

A CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO  
**SENECA ROCKS**

WEST VIRGINIA

by F. R. Robinson, Editor



Potomac Appalachian Trail Club  
Mountaineering Section  
1971

250

A CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO  
**SENECA ROCKS**

WEST VIRGINIA

by F. R. Robinson, Editor



Potomac Appalachian Trail Club  
Mountaineering Section  
1971



Copyright © 1971 by the Potomac Appalachian  
Trail Club, 1718 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 70-180644.

Illustrations and design by John F. Christian.  
Printed in the U.S.A. by Kirby Lithograph Company, Inc.,  
Washington, D.C.

## CONTENTS

|  | Page |
|--|------|
| Introduction .....                             | 1    |
| Location of the rocks .....                    | 3    |
| History .....                                  | 4    |
| Access to the rocks .....                      | 6    |
| Camping and other activities .....             | 8    |
| Local traditions .....                         | 11   |
| Geology .....                                  | 12   |
| General information on the climbs .....        | 16   |
| Notes on the climbs .....                      | 19   |
| Route descriptions .....                       | 26   |
| Historical notes on the climbs .....           | 96   |
| Appendix A — Climbs ranked by grade .....      | 105  |
| Appendix B — Alphabetical list of climbs ..... | 107  |

## LIST OF DIAGRAMS

|   | Page |
|---|------|
| NW-SE Stratigraphic Cross Section through<br>Seneca Rocks . . . . . | 15   |
| West Face . . . . .   | 21   |
| East Face . . . . .   | 22   |
| A. West Face, North Peak . . . . .                                  | 27   |
| B. West Face, South Peak . . . . .                                  | 32   |
| C. Thais Face . . . . .   | 36   |
| D. Face of 1000 Pitons . . . . .                                    | 45   |
| E. West Face, Humphrey and Cockscomb . . . . .                      | 49   |
| F. West Face, South End . . . . .                                   | 57   |
| G. South End . . . . .  | 60   |
| H. East Face, Humphrey . . . . .                                    | 71   |
| I. East Face, Cockscomb . . . . .                                   | 76   |
| J. East Face, South Peak . . . . .                                  | 78   |
| K. East Face, North Peak . . . . .                                  | 85   |
| L. East Face, Southern Pillar . . . . .                             | 92   |
| M. West Face, Southern Pillar . . . . .                             | 95   |



## INTRODUCTION

The editor gratefully admits to having made use of previous writings on Seneca Rocks. Among numerous sources, the editor has freely excerpted from the article "Rock Climbing on Seneca" by John C. Reed, Jr. published by the P.A.T.C. in the April 1955 issue of the *Bulletin*. The editor has also used information from the publication *Seneca Rocks Route Sketches* by I. L. Jirak of the Explorers Club of Pittsburg. Lastly, the editor acknowledges the work of the authors of some of the route descriptions, the preparatory work done by Thais Weibel and George Livingstone of the Mountaineering Section and the help given by the numerous reviewers.

The diagrams of the rock face are by John F. Christian and are based on the original drawings by him and John Williams used in the April 1955 *P.A.T.C. Bulletin*.

The geology account and diagram we owe to Chuck Sproull.

The editor hopes this guide will encourage climbers to explore again and more widely the other areas in West Virginia, for example, Baker Rocks, Nelson Rocks,

## INTRODUCTION

Champe Rocks, Greenland Gap, Maysville Gap, Kline Gap, Hopeville Canyon and the Smoke Hole Gorge.

May we add a sincere appeal as regards the preservation of the rocks. They are not in fact indestructible. Frost and lightning have damaged them in the past and man may damage them irreparably by the indiscriminate use of pitons. We appeal to climbers to consider their philosophy of climbing very carefully and try to strike a balance between their urge to conquer and their secret feeling about their own ability and the protection they may need and perhaps even to consider artificial or natural chockstones or rock spikes or horns for protection, or even retreating, before pounding yet another nail in some of Seneca's delightful routes. We make this appeal strongly because this guide may well increase the traffic to an extent greater than the rocks will bear. Please remember the next generation! Perhaps by discovering more about your skill and nerve you will need a little less ironmongery (and be a better climber) than you thought.

## LOCATION OF THE ROCKS

Seneca Rocks are located just east of the village of Mouth of Seneca in historic Germany Valley at the intersection of U.S. Route 33 and W. Va. Routes 4 and 28. This is where Seneca Creek joins the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River.

For general directions consult a road map. Some reference towns are Petersburg to the northeast, Franklin to the south, Elkins to the west, and Thomas to the north.

Those topographical maps published by the Department of the Interior Geological Survey which cover the Seneca area at the scale of 1 : 62,500 (1 inch to 1 mile) are:—

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Onego W. Va.             | N3845 — W7915/15 |
| W. Va. Davis             | N3900 — W7915/15 |
| Circleville W. Va.       | N3830 — W7915/15 |
| W. Va. Greenland Gap     | N3900 — W7900/15 |
| W. Va. Petersburg        | N3845 — W7900/15 |
| Ft. Seybert W. Va. — Va. | N3830 — W7900/15 |

Other information and maps covering the Spruce Knob — Seneca Rocks recreation area may be had from the

## LOCATION OF THE ROCKS

Forest Supervisor, Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, W. Va. 26241 or the District Ranger, Potomac Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service, Petersburg, W. Va. 26847.

## HISTORY

Seneca Rocks and Germany Valley have their place in American history. There is an Indian legend attached to the Rocks concerning the Princess Snowbird whose suitors completed to reach her in her eyrie on the rocks. Germany Valley and the valley coming down from Elkins to the northwest were traditional routes followed by Indian tribes. Germany Valley was subsequently one of the migration routes followed by early settlers heading for the south and west.

In more recent years Seneca saw its share of the Civil War. Mr. Buck Harper who runs one of the combination general stores at Mouth of Seneca is a source of more recent history. A long-time resident, Mr. Harper's family has lived at Mouth of Seneca since before the Civil War. As a boy he learned from his grandmother of the 22nd Georgia Regiment that wintered there during the early

## HISTORY

years of the War. Sheltered only in makeshift lean-tos built of rails taken from a rail fence, some of the troops did not survive the winter and were buried in an old slave cemetery on a hill above the town. It is said that men of this regiment tried without success to reach the peak of Seneca Rocks.

Mr. Harper's father, who was born in 1883 and died relatively recently, was one of the early explorers of the Rocks. As he grew older his interests increased and he searched for a route to the top. After numerous attempts he finally found what is now known as "Old Ladies' Route".

Apparently, years before, a civil engineer and experienced mountain climber named Bittinger spent considerable time in the area while making maps for the Park Service. He became interested in Seneca Rocks and is probably the unknown "D.B. Sept. 16, 1908" whose initials were found when Paul Bradt, Don Hubbard and Sam Moore reached the summit of South Peak in 1939.

During 1942 and 1943, Seneca Rocks served as a training area for mountain troops of the U.S. Army, and their



## HISTORY

fame spread. Since World War II, climbing on Seneca Rocks has become increasingly popular.

More recently the Rocks and their surroundings have become part of the Spruce Knob-Seneca National Recreation Area which is administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

It is, in the editor's opinion, worth recording that until this occurred a number of local residents including Messrs. Vance, Sites, Yokum, Harper, Armentrout, and Bland owned the rocks and the surrounding land. The first four of these also owned and maintained the suspension bridge at their own expense. That the bridge will eventually be replaced by the Forest Service some of us will regret as much as the passing of an old friend.

## ACCESS TO THE ROCKS

Virginia Route 28 crosses Seneca Creek approximately north to south; going east from the south side of the bridge is Roy Gap Road (dirt). This road fords the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River and

## ACCESS TO THE ROCKS

passes right through Roy Gap with the south face of the main rock formation on the left (north) and the southern pillar formation on the right (south). Park at the ford, or, for the energetic, park at the pavilion or Sites Memorial Park and walk the third of a mile to the ford. From the ford walk across the suspension bridge just upstream and follow the road to Roy Gap. The Luncheon Ledge, below Humphrey and the Cockscomb on the west side, is usually the focal point of climbing activities. The 70 feet long by 6 feet wide ledge marks the spot where scrambling ends and the climbing begins. The ledge is reached by crossing the stream and climbing the scree slope from a point about 50 yards before the Gap. At the top of the scree turn right at a clump of hemlock and walk over some big, fairly stable boulders and then aim for the south end of the Cockscomb. The east face climbs are reached by way of one or the other of two steep trails of which the first leaves the road about 50 yards beyond the Gap. These trails are followed until it is necessary to climb the slope to the foot of the rock face. North of the latter the trails lead eventually to the North Peak.



## CAMPING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

The conventional camping site is the pavilion situated on the north side of Seneca Creek and the west side of W. Va. Routes 4 and 28. Turn in by the Post Office (across the road from Sites Roadside Park) and go 200 feet through a gate and a ford (which is usually dry). There is a grassy field to pitch a tent in and a big, open-sided pavilion for those with no tents. Outhouses are provided. The pavilion is privately owned by a small consortium of seven or eight local people. The land was originally bought for local celebrations and was used for the homecoming celebrations after the 1918 armistice. Campers are expected to register with Buck Harper at the general store and pay the fee of 25¢ per person per night, which is a contribution towards the upkeep of the facilities. This fee has been unchanged for many years. Please respect the pavilion. It is still occasionally used for local festivals. A water pump and more outhouses are to be found at the Sites Roadside Park across the highway.

Another site is the Seneca Campground about 2 miles west of Onego on U.S. Route 33 and W. Va. 4. It is on Whites Run Road and is marked by a Forest Service sign. Water and outhouses are available.

## CAMPING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

A third site is the private campground at Yokum's Motel about one mile north of Mouth of Seneca on W. Va. Routes 4 and 28. This site offers hot showers. It is also close to one of the natural swimming holes in the river.

There are other sites on Spruce Knob which is about 15 miles away. Here in the summer the air is so much cooler and fresher that it is well worth the trip. The only official site is the Forest Service campground near Spruce Knob Lake. It has hot water and outhouse facilities and the campsites are well spaced.

Another camping area is on top of Dolly Sods. This is reached by taking W. Va. Routes 4 and 28 northwards towards Petersburg for about 10 miles and turning west at the sign. The road becomes dirt, but is in good shape and leads to the high plateau of the Sods. One may camp anywhere, but water will have to be carried unless the Forest Service site is used in the general vicinity of the Bell Knob Fire Tower. The location of this is obvious. Follow the road northwards across the top of the Sods until one sees the sign. This site is crowded when blueberries are in season.

## CAMPING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

For non-campers there are two motels nearby. Yokum's is just north of Mouth of Seneca on W. Va. Routes 4 and 28 and the 4U Motel is just south of Mouth of Seneca on U.S. Route 33 and W. Va. Route 28.

Summer climbers will find the desire to swim almost unavoidable. There are two swimming holes nearby. The nearer can clearly be seen from the summit and is about half a mile upstream from Yokum's Motel. The access is a dirt road which divides the Yokum trailer park and is followed upstream. It is worth recording that this dirt road is the original main public road through the valley and it remains public property. The road runs close by unfenced agricultural land which should not be invaded. The last 50 yards is barred by a gate which prevents cows from straying back into the main road. The gate should be closed immediately after use.

The second swimming hole is 4.3 miles northwest of Mouth of Seneca on W. Va. Routes 4 and 28. Parking is available beside the highway. It is much larger, quite deep (10 feet) and even has a homemade diving board. The main advantage is probably that it is free of the river-bed stones that make access to the other pool rather painful.

## CAMPING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

There is a third swimming hole near the 4U Motel, two or three miles south along Route 28.

On days which are too hot or too wet to climb, climbers may explore many caves in the area or take a commercial tour of Smoke Hole or Seneca Caverns. Many wild caves in the area have been closed by the owners because of vandalism.

There are several hiking areas nearby, particularly on Spruce Knob, Dolly Sods and High Knob. There are beaver, bobcat and bear to be seen in the more remote areas and Seneca Creek is said to have some of West Virginia's best trout fishing.

## LOCAL TRADITIONS

These include the 4th of July supper at Riverton (7 miles south of Mouth of Seneca on U.S. 33 and W. Va. 28) where climbers, cavers, hikers and canoeists have been welcome for several years now; the church supper at Riverton on Labor Day; square dancing at Harman on Saturdays; the Country Store O'pry 7 miles south of

## LOCAL TRADITIONS

Petersburg (on U.S. 220) every Saturday in spring and summer; the West Virginia Highlands Nature Conservancy Weekend which is sometimes held at Mouth of Seneca and the whitewater kayak and canoe races held in early April every year, starting from Mouth of Seneca at the bridge.

**GEOLOGY\***

Seneca Rocks is composed of many layers of dense, grey-white quartzite known as the Tuscarora Quartzite, which is a form of metamorphosed sandstone. Because of its extreme hardness and resistance to erosion, this 250 to 450 feet thick rock stratum is most commonly found capping the ridges in West Virginia. However, at Seneca, the attitude of this stratum is vertical and gives us an arrogant-looking crag rising 900 feet above the valley floor — instead of being horizontal as it was several hundred million years ago. Other similar but smaller formations near Seneca are Champe Rock, Baker Rocks and Nelson Rocks. These formations are lined up

---

\*by Chuck Sproull.

## GEOLOGY

along the western edge of Germany Valley in a direction similar to the major axis of the Appalachian Mountains.

