *American Alpine Journal* would be complete without mentioning the "Climbs and Expeditions" section found in the back of the book. This gives brief accounts (1-2 paragraphs) of both major and minor climbs from around the world. An excellent reference, it is because of this section, if no other, that I have purchased the AAJ for so many years.

If you are able to locate a copy of the AAJ, I still recommend it as good bedtime reading. Or, better yet, get a friend to buy it, then borrow it from them and save your money for ice cream.

Medicine for Mountaineering, Ed. Dr. James A Wilderson 3rd Edition. Pages 440. \$19.95. The Mountaineers, 1985.

Mountaineering First Aid, by Marty Lentz, Steven MacDonald, Jan Carline. 3rd Edition. Pages 112. \$4.95. The Mountaineers, 1985.

Reviewed by Bruce C. Paton, M.D.

There are many first aid books available, but few specifically written with the mountaineer in mind. The recent publication of the third editions of two such books attests to their popularity and warrants their review.

Medicine for Mountaineering falls somewhere between a textbook of medicine and a first aid manual. Written by nine physicians and edited by one of them, it is intended as a compendium of fairly soph-

istic knowledge to be used as a text to consult when a doctor is not available.

The book is divided into five sections: General Principles, Traumatic Injuries, Non-traumatic Diseases, Environmental Injuries, and Appendices with details of medications, therapeutic procedures and medical packs.

Almost every disease or injury from fractures to frostbite and from heart disease to herpes is described, often in a detailed and scholarly manner. An addition to this edition is a discussion of the physiological aspects of stress, fear, bereavement and death.

Does this book fulfil its objectives? Mostly, yes. But a considerable amount of medical knowledge is helpful in understanding the information given. In many places a medical term is used where a simpler, non-medical word would be better. Myocardial infarction, for instance, is described without any indication that this is what most people know as a heart attack. And, to add further confusion, "infarction" is not in the glossary, and neither "heart attack" nor "myocardial infarction" is in the index.

Sometimes more information is given than is necessary. Even the most experienced expedition leader shepherding his climbers through the restaurants of Kathmandu hardly needs to know that hepatitis A is caused "by a simple RNA virus," while hepatitis B is caused by "a large complex DNA virus."

The title of the book gives a clue to its true purpose. It is not *Medicine for Mountaineers* but *Medicine for Mountaineering*. If what you want is a book which will tell you how to treat blisters, splint fractures and send for the rescue group, then this is not your book. If your mountaineering is going to be mostly of the weekend variety in accessible areas of North America, then you don't need a one and a half page discussion of cholera, nor a detailed discrimination between penicillinase sensitive and penicillinase resistant penicillins. You won't need to know how to insert a drainage tube into the chest or pass a catheter into the bladder. And you certainly won't need to follow the beautifully illustrated instructions on how to remove a fecal impaction.

If, however, you are an M.D., nurse, paramedic or medically knowledgeable climber going on an expedition, especially to an area far from medical help then this book should be immensely helpful to you. It could save you from carrying at least three major medical textbooks. (Weight/benefit ratio about 40 lbs.).

The book is clearly printed and bound in a tough format suitable for stuffing into the side pocket of your pack. The illustrations are clear line drawings and, mostly, to the point. The labelling of the more complex drawings is sometimes confusing and inaccurate. In one drawing of the abdomen a rib is labeled as liver, the spleen is labeled

as a rib, and another rib is labeled spleen.

It is easy to find fault with books; even third editions from which you would hope that most of the inadequacies had been removed. Perhaps the fourth edition of the text should be submitted to a highly critical, medically stupid reader who could show where the 'doctor talk' obscures important meanings. The book is too good not to go into a fourth edition, and many more.

Mountaineering First Aid is a suitable complement to *Medicine for Mountaineering*. It is a short (112 pages) concise guide to what to do until the doctor comes. It is also an excellent small text for all rescue group members. The authors are an R.N. and E.M.T. and Ph.D. all experienced in climbing and in the teaching of mountain oriented first aid.

The text is arranged in a logical sequence: Before Going to the Mountains, When an Injury Occurs, First Aid for Specific Conditions, Evacuation and Planning. A rescue report, suitable for photocopying, can be cut out from the last few pages. The cartoon-like illustrations are well drawn and instructive (although most of the victims look remarkably cheerful, even the one on the front cover who is receiving CPR).

