

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