

Pass dropped to 0°F, and several days never went above freezing—along with the concomitant blessing of a complete absence of mosquitos. Hitchhiking the haul road to Fairbanks was quite difficult.

MICHAEL D. YOKELL

*Ice Climbing Near Valdez.* An explosion of activity in climbing new routes resulted from good ice conditions and increasing interest by locals and visitors, stimulated by the preparation of a guidebook to the area. Starting in early November, by the end of February (which is when conditions are just beginning to reach their peak) 48 new frozen waterfalls were climbed. In one week alone, 17 new routes were done, bringing the total to 148 in the city limits. Many of the routes are easily road-accessible, though some required hiking or skiing for an hour or two on the approach. Notable new routes include the following: *Tortilla Flat* (V, 350 feet, 110 meters, consisting of verglas ½ inch to 1 inch thick over blank 65° rock protected only by slinging the heads of seven rock-stabilizing construction bolts), by Evan Smith, Andrew Embick and Brian Teale; *Excalibur* (V, 210 feet, 65 meters, whose second pitch overhangs 6 feet in 110 feet) by Andrew Embick and Martin Leonard III; *Secret Journey* (V, 550 feet, 170 meters) by John Weiland and Bob Shelton; *Royal Ribbons* (V —, 320 feet, 100 meters) by Evan Smith, David Miller, Brian Teale and Martin Leonard III; *Tsuri Gane* "Hanging Bell" (VI —, 550 feet, 170 meters) by Bob Shelton and Shigeki Nakayama; and *Tokyo Express* (V —, 500 feet, 150 meters) by John Weiland and Yuwa Yamazaki. The greatest activity came at the time of the third annual Valdez Ice Festival, put on by the Alaska Section, which coincided with the visit of four Japanese climbers sent by the JAC as part of an exchange. Masaki Matsumoto, Shomi Suzuki, Yuwa Yamazaki and Shigeki Nakayama were in Valdez for a week. They climbed a number of Grade V routes and first ascents and Suzuki teamed with Teale to do the third ascent of *Wowie Zowie* (VI, 400 feet, 120 meters overhanging) in seven hours. No apparent end is in sight to the discovery of new ice routes in the Valdez area, as the combination of relief, temperatures and precipitation have produced high-quality ice climbs in tremendous and perhaps unparalleled concentration. As a late season note, Roman Dial of Fairbanks free-soloed *Keystone Green Steps* (V, 650 feet, 200 meters) in a little less than two hours. The first ascent in 1976 by Jeff Lowe and John Weiland took three days.

ANDREW R. EMBICK, M.D.

### Washington-Cascade Mountains

*Burgundy Spire, North Face, Winter Ascent.* Two months of no climbing have Kit Lewis, Kevin Joiner, and me desperate for adventure. Kit suddenly decides that we should climb Burgundy Spire over the Christmas holidays. December 26 finds us staggering out of the helicopter on the Silver Star Glacier, fumbling to set up Base Camp. Packed and ready to go by noon on the 27th, our only problem seems to be the cold. Our beer is starting to freeze. We plod up the gully leading to Burgundy's north face. Soon the afternoon sun makes its way onto the face, a real plus in these temperatures. The conditions are typical of winter—lots of new snow, cracks and holds hidden from view. Carefully we

search out the route—5.8 in summer—brushing off snow, uncovering holds, and frequently removing our gloves to make difficult moves. The climbing is distinctly alpine and exhilarating. By now the sun has left us, and as it starts to get dark we hurry to pitch our tent on a suitable ledge. In the morning we are treated to a marvelous sunrise: Goode, Dome, and other high peaks are brilliantly lit up against the dark backdrop of an approaching storm. Leaving the tent pitched, we spend the entire day climbing six pitches to the summit, returning to the tent just after dark with the storm upon us. Being well supplied we feel no need to leave a cozy bivouac the following morning, as the storm rages. One more night on the spire (our third), and we descend despite the blizzard.

JAMES NELSON, *unaffiliated*

*Mount Terror, North Face, Left Side.* From July 14 to 17, I soloed a new route on the north face of Mount Terror. The climb follows the prominent buttress left of the original 1961 route. The approach was made in two days via Stettattle Ridge and upper McMillan Creek cirque, a beautiful and relatively brush-free route. After reaching the base of the original route, I traversed ledges several hundred feet left to gain the steeper, more compact left buttress. From here mid-fifth-class climbing followed the clean, solid rock of the crest to a notch at one-third height. Above, a sharp prow guarded by overhangs on both sides blocked the route, forcing a rappel down and right to ledges. I then found a route up the narrow face dividing the two buttresses, which led me back to the crest above the prow. Another long, spectacular section on the arête led to a false summit below the west peak, with difficulties to 5.7 on slightly looser rock. A knife-edged section in the crest now blocked the way, so I attempted to follow a prominent ledge leading left around to the notch between the west and main peaks. This faded into steep, extremely loose rock, so I climbed straight up on loose blocky rock to near the summit of the west peak (crux, 5.8 + ). The descent down the west ridge was easy and uneventful; not so the trek back to my car the next day. Descending the barrier, an obstacle I had never seen from below, proved difficult and perplexing and led me into a hideous six-hour bushwhack back to Goodell Creek Trail.

JOHN STODDARD, *Unaffiliated*

*Mesahchie Peak.* This peak has received increasing attention in the past few years. On July 29, 1978, Stimson Bullit and Kjell Gustafson climbed the east ridge. Subsequent parties have climbed variations on the ridge and the adjacent southeast gullies. The ridge is class 4; the gullies, class 3. (Grade II.) On August 26, 1979, Dave Seman climbed the upper northeast ridge. He reached the route by crossing the Mesahchie Glacier from its eastern col, then climbing through the icefall and working right onto the crest. From here the ridge is mostly class 3 with 200 feet of easy class 5. The climb is Grade II, with good rock. On August 21, 1982, Mickey Schurr and Mike Brown climbed the complete northeast ridge. Long and very exposed, the climb required 9½ hours from low on the glacier. On September 23, 1984, my brother Carl and I climbed a variation of the east-ridge route. From the Mesahchie Glacier, we climbed the icefall and

couloir to the upper part of the ridge, then continued on the crest to the summit. An enjoyable ice and rock climb. (Grade II-III.)

LOWELL SKOOG

*Jack Mountain, East Ridge.* On a weekend excursion to Jack Mountain, my brother Carl and I climbed this route. From a high camp below the southeast ridge, a traverse was made across the east glacier to gain the ridge. The climb offered a straightforward line on good rock along the ridge crest. The crux was an obvious step which was passed on the right. The east ridge presents enjoyable scrambling in an alpine setting with tremendous North Cascade vistas. (NCCS III, F3-4.)

GORDY SKOOG, *Unaffiliated*

*Mount Index, Middle-Main Peak Gully.* On January 20, Fred Dunham and I climbed the gully between the Middle and Main Peaks of Mount Index from Lake Serene, south of the South Norwegian Buttress. The climb consisted of several steep steps separated by lower-angled snow-and-ice slopes. The crux of the climb was a seventy-foot vertical and overhanging waterfall about halfway up. We left the town of Index at six A.M. in cold, clear weather and reached the summit of the main peak at 11:30 P.M. in a snow storm. As in every winter gully climb, conditions must be just right. By the time we were descending the east route to Lake Serene, our gully was being raked by avalanches of new snow.

WILLIAM SUMNER

*Mount Stuart, Northwest Couloir.* In early May, Lee Cunningham and I snowshoed once again up Mountaineer Creek. Our objective this trip was the oft-tried couloir between the north ridge and the northwest face routes of Mount Stuart. Our theory was that mid-spring would provide the ideal temperatures to allow ice to build up over the down-sloping slabs at the base of the route. After a cold night on the Ice Cliff Glacier terminal moraine, we skirted the base of the north ridge and ascended the Stuart Glacier, arriving at the start of the technical climbing with a beautiful sunrise. Establishing a belay was difficult due to the featureless rock which characterized the route. All the ice within reach was in reality plastered snow, making a small right-facing corner off to our left the only feasible route. We traded anxious glances, both saying we didn't care who led the first pitch. Lee finally decided the issue by pointing out that I was closer. So I geared up and traversed over to the corner and interrogated the white stuff in the back with a swing of the Bird. "THUNK!". It was good ice! The climbing involved five extended pitches, each consisting of about 50 feet of delicate ice followed by a long steep snowfield of simultaneous climbing to the base of the next ice section. The final pitch, which in summer is an easy scramble on the north ridge route, took on a new dimension with crampons and ice tools. One-and-a-half hours of glissading down the Sherpa Glacier took care of nine hours of climbing up. (NCCS IV, WI4, 5.4.)

PAT MCNERTHNEY, *Iceicle Spiders*

*West Annapurna, Stuart Range.* Using an approach from Ingalls Creek, Dave Beckstead and I made the first ascent of the south face in June. We began on broken granite at the lowest portion of the face, then followed a slight rib on the face. Most of the climb was class 4 and easy class 5, but one slot had 5.7 moves. The rock is very solid.

FRED BECKEY

*Bridge Creek Wall, "Wet and Wild."* In December of 1983, Matt Kerns and I climbed the waterfall that forms in the gully system to the left of Bridge Creek Wall. The approach from the Icicle Creek Road took four hours. The first pitch was 100 feet of thin 60° ice. Snow led to the second pitch, 20 feet of vertical icicles followed by 60 feet up a steep ice ramp. More snow led to a 300-foot granite wall bisected by a thin strip of ice. Two pitches of steep ice and poorly protected mixed climbing up the strip led to the top. We descended the east side of the upper pitches with a long rappel, and downclimbed to the west of the lower pitches. The climb gets a lot of sun and is wet even if the air temperature is below freezing. Piton protection is possible; bring knifeblades. (Grade V ice.)

