

sen, Ed Ehrenfeldt, and I made the climb on September 15, 1974. The climbing over and around a serrate crest of granite teeth is quite spectacular and provides a number of short problems. The nearness of the summit-route gully to the west offers escapes, and is therefore a detractor to any claim of boldness. NCCS II, F7.

FRED BECKEY

Kettle Dome, West Face. The first climb of this face was done on October 20, 1974 by Walt Vennum, Phil Warrender, and me; the route is on the right side (long side) of the face, near where it corners to the south. The route is all face climbing, much on small holds, with a shortage of protection opportunity, especially on the first pitch. About 6 pitches. NCCS II; F7.

FRED BECKEY

Clyde Palisade, Primrose Ridge. This prominent crest adorns the north face of Clyde Palisade to end on the west summit. It is very visible from Glacier Lodge and usually divides the light from shadow. Dave Black, Mike Graber, and I made the first climb in late July, taking most of the day from a high camp at about 12,000 feet where a rock outcrop breaks the glacier. Icy snow led to the lowest portion of the very thin crest (this is just west of the spur that continues north). From here 13 demanding pitches took us to the summit, with each pitch religiously staying on the crest; 3 of the pitches were a minimum of F9. NCCS IV, F9; all chocks.

FRED BECKEY

"Hair-raiser Buttress," Granite Basin. Vern Clevenger and I climbed this route in June. The route ascends the only prominent, pitted buttress in the middle of the Granite Basin group. We started off some boulders slightly uphill from the low point and center of the buttress and then took the central line for three pitches to the top, always following the area most solution-pocked. The final pitch is the crux, some F9 and considerable F8, all protected by bolts. NCCS II, F9.

THOMAS HIGGINS

Sugarloaf Dome, Southwest Face. This face was climbed in June by Fred Beckey and me. Sugarloaf is the prominent formation across the Merced River from Bonnell Point in Little Yosemite Valley. Leave the trail at a point where you walk next to a cascade and gain a bushy ledge below the southwest face. Starting just left of the left-most tree on the ledge, climb several difficult free pitches to a point where you nail a short crack to a tree. Climb up and right for a pitch and nail a small short arch

PLATE 62

**Tom Higgins and Vern Clevenger on
Hair-raiser Buttress, Granite Basin,
California.**

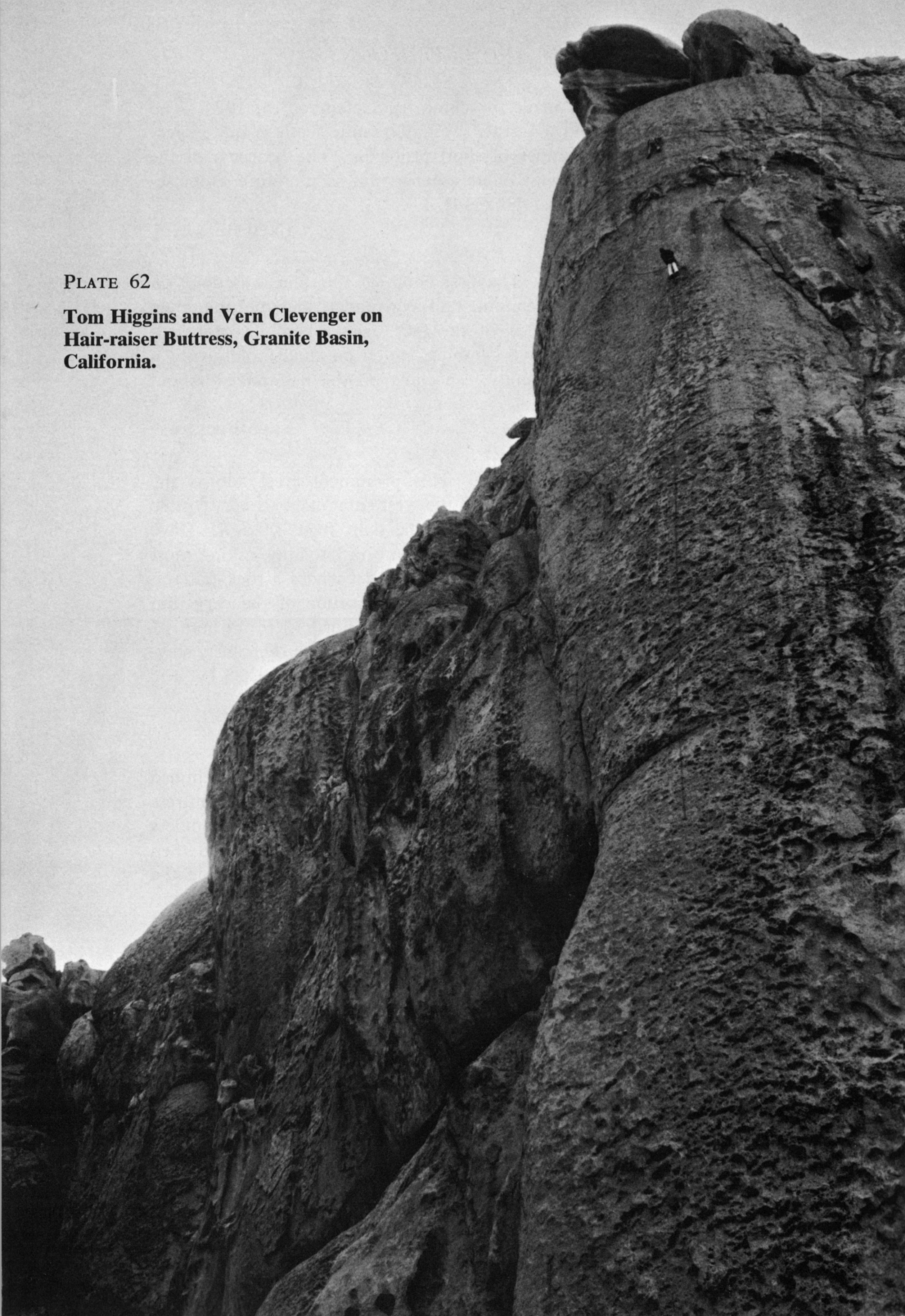


PLATE 63

Photo by Nancy Wyrick

Rappelling off the TOTEM POLE.