This valley, 15 miles wide and almost 60 miles long, has an interesting geologic history. About 300 million years ago a large portion of the eastern United States was covered by a warm, shallow inland sea. For over 100 million years the earth's crust underwent periods of uplift and erosion resulting in shoreline migrations and variations in water depth. In areas where the inland sea was deeper and the shoreline further away, seabed deposits consisted mainly of biological and chemical precipitations which, when covered by subsequent deposits, turned to limestone. Where the sea was shallower and the shoreline closer, deposits contained mostly sand and silt washed in by rivers from uplifted areas to the north and east. In areas traversed by several shoreline migrations alternate layers of thin interbedded limestones and sandstone were formed. Then, about 170 million years ago, after the sediments had accumulated to a thickness of several miles, a terrific force inside the earth pushed the Atlantic coast of North America about 250 miles westward. This disturbance, known as the Appalachian Revolution, caused severe faulting and fold-

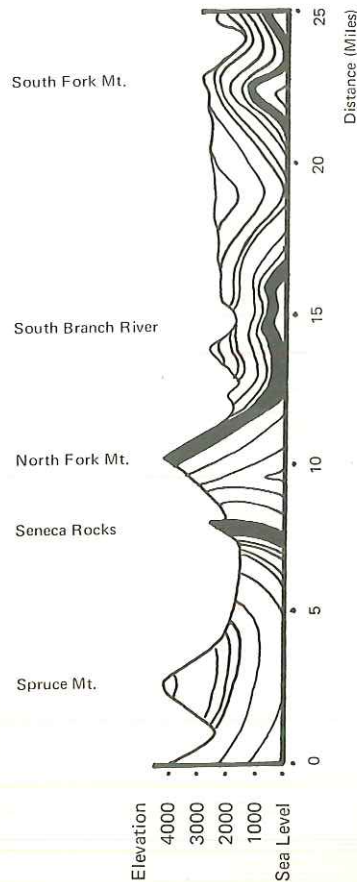


## GEOLOGY

ing of what had been nearly level rock strata. In some areas, the folds had vertical and even overturned sides. This force also compressed the denser sandstones into very hard quartzite. North Fork Mountain and the ridges in line with Seneca Rocks were at one time the two sides of the arch portion of one such fold.

The Tuscarora Quartzite, though very tough, was also quite brittle and where bent sharply had little resistance to erosion. Consequently, the top of the fold has eroded away along with the softer sedimentary rocks on either side (above and below) of the quartzite. Thus, the side limbs of the folds are only the remains of the colossal mountains which once existed in Appalachia.

Since, in the immediate vicinity of Seneca, the strata are nearly vertical, one may observe each of the 15 separate rock formations of this section in chronologic order (oldest to youngest) by going west from midway between Seneca and North Fork Mountain to Spruce Mountain. The oldest exposed formation in the centre of the fold is the Shenandoah Limestone. Weathering and erosion of this stratum has provided good farm land as well as caves. The youngest rocks, the Blackwater (con-



NW-SE Stratigraphic cross section through Seneca Rocks area. Solid black segment indicates Tuscarora quartzite.



## GEOLOGY

glomerate) Formation can be found on the summit of Spruce Mountain five miles northwest of Seneca. The rock formation deposited just above the Tuscarora Quartzite is the Cacapon Sandstone found in stream beds west of Seneca. The rounded, flat cobbles derived from this stratum have provided mild discomfort to people who wade barefoot in the nearby swimming holes. It is also of interest to note that the total thickness of rock strata eroded away from above the Shenandoah Limestone up to and including the Blackwater Formation is about three miles. There were at least two miles of sediments which geologists have found above the Blackwater Formation, which means that the Appalachian Mountains were at one time much higher than any other range in North America.

### GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE CLIMBS

Viewed from the road near the village of Mouth of Seneca, the serrated crest stands out against the sky, a sight to bring joy to the heart of any true climber — and butterflies to the stomach of many a novice. The highest

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE CLIMBS

point of the rocks is the North Peak, which can easily be reached by one of the rough trails which leads up the mountainside east of the rock from beyond Roy Gap.

The South Peak, the "climber's summit", lies about an eighth of a mile south of the North Peak and is the highest point of the rock south of the deep gap known as the Gunsight Notch. The bottom of the notch is about 75 feet below the South Peak. In the center of the notch is perched a 25 foot pinnacle — the Gendarme. The Gunsight Notch can be reached by scrambling from the east and by an easy climb from the west, but if the party is weak or the rock is wet a rope is desirable.

For several hundred feet south of the South Peak the crest of the rock is broken by a series of relatively minor pinnacles and then falls away into a secondary notch which divides the main mass of the South Peak from the Cockscomb, a rounded, forbidding-looking flake to the south. The overhanging south end of the Cockscomb juts out over a deep notch and open gully on the west side of the rock, which marks the beginning of the popular Old Ladies' Route to the South Peak.

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE CLIMBS

South of this notch, Humphrey gazes up at the Cockscomb overhang with a slightly puzzled look. From Humphrey a series of small pinnacles lead to the south end of the rocks where a single, nearly vertical face falls away for 150 feet or more to the talus in the valley of the picturesque mountain stream which has sawed its way through the sandstone slab.

One of the most attractive features of the climbs on Seneca Rocks is that they can offer problems in route finding and party management not often encountered in most eastern rock climbing.

There are a few hazards worth recording. Firstly, loose rock abounds on some of the ledges and caution is necessary to avoid dislodging pieces which would endanger parties climbing below or hikers near the base of the rocks; secondly, many routes were studded with pitons of ancient vintage and questionable reliability; literally hundreds of these were placed by the Army, but most appear to have been removed but beware of those that remain; thirdly, wasps are abundant on the rocks on warm, sunny days, but they do not bother the climbers

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE CLIMBS

unless their nests are disturbed, so caution is advised in placing hands behind flakes and other blind areas.

There is no water on the Rocks, so liquid refreshment should be carried.

## NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

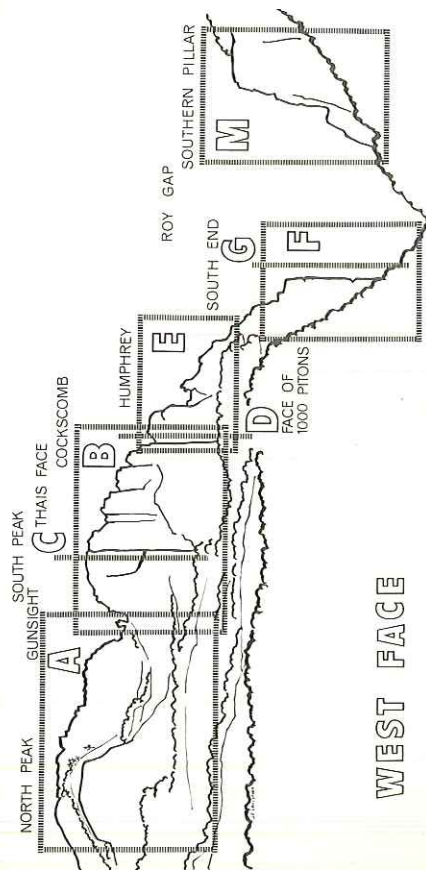
The climbs are described in order beginning on the west side of the North Peak moving counter-clockwise to Roy Gap and then northwards along the east face of the South and North Peaks. Lastly, climbs on the east and west faces of the rock south of Roy Gap are described. The cliffs below the west face of North Peak and the outcropping separating the talus slopes off the southwest corner of the rocks have been omitted because there are no records of the little climbing done there. For convenience routes are described with respect to the order of the starting points in that, for example, Old Ladies' (which is commonly accepted as the easiest ascent and descent route for South Peak) and the Broadway, may at first sight appear out of order. The descriptions are not intended to give a blow-by-blow or

## NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

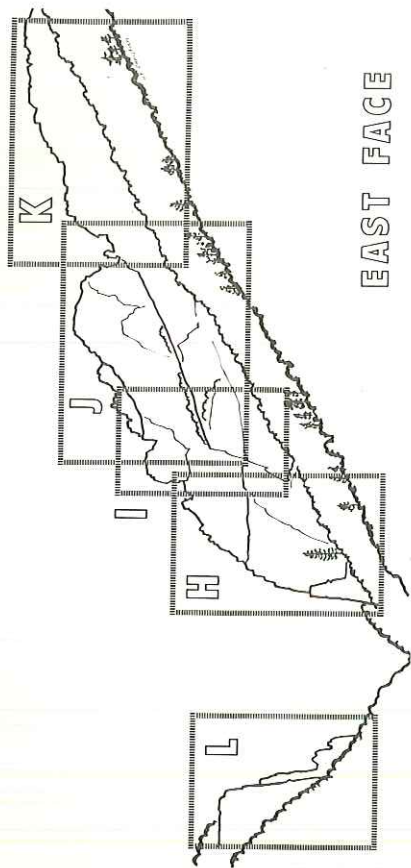
hold-by-hold account of the routes. Seneca is not so large that climbers will be lost or benighted, unless a solo climber has an accident. Climbers, if they are to lead, should be able to find the routes with a little common-sense if they know where to start and are aware of the need to assess the difficulties as they progress. Many of the original route descriptions in this guide are the best compromise the editor could reach following discussions with climbers, reviews of the information available and first-hand experience.

The following drawings of the west and east faces show the areas covered by the detail drawings which will accompany the route descriptions. The routes are shown in the detail drawings by lines of different patterns. Where a route has variations the same patterned line is used for the variations as for the normal route.

Users of the guide unfamiliar with Seneca may like to note that certain of the routes are the accepted easy ascent and descent routes. These are the Old Man's (14), Old Ladies' (31), East Face to Gunsight Notch (62), West Face to Gunsight Notch (7), Gunsight to North Peak (64), and Pine Tree Traverse (5). In some respects







## NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

14 is really easier than 31 and tends to be much less congested. Route 32 is an extremely useful connection between routes.

There are numerous rappel places. The common ones are from the trees on the wide summit ledges above the Cockscomb to descend to the Old Ladies' traverse, down the west face of the central buttress and down the west face below the Gunsight Notch. Good rappel trees can be identified by rope burns at base. A knowledge of these may help in emergencies. In detail the rappel routes are:—

*From the broad summit ledge of South Peak to ledges on Old Ladies' (31):*

A sturdy pine tree located roughly 25 feet south of the top of the final diagonal crack on Old Ladies'. A doubled 120 foot rope is barely enough to reach the ledges comfortably.

*From Old Ladies' ledges to Broadway (32):*

A large pine located about 10 feet south of the beginning of the final diagonal crack on Old Ladies' (this tree is almost directly below the rappel tree from South Peak mentioned above). This rappel requires two 120 foot ropes.



## NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

*From Broadway down to slopes:*

Two more rappels from obvious trees will bring the climber to the talus slopes.

*From South Peak down the West Face:*

Rappel down the final pitch of Old Man's (14), then from a prominent pine on ledges below a 120 foot rappel to the foot of the face.

*From the Gunsight Notch down the West Face:*

Go north about 80 feet then descend through shrubs to a pine tree overhanging the major wall. The rappel (about 50 feet) begins with an awkward swing into space.

Regarding route names, some were found for which there no detailed descriptions of the routes and in some cases even the name has simply not survived in use and the climb has eventually become known by another name. For the record these names are listed below. Perhaps a reader will recognize a name and a route which we have overlooked.

GRAND TRAVERSE. An early name for either the Skyline Traverse or Broadway.

## NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

## HEEL AND TOE

## MALLORY'S FLASHLIGHT

## WORK OF ART

BISHOP'S WEST FACE. Climbed by Barry Bishop and Sayre Rodman and apparently is one of the Ecstasy Junior variations.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS. Described as being in the region of the cave and in the name of Mark Carpenter and Tal Bielefeldt, year 1965 (from whom comments are sought).

There are tear-out forms for recording new climbs at the back of this guidebook. These should be mailed to the Seneca Rocks Guidebook Editor, Mountaineering Section, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1718 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 for inclusion in the next edition. We hope that any errors or omissions discovered by the reader will also be forwarded.

## ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

### NORTH PEAK, West Face

Drawing A

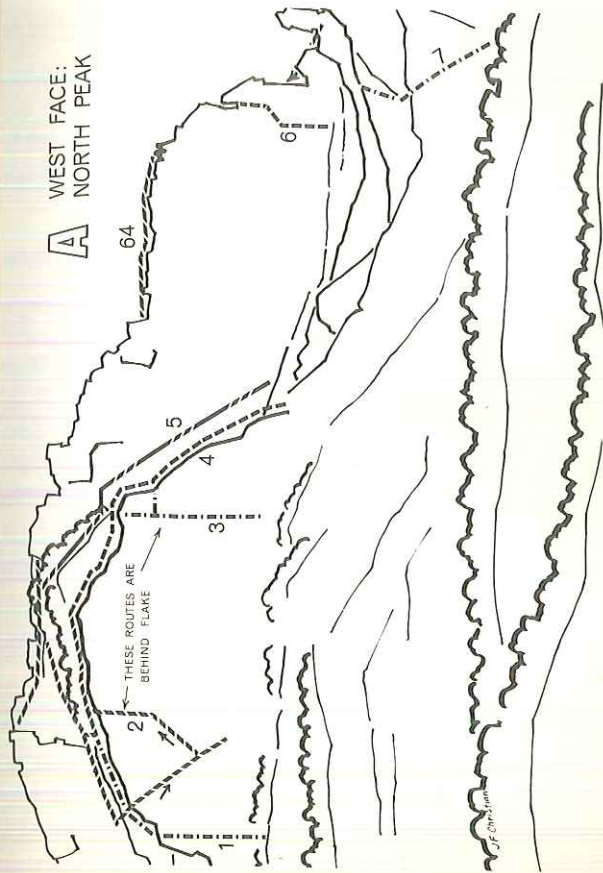
#### 1. UP FRONT 5.3

Route starts on ledges below the north end of the west face of North Peak about 50 feet south of the obscure north entrance to No Dally Alley:

- (i) 70 feet. Climb diagonally left and right following broken lichen-covered face;
- (ii) Traverse right 5 feet on vegetated ledge and climb 10 foot crack on west face 5 feet north of inside corner facing left;
- (iii) Scramble upwards to south to north end of No Dally Alley (intersect with Route 2 descent);
- (iv) 65 feet. Climb north end of flake forming No Dally Alley and traverse along top of flake to chockstone forming bridge to North Peak proper (intersection with Routes 2, 3 and 4).