This book, intentionally, is written for a much wider audience than *Medicine for Mountaineering*, and, for most climbers, would be more useful. The information supplied is sound and is presented with headings and subheadings that quickly direct attention to the most important facts. And this book does have "heart attack" in the index!

Comparisons between the first aid packs advised in the two books are interesting. *First Aid* says — avoid carrying drugs. *Medicine* includes meperidine (demerol) or morphine in the Personal Supplies that "should be carried by everyone on almost any outing." *First Aid* remembers scissors: *Medicine* only remembers tweezers. *First Aid* includes benzoin (which is useful for making tape stick to sweaty feet), *Medicine* does not.

My overall assessment: they are both good books serving different purposes. It would be nice if the publisher could put them both in the same outside format and size. Then, if you are off to climb Dhaulagiri you take the blue book; and if you are just going out for the weekend, take the smaller red book. And if you know everything in both of them — apply for a medical license.

A Climber's Guide to Sabino Canyon and Mount Lemmon Highway,
by John Steiger,
Polar Designs (P.O. Box 5575, Glendale, AZ 85312), 1985.
5"x8", \$17.95

Reviewed by Jim Waugh

Finally! The long held myth that Granite Mountain is the only place to climb in Arizona is about to come to an end. John Stei-

ger's guide is sure to set the stage for what I expect will become the Southwest's most popular climbing area.

Sabino Canyon and Mt. Lemmon are part of the Santa Catalina Range located on the outskirts of Tucson. With the climbing occurring at 3,000 ft. in Sabino Canyon, and ranging from 5,000 ft. to 9,000 ft. on Mt. Lemmon, climbers should be able to visit at any time of the year and experience pleasant weather. In addition, over 20 major crag areas (ranging from 40 ft. to 600 ft.) are accessible within an hour and a half from the Tucson metropolitan area.

However, the geographic location alone does not account for its convenient accessibility. Steiger's guide includes aerial "topo" sketches for the multi-directional crags, a unique combination of finely detailed "topo" drawings (70+) or route descriptions, and supplementary illustrations when necessary for locating the 600+ climbs included in his book. In addition, a quality star rating system (as originated by Jim Erickson in *Rocky Heights*) and an index of routes by difficulty is incorporated to help visiting climbers narrow down their choices for any short excursions to Arizona.

One interesting feature is the historical information that is often included in route descriptions. Among this, Steiger mentions not only FA (first ascent) and FFA (first free ascent) info, but also comments on the style of 5.11 or harder ascents (i.e., Falls, Hangs, Rehearsed, Flash, etc.) and further indicates the best style to date if not originally flashed. An interesting and subtle comment, perhaps, that present climbers are not concerned enough with style.

One small but valid criticism is the author's use of abbreviations for the names of FA and FFA parties. In order to know the full names, one needs to look in an index at the end of the book. Under these circumstances abbreviations have no significance unless one is a local climber. I suspect that the author was trying to avoid any "breast-beating," but this approach will only result in needless cross-referencing for those not familiar with local climbers and probably draw more attention than originally desired.

Over all, Steiger has written a clear, well-organized, and complete guide. This coupled with its professional layout and superb graphics make it an excellent buy.

Indian Heights: A Climber's Guide to Hueco Tanks,
by James Crump, David Head and Mike Head.

Yahoo Publications, Austin, Texas, 1985

100 pp., photos, softbound, \$9.95

Reviewed by John Sherman

It's not easy being the "Hueco Tanks Sales Representative." Mention climbing in Texas and you'll get more laughs than a good AIDS joke. Well, now I have a guidebook to back up my ravings as TRUTH.

IN ARIZONA

The Climbing Season Is Just Warming Up!

Polar Designs Announces

Climbers Guide to Sabino Canyon and Mount Lemmon Highway Tucson, Arizona

by John Steiger

The Santa Catalina Mountain range, near Tucson, provides truly comfortable climbing conditions throughout the year. Hundreds of granite crags up to 600 feet in height are easily accessible from a paved road winding up Mount Lemmon (9157 ft.). This guide is the first for this increasingly popular climbing area.

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I know what you're thinking — he's a sales rep so of course he'll give the book a good review. Hey, just because the Tanks is by far and away the best late fall to early spring climbing area in the U.S. is not going to make me give a rave review. In fact, I have some major complaints about this guide.