TOM HALL-HARGIS

*Winter Climbing in the Snoqualmie Pass Area.* Winter climbing has become quite popular on these small but rugged peaks. The area sports many excellent, short alpine climbs possible in one day from Seattle. The north face of Chair Peak and the south face of the Tooth are especially popular. In December, Jim Nelson and Scott Fischer climbed the east face of the Tooth. The steep face provided several pitches of difficult mixed climbing.

DANIEL W. CAUTHORN

*Mount Snoqualmie, Northwest Face, First Winter Ascent.* In January, Greg Colum and I decided to attempt the route first climbed by Dan Davis. The northwest face, not visible from the road, is one of the largest and steepest in the Snoqualmie Pass area. From camp at 5200 feet on the west ridge, we descended to the base of the climb, which begins at the left edge of the face. We found a steep snow gully leading to the top of the face. It was enjoyable climbing on frozen snow up to 55°. We were surprised that a climb of this quality, so close to the road, had not been done in winter before.

DANIEL W. CAUTHORN

*Cutthroat Peak, East-Face Couloir.* In April Tim Wilson and I made the first ascent of the prominent gully system that splits the east face of Cutthroat Peak. It was five pitches of enjoyable snow and ice with one long steep pitch of ice at the bottleneck of the couloir. We descended the north ridge. This is a recommended early season climb, feasible in a single day if the North Cascades Highway is open.

DANIEL W. CAUTHORN

*Johannesburg Mountain, Northeast Rib, Western Rib Variation, Winter Ascent.* Steve Mazzioli and I made the first winter ascent of this 5000-foot-high spur in early February. We ascended a thousand feet of honeycomb ice to a snow bowl, then wallowed through a 70° snow-covered forest to the crest of the rib. After some easy mixed climbing, we dug a snow-cave bivy about halfway up the buttress. The trip was complicated when I dropped our only cooking pot down the buttress before dinner, and then spent the evening vomiting. Steve solved our first problem by figuring out that it is possible to melt snow in a plastic cup over flame provided that the cup is kept at a certain crucial distance from the heat. The next morning I felt well enough to continue. Wonderful mixed ground on the crest of the buttress led us to a huge cornice perched on a horizontal knife-edged arête—we were forced to use the “you jump east, I’ll jump west” belay system here. On reaching rock, we rappelled into a couloir on the right, and followed snow to the summit. We traversed down crumbling rime on the east ridge, and reached the Cascade-Johannesburg col after dark. We descended the couloir to the valley the next morning.

WILLIAM PILLING

*Mount Goode, Northeast Buttress, First Winter Ascent.* On February 26 Cliff Courtney dropped Steve Mazzioli and me at the end of the plowed Stehekin River road, where we began the ski-in to Goode. Three days later we reached the valley beneath the peak. On March 1 we skied up a huge avalanche slope to the highest clump of trees below Goode Glacier. Our suspicions about the slope were confirmed that night as we were awakened by the blast of an avalanche wiping out a big portion of our tracks, spreading debris within a few hundred yards of the creek. On March 2 we spent the day in the tent, waiting out a storm. The next morning was clear, an airflow from the northwest indicating a high pressure cell off Vancouver Island—ideal winter weather in the North Cascades. After four hours of laborious skiing, we started up steep ice gullies to the west of the “elegant and unmistakable” buttress, third-classing up 70° bulges as spindrift slides broke over us. We diagonaled left over steep, icy snow to the ridgecrest, where Steve led a hard mixed pitch up and around the corner. We continued up the east side of the rib, digging and wallowing up steep snow flutings. At the base of a rock barrier we dug a snow cave. The next morning, we turned the rock step on the east, then climbed to a steep mixed wall near the buttress edge. I led a hard pitch directly up the slabby crest to an icy ledge. Steve led through up mixed ground to a strenuous vertical dihedral. We climbed a wide water-ice gully to the right of the buttress for several hundred feet, then rejoined the buttress as it faded into the summit mass. We traversed the north side of the summit, and reached the top at four P.M. The established routes were evidently poor choices for descents, and Steve suggested we descend directly down the north face, following gullies between the buttress and northeast-face route. Conditions were perfect for descent, and we were within a few hundred feet of the bergschrund at dark. We dug an ample snow cave and celebrated until

very late. In the morning we rappelled once and skied to the creek. On March 6 we rose early, aware that we were due in Stehekin that night. We skied fifteen miles to the end of the plowed road, then staggered on foot for six more miles, where the Stehekin Tuesday Night Ladies Bridge Club picked us up and gave us a ride to the boat dock.

WILLIAM PILLING

*Various Climbs in the Northern Cascades.* This north buttress of *Amphitheater Mountain* lies just east of the middle finger buttress on the broad north face. On July 20, 1983, Mike Carville and I climbed it, following a line on the right side. Obvious cracks led up the center on good rock and finished with an overhanging off-width crack (Grade III, 5.9). *Rooster Finch* is one of two spires just above the Colchuck-Dragontail Col. On June 13 Stephen Buchwalder, Alex Sebastian and I completed a two-pitch climb on the west face. The climbing started low on the right side and followed a single crack on the second pitch to the summit (Grade I, 5.8). At the south end of Snagtooth Ridge is the fairly solid *Big Snagtooth* with two prominent buttresses dominating the east face. On June 30 Bob Vreeland and I climbed three pitches up the right buttress. Gaining a big ledge, we then traversed a pitch to the left and did three more pitches up the center of the east face, skirting an enormous chimney on its left (Grade III, 5.10). On July 18 Kevin Beltz and I completed a new route on the left side of the south face of *Tomahawk*. Cracks and ramps diagonal up and right and reach the summit in four pitches (Grade II, 5.8). On the left side of the south face of *Half Moon* and directly below the enormous gendarme on the west ridge is a system of cracks and ramps that Beltz and I climbed on July 20. Except for the very bottom, the rock is good and the three-pitch climb finishes on the west ridge on the east side of the gendarme (Grade II, 5.9). At four P.M. on July 27 Jeff Thomas pointed up a vertical dihedral on *Big Kangaroo's* south face which was catching the late-afternoon light. I agreed to his scheme and at ten P.M. we arrived at the top of the 900-foot face in total darkness after climbing eight pitches, three of which were 5.10. We stumbled down talus and snowfields. The dihedral lies between the 1967 south-face route and the southeast buttress (Grade III, 5.10, A.1). On July 28, although we were still tired from the night before, Jeff and Bill Thomas and I completed a six-pitch route up the southeast buttress of *Big Kangaroo*. It followed crack systems on the left side of a huge slot high on the buttress. The rock quality was variable (Grade III, 5.9).

ALAN KEARNEY

*Cathedral Rock, Northeast Buttress.* On September 16, Paul Bellamy and I made what we believe is the first ascent of Cathedral Rock from the vertical east side. We climbed the 900-foot northeast buttress. From the meadows southeast of the peak we traversed north over loose talus to the base of the east face, 100 feet south of the northeast buttress. We climbed the apron below the east face to



a steep ledge where a right traverse brought us to a small tree on the buttress. We ascended the buttress on the left generally toward a prominent gendarme on the upper east face. We traversed right on a ledge at the base of the gendarme to a dead tree. From there we followed a short, not obvious ledge to a notch formed by a large, loose block which provided access to a vertical crack that led to a steep gully system. We climbed the gully system for a pitch and then headed left to the summit. The eight pitches took 5½ hours. Except for the first class-4 pitch, all leads were class 5. Because of some loose rock, helmets are recommended. (III, 5.7.)

GARY SPEER

## Oregon

*Mount Washington, Southeast Spur.* On an extremely hot July day Harvey Schmidt and I forged a new variant of twelve 180-foot leads on this classic alpine spur. Beginning at the moat at the right edge of the prominent buttress, we climbed 2½ pitches up a flaired dihedral (5.9) to attain the spur at the first large scrub pine. Scrambling led to the second crux, scaling a dead trunk and frictioning, unprotected, out off its highest branch. The spur steepened at this point and we climbed the crest instead of taking the less exposed escape gully to the right. We continued for six pitches on solid class 4 or 5 rock to the pinnacle summit (III, 5.9+).

ROBERT MCGOWN

*Mount Hood, North Face.* On July 11, I made a quick ascent of Mount Hood, climbing 5300 feet in 3¼ hours, to take a peek down the north face at the Eliot Glacier Headwall. Conditions were ideal for soloing with clear skies, below-freezing temperatures and firm névé. After dropping 1000 feet down the northwest ridge, a horizontal traverse brought me to the center of the north face and the start of the real challenge. "Styrofoam" frozen névé, water ice from 55° to 90° and an occasional band of rotten rock made up the major difficulties. A 30-foot-high fractured rock chimney and a final 150 feet of easy snow brought me to the summit. It took me one hour from the bergschrund to the summit. I encountered no rockfall on this infamous shooting gallery. [Though the route was not new, the style was.—*Editor.*]

RALPH RICHARDSON-HEALY, *Unaffiliated*

*Beacon Rock.* In June Bill Antal and I climbed the headwall of Pipeline on Beacon Rock, a discontinuous dihedral system of vertical and overhanging rock. The six pitches were on clean rock and consisted of relentless laybacking, stemming and jamming (III, 5.11). Antal and I also climbed the right Pipeline

Headwall crack (5.11, A2) with 50 feet of aid. Jim Olsen, Mark Di Nucci and Mark Cartier returned after three attempts to free Pipe Dream (III, 5.12). Its crux is a 165-foot sustained thin crack with four 5.11 moves. Olsen accomplished the lead without falls, hanging or yo-yo's. There were a variety of other climbs done in the central dihedral area of one to three pitches of 5.10 and 5.11 by Cartier, Olsen, Jeff Thomas, Anary Techenor and others. On the right side of the Steppenwolf Headwall, I soloed a thin crack system over the roofs on the right of Steppenwolf Shield (IV, 5.10 + , A4 + ).