#### 2. NO DALLY ALLEY 5.2

No Dally Alley refers to both the bottom of the wide deep chimney formed between the huge divorced flak and North Peak proper and a climb inside it. It is mos



## NORTH PEAK, West Face

easily reached from the south: climb up ledges of west face below and north of Gunsight or walk north on ledges from Gunsight (same as Route 5) and scramble down 20 feet to entrance. The climb starts at a rockfall near the northern end of the Alley:

- (i) Follow a ledge on the west wall of the chimney upwards to the south;
- (ii) Climb a short vertical crack to the top of the flake (intersection with Route 4) and traverse north to chockstone (intersection with Route 1);
- (iii) Cross over chockstone to North Peak proper. Scramble to summit or descend vegetated ledges and short chimneys to north entrance of No Dally Alley (intersection with Route 1, pitch iii) and traverse in chimney above rockfall to south end of rockfall and start of route.

## 3. ONE STOP 5.3

About 60 feet inside of the south entrance to No Dally Alley:

- (i) Stem chimney up about 60 feet then traverse south about 15 feet to belay ledge on south edge of flake (intersection with Route 4);

## Drawing A

## Drawing A

## NORTH PEAK, West Face

- (ii) Traverse back into chimney and continue up direct line to top of flake (intersection with Route 4) and traverse north to chockstone to North Peak proper.

## 4. KAUFFMAN'S RIB 5.4

Follows the south edge of the huge flake forming No Dally Alley. Traverse along top of flake (intersections with Routes 1, 2 and 3) to chockstone to cross over to North Peak proper.

## 5. PINE TREE TRAVERSE 5.0

Walk on ledges north from Gunsight Notch along west face of North Peak then follow an obvious system of ledges and short walls ascending to the north to the summit of North Peak.

## 6. MADMEN ONLY 5.8 A.1

A one pitch climb on the west face of the North Peak starting about 40 feet north of the Gunsight Notch. It follows an overhanging lay back crack and is exposed and strenuous:



## NORTH PEAK, West Face

## Drawing A

From a flake aim for a small ledge and retablo to the niche at the foot of the crack, to a position of acute instability. A bong inserted in the crack, or a knife blade in a crack on the left wall are likely to be needed for protection. The remainder of this portion of the crack, about 10 feet, is ascended using stirrups to a sloping ledge. Free climb the remainder of the crack for 20 feet to a large ledge. Traverse right for 10 feet to a vertical crack. This traverse is extremely thin across an apparently blank wall. Climb the crack for about 20 feet to the summit ridge.

## 7. WEST FACE TO GUNSIGHT NOTCH 5.3 120 ft

This is also a regular descent route.

- (i) Scramble up to below the Gendarme over the system of wide vegetated ledges until further ascent is barred by a wall. Move right along the uppermost ledge about 50 feet looking out for a long, descending flake hard against the wall;
- (ii) Follow the flake ascending diagonally leftwards to the top of the wall;
- (iii) The minor walls above have numerous breaches. In descent (by rappel) go northwards from the

## NORTH PEAK, West Face

## Drawing A

Gendarme about 80 feet then descend through shrubs to a pine tree which overhangs the major wall. The rappel (about 50 feet) begins with an awkward swing into space.

## Drawing B

## SOUTH PEAK, West Face

## 8. GUNSIGHT TO SOUTH PEAK 5.4 200 feet

An early classic. It has sensational exposure but is well protected. The ridge needs care in a stormy wind.

- (i) From the Gunsight Notch ascend about 20 feet on the ridge then traverse on to the west face for about 20 feet to reach a steep crack in the buttress forming part of the face.
- (ii) Climb the buttress for about 60 feet and rejoin the ridge which is followed to the summit of South Peak.

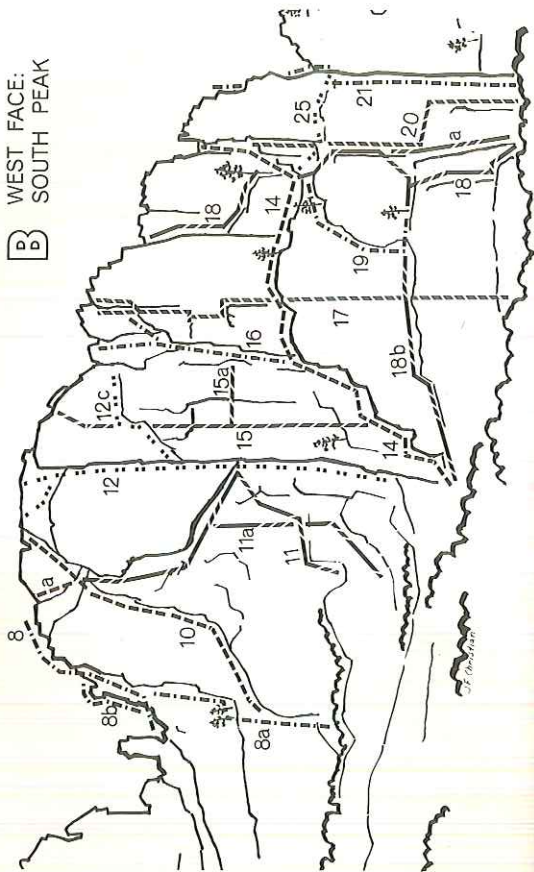
## 8a. TOMATO 5.7

Starts below and to the right of the Gunsight Notch:

- (i) From the wide base ledge below the notch move right till the way is blocked by a broken buttress forming a steep inside corner;



B WEST FACE:  
SOUTH PEAK



## Drawing B

## SOUTH PEAK, West Face

- (ii) 50 feet. Climb by layback or jamming a large flake on the left, then continue straight up to a large ledge with pine trees.
- (iii) 75 feet. From the south end of the ledge climb a face and corner for 30 feet to a stance at a corner. Climb the corner by a layback until the route joins the regular ridge route (8) to South Peak at the jam crack.

## 8b. GUNSIGHT TO SOUTH PEAK DIRECT 5.4

Instead of traversing onto the west face the ridge is followed as closely as possible including taking in the obvious projecting beak (the Gryphon's Beak).

9. (Unused)

## 10. GREEN WALL 5.6

Begins as 8a:

- (i) 50 feet. Climb the corner via the crack in the angle or the exposed outer corner then proceed diagonally up to the right scrambling to a broad, sloping ledge;

## SOUTH PEAK, West Face

## Drawing B

- (ii) 30 feet. Follow the ledge south to the foot of a steep crack in the angle of a shallow inside corner;
- (iii) 110 feet. Climb the crack (steep and exposed). This has two distinct sections each with individual crux moves, the lower crux being a small overhang;
- (iv) 30 feet. Scramble to the summit.
- (iv) (a) 30 feet. A better finish consists of moving left from the second belay to a shallow corner in the center of the wall and then climbing directly to the summit.

## 11. PLEASANT OVERHANGS 5.7

Begins on the west face about 30 feet north of the large inside corner forming the Thais face.

- (i) 100 feet. Follow a crack system in the face (or the dirty corner crack, see 12a) to a belay ledge formed by the top of a large block not quite in the angle of the huge open corner. This is about 6 feet below and to the right of a huge roof sloping up to the north.

## Drawing B

## SOUTH PEAK, West Face

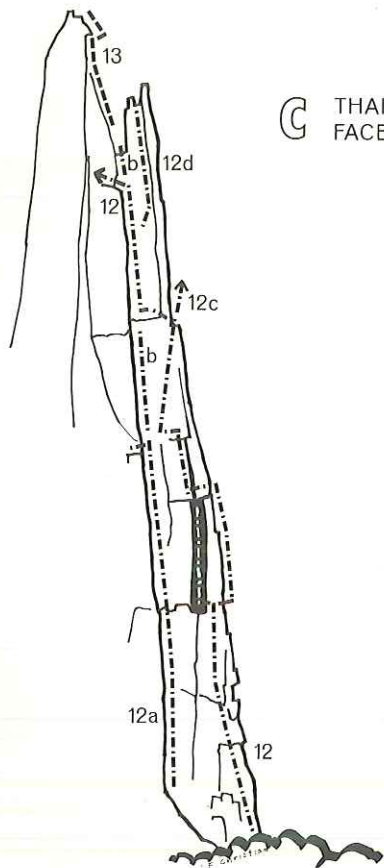
- (ii) 60 feet. Traverse left below the roof on a narrow ledge to a point around and immediately beyond the northernmost limit of the roof. Here the roof becomes a steep slightly overhanging corner facing north. Belay in slings.
  - (iii) 70 feet. Climb the inside corner to a large ledge with a healthy tree below (common with Green Wall (10)).
  - (iv) 30 feet. Scramble to the summit or finish as in Route 10.
- 11a. PLEASANT OVERHANGS DIRECT START 5.8
- (i) Climb the ledges to the north of Thais to the base of a large unstable-looking flake:
  - (ii) Climb the flake and pass the top; use aid to ascend a small left facing corner. Climb straight up (passing a bolt) to the traverse pitch of the regular route.

## Drawing C

## THAIS FACE

## 12. THAIS 5.5

Probably the longest vertical climb at Seneca. There are numerous variations. The original route zigzags up the



C THAIS  
FACE

Drawing C

THAIS FACE

north wall of the central buttress of the west face and eventually on to the west wall below the summit of South Peak:

- (i) 70 feet. Climb the buttress near the outside corner to a large ledge near the foot of a chimney;
- (ii) 60 feet. Climb the chimney (or traverse right and climb on the west face);
- (iii) 45 feet. Follow crack above chimney upwards to another ledge, keeping the crack to the right;
- (iv) 70 feet. Climb diagonally upwards to the right to a large sloping belay ledge on the west face of the buttress (this ledge serves as an escape route (12c) to the top of Conns' West (16));
- (v) Traverse back (east) to inside corner and follow crack system up to a large ledge on the left on the west face;
- (vi) 60 feet. Follow the ledge north and scramble to summit.

12a. THAIS DIRECT START      5.5 130 feet

From the base of the inside corner climb the dirty corner crack directly to the small belay ledge of Routes 11 and 12.



## THAIS FACE

Drawing C

## 12b. THAIS DIRECT FINISH 5.6.

From the small belay ledge of Routes 11 and 12a: climb up and right a few feet then up the steep inside corner to rejoin pitch (v) of Thais proper. Then instead of pitch (vi) continue up inside corner to summit ledge.

## 12c. THAIS ESCAPE 5.2

From top of pitch (iv) of Thais continue right (south) up the sloping ledge to intersection with the last pitch of Conns' West (16).

## 12d. THAIS BUTTRESS FINISH 5.6

From midway in pitch (v) of Thais climb up crack system keeping towards right to top of central buttress.

## 13. DRESSING ROOM 5.1 A.1

A short aid climb directly underneath South Peak summit:

Traverse north from end of summit ledge at Thais face into cave formed by overhanging summit blocks. With aid surmount overhang.

Drawing B

SOUTH PEAK, West Face

## 14. OLD MAN'S ROUTE 5.1

An easy ascent and descent route on the west face. From the outside corner at the base of the Thais Face:

- (i) 130 feet. Climb diagonally upwards to the right over a series of ledges to the base of a prominent crack (intersection with beginning of Route 16);
- (ii) 120 feet. At the base of the crack traverse south along the ledge system to a large platform with trees and shrubs;
- (iii) 60 feet. At the right there is an open corner. Approach by scrambling over blocks, climb the corner to a large notch in the ridge;
- (iv) Scramble to the summit.

## 15. WEST POLE 5.6

From the top of pitch (i) of Route 14:

- (i) Move left on ledge to vertical crack leading from a pine tree up slabs towards a large dark overhang;
- (ii) Climb the crack, surmount the overhang to ledge (intersection with Route 12c); climb directly up to ridge.

## SOUTH PEAK, West Face

## 15a. GRANDIOSE 5.6

From midway in pitch (ii) of Route 15:

- (i) Traverse right to a large black inside corner facing left;
- (ii) Traverse right, descend slightly across the face to join Conns' West (16).

### 16. CONNS' WEST (or THE ARMY-CONN ROUTE) 5.2

Situated on the west face of the central buttress. The upper part consists of a large crack at the top of which there is (or was) a prominent dead tree. From the top of pitch (i) of Route 15:

- (i) 60 feet. Climb the crack above (this originally contained a huge, balanced block); belay at a ledge;
- (ii) 60 feet. Follow a deep gully on the right, which angles towards the summit.

### 16a. CONNS' WEST DIRECT FINISH 5.4

From top of pitch (ii) follow an inside corner immediately to the left directly to the summit.

## Drawing B

## SOUTH PEAK, West Face

## 17. PRUNE 5.5 330 feet

A long vertical climb which goes in a direct line up the west face of the South Peak buttress. From about midway between the Thais Face and The Face of 1000 Pitons and directly below the notch on the skyline which can be seen from the base of the climb:

- (i) 110 feet. Climb straight up a lichen-covered face to a belay ledge (intersection with Route 17b);
- (ii) 55 feet. Continue up to a small belay ledge;
- (iii) 55 feet. Continue up to the prominent ledge of Route 14;
- (iv) 50 feet. Climb right-facing inside corner of 20 foot high flake, traverse left atop flake, and up slight overhang to belay at base of left-facing inside corner;
- (v) 60 feet. Climb up inside corner and pass behind flake just below ridge line (intersects with pitch (ii) of Route 16).
- (v) (a) 60 feet. Strenuous. Climb jam crack in north edge of flake to top of flake.
- (v) (b) 60 feet. Exposed. Climb west face of flake at outside corner to small overhang which is passed on right to top of flake.