Number 1: *Tanks for the Mammaries* was misspelled as *Tanks for the Memories*.

Number 2: *Paddled Severely During Sorority Initiation* is missing entirely.

Number 3: *Luther* was given some homo name I'm too embarrassed to write.

Number 4: They could have found someone with a cuter butt than James Crump to be farting in their chalkbag in the Biko Roof photo.

So what if the photo quality is excellent. So what if the aerial photo at the beginning makes all the difference in locating oneself in such a complex area. So what if the written descriptions are accurate. The authors didn't include *even one* blatant sandbag in the guide. I suppose it's because they're from Texas and aren't aware of the latest climbing trends.

No names for first ascents so immortal will not be yours if you put up a new route there. Some half-baked excuse about Indians climbing there. C'mon Mike, we all know it's just because you're embarrassed by your name and couldn't bear to see it printed on every page.

R and X pro ratings — yes. Racks for individual climbs — no. Approach information — yes. Location of cruxes — no. Descents — sometimes, not enough. Cheap enough to justify not shoplifting — yes. Small enough to slip into your pocket and leave the store inconspicuously — no, unless you're really fat and have 5½" x 8½" pockets on your bloomers in which case you might as well just go to JT because you'll never be able to pull off the ground

on any route at Hueco because they're all too steep.

In the spirit of adventure, the authors leave out some information that would be useful to first-time visitors such as entrance fees, existence of electrical outlets in every campsite (bring the microwave if you want to feel you got your \$6 a night per site worth), how much beer you can bring over the border from Juarez, and which night they change the features at the nearby XXX drive-in.

For a first guidebook to an area it's well done. It will get you to the routes which often would be an impossible task without the guidebook or a local leading you up to the base. So please, everyone buy one so Mike can afford that operation he so badly needs.

Climber's Guide to the Great Falls of the Potomac,

James Eakin, Editor.

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (1718 N. St. N.W., Washington D.C. 20036), 1985. \$6

Reviewed by Stuart Peggall

It seems that sooner or later everyone passes through the D.C. area. Next time you travel this way, toss your shoes into your bag and come enjoy Potomac rock. What? Climbing in D.C.?

Well, we're usually associated with various politicians and bureaucrats. This bustling city on the Potomac also claims a number of important amateur sports figures, albeit in odd activities such as kayaking and climbing.

Our 'yakers have received world attention by consistently out-paddling the competition. Training on the moody and powerful Potomac, they have ascended to a level of accomplishment admired and envied by many.

So it is with our climbers. Carderock and Great Falls have been the training grounds for a host of well-known crag rats who have often been responsible for pushing standards elsewhere. Carderock, because of its diminutive size and large contingency of regulars, has always had well-identified routes and indeed, a fine guide was published several years ago to clarify the situation for newcomers.

James Eakin's newly published guide to Great Falls will fill a big gap in providing information about that area. Strung along the dramatic Mather Gorge are several excellent crags that provide routes of all standards. Because of access and route recognition difficulties caused by the Potomac River below and poorly defined cliff features above, newcomers tend to have a hard time finding their way around. Eakin's guide will eliminate many of these problems, having superb photos, accurate route descriptions and general notations concerning descent routes, high water problems, and the like.

Another nice feature of Eakin's guide is

the consistency of the terminology and ratings. Having climbed at Great Falls for several years, I can attest to the consistency — I can climb the 5.10s, almost climb the 5.11s, and barely start the 5.12s. I also know that Mr. Eakin has climbed most of the routes in the guide to personally inspect them and verify descriptions and ratings.

Included in the guide are an excellent history of climbing in the area, a complete description of the extent of the National Park Service's jurisdiction over the area, and general discussion on Great Falls' climbing ethics. I should include here an additional warning concerning the dangers of the Potomac River. Because of recent drownings (over 20 in the past 18 months!) the NPS will not hesitate to lighten your wallet for swimming or wading in the river. Visitors beware!

Local climbers have been waiting for this guide for two years now, but the editor's meticulous approach to its preparation has paid off. We will long enjoy teasing James about being a "guidebook author," but the teasing will be respectful — it's a job well done.

The Climber's Guide to North America, Vol. II — Rocky Mountain Rock Climbs, by John Harlin III.

Chockstone Press, Denver, Colo. 1985. 396 pp., 6"x9", photos, maps; soft-bound, \$22.00.