ROBERT MCGOWN

### California—Sierra Nevada

*Whitney Portal, Corpus Christi Butress.* Between Whitney Portal and El Segundo Butresses, and slightly above these formations are several large walls and buttresses. On Easter, Gary Slate, Fred Beckey and I climbed what we believe to be the first route in this area. The climb ascends a brushy butress which rises up and left out of a recess. It cannot be seen from the end of the road, but is visible from the switchback below El Segundo Butress. The first two pitches climb cracks on the right side of a pillar. Above, the crux pitch has two protection bolts, and two easier pitches lead to an indistinct summit. (III, 5.9.)

ALAN BARTLETT

*Eichorn Pinnacle, A Celebrity's Holiday.* In June, Bruce Brossman and I climbed the long straight-in crack system to the left of the West Pillar route. The crack does not quite reach the ground. Four pitches of sometimes difficult-to-protect climbing led us onto the upper pitches of the West Pillar. (III, 5.10.)

ALAN BARTLETT

*Sunrise Wall.* This wall, a short walk from Tuolumne Meadows, was first climbed in 1974 (A.A.J., 1975). In July, Steve Gerberding, Dimitri Barton and I climbed two new routes on it in a day. *Pamplona* starts in a large left-facing corner on the right side of the cliff. Two pitches lead to a ledge atop this, followed by unprotected face-climbing right off the ledge to a crack leading to the top. (II, 5.9.) *Blood Test* starts in the right-hand of two parallel cracks a short distance left of Pamplona. The first pitch ended by traversing into the left crack to belay. Higher, in search of better rock, we traversed left on a long ledge system to the next crack on the wall. (II, 5.9.)

ALAN BARTLETT



*"Ruby Peak," South Arête.* This is the unofficial name for the peak above Ruby Lake in the Little Lakes Valley region of the Eastern Sierra. The south arête drops 1200 feet from just left of the highest summit to a permanent snowfield, where the climb begins in fluted overhangs. David Wilson and I did eight long pitches of some of the finest climbing we have found in the entire Sierra one August day. Parts of the route are very steep, but in places there are five or six cracks to choose from within a foot or two of one another. The climbing is consistently 5.7 to 5.9 with a couple of 5.10 spots. (IV, 5.10).

GALEN A. ROWELL

*Mount Conness, "Flakes of Fury," Tuolumne Meadows Area.* On July 11 Chris Vandiver and I climbed a new free route on the right side of the 1200-foot-high southwest face of Mount Conness. "Flakes of Fury" was named for the consistently crumbling, loose rock and the need to lieback vigorously on such fragile stuff. We began midway between the original route and the massive gully that marks the face's right side in a prominent moderately vegetated 5.8 groove. A loose 5.10a overhang led to rotten flakes and a lichen-encrusted squeeze chimney. A pair of prominent 5.9 dihedrals took us to a pair of small ledges. A final 5.10a lieback and overhanging flake pitch was followed by a large right-slanting fourth-class pitch, which in turn led to the low-angle summit ridge. Rockfall danger was fairly high and shelter was minimal. We took neither bolts, pins nor aid slings and completed the nine-pitch climb in 9½ hours. (IV, 5.10.)

ERIC S. PERLMAN

*Grave Lake Dome, South Face.* On August 29 Faith Aubin and I made what we believe to be the first ascent of a prominent right-leaning diagonal crack at the western edge of the south face of Grave Lake Dome (10,818 feet). The route begins at an obvious ramp 30 feet to the right of a steep grass-filled gully and follows the crack to the summit in five pitches. A brief body jam in an overhanging crack on the first pitch and a few overhangs near the summit comprise the major difficulties, which never exceed 5.7.

JOSEPH T. BRIDGES

*Moro Rock, Levity's End.* In January, Dave Hickey, Ken Aubrey and I climbed this route which ascends the central part of the west face of this rock. High on the face is a huge right-facing roof-corner; the route starts directly below this feature. The first pitch has one bolt and leads to a two-bolt anchor. From here, it is necessary to move the belay up and left about 30 feet. Another long pitch of face climbing leads to the right side of a walk-on walk-off ledge known as Condor Watch. Three more pitches, involving face, ramps and wide cracks, lead to a stance directly below the aforementioned roof-corner. The crack out the roof, though perfectly hand-sized, still proved to be the crux of the

climb. Approaching the climb involved several long rappels, starting in the vicinity of the Condor Watch. A topo of this and other routes in the area are available at the Lodgepole Visitor Center. (III, 5.10 or 5.11.)

EDWIN C. JOE, *Stonemasher Climbing Club*

*Mount Russell, New Route.* On the south side of Mount Russell, to the right of the ridge which defines the Sierra crest, are two prominent arêtes. The left arête is a previously unreported eight-pitch 5.8 climb, first ascent unknown. In July, Claude Fiddler, Vern Clevenger and I climbed the right arête. A rappel into a notch high on the route was the only aid we used. (III, 5.10, A1.)

BOB HARRINGTON, *Unaffiliated*

*Quarry Peak, New Route.* In September, Fred Beckey and I climbed a route on the right side of the wide east face of this peak. The climb follows wide crack systems through an area of orange rock. (III, 5.8.)

GARY SLATE, *D.L.F.A. Climbers*

*Split Mountain, New Route.* On the east side of Split Mountain are three major arêtes, the two right ones having been climbed by Galen Rowell and partners several years ago. Dean Hobbs and I climbed the farthest left one in September via over twenty pitches of varied climbing. (IV, 5.9.)

GARY SLATE, *D.L.F.A. Climbers*

### California—Yosemite

*Yosemite Valley, 1984.* Information about new Valley routes is not always that easy to come by, especially when one spends as little time there as I did in 1984. Most of this info was supplied to me by Don Reid of the Yosemite Mountaineering School; apologies are due to anyone whose name or route is inadvertently omitted. The following short climbs were reported: *Inchworm* (5.11 -) is a one-pitch climb which parallels the second pitch of New Dimensions and leads directly to the base of Klemens' Escape, climbed by John Bachar and Rick Cashner. *Opposition* was also climbed by Bachar, with Werner Braun. It is a 5.11 + thin crack on the face of a right-facing corner to the left of Happy Days. *People's Court* (5.10) is a bolted face between Trough of Justice and Desperate Straits, climbed by Paul Crawford. *Wart Hog* is a 5.8 route to the right of Babble On, done by Grant Hiskes and Nadim Melkonian. Above Babble On is *Poker Party* (5.11 -), knob climbing leading to a rappel station, climbed by Dave Schultz. On the extreme left side of the This and That Cliff (and approached from above via rappel) is *Agent Orange*, a 5.10 + fist crack climbed

by Hiskes and Don Reid. On the same cliff to the right of Tips is *Back in the Saddle* (5.11), a straight-in thin crack done by Dimitri Barton. Also climbed by Barton is *White Owl*, a 5.11 crack on the left side of the Owl Roof formation. On the extreme right of the Reed's Pinnacle area, Bachar and Cashner did two predominantly face climbs on the knobby wall above the eastern tunnel. The left-hand route, *Fasten Your Seatbelts*, is 5.10 — and has one bolt. The right-hand route is *Free Ride* (5.9) with no bolts. Both routes are three pitches. On the right side of the Little Wing cliff, Schultz climbed *Crash Landing*, a 5.10 route which faces east. *Say Momma, Say Daddy* (5.10 —) is a two-pitch climb in the El Cap Amphitheatre, leading to a walk-off, done by John Mittendorf and Scott Cosgrove. On The Footstool, to the right of The Promise, Bachar climbed *The Believer* (5.11 +). *Bottom Line* (5.10) is the crack immediately left of Rock Bottom, done by Barton. *Lightweight Guides* ascends the right side of the Guiding Light formation. It is 5.10 — and was done by Hiskes, Tim Noonan and Neal Newcomb. *Fire Fingers* is a 5.11 face climb which starts to the right of Maxine's Wall, and crosses that route for its second pitch; it was climbed by Charles Cole. *Peeping Tom* is a thin lieback past a bolt leading directly to Devil's Bathtub (5.9). It was done by Hiskes, Noonan and Newcomb. Hiskes joined with Sean Plunkett to climb *Fresh Squeezed* (5.10 —), a flared chimney left of Ape Index. *Blockbuster* is a four-pitch route above Short Circuit, climbed by Barton and Jim May. The second pitch has some aid (bolts), while the third is the crux free pitch (5.11, A1). *Sub-Mission* (5.10) is a left-facing lieback between Beggar's Buttress and North Buttress on Lower Cathedral Rock, done by Reid and Hiskes. The same pair climbed *Crack The Whip*, a 5.11 thin crack left of the cleft on the left side of the Rostrum. The *Smith-Crawford Route* is the longest free climb reported here. It starts right of Mother Earth on Middle Cathedral Rock, crosses that route at its crux, and finishes left of it. (Twelve pitches, V, 5.11 + .) Two formerly aid routes were done free last year: Barton and Dave Nielsen climbed *Arches Terrace Direct* (5.11 —), using piton protection, though it has since been done all nuts. Finally, Schultz free-climbed the old *Lost Arrow Tip* route (5.11 +).

A number of excellent big walls were done last season. Steve Grossman and Sue Harrington climbed a direct finish to the *Horse Chute*. Rather than returning to the Dihedral Wall, the pair did eight new pitches to Thanksgiving Ledge. Grossman also soloed *Turning Point* (5.11, A4 +) which starts right of Salathé Wall and finishes left of the Muir Wall. He then teamed with Cole to climb an unnamed route (5.11, A5) which starts off Armageddon, climbs the center of El Cap Tower, and breaks off of the Nose at the Grey Bands before rejoining the Nose at Camp 6. Cole also soloed a variation to the Muir Wall, leaving the bolt traverse above the Gray Ledges and staying along the right side of the Shield, before rejoining the Muir in its final dihedral. Gary Slater and John Barbella climbed *Wyoming Sheep Ranch* (5.9, A5), a route that starts right of the North America Wall, crosses Sea of Dreams, and joins the North America Wall at the Cyclops' Eye. Barbella with Steve Schneider also did *Bermuda Dunes* (5.11, A3 +), which starts off the Slack, joins the Salathé at Hollow Flake, and exits

at the Alcove, staying independent to the top from there. Finally, Jay Smith and Lydija Painkiher climbed *Bad to the Bone* (5.9+, A4) between Eagle's Way and Born Under a Bad Sign. On Half Dome, Cole soloed a new line, *Queen of Spades* (A 4 or 5) between Tis-sa-ack and the Direct Northwest Face. Another solo Grade VI was done on Glacier Point's 9 O'Clock Wall, which rises above the first part of the Ledge Trail. The route, *The Time Machine*, was done by Bob Shoner and is supposed to be very high standard (A5). Elsewhere on the Valley's walls, *Skull Queen* (V, 5.7, A3) was climbed by Chuck Clance and Jeff Altenburg, and ascends the south face of Washington Column above Dinner Ledge, staying to the right of the original south-face route. An unnamed Grade V was also done on the east face of Higher Cathedral Rock by Mike Corbett, Steve Bosque and Freddie Foxx. The climb lies between the east-face route and the northeast buttress (5.9, A3+).