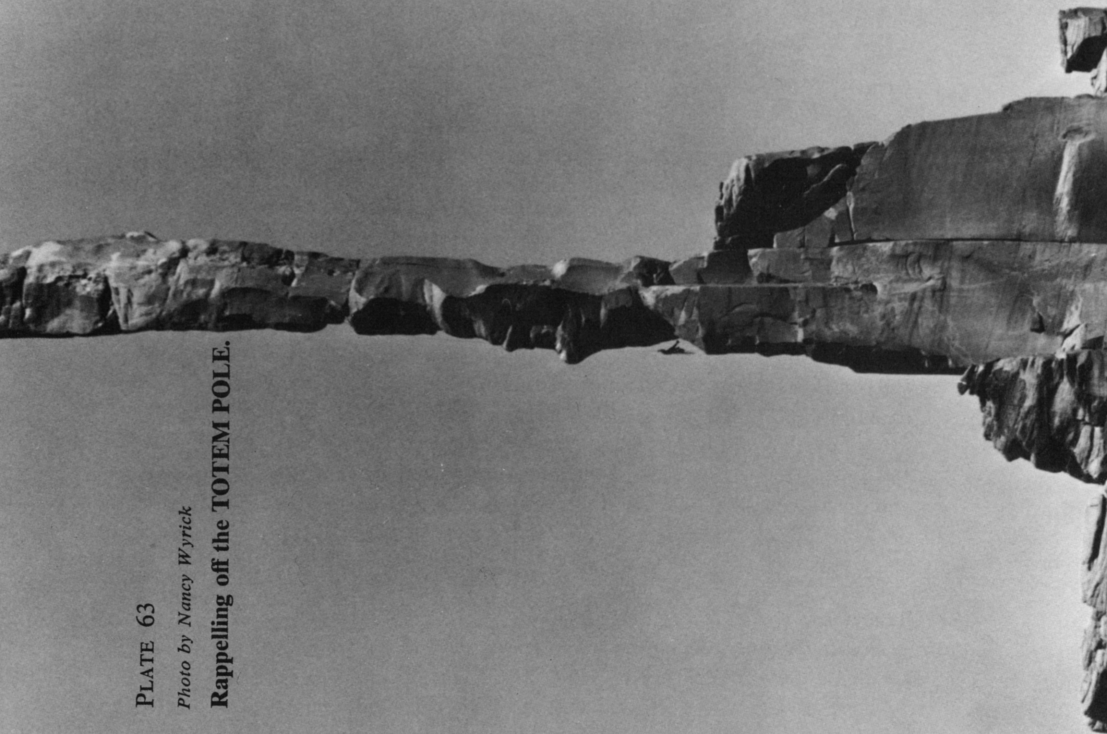


PLATE 64

Photo by Ken Wyrick

Eric Bionstat on the TOTEM POLE.



to a large ledge. From the left end of the ledge, join the Salathé route and climb up and right for two pitches more to the summit.

MICHAEL WARBURTON

Nevada

Rainbow Mountain (Mount Charleston), Solar Plexus Route. The route keeps well east of the great arch on the south face of the Solar Wall, south-facing and often warm in the desert sun. It was virtually all face-climbing, much on small holds on solid sandstone. The blankest portion of the climb just barely works out, with the key traverse possible only because of the soundness of the mini-holds. The climb was done on March 3 by Alan Bartlett, Stan Molenski and me. NCCS III, F8.

FRED BECKEY

Utah

Bootleg Tower, Day Canyon, Moab. Day Canyon is one of dozens of pristine canyons, rarely visited, only a few miles from Moab. Though few have towers, Day Canyon, home of an early bootlegger, has several challenging ones. In 1974 Terry McKenna and I made the first ascent of sandstone Bootleg Tower. NCCS I, F8, A2.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

Echo Rock, Window Route. Echo Rock, a few miles southwest of the Moab airstrip, was first climbed six years ago. In 1974 Ken Wyrick, Terry McKenna and I made a new route, the north edge, on this 275-foot sandstone citadel. We started on the east flank, a lead below an eight-by-ten-foot square tunnel which runs completely through the rock. Once within this phenomenally square passage, it is apparent that the window is the product of eons of wind, rain and frost erosion. The second lead took us through the window from east to west. With a shoulder-stand we climbed a high-angle jam-crack, using chocks and pitons for aid. Near the top of the pitch, the crack split the wall in two. The tower thins and gives an engaging view to the exposed other side. A short traverse to the right from beneath the summit overhangs put us on the top of the most amazing tower structure I had ever seen. Since our ascent, the Window Route has been reclaimed four times. NCCS III, F7, A2.

ERIC BJØRNSTAD

Valley of the Gods, Southeast Utah. Driving south from Mexican Hat, you get fleeting glimpses of thin sandstone towers to the west before the highway bends its way toward the Arizona border. An arrow