

leading Pitch 6, a long thin free face. Pitch 7 involved more nailing and from there we could climb free (V to VI-, 5.10, A3). There were excellent bivy ledges at the top of Pitches 4 and 8.

SIBYLLE HECHTEL

## Arizona

*Navajolands.* Although climbing in the Navajo Indian Reservation is still discouraged, it is hoped that selective areas not sacred or near a native dwelling may soon be designated acceptable to ascents with an ecologically sound approach. In 1987 Kyle Copeland and Alison Sheets climbed to within 100 feet of the summit of *The Rabbit* in Monument Valley. In February 1988, Copeland returned with Marc Hirt to be the first team to stand on the summit of this desert giant (IV, 5.10, A3). In the spring, John Middendorf and Alan Humphreys made the first ascent of *Rooster Rock* via the northwest face (II, 5.9, A1). This is located ten miles southeast of the Monument Valley Tribal Visitors Center and is clearly visible east of the Totem Pole. Twenty years previously Fred Beckey and I were stormed off an attempt. It seems incredible that such a prominent landform should not have had an ascent until this year. The higher summit of *Indian Chief* was reached for the first time by the Arizona climbers known as the Bandidos. The seemingly impossible rift at the top of the lower summit was breached with an innovative pitch involving the use of a long pole. The Bandidos are well known not only for their prolific desert ascents but also for their approaches on motor cycles and their habit of leaving a copy of *Easy Rider Magazine* (always with a topless buxom female atop a Harley Davidson) on each summit they reach.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

## Colorado

*Rocky Mountain National Park, New Routes. Notchtop, Southeast Face.* A variation of White Room, which was first climbed by Briggs and Hamilton in 1974, *Black Curtains* goes directly over the roof avoiding the poorly protected traverse to the left. Our line is of comparable difficulty but makes a more direct, safer ascent (III, 5.11). Jack Roberts, Tim Coats and I climbed it in September. *Topnotch* is a seven-pitch climb right of White Room which starts midway between that route and the broken gully that borders that face on the right. The routes share the third belay ledge. Above that, a short pitch leads to the crux, a finger-crack in an orange headwall (III, 5.11+). It was climbed by Bret Ruckman, Tim Coats and me in September. *Cathedral Wall:* The most obvious line between the Kor Route and the Garden Wall, *Pew* in its third pitch crosses an obvious white roof, which is the crux. To climb left of a large detached flake off the fourth belay requires some caution. Tim Coats and I climbed this III, 5.9 route in September. *Spearhead, East Face:* The rest of the climbs given here

were all done in 1987. Bret Ruckman, Tim Coats and I freed *Strato Spear* (III, 5.11), a former aid route. Many tiny nuts were essential in the crux sections. *Burning Spear* (III, 5.10+) starts midway between Strato Spear and The Barb and climbs over a roof and past an obvious bolt. It crosses The Barb at the end of that route's 5.9 thin crack and climbs to a large belay ledge known as Broadway. Scary face-climbing leads off the right edge of the ledge into a prominent left-facing corner. Steve Grossman and I climbed this five-pitch route. *Barb Gnarly* starts a short distance left of The Barb and goes through roofs via a right-slanting crack. Above the ledge known as Middle Earth, it joins The Barb for a short distance and then goes straight up into an obvious left-facing corner (III, 5.11). It was ascended by Tim Coats and Bret Ruchman. *Barbarella* starts on the right side of The Barb flake. Above Middle Earth, it wanders up and left through some tiered overhangs, crosses Barb Gnarly and meets Burning Spear at Broadway Ledge. It goes off the left side of the ledge, thus crossing Burning Spear, and follows a thin crack above an arch, works its way up and left to meet The Barb, where we followed the direct 5.11 finish of that route, the logical extension of our route (III, 5.10+). Steve Grossman and I climbed it.

LARRY COATS

*Mount Evans, Black Wall.* From the Chicago Lakes Overlook, near Summit Lake, on the Mount Evans Highway, it is possible to see a sheer 700-foot white-granite wall, the rim of which is just over 13,000 feet. Until mid-summer, the wall is often wet, blackened by tundra melt-water dripping through cracks or off the lips of the summit roofs. Steeper than the Longs Peak Diamond, the Black Wall is so overhung that climbers are usually protected from bad weather. Being only forty miles from Denver and its huge competent climbing community, my partners and I conspired to wait until we had painstakingly rounded up all the good lines. This was probably unnecessary since hard crack-climbing and nail-ups have fallen out of vogue and no one in Colorado is interested in new routes unless they can be rappel-bolted. *Good Evans* (III, 5.10+, 5 pitches) was the first route completed through the summit roofs and was climbed by Eric Winkleman and me in 1983. This is the most pleasant route and follows a fingertips- to hand-sized crack system just left of the obvious off-width on the left side of the wall. The next summer, Dan Hare and Jeff Lowe climbed the sustained and classic 300-foot off-width, *Road Warrior* (III, 5.10+ to 5.11, 5 pitches), which merges with the summit-roof pitch on Good Evans. Aid routes have been done more recently and share the special quality of commitment, since it is almost impossible to back off from their hardest pitches, always found high up. *The Undertow* (IV, 5.10, A4, 5 pitches) climbs a clean roof-and-corner system just left of the Rusty Dagger dihedral. The crux involves making a string of upside-down rurps stick into the summit roof while looking at a potential zipper into the wall of a dihedral. Kirk Miller and I climbed this route in one day in 1985, assuming that Bob Culp, Layton Kor or Bill Forrest must have done the great central lines during Colorado's Golden Age. After a year, we realized that