## SOUTH PEAK, West Face

Drawing B

## 18. LE GOURMET. 5.4

Follows a winding line up the west face of the central buttress of the South Peak. Start about 30 feet north of the Face of 1000 Pitons:

- (i) 35 feet. Climb an easy, sloping corner to a large ledge with a tree for a belay. (The climbing proper begins here);
- (ii) 60 feet. Climb the next obvious inside corner to another ledge; follow the ledge to a large tree for a convenient belay;
- (iii) 85 feet. From the south end of the ledge traverse horizontally south to the corner of the face (there is a piton under an overhanging flake). In season beware of wasps on this face. At the corner climb a wide crack to ledge;
- (iv) 25 feet. Scramble up to a large ledge with shrubs and trees (intersection with Route 14);
- (v) 100 feet. Scramble upward and then along a ledge sloping up to the left to the foot of a system of chimneys;
- (vi) 100 feet. Climb the chimney. Beware of loose blocks at the top;
- (vii) Scramble to the summit.

## SOUTH PEAK, West Face

Drawing B

## 18a. LE GOURMET DIRECT START 5.4

Climb the variety of routes on the south-facing wall of the inside corner to join pitch (iii).

## 18b. LE GOURMET TRAVERSE 5.0

From the north end of central buttress, following the lower ledge system from the beginning of Route 14 to join Routes 17, 18 and 19.

## 19. FRONT C 5.3

An alternative for Route 18, pitch (iii). From the top of Route 18 pitch (ii) move left 30 feet and climb a crack on the left of a block to join Route 14.

## 20. NECK PRESS 5.8 (or 5.6 if the last pitch is bypassed)

Starts about 15 feet north of the Face of 1000 Pitons.

- (i) 60 feet. Follow a steep crack in a small inside corner towards a leaning semi-overhanging block which is bypassed with difficulty on the right.
- (ii) 60 feet. Climb a crack on the left face of a larger inside corner to the left.
- (iii) 60 feet. Climb the thin crack in the corner above on the left or the slightly easy crack further left.



## SOUTH PEAK, West Face

Drawing B

## 21. COTTONMOUTH 5.8

A steep, exposed route. Start in the small dihedral just around the left-hand edge, i.e. to the north, of the Face of 1000 Pitons:

- (i) Climb the dihedral until it is possible to step left into a second dihedral at about 15 feet;
- (ii) 60 feet. Before the second dihedral arches right (another 10 feet) move left around its corner onto the left-hand face to the right of Route 20;
- (iii) 100 feet. Climb the face and move to the right to re-enter the dihedral then up the dihedral and right again onto the Face of 1000 Pitons. Climb the furthest left series of cracks to the top. This pitch intersects Routes 22 and 25.

## FACE OF 1000 PITONS

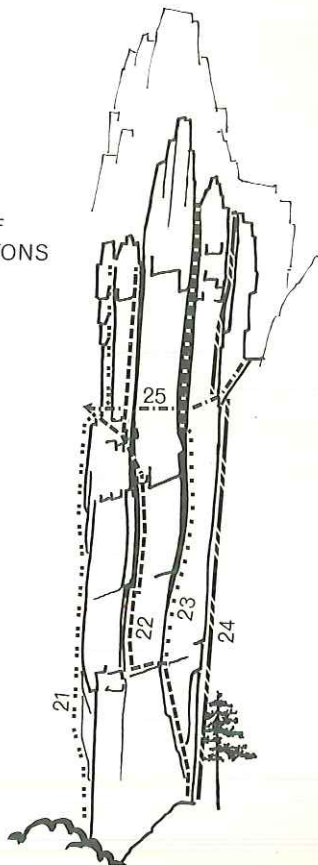
Drawing D

## 22. MARSHALL'S MADNESS 5.8

A steep impressive route on the left third of the Face of 1000 Pitons.

- (i) 100 feet. Start in the inside corner and follow a crack upwards to left (or climb 25 feet in the

D FACE OF 1000 PITONS



## FACE OF 1000 PITONS

corner), then traverse left on small holds two thirds of the way across the face to a block at the bottom of a prominent crack. Climb up the crack for 20 feet to the foot of two prominent vertical cracks. Climb the right-hand crack, either belaying in a small cave about 25 feet up or climbing to an exposed belay on the outside corner about 10 feet higher (as originally done) (intersection with Routes 21 and 25);

- (ii) Continue climbing up the crack to pass the two overhanging ribs at the top of the wall on the right.
- (ii) (a) From the belay cave climb up a few feet and step left and climb 40 feet to the foot of a tight chimney with two seemingly loose wedges in it. Climb the chimney to the top of the wall.

N.B. A direct ascent may be made to the block in the middle of the first pitch via the obvious forbidding crack on the left. 5.9.

## 23. AGONY 5.9

By consent of the few who have climbed it, probably the hardest long climb at Seneca. Many man-hours were spent on the assault before it was climbed free. A classic

## FACE OF 1000 PITONS

## Drawing C Drawing D

direct line. A steep forbidding route up a crack system splitting the Face of 1000 Pitons:

- (i) 85 feet. Begin either in the chimney in the right corner which is climbed for 25 feet or climb a thin, delicate crack about 7 feet to the left of the corner, both approaches leading to a delicate, leftward, short, unprotected traverse ending at the foot of twin cracks some 20 feet from the ground; or, which is much harder, climb directly to the foot of the cracks;
- (ii) 85 feet. Climb the chimney till it narrows (45 feet). Step left and up 5 feet then back into the crack which is followed to the top of the face.

## 24. SHIPLEY'S SHIVERING SHIMMY (TRIPLE S) 5.8 160 feet

Follows the steep crack in the right-hand corner bordering the Face of 1000 Pitons. By common consent one of the classic climbs in the eastern U.S.A.

- (i) 100 feet. Follow the inside corner using a variety of lay back, bridging and jamming techniques to a ledge on the right (intersection with Routes 25, 26, 26a, 27a and 54);

## FACE OF 1000 PITONS

Drawing D

- (ii) 60 feet. Step back across the corner crack to enter a steep, wide crack system above on the continuation of the Face of 1000 Pitons and follow this to easier ground above; beware of loose blocks.

## 25. HORRENDOUS TRAVERSE 5.5 100 feet

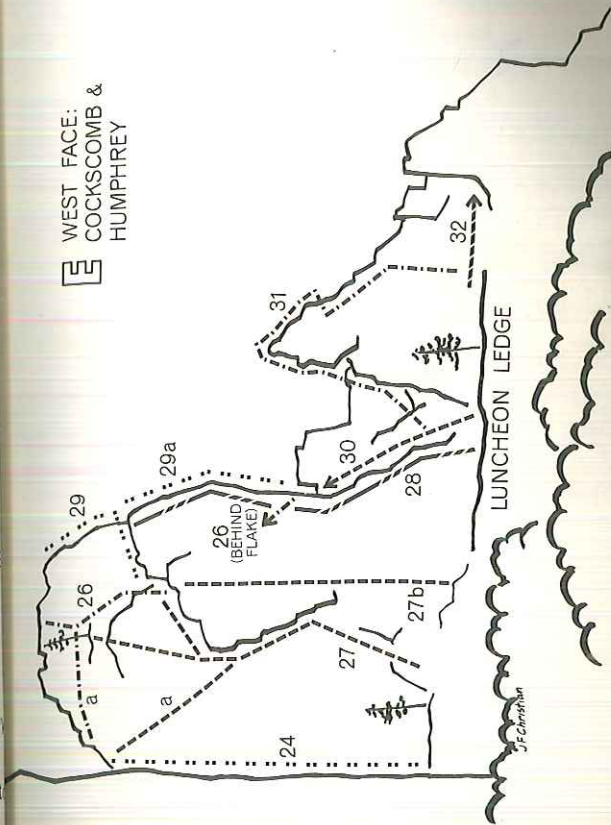
This exposed traverse follows a horizontal line from about 15 feet below the notch between the Cockscomb and South Peak across to a small ledge on the outside corner (intersections with Routes 21 and 22). Follow thin ledge north to upper portion of Old Man's (14) and Neck Press (20).

## COCKSCOMB &amp; HUMPHREY, West Face Drawing E

## 26. COCKSCOMB PINE TREE 5.3

From Luncheon Ledge:

- (i) Scramble up to base of large chimney formed by detached flake on west face of Cockscomb;  
 (ii) Climb chimney and diagonally left upwards to pine tree;





COCKSCOMB & HUMPHREY, W. Face Drawing E

- (iii) Up to crest of Cockscomb ridge. Originally pine tree had pitons in it to form a ladder.

26a. COCKSCOMB PINE TREE TRAVERSE 5.2

From top of pitch (ii) traverse to left (north) into notch between Cockscomb and South Peak (intersection with Routes 24, 25, 27a and 54).

27. BREAKNECK 5.4 160 feet (or more depending on the route)

Begins below a huge crack formed by an overlapping flake about halfway between the Luncheon Ledge and Route 24 at the foot of the west face of the Cockscomb. There are several variations but the start is common:

- (i) 70 feet. From a ledge (at Luncheon Ledge level) climb a short wall to a ledge. Move right a few feet to the base of a long shallow chimney behind the flake. Climb the chimney. A good belay can be arranged behind the flake at the top of the chimney using jammed blocks;

- (ii) 75 feet. From the belay either climb straight up (hard) or traverse right to the foot of another vertical fault. This route (15 feet) may be fo

Drawing E COCKSCOMB & HUMPHREY, W. Face

lowed upwardly and to the left to a pine tree and the climb completed by a descending traverse to the notch between the South Peak and the Cockscomb (60 feet). Alternatively, from the foot of the fault one may move upwardly right and finish via the Cockscomb Overhang (29).

A second alternative is to continue the traverse from the base of the fault to a chimney which connects with Old Ladies' Route (30).

27a. JANKOWITZ-KAMM ROUTE 5.4 160 feet

From a point some 10 feet below the belay ledge at the top of pitch 27(i), traverse diagonally leftwards upwardly to the notch. Alternatively, make the diagonally upward traverse from a point about at the level of the belay.

27b. BREAKNECK DIRECT 5.7 A.2

Climb the outer face of the flake to the right of Breakneck directly upwards to meet Route 26 at the top of the chimney.

COCKSCOMB &amp; HUMPHREY, W. Face

Drawing E

## 28. HEARTBURN 5.6

From the Luncheon Ledge climb up the exposed west face of the Cockscomb at the southwest corner; rotten in places.

## 29. COCKSCOMB OVERHANG 5.4

From the top of the chimney of Route 26 traverse right into wide chimney formed behind a huge block. Climb the chimney and step out on to the block which forms one wall, then up and to the right to the south-facing overhang where there is a clutch of rusty pitons. Climb the overhang to easier climbing above.

## 29a. COCKSCOMB OVERHANG DIRECT (One Man One Piton) 5.9

This much harder route starts at the first aid box on Old Ladies Route (30). Climb the overhanging crack system to directly below the overhang of Route 29.

## 30. OLD LADIES' ROUTE 5.1 300 feet (see Drawings E and I)

This route is probably the easiest route to the summit of South Peak, though Old Mans' route (14) on the west

Drawing E

COCKSCOMB &amp; HUMPHREY, W. Face

has a greater proportion of easier climbing but ends with one harder pitch. Beginners should be wary, because though familiarity undoubtedly breeds contempt and the route is commonly followed unroped by experienced climbers, there are in fact some very exposed places where an accident could have fatal results.

- (i) 100 feet. From the Luncheon Ledge on the west side climb the broad chimney system up and to the left to the notch in the ridge. The obvious landmark is the first aid box.
- (ii) 100 feet. From the notch, follow a ledge system on the east face initially descending about 12 feet, then almost horizontally to a point where the ledge meets an ascending diagonal fault formed by the edge of a huge flake. The trees here are a convenient place to belay.
- (iii) 80 feet. Climb the fault to the wide, earthy ledge forming part of the ridge.

In descent by rappel the earthy ledge is followed about 20 feet further south to an obvious pine tree on the edge of the face. The rappel from here brings the climber to the foot of the diagonal fault.



COCKSCOMB & HUMPHREY, W. Face Drawing E

30a. OLD LADIES' EXCITEMENT 5.4 (See Drawing I)

From the end of 30(ii) traverse on to the east face, then climb directly to the summit ledges.

30b. JANE'S ROUTE 5.2 (See Drawing I)

From the end of pitch 30(ii) climb directly up a steep chimney facing south (this is not the crack to left which leads to notch between Cockscomb and South Peak for which see Route 54), to ledge, walk north to meet top part of pitch (iii) and scramble up to summit ledge. Alternative: from ledge climb difficult 8 foot overhanging wall to summit ledge.

31. HUMPHREY 5.1

This is the name of the head-shaped pinnacle immediately to the south of the Cockscomb which appears to be looking upward at the latter. There are numerous easy routes on all sides of Humphrey, the most obvious being the skyline traverse. On the west side some of the climbs are ideal for beginners attempting their first leads and one of these is described below.

Drawing E COCKSCOMB & HUMPHREY, W. Face

Start from the Luncheon Ledge about 80 feet south of the notch between the Cockscomb and Humphrey:

- (i) 80 feet. Climb a shallow groove to a ledge;
- (ii) 20 feet. Traverse up and to the right and then return upwardly to the left and climb to the summit. Descend either by rappel or climbing into the notch on the north.

32. THE BROADWAY

This fourth class ledge connecting the east and west faces of the south peak allows one to get to Soler, Conns' East, Orangeaid, Alcoa Presents, the Gunsight, and other climbs on the east face from the Luncheon Ledge.

- (i) Walk south to the skyline, cross to the east side.
- (ii) Walk the wide pine-needed ledge for 100 feet. Climb a 10 foot groove, walk about 50 feet and climb the rightmost of a pair of grooves. You have to traverse out into the groove, so be sure to remember the traverse when down climbing it. From then on it is just an exposed hike to the base of the climbs. The final 100 feet into the Gunsight is described elsewhere as Route 62.



