

of days, relaxes. Two nights in hammocks are bearable. Tonight we'll sleep on top. The end of the third day the final pitch is led in the dark, jumaring under the stars with the moon shining brightly. But alas, there are no level spots left for me to sleep. A tree is in sight, the hammock goes up, and I go in. Like a bed in a house, a hammock in the air, but here there is a difference, for my mind is free to wander in the High Sierra.

CRAIG MARTINSON

*Picture Peak, Bishop Area.* Rick Wheeler and I made a new route on Picture Peak above the Hungry Packer Lake basin, seven miles from Lake Sabrina. We decided to head for a hand-and-fist crack near the right center of the face. This runs parallel to a chimney for 200 feet. We hiked around the southeastern shore of the lake and third-classed several hundred feet of shattered rock to the first obstacle, a small F9 roof, which we passed on the left. This led to a short section of face climbing. From there we followed the line of least resistance upward for several pitches until we reached the top of the first ridge. The rock rib we were climbing was divided into three sections. The finest climbing was in the bottom section, which contained the hand-and fist crack. From the top of the first rib we dropped into a small notch and continued to climb two additional sections, one pitch of which was an awkward corner requiring some very wide stemming (F10).

TONY JENNINGS

*Mount Williamson, North Face.* The 2200-foot high north cliffs are impressive, even when viewed from far up Owens Valley. In contrast to the popular west and southeast sides, only two north-side routes are known to exist. My wife Ruth and I ascended just left of center in 1957, using a swing traverse. Tim Ryan, Fred Wing, and I climbed the right-hand portion of the face on May 30, 1976. We cramponed up a steep couloir that slants to the right, then ascended the rocks. Tim led the crux pitch on aid chocks. We tied on for the night at 13,880 feet, and reached the 14,375-foot summit early the next morning. NCCS IV, F5, A1.

JOHN D. MENDENHALL

### California—Yosemite Valley

*El Capitan, Mirage.* In September Jim Pettigrew, Kim Schmitz and I climbed a new route on the west face of El Capitan. The route lies between the West Face route and the Lurking Fear route. The apparently blank lower face required only 33 holes, the total for the route. The