ALAN BARTLETT

*Tuolumne Meadows, 1984. Footnote* (5.10) is a bolted pitch climbed by Phil Bard just left of Table of Contents, leading to Hermaphrodite Flake. *Great White Arête* is 5.10- and climbs the outside corner just right of the Great White Book, leading to Mosquito; it was done by Kurt Smith and John Bachar. Steve Gerberding and Dave Gengston climbed *Flipper* (5.10-), a pitch just right of Vicious Thing. *Is Paris Burning* is a difficult (5.11) two-pitch climb right of Too Thin to Clip In, done by Dave Count and Rob Settlemeyer. Just right of this is *Go For the Gold*, which starts at the same place as Realm of the Absurd, and goes up and left. On the second pitch, one can follow the bolts directly, or stay left of them (easier). Al Swanson and Vaino Kodas climbed it and it is 5.10 or 5.11, depending on which way you go. *Happy Hour* (5.10-) is a one-pitch route just left of Vice Gripped, done by Bruce Brossman and me. On Low Profile Dome, Roy Galvan climbed *Matzoh Balls*, a 5.7 route between Lotsa Balls and Hurricane Betsey. Bill Myers and Smith climbed two routes on North Whizz Dome to the right of Cuckoo's Nest, *Ease on to it* (5.10), and *Nob Roulette* (5.10-). *Murder by Numbers* (5.11-) climbs the face just right of Barbary Coast on Hammer Dome, done by Count and Settlemeyer. The same pair also did *Tin Pan Alley* which starts with the first moves of Shadow of Doubt, then moves left into more difficult (5.11) terrain. Also on that dome, Ron Kauk free-climbed past the aid bolts at the start of *Mystery Achievement* (5.12). On Lava Dome, Bachar and Mike Lechlinski climbed *Flash*, a 5.11 climb left of Movement in Camouflage. On the right side of the dome, Bachar teamed up with Tom Herbert to establish the *Bachar-Herbert Route* (5.10-). On Daff Dome, *Cowabunga* (5.12) is the right-hand roof crack which exits partway up Bearded Clam, done by Smith and Steve Schneider. Right of this, Smith led *Into the Void* (5.11), formerly a top-rope problem. *Borderline* is the crack which forms the left margin of the Fingertips slab, climbed by Don Reid and me (5.9). To the right of Facelift are three cracks. *Pebbles and Bamm Bamm* is the left crack and *Said and Done* is the center one, both routes are 5.10- and meet

about 60 feet up; first-ascent parties are unknown. The right crack goes through an overhanging bulge protected by a bolt. This is *Bruce Proof Roof* (5.11 -), done by Lechinski. On Lambert Dome, *The Dude* (5.10 -), ascends the headwall above the end of the Beginner's Route, done by Swanson and Josh Starr. Further left, Swanson and Kodas climbed *Cutting Edge*, which consists of three moderate pitches leading to the steep wall to the right of Direct Northwest Face (5.11 -). Between Neophyte and Where the Action Is, Shari Schubot and I climbed *Big Dog Hammer* (5.9). On Puppy Dome, *Achilles* takes the ramp left of Do or Fly. Bog Gaines climbed this 5.10 route. Four new routes were done on the Whale's Back last year. *Ice-Ten* (5.10 +) is the face just right of Sole on Ice, done by Bengston and me. Three more routes were done to the right of Looking Glass. From left to right they are *Math of the Pastor* (5.11, Smith and Dave Hatchett), *Fasttrack* (5.11, Schneider and Myers) and *Defender of the Faith* (5.11 +) also done by Smith and Hatchett. *Burning Down the House* was climbed by Smith and Schneider and ascends the face between Always Arches and Inverted Staircase on Fairview Dome (IV, 5.11 +). On Lamb Dome, Tom Higgins and Pat Ament climbed *Higgy Stardust* (5.9), a two-pitch route right of Nerve Wrack Point. Further right, Smith, Schubot and I climbed *Lampoon* (5.9 +), two pitches to the left of Little Sheba. Four routes were done on the previously unclimbed wall just west of the descent gully from Marioulumne Dome (right of the Sharkey's End/Nazgul wall). From left to right they are *The Incredible Hunk* (5.8, Gerberding, Bengston and me), *Working for Peanuts* (5.10 -, Bard and me), *Runaway* (5.9, Bard and me) and *Rock Vixen* (5.7, Schubot, Cathy Larson and me). On Medlicott Dome, two routes were done on the buttress just right of the North Gully. *Chicken Little* (5.9 +) starts in a crack, then moves left and stays near the left margin of the buttress for four pitches. It was climbed by Barton and me. The same pair teamed up with Jack Roberts to climb *Pussy Paws* (5.10) which starts at the same spot, but stays to the right of the preceding route. *Fun House* is a pleasant five-pitch 5.7 climb between Piss Easy and Middling, done by Bengston, Gerberding and me. Virgin Dome is the short wall just right of the Sticks and Stones cliff. Four routes were done here, all by Smith and Myers: *Virgin Killer* (5.11 -), *Virgin Testimony* (5.11 +), *Ho Charlies* (5.10) and *No Bones* (5.11). Finally, Reid and Alan Roberts climbed two cracks on the headwall above Pennyroyal Arches, *Disorderly Conduct* (5.10 -), and *Resisting Arrest* (5.11 -).

ALAN BARTLETT

*Quarry Peak, East Face.* Quarry Peak has a broad expansive face above remote Matterhorn Canyon in the far northeastern portion of Yosemite National Park. Gary Slate and I made the second route on this face, one well to the north of the Bartlett-Clevenger route. Our route was slightly shorter, and probably not quite as sustained, but nevertheless had eight worthy and sustained pitches. The rock is a bit gravelly at times, but quite solid. A dihedral system, with moves getting around an overhanging block, was the hardest portion. Friends worked

better for protection than chocks because many of the cracks were flared. The route can be identified on the northern quarter of the east face by the dihedral and the reddish tone of the granite to its right. (Grade III, 5.9.)

FRED BECKEY

*Leaning Tower, "Roulette,"* Earl Redfern and I on March 7 completed a new route on the infamous Leaning Tower, a highly improbable route of a mere eight pitches, six of which were a pleasant variety of A4. It was improbable because the route was done mostly in winter storms and because we neglected to look at the route through a telescope. Also, Earl had dreamed about where we should start, where we would go and how to get there. It turned out that the route was almost to the letter as he described it from his dream. *Roulette* starts about 100 feet to the right of Warren Harding's regular route at the last large tree and continues up and slightly right over a bulge. The climbing was mostly on hooks, copperheads and knifeblades. Pitons were of little use. Friends came in handy at exfoliated sections and we had enough bolts and rivets to drill our way to the top if absolutely necessary. Other than at belays, we placed only four bolts and 12 rivets. Thin seams tied together with hook moves on seemingly blank sections and exfoliated flakes predominated. One 35-foot fall occurred on the fourth pitch on a Zamac rivet which held, the tension on the rope pulling out most of the protection below it. This is entirely overhanging with sling belays and hanging bivouacs.

THOMAS C. BEPLER

## Utah

*Winter Climbs, 1983-4.* In February of 1984, Jim Knight and I climbed a prominent new 3-pitch waterfall, *Cream Sickle*, located just below Timpanogos Cave in American Fork Canyon. The crux was a 50-foot thin hollow pillar of ice plastered to an overhanging corner. Protection would have been a horror except for a few thin cracks, into which I could bash a knife-blade. Our descent was made in the dark by rappelling down the climb. The river crossing was easy since a large avalanche had covered it the day before. *Post Nasal Drip*, perhaps Provo Canyon's last prominent unclimbed fall, was finally ascended by Rick Wyatt and Evelyn Lees. This climb is just right of Miller's Thriller. The last time it froze was ten years ago. Driving south on Interstate 15 towards Mount Nebo, one may notice a long thin smear of ice coming off a large limestone buttress. Jim Knight and I hiked a half hour up "North Creek Canyon" and stood below one of the most irresistible climbs. We climbed beautiful 60° to 80° ice that day, only to be stopped by fading light 500 feet up. On our next attempt, accompanied by my brother Jonathan and Bruce Roghaar, we climbed the entire



