

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

climb goes free. Scramble up and left along a brushy gully. From its top, climb an eroded quartz vein (F6) for 50 feet and traverse left into another brush-choked gully. From a boulder at its head, step onto the wall and climb up and left on easy friction, wiggle up between blocks and brush, and move right onto the face where bucket holds lead over a small overhang. Scramble the remaining feet to the summit. We used 65 pitons, ranging from rurps to a 4-inch bong with a slight emphasis on long blades, standard angles and Leepers. NCCS VI, F7, A4.

WILLIAM FORREST, *Unaffiliated*

Vulture Peak. This dominant 600-foot pinnacle is located about ten miles southwest of Wickenburg. After a few days spent in preparing the route on the east face, in October 1967 Larry Treiber and I took two days on the actual climb with a bivouac in belay seats. The first 450 feet are the most difficult, after which it is a scramble to the top. The route is exposed; it took 21 bolts and 22 pitons, one nut and a cliff hanger. NCCS IV, F5, A4, six pitches.

WILLIAM SEWREY, *Unaffiliated*

New Mexico

Towers near Shiprock. During the spring of 1968 several of the prominent towers around the base of Shiprock were climbed for the first time. To protect the unique character of Shiprock, these towers have been given nautical names. Thus, the great spire on the north face, originally called "Tomahawk Spire," was renamed "Outrigger" by the first-ascent party. The four towers climbed this spring have been called "Sextant," "Sea Anchor," "Spinnaker Tower" and "Crow." "Sextant" is the 500-foot flake on the east side of Shiprock, a few hundred yards north of the Honeycomb Gully. Eric Bjornstad, Harvey Carter, Tim Jennings and I climbed the east edge of the flake in two days, reaching the summit on May 11. We required 32 pitons and 4 bolts in six pitches of mixed aid and free climbing, separated by excellent belay stances. The descent was made by a series of hairy rappels down the west edge and south face of the flake. "Sea Anchor," which lies a quarter mile northeast of Shiprock, is the most spectacular black basalt column. It is 200 feet high and was climbed by Bjornstad, Carter and me on May 13. We ascended the west face to a shallow chimney about 50 feet below the top and then up the chimney to slabs just below the summit. This tower deserves special comment because of its extremely rotten rock. We spent many hours climbing over difficult bulges where we placed a large number of almost useless pitons. Carter, Mike Cohen and I climbed "Spinnaker Tower" in