Reviewed by James Burwick

The second volume of *The Climber's Guide to North America: Rocky Mountain Rock Climbs* contains a wealth of information on 19 climbing areas, six of which don't even have a guidebook of their own, all for \$22.00. I would be glad to pay this just for the information on these six areas, and am willing to wager that you could save the price of the book on your first holiday, it's so complete and handy.

One of the primary advantages of the book is that it helps you to decide whether an area suits you, before venturing off into the unknown on one of those all-too-precious vacations. Harlin describes the rock very well, covering the quality, variety, difficulty, length, and number of routes and even when to go for the best weather. He includes enough information so you can find a campsite at the crag in the middle of the night after a long drive, and will even help you save face by avoiding the need to ask the local rancher, "Where's da rocks, man?"

As a climbing guide, the format is clear, concise and complete. Harlin uses photos and diagrams to effectively show approaches, difficult sections, belays, questionable areas and descents. Some of the longer routes are covered in a topo format. Arguably, all the plum lines are not included, but who cares? It just leaves them to be discovered by the serious climber, or to be enjoyed longer by those in the know.

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Other sections provide good reference material, including guidebooks, guide services, emergency services, restrictions and regulations, camping (including cost and water availability) and even a bit of history. Being an overview of 19 areas, this book is still specific enough to be used for each individual area, yet gives a good overall feel for the region. It is very easy to find yourself fantasizing about making a little loop combining several crags, and after glancing through it, I'm sure you'll get the itch to pack up and hit the road.

My only complaint is the binding method used. It would be nice to have separately-bound sections for going light, but homestyle cut-and-tape binding works almost as well.

Harlin is to be commended for this effort, which benefits us all greatly, and I wish him the best to complete this series on North American rock climbs. Only three done? More to go — get after it, bro!

Rock Climber's Guide to Aspen,
by Larry Bruce.

44 pp., maps and drawings, paper-bound, \$6.95 postpaid from the author: Larry Bruce, 7 Ajax Avenue, Aspen, Colorado 81611

Reviewed by Michael Kennedy

Working from Greg Davis' 1981 guidebook and updating that effort, Larry Bruce has produced a competent and useful introduction to Aspen area rock climbing. The format is simple and to the point. Following a brief introduction, maps and a mileage chart locate the various crags lining the 20-mile road from Aspen to the top of Independence Pass. Individual crags are covered in simple, full-page sketches with the routes drawn in; each route is listed on the appropriate page, along with grade and a quality rating of one or two stars. The book is rounded out by a list of recommended routes and first ascent credits.

I've climbed here for 14 years, and still enjoy it, so I can't pretend to be totally objective about the area's qualities. Many (visitors and locals alike) have dismissed the climbing as too steep, too short, too loose and too weird, while an equal number have extolled these very faults as virtues! Aspen has always been something of a climbing backwater, and has never been of great significance in the development of the sport in Colorado. Nevertheless, the climbing is varied and interesting, and can often be superb; the area is well worth a visit for its uncrowded routes and charming high country vistas from the crags, not to mention the hedonistic pleasures of the town itself. Although short, most routes give exceptional value for length, and almost all have two things in common: they're both steeper and harder than they look from the ground.

There are the inevitable errors of fact, most of which will be corrected in future editions. A few that I noticed included the

omission of first ascent information for *Bicentennial Roof* (climbed by Henry Barber in 1977), some spelling and grading errors, and the reporting of *Master's Headwall* as a free climb at 5.11+. The latter had almost certainly not been free climbed until this year, despite claims by a pioneering area climber now better known for marking his routes with red spray paint. And I would have liked to have seen a more extensive introduction, or perhaps a short history of the area included in the text. But these are minor complaints; all in all, this is a fine effort and welcome addition to the genre.



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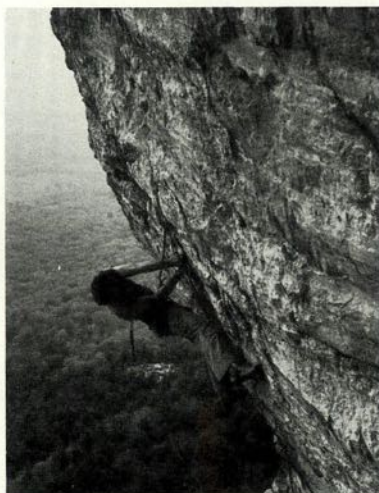
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LETTERS

Repulsive Cartoonist Responds

Dear Editor:

In response to Val Handel's letter (*Climbing* #90) about my "repulsive" cartoon ("How to be a Hard-Man in Ten Easy Lessons"), I must say that I really enjoyed it (the letter), and have taped a copy to my drawing board for inspiration.