PLATE 47

*Photo by Jim Knight*

**Brian Smoot on Shower Tower,  
Provo Canyon, Utah.**

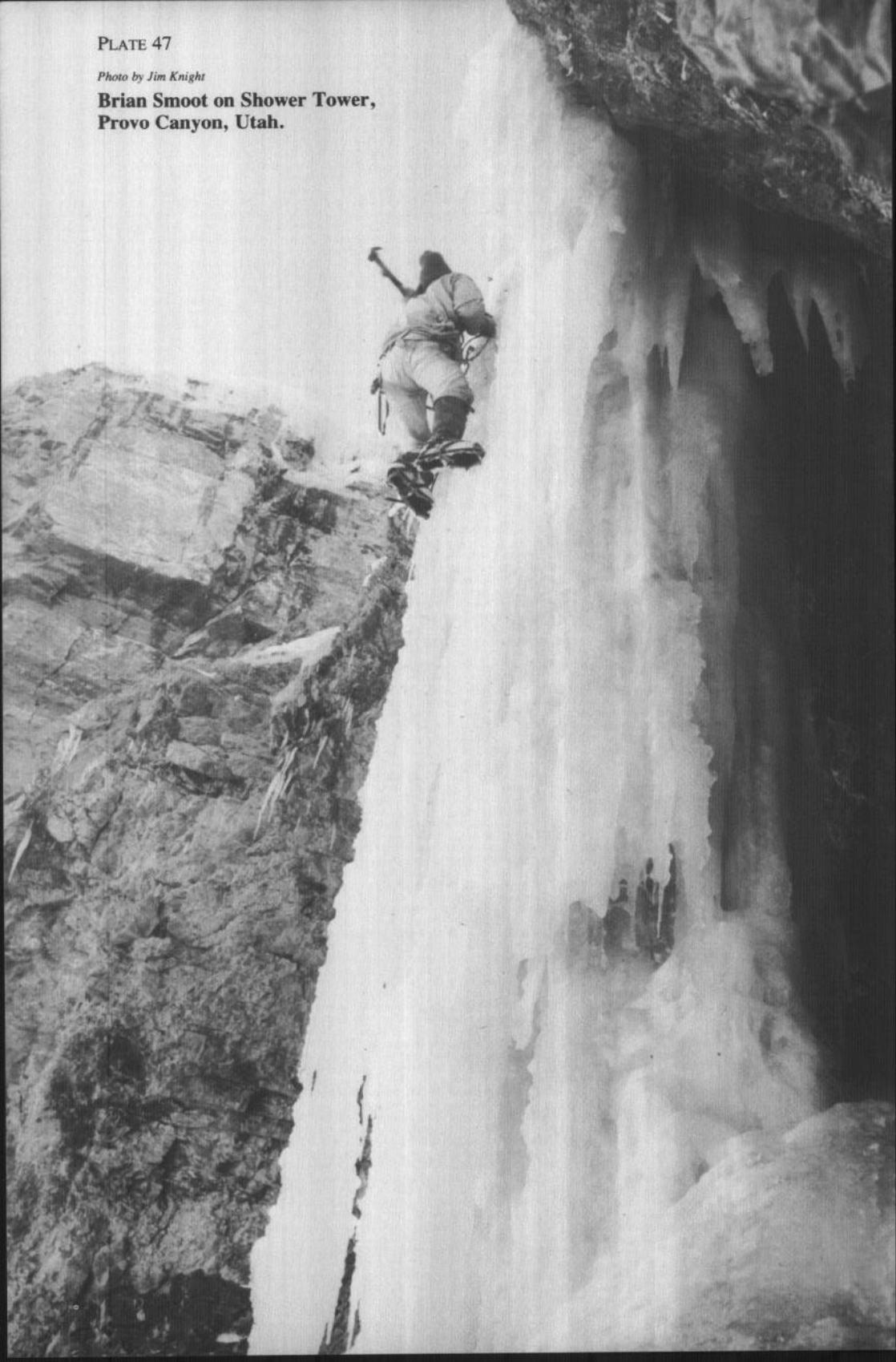




PLATE 48

*Photo by Brian Smoot*

**Jim Knight on first ascent of Frozen Assets, near Mount Nebo, Utah.**

1000 feet of the fall. There were some sections of steep snow, but the last pitch was surely challenging, being a thin vertical smear.

BRIAN SMOOT

*Monkeyfinger Wall and the Leaning Wall, Zion National Park.* Drew Bedford and Pokey Amory made an exemplary one-day ascent of Monkeyfinger Wall, adding a one-pitch variation and freeing the entire route at 5.11+. This is Zion's longest and most sustained free climb. Theirs was the first true hammerless ascent too. After backing off a solo attempt on a new route to the left of Space Shot, I joined Mike Strassman to complete a somewhat different line and the fourth on the wall. The route, Equinox (IV or V, 5.9, A3), was led entirely free and half of the 10% or so aided was freed on a top rope leaving critical pitons fixed. In addition, the single drilled angle anchors on the now standard rappel descent were doubled. Using a variation suggested by Strassman, George Allen and Dave Jones were able to climb the route free at 5.10 two months later. A third ascent was made in September. In October, I finally soloed the line left of Space Shot over five days of very unstable weather (103° to 27° F temperature variation) to produce Moon Patrol (V, 5.8, A3). Both routes could use some cleaning but sport outstanding ledges. They will doubtless become popular due to the ease of approach and descent.

RON OLEVSKY

*Horsethief Tower, Labyrinth Canyon.* This little gem lies in the northernmost part of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The first ascent was made by Ken Trout, Rusty Kirkpatrick, Kirk Miller and me in April. The approach across the Green River was made by canoe though an inner tube and flippers might do. That the three-pitch 5.10 route goes free should be credited to Trout.

RON OLEVSKY

*Shadow Nose, Mineral Canyon.* Just above the standard take-out point for those who run Labyrinth Canyon is a north-facing buttress. In June Dave Mondeau and I put up Shadow Nose (III, 5.9, A1) on this buttress. The route follows long pure Friend cracks and was very enjoyable, although anyone seeing us return would have had doubts. Dave's face was covered with caked blood after being hit by a nut that popped loose during cleaning and I was limping from a torn ligament, a result of treacherous talus. Then Dave's truck refused to start . . .

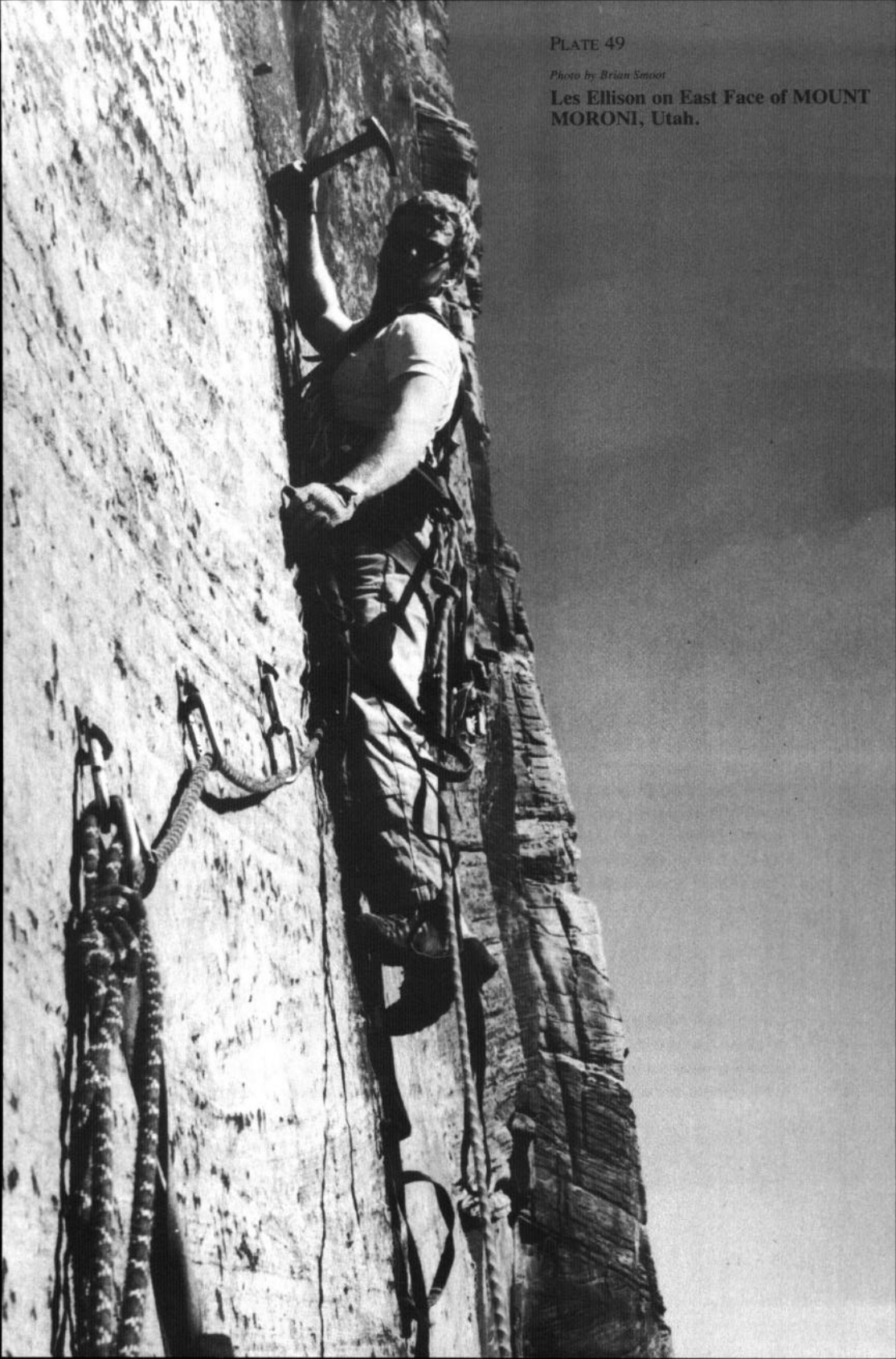
RON OLEVSKY

*Mount Moroni, East Face, Zion National Park.* In April, Les Ellison and I climbed a new route on the east face of Mount Moroni. We ascended the steep, blank section of the face which lies between two major chimney systems. The

PLATE 49

*Photo by Brian Smoot*

**Les Ellison on East Face of MOUNT  
MORONI, Utah.**



face may be easily seen from a turnout on the highway a half mile south of the Zion Lodge. In 1982 my brother Jonathan and I climbed half the wall, encountering a ½- to ¾-inch crack which split the slightly overhanging wall for 400 feet. Just after dark, Jonathan reached a sloping ledge. While cleaning his A3 + pitch, I was hit by a large slab of rock, which had slid off from above. I didn't know how badly I was hurt until I felt blood dripping down my back and into my underwear. So the next morning we descended. For the next attempt, I managed to recruit Les Ellison. We began early and reached our high point that day with plenty of light to spare. The next morning, Les led a mixed pitch, ending in a difficult off-width crack. I led a free pitch up beautiful, rippled rock, which ended in a giant chimney. Les managed that questionable lead easily and in two more tricky pitches, we were on top. Our descent was via a short rappel of the back of the mountain and then northward up a small canyon to a grassy pass. This led us down to the Lady Mountain Trail. (11 pitches; 15 bolts, including belays; V, 5.10, A3.)

