

and the "Mummy's Revenge." The first two pitches follow an open book which steepens and leads onto an open face cut by a single crack. Difficult free climbing follows the crack 100 feet to a stance where direct aid is needed to reach a ledge under the roof. Fifteen feet of face climbing on small holds brings one to a 15-inch-wide crack which splits the 10-foot roof and leads to the top of the buttress. Good holds inside the crack enable one to enter it and chimney to the summit with a bomb-bay view of the entire route below. Although not especially difficult, the summit pitch is spectacular, pleasurable, and very photogenic. Grade III, 5.9, A1.

GALEN ROWELL

Half Dome, South Face. In November, Warren Harding and I made our third attempt on the unclimbed back side of Half Dome. This most alpine of Yosemite's walls cannot be seen except from points reached by trail. The base of the wall is near 7000 feet elevation compared to 3900 feet at the base of El Capitan. Being devoid of continuous crack systems and relatively inaccessible as Valley walls go, it waited untouched until 1966. Our first attempt failed 50 feet from the ground when Yvon Chouinard injured his shoulder trying a layback. The second attempt, one week later, was a five-day alpine style push which ended after a rain-storm and a dropped bolt bag dictated retreat. Our latest attempt included several advances in big wall equipment and technique. Special waterproof tent-hammocks which zipped shut and were designed to hang comfortably from a single point of suspension. Instead of straight bolt ladders we alternated bolts with rows of several "bat hooks" or ground-down cliff hangers designed to slip into half drilled bolt holes. In one place Warren actually led up eight bat hooks before placing a real bolt. This method cuts in half the time necessary for covering blank sections. We also used specially constructed hauling bags which were compartmented inside to keep heavy and angular goods away from the outside of the bag. They were also constructed so that goods can be easily removed while the bag is hanging on an anchor. Even this equipment could not save us from an unforecasted fall storm which hit us on our fifth night. Water draining down the wall soon soaked us to the skin through our "waterproof" tent-hammocks. We guessed the storm to be short-lived and radioed our support party that we would try to wait it out. After two days and nights of suffering we radioed our support party that things were grim and we had numb fingers and toes. We were in no condition to continue even if the sun had suddenly shown. Our support party capably arranged a

rescue through the National Park Service and although we did not know it because our radio was dead, by dusk the helicopter which had buzzed us earlier landed a party on top with thousands of feet of rope and other necessary equipment. Even though it was dark, they went ahead with the rescue, and as we were anticipating our seventh night on the wall, Royal Robbins reached us after being lowered 700 feet. We prusiked to the top, spent a comfortable night in dry clothes and sleeping bags and were evacuated by helicopter the next morning. We are already planning another attempt in the spring. The climb has used about 250 pitons and 70 bolts so far.

GALEN ROWELL

Arizona

Baboquivari Peak, East Face Direct, Baboquivari Peak is a southern Arizona monolith that towers above the Sonoran desert floor. George Hurley and I took four arduous days to push our 14-pitch route up its 1000-foot overhanging east face, completing the ascent on April 8. From Riggs Ranch, 55 miles south-southwest of Tucson, hike to within 400 feet of the head of Thomas Canyon; then go up and left along rock gullies to gain Lion Ledge (named for the cougar we saw on it), which cuts across the east face 300 feet above the ground. Near the middle of the wall, on the ledge, is a spring. (Baboquivari is a Papago Indian word meaning "water on the mountain.") The climb starts at a tree, 35 feet south of the spring. Climb the tree, bend its top branch towards the wall, reach a crack, and nail (A3) up and left for 75 feet. Belay in slings at a bolt. Climb up and right to a 4-bolt traverse and nail up under an overhang, then down and right around a small corner to a 2-bolt anchor. On the 3rd pitch go up and left (A4) for 85 feet to a very exposed 2-bolt hanging belay. Continue up and slightly right (A4) for 65 feet to two bolts at a small stance. On the 5th pitch climb up and left in an obvious 120-foot groove (F7, A4). Then climb up and right along a crack for 70 feet to 2 bolts. Continue up and right around an overhanging lip to a small tree, which marks the end of 500 feet of terribly overhanging wall. From the tree climb up and left, fourth class, for 120 feet to a pine (a feasible bivouac spot). Climb directly up a recessed scoop via easy free climbing; belay where an aid crack traverses right. Climb right and up (A3) to a brushy ledge. Continue up and left (free and aid) past a small pine into an overhanging dihedral. Nail up this (A4) to a 2-bolt belay in slings. Continue up the dihedral to a tight chimney which leads to a spacious ledge with a gnarled pine on its lip. The remainder of the