If the use of technical jargon can be excused, it should be added that the cartoon is an example of what we in the trade like to refer to as *assatire*. This means, in layman's terms, *making fun of*, and it should be understood that the artist in no way condones such odious practices depicted in the cartoon, as bolt chopping, or ridiculing climbers of lesser ability. (Despite the fact that I regularly solo 5.13, and have no need whatsoever for protection of any sort on any route.)

Sincerely yours,
Karl J. Koch,
Morongo Valley, Ca.

Chopped Rivets

Dear Editor:

In the past, *Basecamp* has been an interesting and integral part of *Climbing*, but recently, I've questioned the editorial integrity of *Basecamp* for a very pertinent reason. I've been reading reports of chopped bolts and rivets by "free" climbers, which to me is clearly the murder of another person's expression. None of this activity, as reported in *Basecamp*, has been questioned or put in check. Why not?

In 1970, Warren Harding and Dean Caldwell climbed the Wall of Early Morning Light on El Capitan, much to the chagrin of a superior gaggle of hardmen. On the second ascent, 40 bolts were chopped before the quality of the route was realized, and the erasure of the route subsided by mutual agreement of the second ascent party. The man who wanted the route erased and did the dirty work was Royal Robbins — an individual whose example of athletic prowess and artistic expression on rock is legendary to this day. The point is that Robbins, who was America's climbing spokesman, stopped chopping and admitted his error. Robbins embodied all that purity in climbing has ever possessed, yet he saw the folly of erasing another man's creation for the sake of purity when what he beheld was an act and expression not only of will, but of talent.

This was an issue 13 years ago, and Robbins taught us a lesson. Have we learned it yet? Have we learned to take our energies where they have room to grow, without stepping on another person's toes and thereby declaring our own insecurity and lack of creative will? I think not.

Here is a specific example. *Basecamp* (*Climbing* #88, p. 12) reported a route called *The Good, the Bad & The Ugly* (5.12a), stating "prior to their ascent, an aid ladder of five rivets had been placed; these were crowbarred out after being used for aid to place two bolts." Now think about that: the rivets from an aid route were used to drill bolts for a "free" route, then crowbarred out. Isn't this a contradiction in terms? How can this be regarded as a legitimate free ascent? This is where I'd like to see a more questioning editorial hand in *Basecamp*.

I have no doubt about the difficulty of free climbing on the route, but where is the creative force? Why destroy the expression of another climber when on the same rock there is room for a completely new free climb? These fellows saw the rivets and decided that it was their privilege to change what had already been done — they couldn't have been against aid, because they aided the rivets to drill their bolts. If they had something against rivets they should have ignored the route altogether. It's ridiculous — 100 feet left of this route is virgin territory. If you want to do a new route, go to the new rock!

The route now known as *The Good, the Bad & the Ugly* used to be a frightening and difficult 2 pitch mixed route that involved A-4 hooking, on-sight lichen cleaning and strenuous nutting on a traverse. The route was done from bottom to top in one day, with no yo-yoing, no falls and no rehear-sals. It was a fine aid route that provided a place to work out hooking technique on an exciting lead. It was a route where people could learn something important about aid climbing.

Now it's gone, replaced by a 5.12 route only made possible because the placements were drilled from legitimate aid stances. It seems ironic that the recognition for this route went (unquestioned) to an illegitimate free route that destroyed a legitimate aid route. The route in the South Platte that was destroyed was one of the nicest hooking routes I've ever seen in my life — it was called *Hooked on a Feeling*.

Thanks for your time,
Allen Pattie,
Telluride, Colo.

It should be noted that anyone wishing to report new routes in Basecamp is free to do so; we also welcome information on new areas, changes in existing routes and indeed any information that might prove useful to the climbing community at large.

As a practical matter, information received is edited for clarity and space requirements; as a matter of editorial policy, every effort is made to report events as completely and as fairly as possible, and we welcome the opportunity to correct or clarify Basecamp, as well as other sec-

tions of the magazine. Again as a matter of editorial policy, we generally do not comment on events from a personal perspective, preferring to let the facts speak for themselves.