BRIAN SMOOT

*Canyonlands.* In March, Lauren Husted and I made the first ascent of a 300-foot Wingate spire on the Bridger Jack Ridge. A few weeks later, Bryan Becker and I free-climbed past two points of aid used on the original ascent at 5.11. This is a varied three-pitch climb, with a wild step-across to gain the summit block. In the same area, Alan Judish and I climbed two more of the virgin spires on the ridge, *Sunflower Tower* via the east face (5.10+) and the next day *Hummingbird Spire* by way of an exposed bolt ladder across a blank wall to the summit crack. With Udom Likhitwonnawut and Patrick Griffin, I came back a week later to complete the *Wild West Show* (III, 5.9, A1), a separate line on Hummingbird's west face, a route rivaling the Kor-Ingalls on Castleton Tower as a good introductory route to the desert. Jeff Achey and I were successful on two more "classics" at Bridger Jack. On the King of Pain, the most remarkable spire of the group, we finally did the east-face dihedral, *Vision Quest* (III, 5.10, no bolts used). This is a beautiful four-pitch corner featuring all widths of jamming, well protected with Friends and a couple of large (6 and 7) tri-cams. Jeff "free-climbed" my original tension traverse across the summit notch by making a super-human leap. The next day, after placing protection bolts on aid, Jeff led one of Canyonlands' most unusual pitches: an outside corner and arête up an apparently unclimbable spire, the second to last unclimbed tower in the area, *Thumbelina* (5.11). Near Super Crack, Griffin and I pieced together another very unlikely route, a 300-foot face-and-slab climb up a prominent friction prow, *Orion's Bow* (5.10). We used 13 bolts and drilled angles, two wired nuts and *not* a single Friend and took 1½ days. On an earlier trip, Giffin and I also climbed *Leapin' Lizards*, a short 5.9 finger-crack on Lizard Rock next to the Fisher Tower parking lot. Achey and I made it up one last new route, the *Poseidon Adventure* (5.9+), a topsy-turvy crack system on



PLATE 50

*Photo by Brian Smoot*

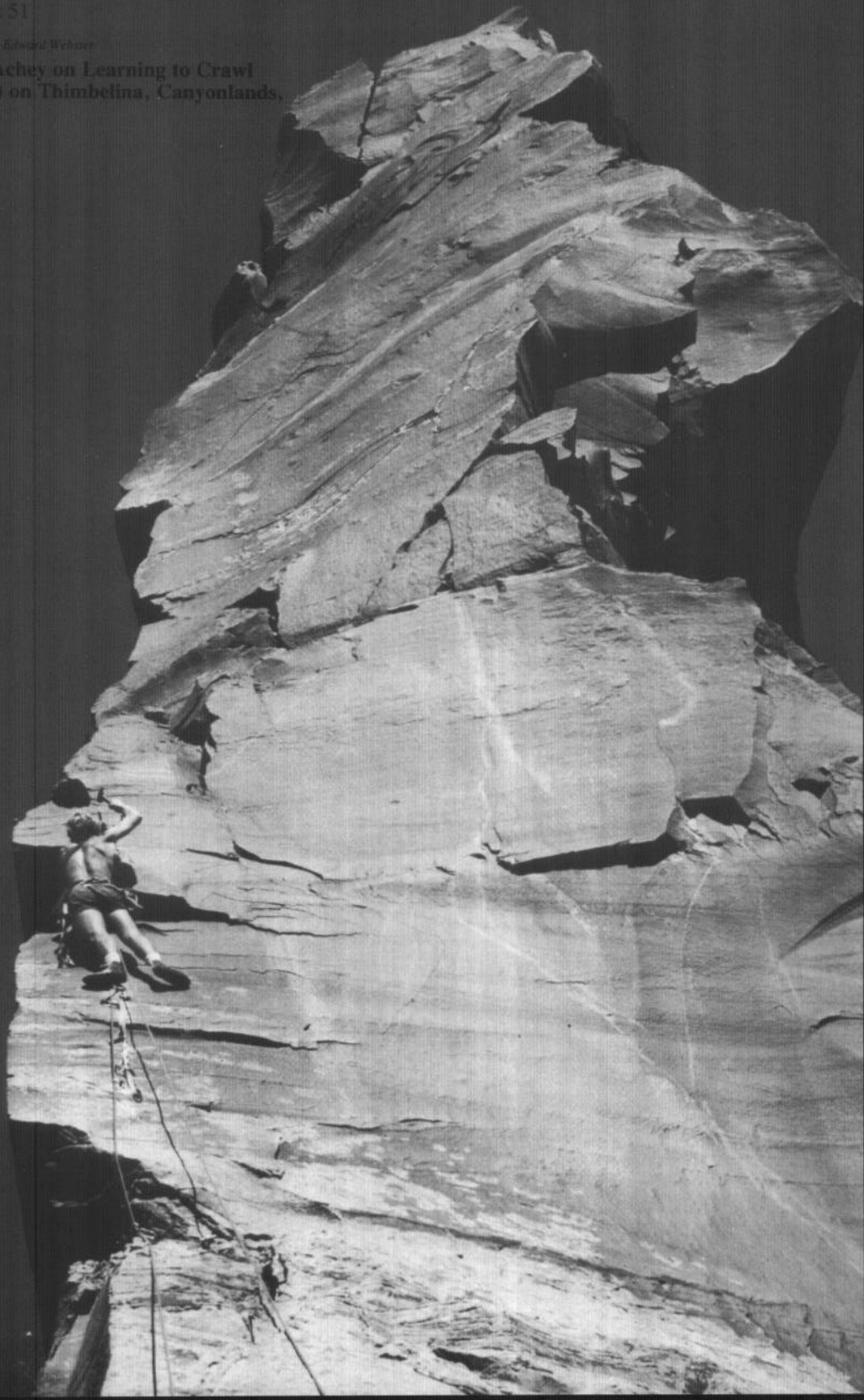
**Ellison leading the eighth pitch on  
Mount Moroni's East Face.**





*Photo by Edward Wehner*

**Jeff Achey on Learning to Crawl  
(5.11) on Thimbelina, Canyonlands,  
Utah.**



a secret spire before being thunderstormed off fifty feet from the top—luckily a rare occurrence in the desert.

EDWARD WEBSTER

### Wyoming—Tetons

*Grand Teton, Winter Ascents on North Face and North Ridge.* In February, I skied in and climbed the chimney system on the North Face of the Grand Teton which ends between the Molar and the Second Tower. I did not go on further because of unstable snow on the east ridge snowfield. From January 3 to 6, 1985 Jack Tackle and I made the second winter ascent of the North Ridge. We spent the first night on the Lower Saddle, reached the Grandstand via the Valhalla traverse and spent the second night atop the Grandstand. We climbed to the second ledge the following day and bivouacked around on the west face. The final day we reached the top and descended to the valley.

ALEX LOWE

### Wyoming—Wind River Range

*Mount Nystrom, East Peak, South Face and Southeast Buttress.* In September 1981 Tenny Canon, Gleed Toombs and I made a new climb in the impressive Nystrom cirque, near Sweetwater Gap. We climbed the south face, a fine route on cracks and steep slab to the summit of the east peak. (Grade II, 5.7.). Kirt Cozzens and I returned to the area in July 1984 to climb the impressive buttress rising from the grassy valley at the foot of the east face. The route climbs cracks and ramps on the reddish lower face to the buttress crest, then moves through a notch to begin the upper section pitches, which look almost improbable from below. The route climbs the airy south edge of the buttress here, taking a zigzag line on very steep rock with just sufficient chickenheads to make the route feasible. This is a delightful climb on superb rock in a beautiful setting. (Grade III, 5.9.)

FRED BECKEY

*Pronghorn, East Face.* This impressive face, near Middle Fork Lake, continues to be elusive. The classic route appears to be near midface, close to vertical for a full 1,100 feet; some of the cracks appear to have loose flakes, others are seamed. Layton Kor, Dave Beckstead and I climbed a pitch (possibly more) in the 1960s and this summer, Jim Nelson, John Stoddard and I started up what we thought was a different route; Nelson and Stoddard climbed two pitches, ending with bolt placements when cracks failed. Two pitons discovered on the route may have been Kor's or left from an unknown attempt. The route remains unclimbed.

FRED BECKEY

*Arrowhead, 1983.* Steve Drake and I climbed the north face of Arrowhead on August 2, 1983 probably not a new route but about which we find no previous record. We started 20 feet left of an obvious "X" marked by white intrusions. Three short, easy fifth-class pitches led to the base of a broken dihedral which we followed to its top. We bypassed the large, triangular roof area by face-climbing to the right to gain the broken ledges halfway up the face. From there, a prominent curving crack was followed to the summit. We placed three bolts, two for an anchor on the sixth pitch. (12 pitches; IV, 5.9.) Steve and I were driven back by bad weather from the fourth pitch in 1979. There were some old pins on the fourth pitch and a new stopper on the upper section.

RONALD D. VAN HORSSSEN, *Unaffiliated*

*Squaretop.* Renato Casarotto and I climbed a route on the east face of Squaretop in early July. Though it probably was a first ascent, we did find some old gear on the first couple of pitches. We did 13 pitches of free climbing up to 5.11. The overall rating was Grade V. The rock was excellent.

