

chimney of the south face route. It is mostly vertical fourth-class climbing with a few moderate class-5 moves. *Mount Conness*: In September of 1992, David Hardy and Paul Goldhammer climbed a fifth-class route on the west side of this peak. The route starts from the south side of the huge tower on the north ridge and traverses up and across the west face to the summit, always remaining below the crest of the north ridge. *Mount Darwin*: In 1982, Bruce Hendricks and Bruce Watts climbed the right rib on the north face. They followed the crest of the rib for six pitches to the summit plateau (II, 5.8.)

BART O'BRIEN

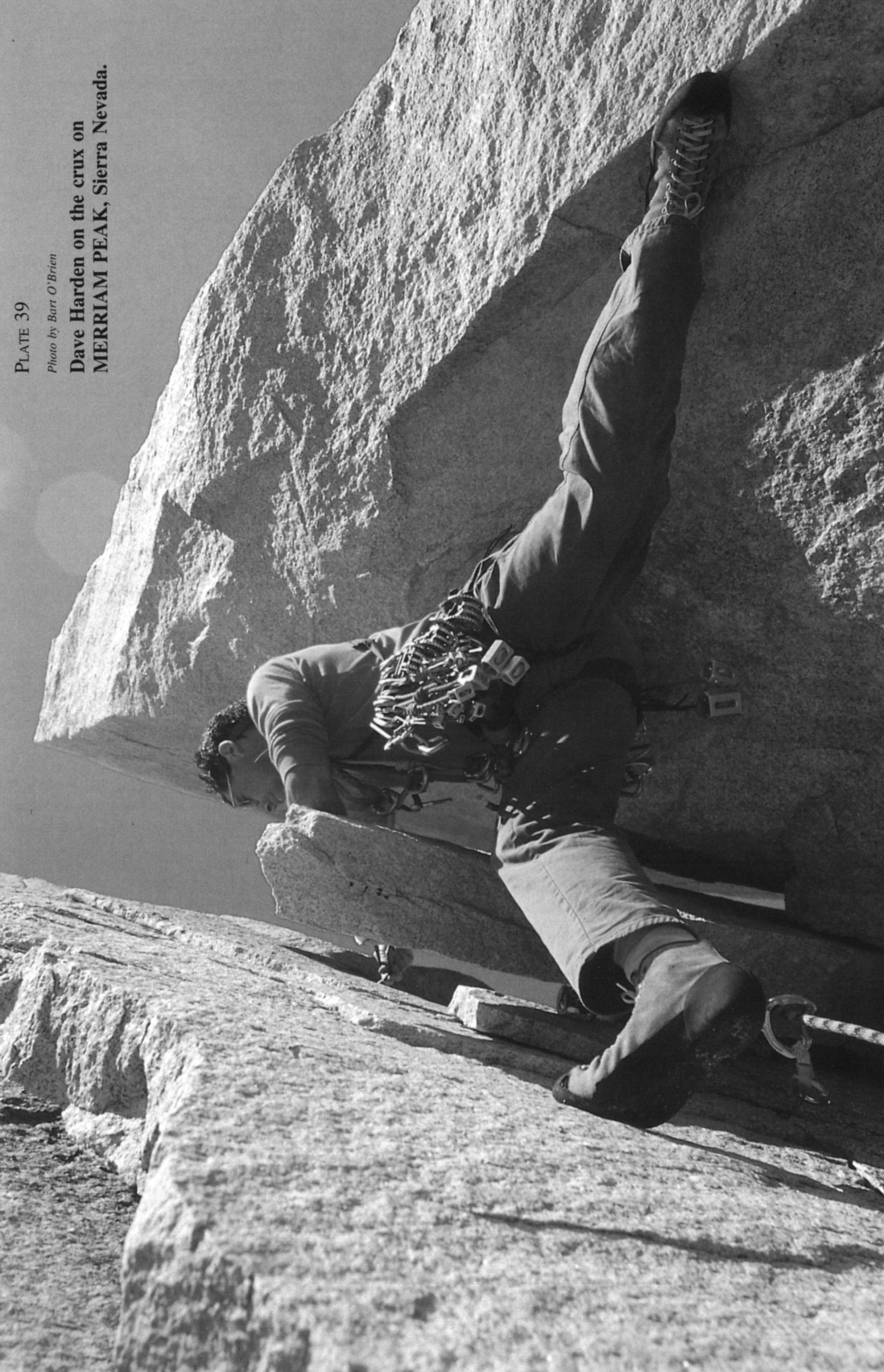
Merriam Peak, North Face. The left edge of the beautiful north pillar of Merriam Peak begins as a blocky, segmented arête that features two or three sharp spires in the lower third and culminates in a steep, smooth, rounded buttress. In July, Dave Harden and I worked through the blocky section and followed the upper face for nine pitches. We scrambled 50 feet above the talus on the extreme left edge of the north face. An aesthetic three-inch jam crack (5.8) led up 40 feet to easier climbing. The second pitch avoided the steep prow by following third-class rock to the left for 80 feet. We climbed back to the arête to the base of a wide crack. Pitch three ascended to the right of the wide jam crack to the top of the first spire. We made a short rappel to the gully to the left of the north face. We followed broken rock and 5.7 cracks for 100 feet to a 5.9 fist crack that led for 30 feet up into a chimney behind the most impressive spires. The next pitch was the crux. We climbed over blocks and then chimneyed up to where 5.9 moves took us onto the smooth upper headwall. A 120-foot classic hand- and finger-crack led to the second ledge at the base of a wide crack. We started up the crack but traversed right onto easy face climbing that led to a big ledge. The next pitch climbed 30 feet at 5.9 to a 5.10b horizontal traverse to the left. We rappelled 30 feet into the gully at the base of a spectacular crack. The last pitch was 160 feet of continuously difficult and varied climbing up to and around an imposing roof. The pitch ended abruptly on the same ledge that climaxes the Harrington-Clevenger route. Three traversing pitches led to the actual summit of Merriam Peak. This climb is technically more difficult and longer than the normal route. (IV, 5.10+.)