In any case, we do not read minds, nor do the majority of the readers of Climbing. In the absence of published information or intimate local knowledge, it would be difficult to make any judgement at a distance, and rather than attempt to do so, we have adopted the editorial policy outlined above. In essence, we rely on the integrity of our correspondents and their desire to present useful and factual information on new routes and the style in which they were done; in this way, the individual reader can make his/her own judgement as to the relative merit of a particular climb without the prejudices of the editor interfering. Polemics are best left to the Letters columns or to signed editorial pieces.

—Michael Kennedy, Editor

Absurd Protection

Dear Editor:

I found the article on tied-off hooks (*Climbing* #91) completely absurd. Granted that Ken Nichols is making a much-needed statement on rappel-placed bolts, but let's face it, who wants to go climbing with all those ropes for tie-offs that result in minimal protection anyway? If I lived in Connecticut (which thankfully I don't), I'd be placing solid $\frac{3}{8}$ in. bolts from hooks or on the lead so people could enjoy my routes without the fear of dying on a beautiful sunny afternoon. Let's not all get killed enjoying ourselves.

Sincerely yours,
Jim Schwarz,
San Jose, Ca.

Rude Rangers

Dear Editor:

We had a wonderful time climbing in America this summer, however, the trip ended unpleasantly. Christian Schwartz and I (Swiss), and two American freinds want to climb the Diamond, got a wilderness permit at the Long's Peak Ranger Station, and hiked in to Chasm Lake. We found a great bivvy site on the east side, a huge rock under which all four of us could fit, and where people had obviously bivouaced before.

It stormed overnight, thwarting our project the next day. In the morning, as we watched the clouds, nestled in our sleeping bags, a ranger showed up and told us we were in the wrong place. We started packing as he left, but 5 minutes later he was back in full uniform, accompanied by the ranger with whom we had registered. Blankly, they informed us that they were

going to issue one of our American friends a \$50 fine, with warnings to the rest of us.

It was amazing to be out in the mountains and have these two cops — that's what they really are — start hassling us for no reason. We explained that there was no way we could know about right or wrong bivvy sites — there were no signs, and when we signed in, the ranger didn't show us a map — and besides, this was the only place around giving shelter in case of a storm. The more we argued, the meaner they got, ultimately informing us that we were lucky not be charged \$50 *each*, and that sitting on the tundra could be worth another \$50!

It is too bad that climbers in America don't have a union to stand up for their rights. The Yosemite scene is even worse: June through August you can stay for only one week, even if you leave and come back. No foreigner can obey such a regulation. This year, two Swiss friends were jailed in Yosemite, handcuffed in Camp IV in a very theatrical way, just because they told a ranger they had been there 3 days when they had actually been there a week. Of course, it's not nice to lie to a ranger, but they oblige us to lie because there is no way we can come all the way over just for a week.

Sincerely yours,
Romain Vogler,
Geneva, Switzerland

The Chisel Speaks

Dear Editor,

Everybody likes controversy, so here we go. I'm going to bitch about the recent degeneration of style on some of the new routes being put up in Colorado and possibly elsewhere in the U.S.A.

The styles I'm referring to are the practices of top roping a climb before a lead is attempted, and of preplacing protection on a new climb; specifically, preplacing bolts from a toprope or on rappel.

On some of these new "test pieces," massive top roping has been required to wire the admittedly desperate moves. Oftentimes the top roping isn't even done free (i.e., hanging after each failure). When the moves are finally rehearsed enough to ensure physical success, the climb is prepared, from a toprope or rappel, with enough bolts to ensure mental success. After the route has been literally hammered into submission by these artificial tactics, a lead is finally made and a "first free" ascent claimed. Give me a break! Our grading system is already screwed up enough (another area I want to bitch about sometime). Like wow man, 5.13C for sure. 5.13C what? 5.13C TR (toproped)? 5.13C TR PPP (toproped, preplaced pro)? 5.13C — keep dreaming!

Top roping a climb before leading it is dubious at best. Fortunately, it only affects one's own character and reputation. Random bolting from a toprope is a totally different

story, however. Bolts do have a legitimate place in free climbing; when placed free and not in excess they can help create great climbs for others to enjoy. But once a bolt is placed the entire climbing community is affected, for better or worse.