JEFF LOWE

*Wind River Peak, Northwest Face Climbs.* In August Jim Olsen and I hiked 14 miles and crossed three rivers with 100-pound packs to get to the northwest-face cirque of Wind River Peak, where we climbed two beautiful walls. Our first objective, the "Streaked Wall," was the diagonal dike of the streaked wall of the main summit, which we climbed in two long days with three bivouacs: at the base, on the wall and near the summit. The free climbing was very sustained at 5.9 with no less than 25 aid placements (no bolts) in 14 pitches (V, 5.9, A3). We made the second climb in a single long day. It was a Tahquitz-like tower just southwest of the main summit, "Tempest Tower." It had excellent crack systems and consisted of 9½ pitches of jamming and laybacking. Four pitches were of sustained 5.10 and three hanging belays. The only aid was a double-tiered roof below a butterballs crack on a golden prow (IV, 5.10, A2).

ROBERT MCGOWN

## Colorado

*Chief's Head, Northeast Face.* Jeff Lowe and I made a second route on the northeast face of Chief's Head, "Risky Business." (IV, 5.11 +). It climbs just right of the center of the face for ten pitches. Four were of 5.10 to 5.11 range and the crux was 5.11 +, an overhanging crack system. The rock was solid and though the run-outs were long, protection was good.

MARK WILFORD

PLATE 52

*Photo by Robert McGown*

**Olsen leading the third pitch (5.10)  
on Tempest Tower, Wind River  
Range, Wyoming.**



*Longs Peak, East Face, La Dolce Vita.* During three days in June, the famous Italian Renato Casarotto and I established a new route on the east face of Longs Peak. Starting from Mills Glacier, we took a line up the huge right-facing corner system just left of the North Chimney. Three long pitches of mixed climbing, aid, free, rock and ice, led to our first bivouac on Broadway Ledge. On the third pitch Renato slipped on verglas, ripped out his protection and pulled out one of the two belay pitons. I was left hanging from one piton half driven in, holding Renato and the sacks. Too much excitement! From Broadway we climbed with aid and free up the prominent pillar above and to the right of the North Chimney. A small bivouac stance was shoveled out of the snow at the top of the pillar. We finished the day by fixing a few more pitches. Our last day on the wall was strenuous and spectacular. We followed a single crack system to the top, a line which was overhanging for eight pitches. Continuously difficult aid on crumbling rock led to a niche at "Table Ledge." Here the weather broke and bad luck befell Renato. He had the misfortune of hanging out at the last belay on the tremendously exposed headwall, shivering and suffering while I led the last pitch and kept warm. On top, the ropes were frozen useless, the haul sack was coated with ice and Renato was near hypothermia. He suffered through the last bivouac, while I made brews late into the night. The next day was perfect and calm. We thawed out and stumbled home. (Grade V, 5.8, A4.)

CHARLES FOWLER, *Unaffiliated*

*Extreme Skiing, Longs Peak and Others.* In May Jimmy Katz and I made the first ski descent of Longs east face. We skied from the Notch, a couple of hundred feet below the summit. After 300 feet of skiing, we entered a narrow section that required one rappel. (Skis were left on.) I descended on alpine skis continuously from the Notch to the base of the east face, and Jimmy skied on nordic equipment and removed his skis to cross Broadway. We belayed after the rappel and across Broadway. (Below Broadway is an 800-foot cliff.) The sections just below the Notch and in the upper couloir were measured to be 50°; Broadway is steeper but is mostly a traverse. This descent follows a devious and dangerous line that has little going for it beyond its spectacular location. Only the north face has been skied from Longs actual summit. In 1983 I made the first recorded descent on skis. In 1984, Jimmy Katz and I made what we feel was the first nordic descent of the face. The Y-Couloirs are prominent snow runnels on Mount Ypsilon's massive southeast face. The right couloir is prominently visible from Estes Park and Trail Ridge Road and has been skied, though little is known about the descent. The mid-section requires a couple of rappels through poor rock. Jimmy Katz and I made the first ski descent of the Left Y-Couloir; I consider it to be the finest steep peak descents in Rocky Mountain National Park. Though only 2000 feet long, uniformly steep skiing in a couloir cut into a spectacular mountain face makes this a real classic. The upper slope is 48°, the mid-section is in a narrow couloir that has one very short steep part bulging to 56° (we used a rope to safeguard sideslipping this 30-foot section), and the lower

section is a cone of avalanche debris that is about 40°. The descent would be best done early enough in the spring that wet snow avalanche runnels have not had time to develop (probably early May—we had to negotiate six-foot runnels in late May).

Other unreported probably first ski descents that I have made in Rocky Mountain National Park include the Taylor Glacier (the back of the cirque behind Sky Pond) and the narrow, S-shaped couloir northwest of Sharktooth (clearly visible when looking at the Sharktooth from the Andrew's Glacier valley). Taylor yields a superb descent with a headwall in excess of 50°. When there is sufficient snow in the early summer, it has a safe runout. When snow has melted to reveal the cliff bank crossing the glacier, it is dangerous. In 1980 Harry Kent and I skied it under relatively safe conditions. In July 1981, Craig Sabina, Peter Johnson and I made the second descent under distinctly less safe conditions, including a narrow icy runnel beneath the main headwall. Craig Sabina and I skied the narrow couloir northwest of Sharktooth in June of 1981.

JOHN HARLIN

*Black Canyon of the Gunnison.* On the Cimarron Slabs, Patrick Griffin, Udom Likhitwonnawut and I climbed a clean and enjoyable route, Wonderland (III, 5.8), which consisted mostly of face climbing and low-angled finger-cracks. Several bolts were placed for protection on pitch three. A month later, on June 17, Lauren Husted and I completed an ascent from the river of the knife-sharp arête on the west side of SOB Gully. According to Layton Kor, the ridge's upper portion was first climbed by Bob LaGrange and Jim Disney in the mid-1960s. However, our lower pitches were new. The climb ended tragically. Lauren pulled off a loose handhold while unroped on 4th-class ledges near the canyon's rim and died an hour later from her injuries. I named the climb for her *Lauren's Arête* (III, 5.7). Ironically, it is the easiest full-length route in the canyon, spectacular, airy and well worth climbing.

EDWARD WEBSTER

*Colorado.* On the Bastille in Eldorado Canyon, Lauren Husted, Chester Dreiman and I made the first ascent of the unlikely yet captivating 5.10 *Western Union*. Two fixed pitons protected the crux, a thin, vertical crack. Dreiman and I later discovered another new line on the Bastille, *New Chautauqua* (5.10 –), next to Neon Lights. Two perplexing overhangs, the first already thickly coated with chalk, mark the route. On Redgarden Wall in Eldorado, Mike Dougherty and I finished an interesting integral climb up the sharp arête just left of the Yellow Spur, *Edge Game* (5.9). On the Maiden, in the Flatirons, Peter Williams and I unravelled a new start to the East Ridge, a bolt-protected weakness called *Man in Time* (5.10). In Estes Park on Lumpy Ridge, Lauren Husted and I climbed what may have been the first ascent of a direct finish to a fairly obscure Kor route, *Slippage*, on the Pear. Vaguely protected by small tri-cams and steel nuts, our variation climbed up right from the crux. We named it *Slip Sliding*



Away (5.9). In Clear Creek Canyon, Layton Kor, Dreiman and I made the first free ascent of the *River Wall* (II, 5.9), an unusual four-pitch climb with all the atmosphere of a sea cliff—right above the water. Kor and Bob Culp had made the first ascent with aid in mid-winter in the 1960s.

EDWARD WEBSTER

*Garden of the Gods.* On North Gateway, the old bolt ladder, *The Zipper*, was free-climbed by Jeff Britt and me (150 feet, 5.11). The pitch involves sustained face climbing up a steep prow, with ten protection bolts and drilled angles remaining on the old aid ladder. The route is recommended for its solid rock and good protection. On the Finger Face, Richard and Fred Aschert climbed *Mr. Fred* (150 feet, 5.10R) a direct two-pitch line up steep run-out loose rock. The climb finishes by crossing through the final traverse pitch of Dancing In Swineland. All drilled angles were placed from stances. On South Gateway, Bob D'Antonio, Fred and Richard Aschert climbed *Cold Turkeys* (150 feet, 5.11+). The climb starts up Cocaine then moves left and ascends a smooth, difficult slab. One placement was made on rappel to complete the route. This climb is also highly recommended.

MARK ROLOFSON, *Unaffiliated*

*South Platte Region.* On Big Rock Candy Mountain, an 11-pitch face climb, *Childhood's End* (IV, 5.11d), was put up by Eric Winkleman, Ken Trout and Brian Hansen. The climb features a nearly vertical crux headwall (pitch 7) that was pre-protected by a 10-bolt ladder. The rest of the climb was drilled free, from stances with two 5.10d and one 5.10a face pitches. *Childhood's End* is right of Fields Of Dreams and is highly recommended over the older route. The latter has some loose rock. On the Slab (right of the Bishop), *Sea Of Holes* (150 feet, 5.11a) was climbed by Trout, Hansen, Tom Vanco and Paul Frank. This bolt-protected face climb ascends a steep arête and is a direct start to Topographic Oceans. A hook was used to drill one bolt. On the Bucksnot slabs, right of Classic Dihedral, Trout, Robby Baker and Vanco put in *Slippery When Wet* (150 feet, 5.11b). The crux pitch was top-roped before leading. One bolt was placed on abseil, while the rest were placed on lead. Left of Classic Dihedral, Scott Reynolds and I climbed *Good, Bad and The Ugly* (150 feet, 5.12a). Prior to our ascent, an old aid ladder of five rivets ascended the first pitch. The rivets were crowbarred out after they were used for aid to place two good protection bolts. In Eleven Mile Canyon, several short hard climbs of mentionable quality were added in 1984. On the Sports Crag, D'Antonio & Peter Gallagher climbed *Ecstasy And Wise Guys* (40 feet, 5.11X), a diagonal seam and face left of Moonage Daydream. The climb was led on sight with poor nut protection. Left of Leaner, D'Antonio and Frank Hill (visiting British climber) climbed *The Desmond Dynamo* (40 feet, 5.12a) ascending a very overhanging wall. Right of Leaner, Kevin Lindorff (visiting Australian climber) and D'Antonio climbed *Concrete Slippers* (60 feet 5.10d R), a steep face with two bolts (one drilled

hanging by a hook). A couple of miles up the road from the Sports Crag a short cliff easily visible from the road was picked for short plums. Bob D'Antonio and Lindorff climbed *Skid Marks* (50 feet, 5.11a), which ascends a vertical arête with two bolts. D'Antonio, Lindorff and Hill climbed *Captain Codpiece* (70 feet, 5.11c), a thin strenuous crack. Immediately right, Bob Murray top-roped a difficult face climb at 5.12+. Less than a mile up the road, the thin crack, *Bruised, But Not Battered* (35 feet, 5.12a), was climbed by D'Antonio and Chris Hill.