## WEST FACE, South End

## 33. GERT'S GRUNGY GULLY (TRIPLE G) 5.0

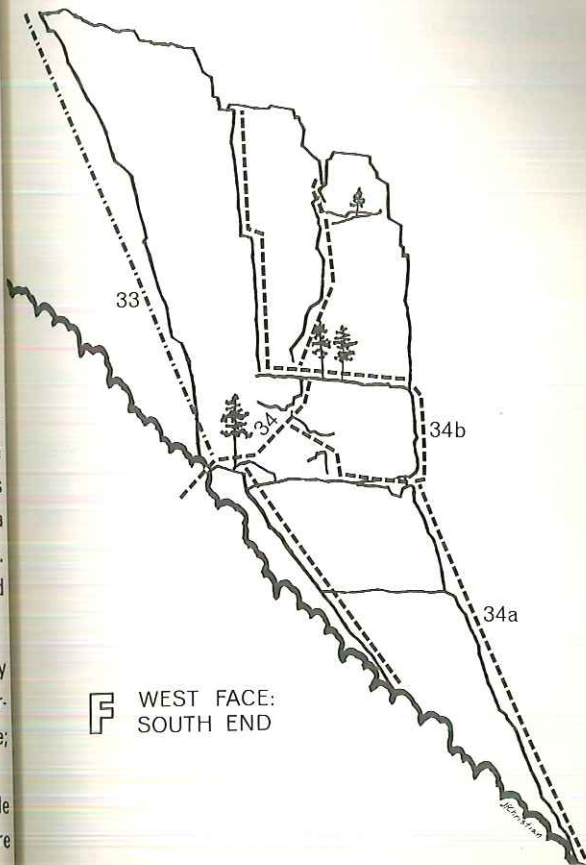
From the southwest corner of the rocks move up the talus gully about 50 yards to a tiny cave which is met by a ledge coming in from the right (same as beginning for Route 34): Scramble up a broken, vegetated gully to its top, then walk upwards to the Luncheon Ledge.

## 34. ECSTASY JUNIOR 5.4

There are several variations of this route which essentially follow the southwest corner of the rocks. From the southwest corner of the south end move up the talus gully about 50 yards to a tiny cave which is met by a ledge coming in from the right across the west face. Scramble to the ledge by a pine tree (10 feet) and traverse the ledge (20 feet).

- (i) 70 feet. Climb vertically up a fault to a slightly overhanging face with a crack, mount the overhang, then up another crack to a large ledge; belay at the tree.
- (ii) 60 feet. Climb either the fault or the inside corner at the left of the ledge to a point where one is forced left on the face.

Drawing F



## WEST FACE, South End

Drawing F

- (iii) 20 feet. Climb the face and regain the crack and then on to the final platform. Follow the scramble route to the Luncheon Ledge.

## 34a. 5.5

Scramble up the lower portion of the outside corner formed by the south end and the west face. This can be harder on the east side.

- (i) 100 feet. Climb the corner above to a large ledge mainly in the west face, belay.  
 (ii) 40 feet. Traverse left to short pillar in the west face, climb the pillar and the wall above to join 34 in the middle of the pitch (i). The pillar is the harder portion.

## 34b. 5.5 160 feet

From the large belay ledge at the top of the first pitch of Route 34a:

- (i) Traverse 10 feet right onto the south face to the foot of a steep crack;  
 (ii) Climb the crack;  
 (ii) (a) Alternate: Climb the face to left of crack with aid.

Drawing F

WEST FACE, South End

- (iii) From the top rejoin Route 34 by scrambling horizontally about 20 feet.

Drawing G

SOUTH END

## 35. ECSTASY 5.7

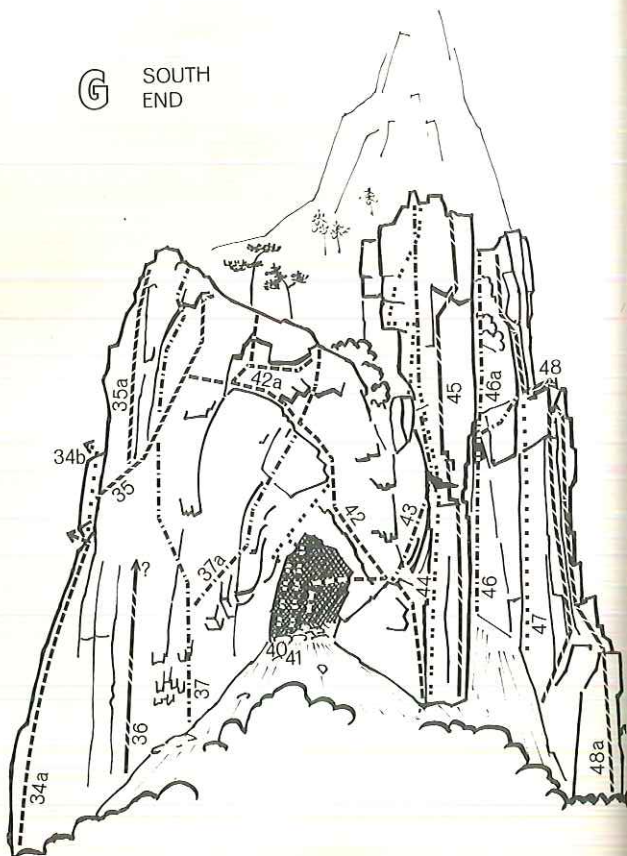
Steep and exposed.

- (i) 120 feet. Follow Route 34b to a point about one third of the distance up the steep crack, then at a small bush traverse diagonally upwardly to the right on small holds on the steep face (which steepens as one progresses with breathtaking exposure), aiming for a crack system leading upwardly to a ledge below which the wall split by the crack effectively overhangs. Belay on the ledge.  
 (ii) 35 feet. Climb the steep wall above the belay ledge to the top.

## 35a. 5.8

Instead of going diagonally climb straight to the left of the belay ledge.

G SOUTH  
END



Drawing G

SOUTH END

36. CHRIS' LEAD A.1

This is recorded for completeness of the account. Its true location has never been established, but it lies "somewhere near the western corner of the South End" and is described by the first party as being near the centre of the part of the south face to the left of the cave.

37. SIXTH SENSE 5.8 A.2 200 feet

An exposed, strenuous direct route. Several 1½ inch bongs may be needed.

- (i) Begins left of the cave and goes left of the largest overhangs and straight up for 50 feet to an airy belay in slings, using aid as needed.
- (ii) The second pitch is free climbing making slightly left to avoid small overhangs and then straight up to a large inside corner.
- (iii) The third pitch is also free and follows the inside corner to the summit over further overhangs and with some difficulty.

37a. OCEAN CITY 5.8

Dangerous because of loose rock. From the belay ledge at the top of Route 37, pitch (i) traverse right 35 ft. over



## SOUTH END

Drawing G

crumbling rock to a crack, then climb the crack to the second belay ledge of 43.

38. (Unused)

39. (Unused)

40. SATISFACTION NO. 1     5.6 A.3

This tension climb offers some interesting problems in rope techniques including prussiking. The first pitch follows a crack system in the west face of the cave just inside the entrance. Begin at the base of a shallow inside corner which faces left and extends up diagonally to the right.

- (i) With aid climb straight up 40 ft. to the top corner of the cave.
- (ii) Traverse out 15 feet to the mouth of the cave.
- (iii) Climb using some aid 30 ft. to a wide black ramp (intersection with Route 42).

41. SATISFACTION NO. 2     5.6 A.1

This aid route goes up the west (left-facing inward) wall of the cave just inside the entrance. It also represents some interesting problems in rope technique.

## SOUTH END

Drawing G

- (i) Start in a slanted inside corner facing left and nail straight up 60 feet to top corner of roof.
- (ii) Nail out 20 feet (to join Route 40) and straight up 20 feet to a large, sloping ledge (intersection with Route 42).

42. SIMPLE J. MALARKEY     5.6

Very exposed. Begin at the rear of the cave in the South End:

- (i) 60 feet. Climb up about 10 feet and traverse on the uppermost of the ledges on the right wall, turning the mouth of the cave to a large ledge (intersection with Route 43).
- (i) (a) Variation: Climb up wall to right of cave to ledge.
- (ii) 70 feet. Traverse westwards upward on an obvious ramp to an inside corner below an overhang.
- (iii) 65 feet. Climb diagonally upwards to the right across a series of short, slightly overhanging bulges to end the climb in the gully above the cave.

## 42a. SJM WESTERLY EXTENSION 5.6

From top of pitch (ii):

- (i) Continue left on ramp to an inside corner below an overhang.
- (ii) Pass the overhang on the left or traverse right beneath the overhang to join pitch (iii) of Route 42 at the end.
- (ii) (a) Traverse west to intersect with Route 35.

## 43. P-QUAD 5.7 A.2

May coincide in part with Route 44. From the top of the first pitch of Simple J. Malarkey (42):

- (i) 20 feet. Climb the prominent overhanging dihedral angling right towards Totem (45) with aid and turn the overhang to a small ledge (5.7 A.2).
- (ii) 100 feet. Climb the left side of Totem Buttress to ledge, then to the top of the buttress keeping left.

## 44. WILD MEN ONLY 5.7 A.3 300 feet

A steep, strenuous, exposed climb on the South End. May coincide in part with Route 43. Begins at the foot

of the Totem Buttress, which is the prominent buttress to the right (east) of the large cave.

- (i) 75 feet. From the center bottom of the buttress, climb up 10 feet to a small bush, then up and left to the base of a large crack on the left.
- (ii) Climb up the crack to the Totem Ledge which is 10 feet below a large overhang.

(iii) 145 feet. From the west end of the Totem Ledge climb a crack, then nail out over the largest part of the overhang with difficulty (A.3). A few feet above the roof free climbing continues straight up and slightly left on small holds for 40 feet to a stance on the top right of a huge, green-gray block next to a very small bush. Continue straight up into a shallow, awkward, squeeze chimney which may be harder than 5.7. From its top, climb up to a small overhang. Traverse left 15 feet, then up 10 feet to a small ledge.

- (iv) 80 feet. Climb the center of the Buttress passing several block-type overhangs on their right edge.

## 45. TOTEM 5.7 A.2

A steep and exposed climb (or 5.10). Aid may be necessary at the beginning of the second pitch. There have

## SOUTH END

Drawing G

been numerous attempts, all unsuccessful, to surmount the overhang free until recently.

This climb was once considered the hardest climb at Seneca. It follows the large inside corner facing right that goes up the center of the Totem buttress (see 44).

- (i) 80 feet. Climb straight up the outer right edge of the Totem Buttress about 60 feet east of the cave (5.4) to a ledge with a large bush on it. Traverse left 10 feet to a large ledge. Belay.
- (ii) 35 feet. From the center of the ledge climb up 10 feet to the large roof. Go left (if need be, in aid) for 10 feet to a notch in the overhang and through the notch for 8 feet. Then climb up and left to a small ledge.
- (iii) 100 feet. Climb the right-facing inside corner (in the corner crack on the face just right of crack) 70 feet to an imposing roof. Climb over the roof just left of center (crux) to an easier wall above. Climb 30 feet to a series of ledges on the left from which it is possible to belay.
- (iv) 35 feet. Continue up the corner to the top of the buttress.

## SOUTH END

Drawing G

## 46. TONY'S NIGHTMARE 5.6 200 feet

Looking up from the bottom of the Totem Buttress, one can see a prominent "A" shaped chimney just to the east of Totem. It begins approximately 60 feet up and pinches out about 120 feet above the base of the rocks. This chimney defines Tony's Nightmare, and will be the second pitch of any variation of this climb. The climb is moderately strenuous.

- (i) Two ways of getting to the chimney are available:
  - (a) The harder, for purists, is to climb up directly beneath it in the corner between Totem and the vertical boilerplate slabs which surface the back of the gully beside Totem. Stay close to the corner itself, moving left to climb the side of Totem when about 12 feet below the bottom of the chimney. Belay from a large ledge on the side of Totem about 3 feet below the level of the bottom of the chimney, or from a cave underneath a chockstone in the bottom of the chimney itself. The ledge continues around to the face of Totem.
  - (b) The second way to get into the chimney is to start at approximately the eastern edge of the



face of the Totem Buttress and climb directly up the face, as in the first pitch of Totem.

- (ii) 60 feet. The second pitch starts in the belay cave, and goes straight up over a chockstone. Stay close to the back part of the chimney until a semi-cave is reached, just where the chimney pinches out. Either belay from here or traverse directly south out of the chimney up and onto a large ledge on top of the buttress which forms the east side of the chimney and belay.
- (iii) 80 feet. Scramble 20 feet above to join the Skyline Traverse which comes up the chimney to the right (east) just below the last pitch of the climb.
- (iii) (a) Instead of traversing out of the chimney halfway up the second pitch, simply climb straight up.

#### 46a. TONY'S NIGHTMARE DIRECT FINISH 5.7

Climb the left corner of the deep gully which will be found to be quite strenuous and significantly more difficult than the rest of the climb.

#### 47. YE GODS AND LITTLE FISHES 5.8 250 feet

This route fights its way up one of the steepest corners on the South End. The climb starts in the inside corner directly to the left of the Lower Skyline Buttress.

- (i) 100 feet. Climb small face for 10 feet to a small ramp leading up and left. Step left 6 feet to the base of a small, nasty chimney. Climb awkwardly up this chimney for 15 feet until it is possible to traverse back right 6 feet on small holds. Step around right into the small inside corner. Continue straight up corner with difficulty to a large ledge.
- (i) (a) From the ramp in the first pitch climb directly up the inside corner for 20 feet to join with the regular route at the end of the 6 foot traverse right.
- (ii) 70 feet. From the ledge climb the left corner and up and over an overhanging layback flake that is easier than it looks. Climb up easy fifth class 50 feet to a tree on the left to join the Skyline Traverse (48).

