

of the USGS, who mapped the geology of the Palisades area in the late 1950s). The route begins just left of the black dike splitting the center of the west face and traverses into the dike at the end of the first pitch. The dike is then followed for 600 feet to the top. Stemming and off-width problems on the third pitch form the crux. There were no signs of earlier ascents. There is no walk-off route. Descend by down-climbing to the notch, continuing down the north side until reaching a large slab with a rappel anchor. A 150-foot rappel ends in a snow-filled gully. (NCCS II, F9.)

WAYNE N. SAWKA, USGS

Chiquito Dome, Elegance. With some intentional vagueness, I report that Chris Vandiver and I climbed the south face of Chiquito Dome in November. For those who chance their way onto this fine route, there awaits a menagerie of climbing experiences as improbable and titillating as any on the great Sierra domes. Driving up the Minarets Road, you might see a clean, bald face coming and going through the trees, peek-a-boo style. That's it. A fixed bong starts the route. Climb up, belay, tend left and keep track of the bolts: there are 22. You won't find anything over hard F10, or under F8. We spent four days drilling and conniving our way along, never knowing when the narrow and intermittent path of holds would vanish. When in doubt about where to go, look up or left, rarely right, for the little black or silver hangers. We are particularly proud to have endured the agony of placements eight and twelve; they made our toes numb for weeks. (NCCS III, F10+.)

TOM HIGGINS

Chiquito Dome, Mammoth Pool Reservoir, "Archline". In May, 1979 Conrad van Bruggen and I climbed a new route that starts from a large flake just left of Jigsaw Puzzle (*A.A.J.*, 1979). From the top of the flake, go past a bolt and cross a very thin crack (which continues 600 feet to the top) to a sling belay just right of an arch. Climb up, then left, re-crossing the crack, to the crux just left of a second arch. On the next pitch rejoin the crack at a third arch with an easy roof move and belay higher. Two easy pitches follow the crack to the top. (NCCS II, F9.)

FREMONT BAINBRIDGE

North Eagle Beak, Sierra National Forest, "Beak Job". In June, Fremont Bainbridge, Simon King and I climbed a new route that lies to the right of Thunder Road (*A.A.J.*, 1977) on the steeper north face. The five-pitch route follows the obvious ramp system for two pitches, then

PLATE 63

Photo by Chris Vandiver

**Tom Higgins and Brett Bernhardt on
Chiquito Dome, California.**



ascends F8 hand-cracks and laybacks directly up to the beak. (NCCS II, F8.)

CONRAD VAN BRUGGEN

Homer's Nose, "Dance of Topo-Usha". In August Dave Ohst, John Tuttle and I climbed this exceptional route that ascends the great cleft (chimney) that splits the south face of Homer's Nose. Start fifty feet right of an obvious water streak—the Black Tongue—and follow flakes diagonally up and right to a ledge running below the huge overhanging bulge. Traverse left on this to a short leaning corner and belay just above on a small sloping shelf (F10). Pitch 2: Follow a thin crack straight up (A1) to a short blank section. Use hooks (A3) to gain the crack above (3-4 inches), and follow this (F9) to a small belay stance on the left (1 bolt). Pitch 3: Traverse left ten feet to another bolt and follow the obvious off-width and chimney above (F9+) to a huge belay ledge. The last pitch is easy and obvious, ending in a large cave near the top. (NCCS III, F10, A3).

DICK LEVERSEE

Slick Rock, Crystal Basin. Placerville climbers have been doing new routes on Slick Rock this year (consult the USGS 15-foot map for Robbs Peak). To find the area, leave Highway 50 at Riverton via Ice House Road. A bit north of Jones Place, a road branches right, through a gate. Drive up Cheese Camp Ridge to between Four Cornered Peak and Slick Rock. Circle north and down to Silver Creek, east of the rock. It's best to hit the slabs east of the face, and contour along them, to avoid bush-whacking. The climbing is friction and face on Tuolomne-quality rock. Most routes are easy after the first pitch.

BOB BRANSCOMB

Clyde Minaret, Southeast Face. Kim Schmitz and I made the first winter ascent of this route in February. We were surprised that this most prominent of High Sierra wall climbs had been left alone in winter. Not only was it selected as one of the "Fifty Classic Climbs of North America" in Roper and Steck's book, but also it forms the spectacular backdrop for tens of thousands of winter visitors to Mammoth Mountain ski area. The sheer 1000-foot face rarely ices up, for it faces south, is made of dark meta-volcanic rock that acts as a heat sink, and lies west of the crest where it is influenced more by Pacific than cold Great Basin air. One of the major difficulties of a winter ascent of Clyde is a Forest Service regulation prohibiting overnight parking on the road leading to Mammoth. Except for the banker's hours of the ski area, no public transportation is available to or near the roadhead. We made elaborate plans with local friends to drive my car to town after we left