MARK ROLOFSON, *Unaffiliated*

*Boulder Canyon.* In the Wall Of Winter Warmth area on the Berlin Wall, right of The Iron Curtain, Bob Horan climbed *Blitzkrieg* (80 feet 5.11d), a steep face and overhang. The climb had been pre-protected by Dan Hare. On Blob Rock, Harrison Dekker top-roped (after many serious attempts) the roof left of Divine Wind, calling it *Big Girls' Underwear* (50 feet 5.12+). On Bitty But-tress, left of Peapod, I top-roped the high-angle slab testpiece, *Razor Hein Stick* (60 feet, 5.12). The route is a good test for sticky boots and was climbed in Fires. Now, that several other sticky boots are available on the market, it will be interesting to see which shoes hold up and work on the slab. On the Milk Dud Cliff, located on the hill north of Mental Rock, several excellent sunny top-ropes and short leads have been climbed. On the south face, I led *Tricks Are For Kids* (40 feet 5.12a), a vertical face, that had an old aid line. The climb was top-roped prior to ascent and the old bolts were removed and replaced with two new  $\frac{3}{8}$ " bolts, on rappel. Left of this, another short aid line has been top-roped by Christian Griffith and Dekker, *The Rude Boy* (40 feet 5.12a). The strenuous problem ascends an overhanging corner to a bulge.

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*Skunk Canyon.* On the east face of Square Rock, Christian Griffith led *Yellow Christ* (50 feet, 5.12a R), ascending a very overhanging wall via a layback crack and face above. The climb had been top-roped by the first ascensionist prior to leading. Uphill from Grand Parade, John Baldwin and Bob Horan climbed *Club Salute* (80 feet 5.11d), ascending a crux overhang and obvious leaning corner above. Left of Dialing For Dollars, Horan and Steve Sangdahl climbed *The Carrot Flake* (80 feet 5.10d). Uphill from Euclid's Corner, Horan and Baldwin climbed *The Separator* (80 feet 5.12a), a technical bulge and right-facing corner above.

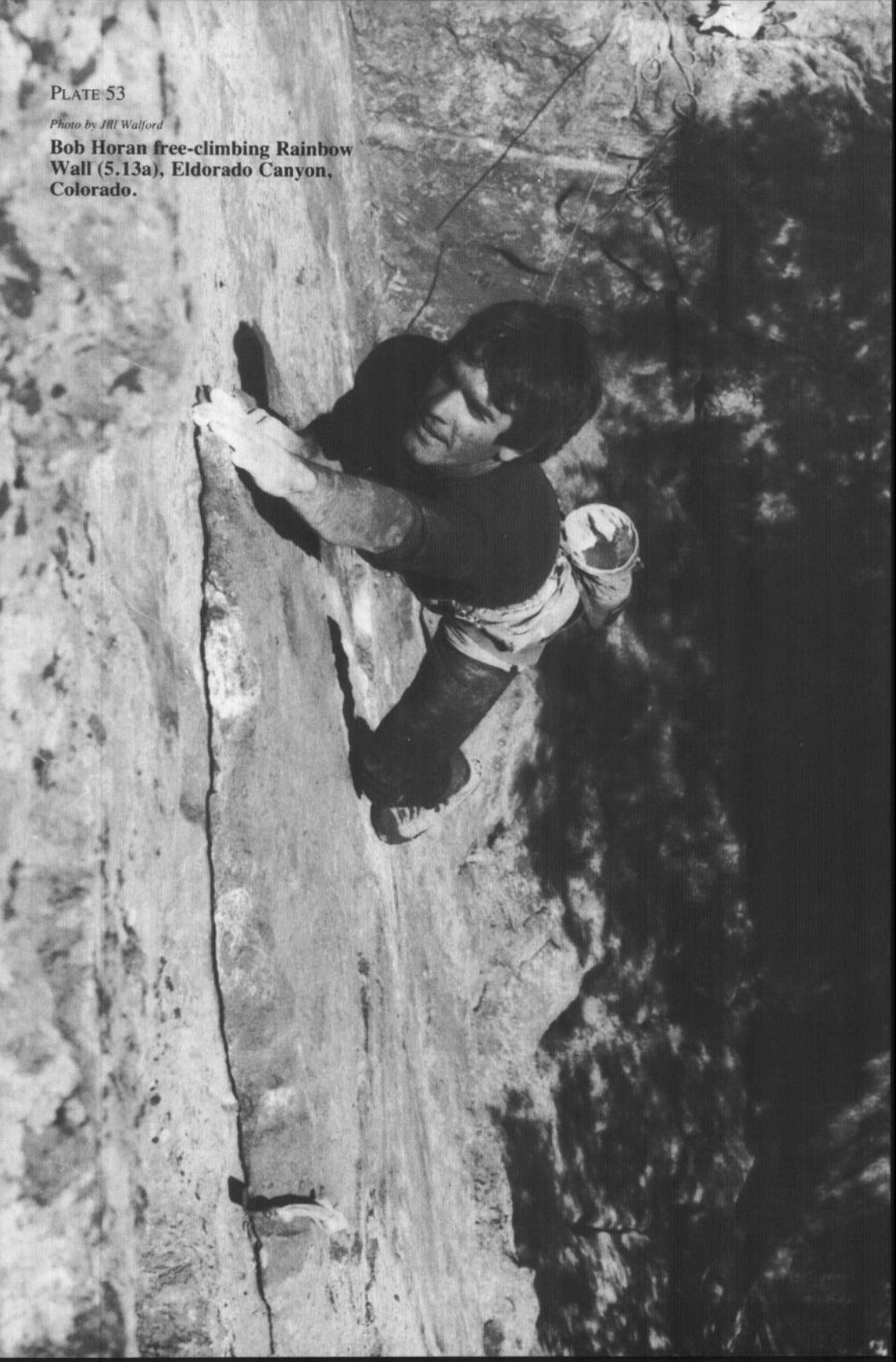
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*Eldorado Canyon.* Left of C'est la Vie, Christian Griffith and Pat Ament climbed *Pointe Sauvage* (80 feet, 5.11a R), a vertical face protected by bolts drilled from stances. The climb joins C'est la Vie at the base of the corner.

PLATE 53

*Photo by Jill Walford*

**Bob Horan free-climbing Rainbow  
Wall (5.13a), Eldorado Canyon,  
Colorado.**



Starting off the lower ramp, Bob Horan led *The Gem* (40 feet, 5.11b), a smooth slab split by an RP crack. On the south end of the West Ridge, Horan and Dan Hare climbed Mineral Maze (70 feet, 5.11d), featuring a difficult overhanging corner. The climb was top-roped and pre-protected with one bolt on abseil, prior to ascent. Left of the first pitch of Side Wall, Nathan Charlton and Steve Morris climbed *Unbroken Chain* (60 feet, 5.11c). The most sought after prize of the past two years, was *Rainbow Wall* (80 feet 5.13a), which was finally free climbed by Horan. This smooth wall on the south face of the Wind Tower had previously been bolted by an aid ascent. Many climbers including Skip Geurin, Harrison Dekker and Christian Griffith (who was close to succeeding) attempted the testpiece prior to Horan's ascent. During one attempt, Horan pulled off a large underclung flake. This made the climb harder. He still succeeded without the flake, climbing the wall with two 5.12+ cruxes and no rests.

MARK ROLOFSON, *Unaffiliated*

## CANADA

### Yukon Territory

*Kluane National Park Climbing Season; Mounts Logan, Kennedy and Alverstone.* During the 1984 climbing season in Kluane National Park, there were 16 groups that climbed or skied in the St. Elias Mountains. This was made up of 87 men and women who spent a total of 1903 person-nights in the area. Mount Logan was climbed by its east ridge by Canadians Jim Rennie, Dick Ireland, Doug Brown and Brian Rose and by a Slovak expedition consisting of Milan Hoholík, Dr. Jan Stankovič, Dušan Macko, Gejza Haák, Milan Husár, Dominik Michalik and Oleg Štulrajter. Americans Darlene Quinn, Jenny Hager, Jessie Miller and Claire June Carren and Canadians Hector Mackenzie, Fritz Koepel, Nick Lees and Peter Lake climbed Logan by the King Trench route. Americans Gary and Lynn Clark, David Stephenson and Tazwell Branlette were successful on Mount Kennedy. Willie Pfeisterer, Gerry Israelson, Cal Sime, Pat Flanagan, Clarence Summers, Tom Hurd, Hal Morrison, Rick Staley, Ron Chambers and I climbed Mount Alverstone. Other climbs are noted separately.

LLOYD FREESE, *Kluane National Park*

*Mount Steele, East-Southeast Ridge.* The long, but not difficult, east-southeast ridge of Mount Steele had been climbed before. We had hoped to repeat the 1937 Washburn-Bates route. Because of a less-than-average snowfall, our pilot, Andy Williams, had to land us about 40 miles from where we were scheduled to land, namely on the Walsh Glacier near Walsh Col. We skied to the west down the Walsh Glacier to its junction with the Dennis Glacier. The first six days were spent with heavy packs and sleds to cover the 40 miles we had