When some mortal determines that no one is, or will be, capable of legitimately leading a climb, and then desecrates the rock on a toprope, the whole climbing community, present and future, is denied an opportunity to pursue a true evolution or rise of standards. This perverse degeneration of ethics is a gross act of selfishness and egomania as well as a total disregard for tradition, other climbers and, above all, the sanctuary and spirit of climbing itself — the rock.

Hopefully these practices are only a passing fad. But it will only pass if something is said and done about it. Guidebook writers have an obligation here. By recording these "climbs" along with their "free" grade, the authors are becoming accessories to this sacrilege. A major reason behind this sleaze climbing is to see it written up. Cool enough, but write it up as it happens.

The final solution? If these climbs are left alone then those who follow will see them as a testimony to this generation. Chopping the bolts won't totally solve the problem, but it will let those who shit on the altar know that it won't be tolerated. Did I say chop bolts?

Just remember, climbers might evolve and they might get better, and they just might be able to cruise your contrived abortion without propping their courage up with a toprope.

Sincerely,
Mark "The Chisel" Wilford,
Fort Collins, Colo.

Nepal Changes

Dear Editor,

Re: my article, "Climbing Nepal's Trekking Peaks" (*Climbing* #82). Having recently returned from a nine-month geoeological expedition in Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park, Khumbu, Nepal, I would like to bring to your attention several developments which may be of interest to your readers. The following items focus primarily on the Khumbu but are applicable to other regions:

1. I purposely did not mention the fact that, while climbing fees and regulations exist, certain people have chosen to take their chances and climb without either official permission or fee payment. I pass no judgment on this practice, and only wish to point out that during the spring and fall of 1984 at least three individuals in the Everest region were "caught" after successfully completing their climbs. They were either seen climbing and questioned later by other trekking groups and Sherpas, or, as one story goes, boasted of their exploits to Sherpa lodgeowners who then

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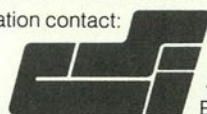
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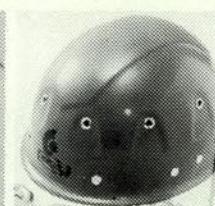
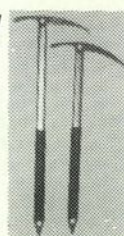
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turned them in. Their passports were confiscated and returned upon payment of the peak fee in Namche Bazaar. I'm not certain if any other form of "punishment" was administered, but it would seem that the risk of being banned from all climbing in Nepal under such circumstances would be great.

2. For the record, it may be of interest to know that the U.S. Embassy's performance in providing helicopter and other forms of aid during the climbing and trekking emergencies of 1984 was outstanding. Numerous tragedies were averted because of the Embassy's timely response to requests for help, and tremendous compassion was shown to the families of the less fortunate individuals. Few embassies in Kathmandu, however, have such a track record, so if you're not a U.S. citizen it may be worth familiarizing yourself with your own embassy's particular policies regarding rescues (e.g., leaving a deposit or "guarantee of payment" as mentioned in the article).

3. Radio communications are as bad as ever. Helicopter and other forms of rescue are severely limited without them. Aside from having your own radio set and operator, as do many major expeditions (along with numerous additional customs headaches), I would advise that the prospective expedition thoroughly assess the local wireless availability situation before leaving Kathmandu. For example, the set at the Sagarmatha National Park Headquarters, which many foreigners seem to rely on, is operated on solar cells and useless on most cloudy days. Just up the next valley, however, the Thamo Hydroelectricity Development Project has a set which contacts Kathmandu promptly at 10 a.m. every day. A knowledge of similar situations elsewhere in Nepal could prevent many possibly tragic delays.

4. Trekking peak climbing fees have been increased. Adrian Burgess comments on this in his article (*Climbing* #91), and further information can be obtained either through the trekking agency handling one's climb or the Nepal Mountaineering Association.

5. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of selecting a reliable trekking agency to handle an expedition's affairs. Generally I've found that this means going with the older, more established firms. Again, Burgess' recommendations are excellent.