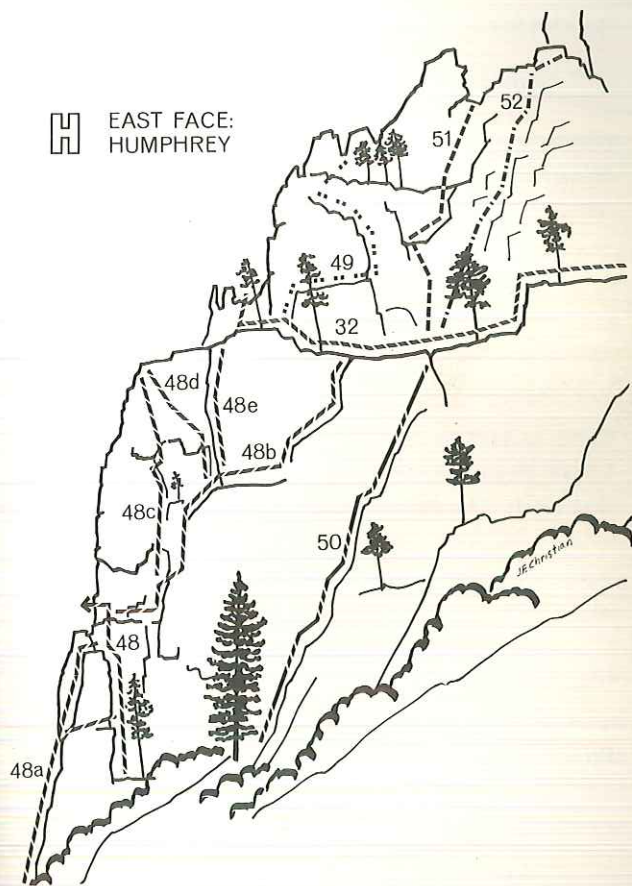
## SKYLINE TRAVERSE

This is the name given to the collection of routes and their variations involved in traversing from Roy Gap to North Peak and also to a climb at the southern end of the skyline. The complete Skyline Traverse consists of, from south to north, the Lower Skyline Direct (48a), Skyline Traverse (48), a traverse of some minor pinnacles and Humphrey, Cockscomb Pine Tree (26) to Cockscomb Overhang (29), traverse of Cockscomb, Windy Corner (54), traverse of the South Peak ridge (not the summit ledge) as far as the Thais face then a traverse of South Peak itself, and down to the Gunsight (7), the Gendarme (63), and a traverse of North Peak (64).

48. SKYLINE TRAVERSE ("ROUTE 22") 5.3  
180 feet

This climb starts on the east face about 25 feet from the south end of the rocks at a huge flake and deep crack.

- (i) 150 feet. Follow a shallow inside corner with a slight overhang at the top, then a deep chimney leading to the top of the lower Skyline buttress



## HUMPHREY, East Face

Drawing H

which projects from the south-east corner of the rock about 150 feet above the talus. Belay on the flake.

- (ii) 20 feet. Traverse left under an overhang to a wide, shallow chimney.
- (iii) 50 feet. Climb the chimney. The climb ends with scrambling to Broadway.

48a. L.S.D. (LOWER SKYLINE DIRECT) 5.4 180 feet

Climb several variations on the south-west corner of the Lower Skyline Buttress to join Route 48 at the top of first pitch. The ROCKING SLAB refers to a variation in which a belay is made atop the separated flake near the top of the climb. The flake can be moved by pushing against the rock from which it separated.

48b. KAUFFMAN-CARDON (KASSEN) ROUTE 5.2  
360 feet

From the top of pitch (i) of Route 48:

- (i) 30 feet. Move right across easy ledges to a tree.
- (ii) 60 feet. Traverse diagonally upwardly to the right, crossing a narrow gully, then on to an ex-

Drawing H

HUMPHREY, East Face

posed buttress and up this to a good ledge with another tree (easy but exposed).

- (iii) 120 feet. Traverse from the tree horizontally about 60 feet along easy ledges, then vertically about 60 feet to the Broadway ledge below Humphrey.

The original description includes a final pitch of about 30 feet to the base of the Cockscomb via the obvious crack, which is also the usual descent route from the notch at this point.

48c. DUFTY'S POPOFF (JOE R) 5.6

From the end of 48b(i). Climb the left-facing inside corner to the top.

48d. BEE STING 5.4

So named because the leader was stung severely. From the end of pitch (i) of 48b, just before intersecting the easy ledges, climb straight up a face via a crack then angle back a little to the left to regain the crest of the ridge.



HUMPHREY, East Face

Drawing H

## 48e. CARDON'S RIB 5.3

Very exposed. From the end of pitch (ii) of 48b step right on the ledge and climb up the east face keeping close to the edge on the left.

## 49. REVERSE C 5.1

From Broadway up to back of Humphrey's neck. Possibly starts about 10 feet from end of rocks: climb up and right on shallow flake; then up a right-facing corner.

## 50. WORRELL'S THICKET 5.1

Starting about 20 feet north of the enormous evergreen near the southeast corner of the rocks ascend a series of vegetated chimneys to the Broadway ledge.

## 51. A CHRISTIAN DELIGHT 5.4

From Broadway ledge directly below Humphrey climb up face to crux, passing slight overhang to left of laurel bush. From ledge above overhang move up and right to notch below Humphrey's chin.

Drawing H

HUMPHREY, East Face

## 52. UP AND COMING 5.3 150 feet

Start on Broadway ledge directly below Humphrey's north edge. Work diagonally up and right on system of inside corners to intersect Old Ladies' (31) at first-aid box.

Drawing I

COCKSCOMB, East Face

## 53. BROADWAY TO OLD LADIES' 5.3

From south end of the upper ledge of Broadway and directly below the notch between Cockscomb and South Peak: Climb up any one of three ways over lichen-covered face.

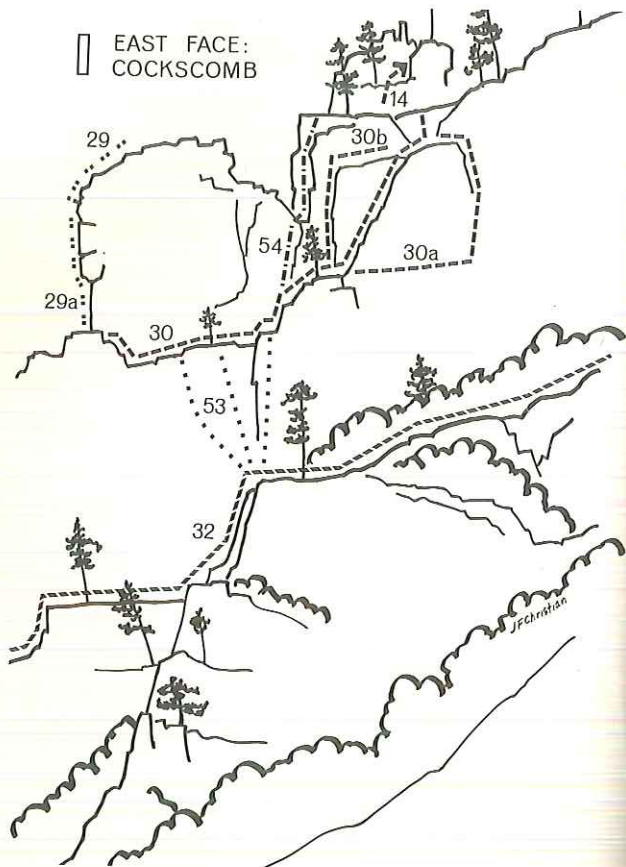
## 54. WINDY CORNER 5.4 60 feet

From Old Ladies' ledge (end of pitch (ii)):

(i) Climb up crack to notch between Cockscomb and South Peak (intersection with Routes 24, 25, 26, 26a and 27a);

(ii) Climb inside corner over bulge on right side, step left to the summit ledge.

## 55. (Unused).



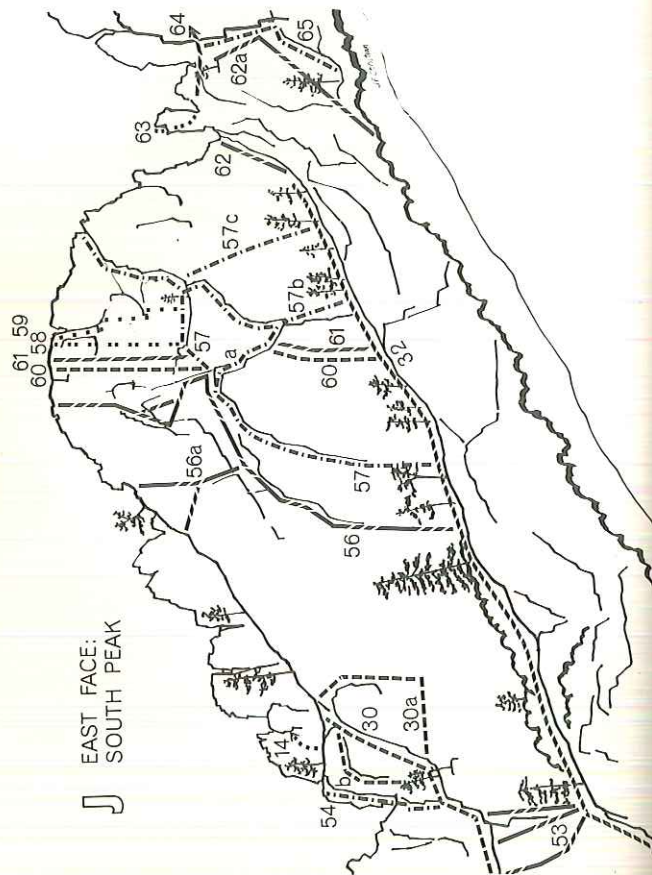
## Drawing J

## SOUTH PEAK, East Face

## 56. SOLER ROUTE 5.7 250 feet

A Seneca classic, steep and exposed. There are several variations and combinations of this and Route 57 (see Drawing J). Immediately below the south summit on the east face stands a huge flake, the base being about 100 feet, and clear by a few inches from the main mass. The summit of the flake is about 120 feet above the Broadway ledge. The original Soler route ascends the left-hand edge of the flake. Above this the route follows an exposed fault line to the south peak summit.

- (i) 120 feet. At the left-hand edge of the flake (belay at a large pine tree) climb easily to a shelf, 20 feet, then climb the steep crack behind the flake to the top of the flake. Belay.
- (ii) 120 feet. Facing the cliff, climb the steep overhanging crack (15 feet), move diagonally up to the left (20 feet) and traverse horizontally to gain a resting place on a sloping ledge (40 feet). An exposed belay could be arranged here with difficulty. It is better to climb on. Climb the crack system above to the summit. A short hand traverse is needed to gain the final ledge 10 feet below the summit.



EAST FACE:  
SOUTH PEAK



Drawing J

SOUTH PEAK, East Face

N.B. The traverse can be abandoned also at an overhanging crack at 30 feet from the belay point and the crack followed over the overhang. This is harder.

56a. SOLER ESCAPE 5.5

From near the top of the first pitch, climb left up an orange band of broken rock and through a crack in the overhang to the summit ledge.

57. CONNS' EAST (THE ARMY-CONN ROUTE)  
5.4

An old classic route. The original description is worth re-reading: see the historical notes for the reference.

- (i) 125 feet. From Broadway, about 30 feet north of the southern edge of the huge flake (of Route 56), climb a system of wide cracks and ledges generally diagonally sloping up to the right aiming for a chimney leading to the top of the flake. Belay on the top of the flake below a wall which gives the impression of being overhung.
- (ii) 50 feet. From the right-hand top corner of the flake where the wall above is split by a crack,



## SOUTH PEAK, East Face

Drawing J

climb diagonally up to the right up a short vertical wall to gain a wide horizontal ledge which is followed for 30 feet to a pine tree belay.

- (iii) 120 feet. From the belay climb the wall to a second ledge and at the ledge traverse right to a short chimney with a wedged chockstone. Surmount the chockstone and climb diagonally right to the summit ridge and either belay there or traverse the summit ridge leftwards (south) to a belay at the summit block.

## 57a. 5.6

Probably the original route and in the ramp portion the reverse of 57b. From the belay at the top of the flake at the end of 57(i) descend a steep ramp to an obvious steep crack in the face beyond, i.e. to the north of the flake. Climb the crack and the wall above to join the horizontal ledge of Route 57, near the belay tree.

## 57b. CONNS' EAST DIRECT START 5.6

This short climb from Broadway offers a direct start leading to Route 56 and 57. Begin at a vertical crack near the middle of the base of the flake marked by a

Drawing J

## SOUTH PEAK, East Face

diamond block about two feet along the sides and some 15 feet above the start, and a sentry box about 5 feet above the block. Climb the crack, enter the sentry box then climb the groove to a stance above at the foot of the ramp of Route 57a.

## 57c. FAR RIGHT EAST FACE 5.7 200 ft

Apparently a direct route to the second pitch belay ledge of Route 57, whereafter either Route 56 or 57 is followed to the summit.

## 58. ORANGEAID 5.9 120 feet

Probably hard for the grade! A steep, exposed, strenuous climb. Follow any of the Routes of 56 or 57 to the second pitch ledge of Route 57. Above the ledge there are two less than obvious fault lines just north of the summit.

- (i) 120 feet. Climb the left, orange-colored crack and over a small overhang. The crack may need aid (A.2) but the overhang goes free. The climb ends about 20 feet north of the summit.

## 59. ALCOA PRESENTS (first called T6) 5.8

This was originally one of the standard aid climbs and though now climbed free remains a demanding, exposed route.

From the belay tree of 57 pitch (ii): Move 40 feet left and climb directly up 40 feet to a small roof. Step left 10 feet to a two-foot inside corner facing right. Follow this corner passing the crux at 40 feet to another small roof. Step left for 6 feet to a small corner facing right, then follow the corner to the summit ridge.

## 60. CASTOR 5.9

Start at the second crack left of Route 57b.

