

and collective fulfillment of which such climbs are enduring inspirational symbols.

STEVE WUNSCH

Yosemite Climber compiled by George Meyers. Diadem Books (London)/Robbins Mountain Letters (Modesto, California), 1979. 96 pages, photos. Price \$14.95.

I am a camera. I've been in many haul bags and been handled by anxious chalky hands. I've snapped the Camp Four lifestyle in the Valley. I've glamorized and celebrated vertical granite, half-naked climbers pumping rock, plumes of multi-colored ropes dangling across great walls. Pictures like these are what make books like *Yosemite Climber*. Without cameras what would climbers have to take home and drool and fantasize over through the winter? Without cameras what non-climbers would believe the unbelievable Yosemite antics?

For a camera this is a great book. For a climber, I'm not so sure. Foremost it is a tone poem in Kodachrome: of wide screen, 9x11-inch plates of climbers in action; and even a half dozen, two-page, 18x11-inch spreads. (That's equal to *four* times the size of this page.) Altogether this is an awesome display of the photoengraver's art. Although some of the opening scenic shots of the Valley are ones many people will have seen before, the dozen best prints in *Yosemite Climber* tell more about *being* there than any prose.

But if you want more than a graphic photo buzz this book won't do. Linear, Gutenberg types will complain that information on routes, personalities, history, the current valley scene is to be found in fragmentary captions, or in five short, though hardly representative narratives by local climbers. Mercifully these are drowned out by the glossy panoramas.

Still, hard-core visual types will love *Yosemite Climber*. I find it on a par with Reese's Peanut Butter Cups or Velveeta spread. It tastes good without being good. It's junk food, expensive junk to be sure.

JOHN THACKRAY

Thath-aa-ai-atah A Rock Climber's & Scrambler's Guide to the Lumpy Ridge Area, by Chip Salaun and Scott Kimball. Published by the authors, 1980. 192 pages, 52 photographs, area maps. Price \$10.00.

When requested by *The American Alpine Journal* to review the Lumpy Ridge guidebook, I asked, "Is that the guidebook with the unpronounceable name?" Sure enough, it is.

I enjoy a guidebook that is fun to read. Art Gran's Shawangunk guide of 1964 is my favorite. To this day I enjoy reading descriptions in his classic. While *Thath-aa-ai-atah* does contain some witticisms, it is