6. The western doctors who volunteer for duty at the Himalayan Rescue Association high altitude clinics (Pheriche-Manang) are performing vital and commendable services, especially with the increase in trekking/climbing, and incidences of acute mountain sickness. The clinics rely heavily on visitor donations. One little-known effect of altitude which I've noticed, however, is the correlation between increased elevation and reticence to make donations (Hillary's Kunde Hospital receives regular donations, which

I sincerely hope continue, but Pheriche receives very little in the way of financial help from visitors). Having briefly assisted in what can only be described as one of the many heroic rescues by the Pheriche doctor (Steve) in 1984, I would hope that climbers in particular increase their awareness and support of the HRA clinics in Pheriche, Manang or wherever they may be located.

Sincerely,
Alton Byers,
Boulder, Colo

Equal Time

Dear Editor:

As an owner of an outdoor specialty store which offers a wide selection of products and services to the climbing and mountaineering community of North Carolina and the Southeast, I would like to congratulate *Climbing* and John Harlin III for an enlightening and concise tour into the Linville Gorge Wilderness Area (*Climbing* #91).

I am dismayed, however, that Mr. Harlin overlooked Paddling Unlimited of Pfafftown, N.C. and many other quality outdoor shops which service the Linville Gorge area. While we are not the closest store to Linville Gorge the area, our location in the northwest Winston-Salem area allows us to conveniently service not only Linville Gorge climbers but those of two other most popular areas: Stone Mountain near Traphill and Moores Wall at Hanging Rock State Park near Danbury. We invite Mr. Harlin, the good folks at *Climbing* and all readers to visit us when in North Carolina.

Finally, with respect to "equal time," let me suggest an "all or none policy" either list all the shops in an area or none at all. Climbers have a way of spreading the word very efficiently.

If each of the *Climber's Guide to North America* is composed as well as the Linville Gorge excerpt, climbers all over will be rewarded well for their interest.

Sincerely
Pat Fitzgerald
Paddling Unlimited,
Pfafftown, N.C.

Route Info Requested


Dear Editor:

Information is being sought for the completion of a technical climbing guide to the Southwest desert. Areas being covered are from northern Arizona north and east to Colorado National Monument and west to Zion National Park, (including Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and the San Rafael Swell), in addition to Indian Creek and all sandstone spires, buttes and mesas in between.

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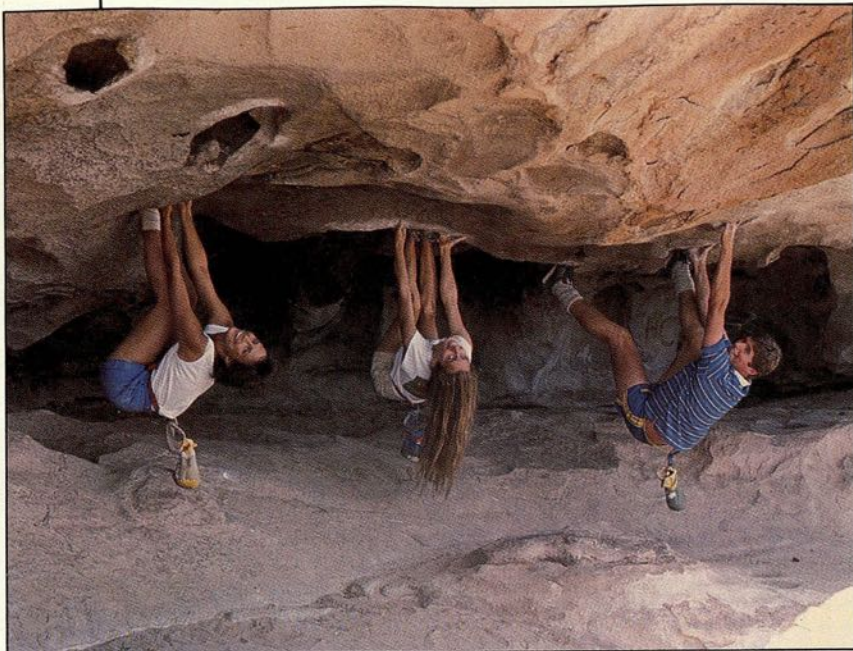


Photo: Dave Head.

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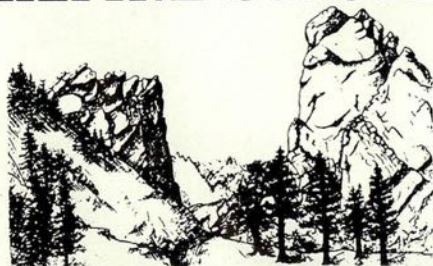
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