- (i) 80 feet. Climb up crack to the edge of flake (intersection with Route 57a). Climb up and left on the flake to its top (part of Route 57a).
- (ii) 90 feet. Climb straight up from the top of the flake, through a small overhang and up to top. This pitch ends almost exactly at the South summit.

## 61. POLLUX 5.9

This route is done mostly with jam nuts. Both pitches are 5.9 and the second pitch is not well protected. Start the first crack to the left of Route 57b.

- (i) 80 feet. Climb the crack to the edge of the flake (intersection with Route 57a). Climb left to the top of the flake (part of Route 57a).
- (ii) 90 feet. Climb up a few feet and then traverse right to a small flat spot. Climb up and right into a shallow inside corner facing right with a crack to the right of it. Climb the corner and on to the top.

## 62. EAST FACE TO THE GUNSIGHT NOTCH 5.0

This is a common short route from the Broadway ledge. The route and its many variations hardly need description in detail. Simply follow the flake and chimney system, which slopes upwardly from left to right to the Gunsight Notch. The further north one moves the harder the variations become.

## 62a. A NORTHERLY VARIATION OF 62 5.2

From the slopes directly below Gendarme follow ledges up to right to left-facing inside corner (intersection with

## SOUTH PEAK, East Face

Drawing J

Route 65) then up to left on face left of corner to large pine tree (to meet Gunsight Notch to North Peak, Route 64). Follow Route 64 diagonally left and up on narrow ledges into the Gunsight Notch.

## 63. THE GENDARME 5.4 40 feet

A delightful short climb. There is a register on the summit. Start at the northeast corner: climb the corner for 10 feet then traverse left to the southeast corner and climb to the top. A free rapped may be made down the west side.

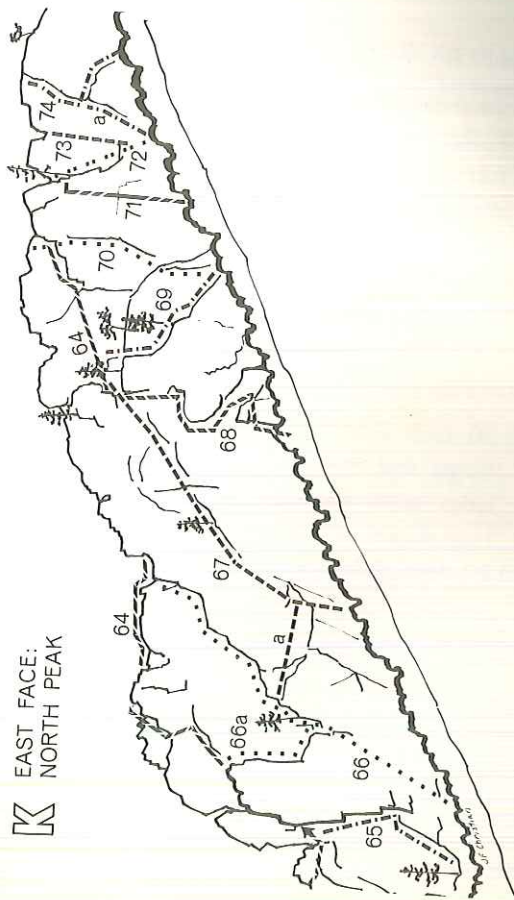
## NORTH PEAK, East Face

Drawing K

## 64. GUNSIGHT TO NORTH PEAK 5.0

From Gendarme:

- (i) Traverse north around east side of buttress in Gunsight Notch on narrow ledges to chimney formed by detached flake on east face of North Peak;
- (ii) Climb chimney diagonally up to north to wide ledge;





## NORTH PEAK, East Face

Drawing K

- (iii) Ascend inside corner to ridge;
- (iv) Follow ridge to long, deep, narrow chimney formed by second detached flake;
- (v) Walk up through chimney to broad summit ledge passing first to right and then left of ridge.

## 65. EEYORE'S TAIL 5.3

At first prominent left-facing inside corner on east side of North Peak north of Gunsight Notch:

- (i) 90 feet. From large pine below Notch climb ledges and then inside corner to narrow belay ledge with adequate protection possible with large chocks or channels.
- (ii) 20 feet. Climb up corner and left face below overhanging face of inside corner to ledge (intersection with beginning of pitch (ii) of Route 64).

## 66. ROUX 5.2

On the east side of North Peak about 25 feet north of first prominent left-facing inside corner north of Gunsight Notch.

- (i) Climb ledges and flake ascending right to large pine tree (intersection with Route 66a).

Drawing K

## NORTH PEAK, East Face

- (ii) Walk up narrow chimney to ridge (intersection with end of pitch (iv) of Route 64).

## 66a. BEAR'S DELIGHT 5.5

From top of first pitch of Route 66, traverse left (12 feet) on wide ledge to inside corner, and up inside corner (35 feet) to intersect with Route 64.

## 67. SALLY'S PERIL 5.6

Begin on the lower ledge of the east side of North Peak about 100 feet north of first large left-facing corner.

- (i) 50 feet. Climb a smooth face partly on an overhanging bulge and small bushy ledge and continue up a short inside corner facing left to large ledge.
- (ii) 80 feet. Walk up the ledge to a large detached flake.
- (iii) 50 feet. Climb the chimney to the summit. (From the top of pitch (i) a traverse 30 feet left and 15 foot climb can be made to intersect with pitch (ii) of Route 66).

## 68. WOLERY 5.6

This climb begins at a large detached pillar beneath an equally large left-facing, overhanging flake.

- (i) 30 feet. Climb crack between south edge of pillar and parent rock. Top block on pillar is loose. Last 8 feet was bypassed by traversing around pillar to north and up. Much easier ascent may be made from north up ramp.
- (ii) 50 feet. From atop pillar, traverse left and up shallow groove, then right and up the inside corner of the overhanging flake to the top of the flake.
- (iii) 30 feet. At north end of ledge atop flake layback left-facing inside corner and then up shallow, dirty groove (intersection with Route 64).

## 69. CHRISTOPHER ROBIN 5.2

About 170 feet south of north end on the east face of North Peak.

- (i) Scramble up narrow ledge ascending to the left to large pine.

- (ii) Continue left on ledge and up crack to pass overhang on left and scramble up to broad ledge on Route 66.

## 70. EXPOTITION 5.2

About 170 feet south of north end on the east face of North Peak.

- (i) Climb shallow gully.
- (ii) Climb broken inside corner facing left to its top; traverse right 6 feet and climb obvious crack to summit ledge (intersection with Route 66).
- (iii) Climb wall of ridge left of notch.

## 71. LONG LEGGEDY BEASTIES 5.4

About 10 feet south of large pine in V-notch in summit ridge on east face of North Peak. Climb directly up line of dead pine to ledge and walk over into V-notch to summit.

## 72. POOH'S CORNER 5.1

On the east face about 120 feet south of north end of North Peak. Scramble up ledges and climb short right-

## NORTH PEAK, East Face

Drawing K

facing inside corner to large pine and then through prominent V-notch in summit ridge.

## 73. OH POOH 5.1

Starts below set-back face between left and right-facing corners on east face about 100 feet south of south end of North Peak. Climb any of several ways up face to notch in summit ridge.

## 74. HEFFALUMP TRAP 5.3

Starts between two large pines about 80 feet south of north end of the east face of North Peak.

- (i) Climb on the edge of a slightly overhanging flake (well studded with Army pitons) to the left for 25 feet to its top.
- (ii) Turn outside corner and climb on edge of broad left-facing inside corner to summit ridge.

## 74a. HEFFALUMP TRAP DIRECT 5.2

Starts about 20 feet south of the previous climb at the base of the inside corner which is climbed in the corner to meet with the other second pitch.

Drawing L

## SOUTHERN PILLAR, East Face

## 75. MRS. ROBINSON 5.6 280 feet

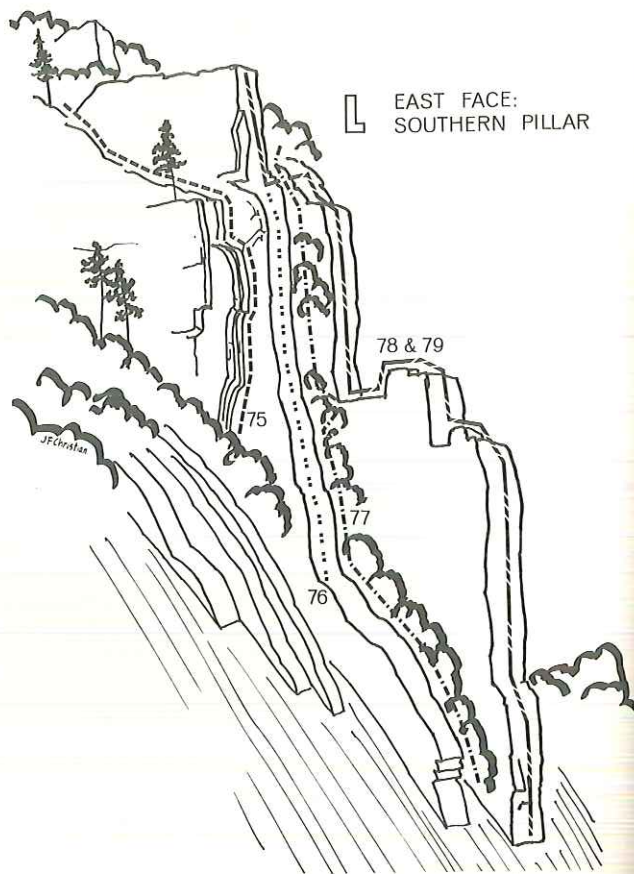
Approach the buttress on the left and follow the wall (a filthy scramble) about 150 feet to below a prominent deep chimney formed by a huge detached flake. The foot of the climb is marked by a short, steep crack containing several ancient rusty pitons.

- (i) 40 feet. Climb the crack, exit right to a large tree-covered ledge.
- (ii) 100 feet. Climb the chimney above to a stance and belay; beware of loose blocks at the exit.
- (iii) 110 feet. Move upwards then traverse left to a pinnacle formed by a detached block, climb the pinnacle then continue the traverse to a tree-covered ledge.
- (iv) 30 feet. Climb the crack above. Rappel to the east gully.

## 76. INITIATION 5.4

From the slopes east of east buttress (this is the buttress which forms the upper part of the skyline) scramble to a prominent step on the north edge of the buttress within





Drawing L SOUTHERN PILLAR, East Face  
the tree cover. Climb the north edge to intersection with  
Route 79.

#### 77. GREAT CHIMNEY 5.1

From about 20 feet above and south of the prominent  
(west) buttress in the gully on the east side:

- (i) 145 feet. Scramble and climb to first prominent  
step on buttress (intersection with Routes 78 and  
79).
- (ii) 115 feet. Climb in chimney to second step  
(where east buttress takes over skyline) (intersec-  
tion with Routes 78 and 79).

#### 78. GEBHARDT-DUFTY (G-D)(GOD-DAMN) 5.7

Start at the base of the prominent (west) buttress form-  
ing the lower skyline of the rocks south of Roy Gap:  
Ascend the north face of the buttress in several pitches  
to its top (~250 feet).

Traverse to left across top of broad chimney, and onto a  
ledge on the west face of the east buttress which now  
becomes visible on the skyline (intersection with top of  
Route 76). Climb the north face of the east buttress to  
top (~50 feet).

## SOUTHERN PILLAR, East Face

Drawing L

79. M.E. 5.7 250 feet

This route may coincide with 78. This is an exposed route on the flake to the south of Roy Gap. It simply follows the prominent route on the left-hand edge of the face. The first two pitches are loose, and the third solid but difficult.

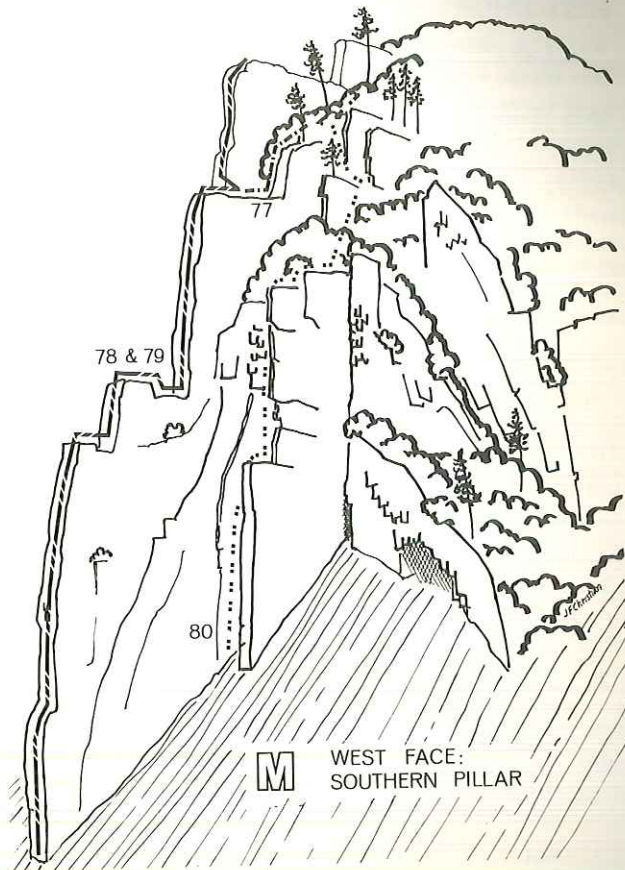
## SOUTHERN PILLAR, West Face

Drawing M

80. ROY GAP CHIMNEYS 5.6 200 ft.

Approach the buttress on the right and follow the base of the crag for about 50 feet to the foot of a prominent chimney just to the right of the point where the rock face turns to the west.

- (i) 100 feet. Climb the groove and chimneys to a stance on the right wall.
- (ii) 80 feet. Follow the chimney bed easily, then climb the chimney until it is possible to step on to the right wall which is climbed to a belay.
- (iii) 30 feet. Climb the corner above to the top.
- (iv) 100 feet. Scramble left to the summit. Rappel to the east gully.



