

the top. Despite the 16 protection bolts, a number of wide pieces (up to 10 inches) were also used. Jay Anderson led the route in March 1995 (no falls) with Brad Jarrett following. Approach via several rappels (60 meter) behind the flake from the abandoned dirt road/trail above. This is a classic must-do for wide crack enthusiasts (I, 5.12b).

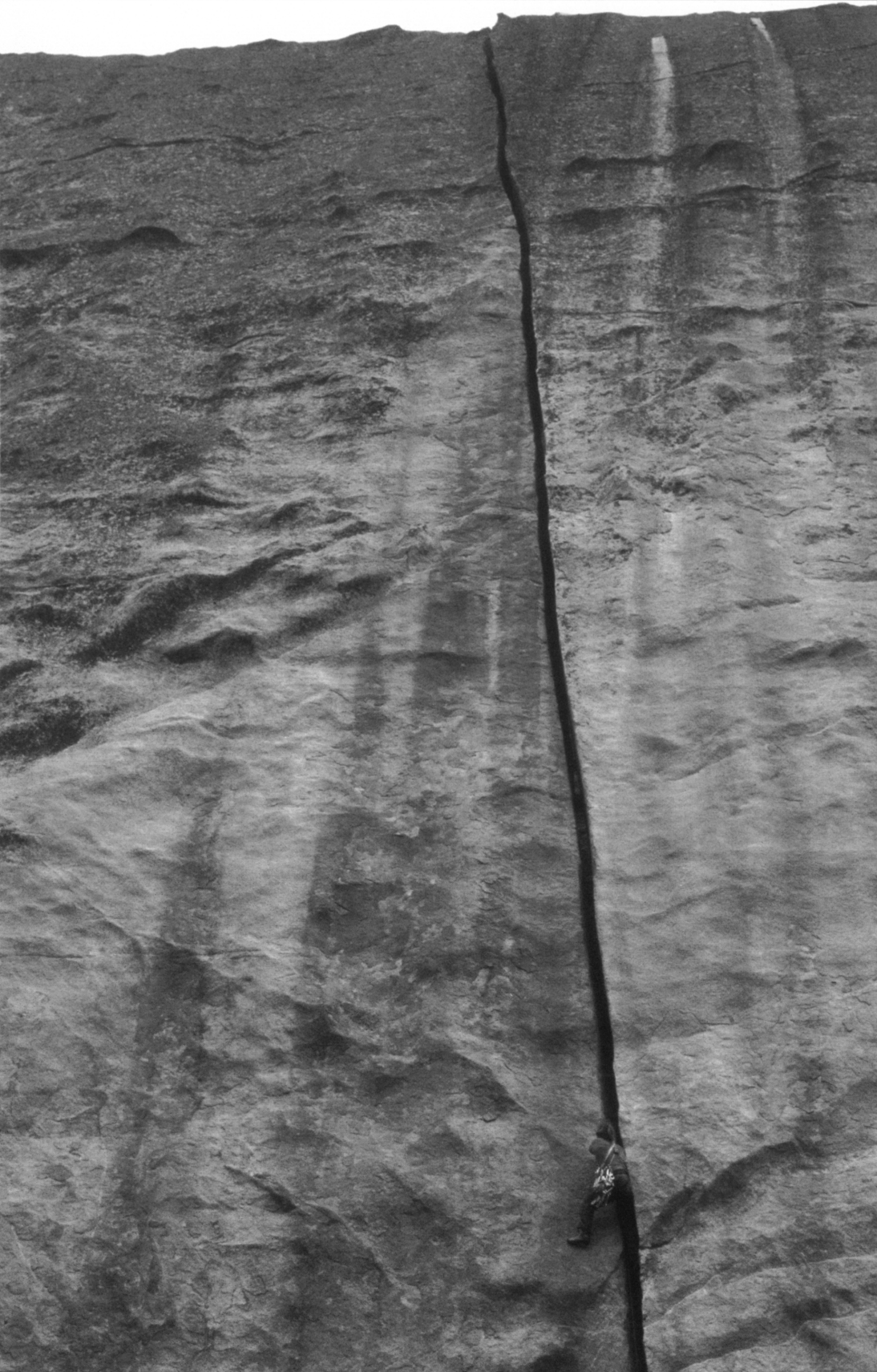
RICHARD LEVERSEE, *unaffiliated*

*Whitney Portal Area, Mushroom Tower, New Routes.* This attractive formation is about one mile west of Whitney Portal Buttress. It is recognizable by a boulder on its summit. Approach it from the Mount Whitney trail by going up the drainage before (east of) the drainage leading to the Boy Scout Lakes and the east side of the Mount Whitney massif. A tree-covered ledge runs along the bottom of the formation. From the high point of a 'hill' above this ledge the route *Sparky* (III 5.8) wanders up the center of the formation for seven pitches. Eric Tipton and I climbed it in August 1995. *Roper's Vagueness*. Previously unreported is a route (III 5.7 A2) Bruce Bindner and I did on this formation in June 1979. Starting from the right side of the tree-covered ledge climb a corner, then move left to another corner. Higher, a gully is reached. Go down and right a bit, then climb more corners up until one can walk off the right side of the formation. This climb does not go to the summit, and we climbed it mistakenly thinking we were doing the old Fred Beckey route called *Wrinkled Lady*.

PAT BRENNAN, *unaffiliated*

## UTAH

*Climbing Activity in Zion National Park.* The climbing seasons of 1995 were affected by heavy spring rains, the typical scorching hot summer, and Peregrine Falcon closures. Many of Zion's cliffs are closed from February to July 15 for their breeding period, and most of the available climbing takes place in the upper canyon (the Temple of Sinewava). *Moonlight Buttress* (V 5.12+/13-) received several free ascents, the first since the original free ascent in 1992 by Peter Croft and Johnny Woodward. Alan Lester and Steve Levin did the second free ascent in the spring, Seth Shaw and Beth Malloy climbed the third free ascent in the summer, and Mia Axon and Topher Donahue climbed the fourth free ascent over Thanksgiving weekend. Eric Rasmussen and Jimmy Haden climbed the beautiful North Face of Lady Mountain, establishing *Ghost Dance* (VI 5.9 A3+, 15 pitches). John Middendorf and Carl Tobin climbed *The Mountaineer's Route* (IV 5.10) in Oak Creek, a fine jaunt up to the big plateau between the Altar of Sacrifice and the Sundial. Jim Funsten, Doug Beyerly and Brad Quinn climbed