BART O'BRIEN

Treasure Peak, The Pharaoh and The White Fang. Treasure Peak is 6 miles north of Mount Abbott and is called by this name in R.J. Secor's guide. In July, Urmas Franosch and I did "Band of Gypies," a direct route on its unclimbed north face. Three full rope-lengths led up the steepest section of the surreally banded face onto the east ridge, one fourth-class pitch from the summit. The third pitch, the crux, was loose and continuous, with protection up to 4 inches required. (III, 5.10a.) The Pharaoh (9600+ feet) is 6 miles west of Miller Lake in Yosemite's Matterhorn Canyon. I spotted this formation on the Tuolumne

Photo by Bart O'Brien

**Dave Harden on the crux on
MERRIAM PEAK, Sierra Nevada.**



Meadows quadrangle as a mass of contour lines two miles downstream from the northbound Pacific Crest Trail to Benson Lake. On the faith of those lines, Franosch and I hiked 18 miles from Saddlebag Lake to find this spectacular 1000-foot pointed buttress looming over the verdant meadows of rarely-explored lower Matterhorn Canyon. We climbed the easiest-looking line on the northwest face (IV, 5.11). There were nine long pitches of consistent 5.9 and 5.10 crack climbing. The crux seventh pitch was 5.11 stemming. The rock was Fairview Dome-like, with many vertical knobby faces and sinuous crack systems. We placed no bolts or pins and used protection up to 4½ inches. A curious hanging lake behind the summit pinnacle provided a refreshing respite before the 1000-foot descent of a gully to the south. The White Fang is on the east face of P 12,240, midway between Mounts Aggie and Baldwin. Roper's guide describes it as a "spectacular flat-faced formation briefly visible from US 395." This huge, white monolith of questionable dioritic marble is familiar to anyone who has hot-tubbed south of Mammoth, and I was curious as to why the strong first-ascent team of Rowell, Raymond and Callis settled for the third-class northwest chute and not the main east face. In September, Steve Germerding, Carla Zezeula, Denise Brown and I formed a team to climb "White Trash" and blitzed the east face in a three-day effort. True to the rumors of unclimbable rock, we managed to tread gingerly for three pitches of 5.10 and six of 5.9x ("no one must fall"). Brown had to leave for work on the third day, but her logistical support was vital to our ultimate victory. (IV, 5.10.)

AL SWANSON

The Cobra, "From Afar," Gorge of Despair, 1992. In July, 1992, Guy Keesee and I climbed this two-pitch route on The Cobra's south face. It starts right of a huge alcove and climbs past three bolts into a crack. There is a bolted belay at the end of the crack. The second pitch goes left and then up another crack (II, 5.11c).

KRIS SOLEM, *Unaffiliated*

P 13,040+, Third Needle, Trail Camp Crag, Lone Pine Peak, The Duck, The Turret. P 13,040+ lies just north of Mount Powell. On the right side of the east face is a straight-up crack that goes from the ground to the summit ridge, finishing north of the summit (III, 5.10b). The third (crux) pitch goes through three small roofs. Eric Tipton and I climbed it in 1994. In June, Ken Kenaga and I followed the first pitch up the east buttress route of the Third Needle and headed left onto the south face via a third-class pitch. We then went up a right-facing orange corner in the center of the face. (III, 5.10c, 5 pitches.) In June, Kenaga and I climbed a two-pitch route on Trail Camp Crag (I, 5.8). As you look north from the solar outhouse there is an obvious crack that goes through two roofs. In September, Bruce Bindner and I completed the "Summer Ridge Route" on the south face of Lone Pine Peak in a two-day push (V, 5.9). It follows the Winter Route for 1½ pitches and then takes the gully on the left