

buttress with many possible friction routes. Ours ascends from a prominent evergreen tree at the buttress base 800 feet to the "Curious Cube," a gigantic tilted slab. We reached the Static Slab by driving the Kromona Mine branch of the Sultan Basin road 3½ miles to the large clearcut across from it. We crossed the river and got to the base of the buttress. Five of the seven leads are of 5.8 or 5.9 friction. The route ascends almost directly toward the Cube, the last lead being the crux. A class-4 lead ascends from the top of the Cube to the buttress top. Grade III, 5.9.

ROBERT BUCKLEY

*Climbs in Snow Creek Area, 1982.* Jim Yoder did several new routes in the Leavenworth area. Perhaps the most notable was *Hyperspace* on Snow Creek Wall. It is a sustained free climb with four of the eight pitches being 5.10. The crux is a 5.10d slot. Also in early September 1982 Doug Klewin and the late David Stutzman made the first ascent of *Bong Buttress*, a prominent rock tower between Snow Creek and Rat Creek on the north edge of the Enchantment Lakes plateau.

DANIEL W. CAUTHORN

### California—Sierra Nevada

*Bunnell Point—Northwest Face.* This wide, smooth face rises above the Merced River at the east end of Little Yosemite Valley. It was first attempted in 1975 by Mead Hargis and J.P. de St. Croix. Robb Dellinger and I returned and completed their route in June, 1983. Right of the center of the face are two prominent dikes which slant up and left and meet about halfway up the face. The route follows the right dike and, in general, slants to the left for its entire fourteen pitches. There are about 15 bolts on the climb (beware off-route bolts to the right at about mid-height), about half of which are at belay points. Three or four of the pitches involved F9 climbing on this route, which was very reminiscent of climbing on Glacier Point Apron. IV, F9.

ALAN BARTLETT, *Buff Alpine Club*

*Whitney Portal Buttress, Clouds.* Seen from below, Whitney Portal Buttress is a large slab divided into two halves by a deep chimney descending from the top. Three routes already ascended the left half, the first done by Fred Beckey in 1967. In November, Bob Harrington and I climbed the first route on the right half. It starts from a ledge several hundred feet up and right from Wonderwall (A.A.J., 1980). Climb left into a dirty flake system. Two unenjoyable pitches lead to a huge ledge with a tall tree. From near the right side of the ledge, climb a block, then tension to a left-facing flake system. From a sling belay near its top, climb past three bolts (5.10+) to an aid bolt on a headwall, then up to a sloping belay. Climb past two bolts to a 5.10 flake. From its top, a long pen-