*Altered States* (VI 5.10 A3), a steep crack line which also tops out on the big plateau. Glen Rink and the ever-present Dave Jones climbed *Hue and Cry* (IV+ 5.11a), another fine free line on the Watchman. In the Temple of Sinewava, Calder Stratford and John Middendorf finished off a route to the right of *Desert Shield* called *Disco Inferno* (V 5.10 A3), while Doug Beyerly, Calvin Hebert and Brad Quinn climbed *The Big Kahuna* (IV+ 5.11 A1), a mostly-free variation to the March-Forrest Chimney (six or seven new pitches). I am interested in collecting all new information on climbs in Zion for historical purposes: Please send reports to John Middendorf, Box 236, Hurricane, UT 84737.

JOHN MIDDENDORF

*Lovelace, First Free Ascent.* On April 25, Kennan Harvey and I wanted to try a free ascent of *Moonlight Buttress* in Zion, but a huge landslide had closed the canyon. Craig Luebben and Chris Harmston planned to aid ahead of us and photograph our attempt. Craig suggested we try *Lovelace*, a route he had aided ten years earlier. All four of us made it up the approach ledges and first 5.10 pitch to the base of the 15-foot triple cracks that promised to be the crux. Craig aided the pitch first and set up a huge top rope so we could check out the possibilities. Chris tried first and managed to free all but a couple sections. Craig tried second and did all except a couple moves. Kennan pulled off all the moves with several falls and finally I managed it with two falls. Learning from each other was a fun progression. After a rest I led the pitch with no falls on preplaced gear.

We returned the next day to complete the route. Kennan led the crux, placing gear, but fell off a 5.12a section 100 feet up. He lowered to the belay, pulled the rope and tried again. Another fall, another lower, and another attempt. This time he made it. Kennan and I continued for five more pitches of easier crack climbing to the top for the first free ascent.

The climb follows the obvious widening crack system on the buttress to the left of The Fang, a free-standing tower to the east of the road leading up to the Zion tunnel. Take gear from RPs to a couple off-width pieces. Expect to use three sets of cams in the fingers-to-thin-hands range.

TOPHER DONAHUE, *unaffiliated*

*Paria Point, Sunlight Buttress.* In October, Ron Olevsky, Steve Johnson and I completed a new route on the east face of Paria Point in the Kolob Canyon section of Zion National Park. We had attempted this line three years earlier but were forced to retreat in a snowstorm. The route takes a direct line up the obvious buttress to the right of *Wind, Sand, and Stars*. Although only nine pitches long, we spent five days on the route, drilling approximately 50 bolts by hand. There are two or three bolts at every belay;

Steve Johnson on Sunlight Buttress.  
Charlie Fowler