M

WEST FACE:  
SOUTHERN PILLAR

## HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

The editor apologizes for inaccuracies in these notes. It must be remembered that many of the routes were first climbed by Army climbers and not recorded. Also it has proved extremely difficult to correlate some accounts of routes with current descriptions and names of climbs because of the modesty of some of the eminent climbers of the past and the present. We have attempted to deal with all recorded accounts. The editor would be glad to hear from any reader of the guidebook so that in a future edition these inaccuracies may be corrected.

The following abbreviations are used for the references: *UR* for *Up Rope*, newsletter of the mountaineering section, PATC; *SRRS* for *Seneca Rocks Route Sketches* by I.L. Jirak, 1965; and *SC* for *Social Climber*, newsletter of the Pittsburgh Social Climbers.

1. June Lehman, Linda Harris, March 28, 1971.
2. John Christian, Ed Worrell, Bill Hemphill, February 1954 (*UR*, April 9, 1954).
3. John Christian, Ed Worrell, Bill Hemphill, February 1954 (*UR*, April 9, 1954). This party discovered a single Army piton five feet above the floor of the chimney. The name "One Stop

## HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

Route" was given because there was only one place to stop enroute.

4. Andy Kauffman and party, early 1955, (*UR*, June 4, 1955).
5. Sally Chamberlin, Eleanor Tatge, May 5, 1946, (*UR*, May 15, 1946).
6. Jimmy Shipley and Joe Faint, aid, date unknown. George Livingstone and Roger Craig, free, July 3, 1966, (*UR*, August 1966). On the first ascent the leader used a wooden wedge and a Cassin piton driven into the wedge. The leader of the second ascent removed the Cassin piton "by hand". The records indicate that from the large ledge, it might be possible to finish the climb by a direct ascent of the inside corner, though the blank wall above appears extremely difficult. There is no record of this ever having been done.
8. Paul Bradt, Don Hubbard, Sam Moore, July 1939.
- 8a. Tom Evans, Matt Hale, October 1969.
- 8b. Chris Scoredos, Arnold Wexler, Herb Conn and Don Hubbard first mounted the "beak" from above and rappelled to the notch and Chris led it from below next day, May 1943.



## HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

10. John Christian, Jim Shipley, Alan Talbert, August 31, 1956.
11. Jimmy Shipley and party, date unknown.
- 11a. Tom Evans and party, 1966.
12. John Christian, Bob Hinshaw, Memorial Day 1954.
- 12a. Probably climbed earlier according to a diagram in *SRRS*. It could have been climbed much earlier as the start of Pleasant Overhangs, but the commoner, cleaner start is 20 feet north. First recorded ascent Bob Robinson, Art Williams, May 1967.
- 12b. No record.
- 12c. John Christian, Jim Shipley, August 30, 1956.
- 12d. Reputedly Fritz Weisner and party, ca. 1960s.
13. Shown in *SRRS*.
14. Pim and Ken Karcher, Dick Gaylord, Bob Tieman (*UR*, April 30, 1949).
15. George Bogel, Jim Payznski, Thanksgiving Day, 1970 (with aid). Free Ascent: Tim Beaman, Larry Myer, Aug. 7, 1971.
- 15a. Joe Faint, Jimmy Shipley, date unknown.
16. Lt. N. C. Hartz, Lt. Henry P. Schluter, Lt. Earl M. Richardson, May 11, 1944. Herb and Jan Conn, May 2, 1948.

## HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

- 16a. Arnold Wexler and party, in 1954-5 (*PATC Bulletin*, April/June 1955).
- 17(v)(a). John Markwell, Bob Livingston, April 10, 1971.
- 17(v)(b). John Christian, Arnold Wexler, June 12, 1971.
18. Larry Griffin, 1965 (*UR*, Oct., 1965)
- 18a. Route reported in *SC*
- 18b. Route shown in *SRRS*.
19. Sayre Rodman and party, date unknown.
20. *SC*, October 1964, records climb in this area.
21. Arnold Wexler and party, in 1954 made an attempt on a climb in this area with aid (*PATC Bulletin*, April/June 1955). Matt Hale, Tom Evans, October 11, 1969 first free ascent.
22. Tommy Marshall, John Christian, May 7-8, 1955, using aid for second man at one point.
23. George Livingstone and Tim Scheckle, aid: September 1966. Matt Hale, Bob Lyon, October 1968, free. Pat Milligan, John Stannard, direct ascent to the foot of the cracks, April 10, 1971.
24. Jim Shipley, Joe Faint, May 28, 1960 as far as the notch (end of pitch (i)); Chips Janger, Matt Hale, pitch (ii), Spring 1968.

## HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

25. John Christian, Bob Hinshaw, Labor Day 1959. Aid on first pitch.
26. No records available.
- 26a. No records available.
27. Ivan Jirak, prior to May 1954 (*UR*, Sept. 24, 1954). Andy Kauffman, Joan Ascher, Phil Cardon, May 22, 1954 (*UR*, Sept. 24, 1954).
- 27a. Jerry Jankowitz, George Kamm, prior to 1955 (*PATC Bulletin*, April/June 1955).
28. George Livingstone, Thais Weibel, 1967.
29. Paul Bradt, Sam Moore, Don Hubbard, Easter 1969, (*UR*, Vol. I, No. 18, 1945.)
- 29a. Mike Nicholson and party, 1967.
30. An "ancient" route described by John Reed in the *PATC Bulletin*, Vol. XXIV, 1955 as having probably been the route used by those who reached the summit before Paul Bradt, Don Hubbard and Sam Moore in 1939.
- 30a. No record available.
- 30b. Jane Showacre and party, early 1950s.
31. No first ascent records can be found, but pictures are available of Army mountaineers on the top in the early 1940s.
32. No record.

## HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

33. Gert Christie, ca. late 1950s.
34. Probably Tyler Davis, Bob Broughton, John Schelling, 1965 (*SC*, Oct. 1965). Possibly variations by Larry Griffin (*UR*, Sept. 1966).
- 34a. and b. No records are available of first ascents, but a climb described in *UR*, September 24, 1954, as having been done on May 31, 1942 by Chris Scoredos, Roy Britton and Don Jacobs could be Route 34b. Pitch (ii)a on 34b: John Markwell, Steve Richards, August 1971.
35. Regretably, no records can be found of the first ascent of this superb climb except that it is believed that it was first led by Joe Faint (*UR*, August 1961).
36. Chris Scoredos and party, mid 1950s (*PATC Bulletin*, April/June 1955).
37. Bob Williams, Barry Wallen, 17 July, 1966.
- 37a. No records are available.
38. (No climbs)
39. (No climbs)
- 40 and 41. Mark Carpenter, Barry Wallen, Sept. 6, 1965 (*UR*, Oct. 1965).

## HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

42. Arnold Wexler, Jim McCarthy, Labor Day weekend 1954, using aid. First free ascent not known (*UR*, September 1954).
- 42(i)a. Pat Milligan, John Stannard, George Livingstone, April 1971.
- 42a, pitch (ii)a. Rowland Tabor, ca. 1955. Remainder unknown.
43. George Livingstone, Thais Weibel, March 1967.
44. Tom Evans, Chips Janger, Bob Lyon, April 1967.
45. I. L. Jirak and party. Free: J. Stannard, July 1971.
46. Tony Soler, Ray Moore, Lorraine Snyder, July 18, 1950.
- 46a. *UR*, October 1965.
47. Arnold Wexler, John Reed, Earl Mosburg, with aid (*UR*, 28 October, 1953). First free ascent not known. First ascent of the variation (free) Tom Evans, Chips Janger, 1968.
- 48, 48a. The Skyline Traverse from the south end was made before the war, i.e. before 1939 (*UR*, Jan. 22, 1947).
- 48b. It is believed first climbed by members of the Pittsburgh Explorers Club. First record: Andy Kauffman, Betty Kauffman, Joan Ascher, Phil Cardon, April 3, 1954 (*UR*, May 2, 1954). Arnold

## HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

- Wexler and party, September 5, 1958. (*UR*, Vol. 5, no. 4).
- 48c. Art Gran, Bob Dufty, 1959.
- 48d. George Livingstone, Arnold Wexler, Andy Kauffman, July 16, 1966. The summit register called this Livingstone's "wasps' nest route"!
- 48e. Phil Cardon, John Christian, August, 1970.
49. Bob Gebhardt, Cliff Alexander, ca. 1957.
50. Ed and Blondie Worrell and party, early 1950s.
51. John Christian and party, April, 1970.
52. June Lehman, John Christian, Sally Greenwood, November 28, 1970.
53. No record available.
54. No record available.
55. (No climb)
56. Tony Soler, Ray Moore, August 12, 1951 (*UR*, August 20, 1951).
57. First climbed by the Army mountaineers, Pvt. John Stearns, PFC George Kolbuchar, Sgt. Bob Hecker and Sgt. Jim Crooks, April 28, 1944 and re climbed by Herb and Jan Conn, May 11, 1948 (*UR*, September 1948 and December 1964)



## HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

- 57b. Prior to 1954 by Arnold Wexler and party. First record: John Christian and Bob Hinshaw (*UR*, May 1, 1955).
- 57c. Mark Carpenter, Tal Bielefeldt, September 4, 1964.
58. Mark Carpenter, Barry Wallen, aid, September 2, 1966, John Stannard and party, free, April, 1971.
59. Joe Faint and Mike Nicholson, aid, in early 1960s. First free ascent Bob Williams, Tom Evans and Bob Lyon, July 1968.
60. Pat Milligan, George Livingstone, April, 1971.
61. Pat Milligan, George Livingstone, April, 1971.
62. Probably Paul Bradt and party in 1939.
63. Probably Paul Bradt and party in 1939.
64. Chuck Sproull, Sallie Jordan, Peter Gardiner, October, 1969.
65. John Christian, June Lehman, following Army pitons, April 17, 1971. An ancient trade route.
66. A pun on Roo. Maitland Sharpe, Linda Harris, April 17, 1971.
- 66a. John Christian, W. L. Putnam, May 9, 1971.
67. Chuck Sproull, Sallie Jordan, Peter Gardiner, October 1969.
68. John Christian, W. L. Putnam, May 9, 1971.

## HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CLIMBS

69. June Lehman, John Christian (following Army pitons) April 17, 1971.
- 70 and 71. Maitland Sharpe, Linda Harris, April 17, 1971.
- 72, 73, 74. John Christian, June Lehman (following Army pitons) April 16, 1971.
- 74a. Army, ca. 1943.
75. First ascent unknown. Followed by Roger Birch and Bob Robinson, June 1970.
76. John Markwell, John Christian, July 4, 1971.
77. Mark Carpenter, Tal Bielefeldt, 1965.
78. Bob Gebhardt, Bob Dufty, probably late 1950s.
79. Matt Hale, George Livingstone, March 1968.
80. First ascent unknown. Followed by Tom McCrum and Roger Birch, April 1969.

**APPENDIX A—  
CLIMBS RANKED BY GRADE**

- 5.0      Routes 5, 18b, 33, 62, 64.
- 5.1      Routes 13, 14, 30, 31, 49, 50, 72, 73, 77.
- 5.2      Routes 2, 12c, 16, 26a, 30b, 48b, 62a, 66, 69, 70, and 74a.

## APPENDIX A — Climbs Ranked By Grade

- 5.3 Routes 1, 3, 7, 19, 26, 48, 48d, 48e, 52, 53, 65, and 74.
- 5.4 Routes 4, 8, 8b, 16a, 18, 18a, 27, 27a, 29, 30a, 34, 48a, 48d, 48e, 51, 54, 57, 63, 71, 76.
- 5.5 Routes 12, 12a, 17, 25, 34a, 34b, 56a, 66a.
- 5.6 Routes 10, 12b, 12d, 15a, 28, 42, 42a, 46, 48c, 56, 57a, 57b, 67, 68, 75, 80.
- 5.7 Routes 8a, 11, 35, 44, 46a, 56, 57c, 78, 79.
- 5.8 Routes 11a, 20, 21, 22, 24, 35a, 37a, 47, 59.
- 5.9 Routes 23, 29a, 58, 60, 61.
- 5.10 Route 45.
- 5.1 A.1 Route 13
- 5.6 A.1 Route 41
- 5.6 A.3 Route 40
- 5.7 A.1 Route 15
- 5.7 A.2 Routes 27b, 43, 45, 58.
- 5.7 A.3 Route 44.
- 5.8 A.1 Route 6.
- 5.8 A.2 Route 37.
- 5.8 A.3 Route 40.

APPENDIX B —  
Alphabetical List of Climbs

|  | Page |
|--|------|
| A Christian Delight . . . . .          | 74   |
| Agony . . . . .                        | 46   |
| Alcoa Presents . . . . .               | 82   |
| Army-Conn (West Face) . . . . .        | 40   |
| Army-Conn (East Face) . . . . .        | 79   |
| Bear's Delight . . . . .               | 87   |
| Bee Sting . . . . .                    | 73   |
| Breakneck . . . . .                    | 50   |
| Breakneck Direct . . . . .             | 51   |
| Broadway . . . . .                     | 55   |
| Broadway to Old Ladies' . . . . .      | 75   |
| Cardon's Rib . . . . .                 | 74   |
| Castor . . . . .                       | 82   |
| Chris' Lead . . . . .                  | 61   |
| Christopher Robin . . . . .            | 88   |
| Cockscomb Overhang . . . . .           | 52   |
| Cockscomb Overhang Direct . . . . .    | 52   |
| Cockscomb Pine Tree . . . . .          | 48   |
| Cockscomb Pine Tree Traverse . . . . . | 50   |
| Conns' East . . . . .                  | 79   |

## APPENDIX B — Alphabetical List of Climbs

|   | Page |
|---|------|
| Conns' East Direct Start .....                            | 80   |
| Conns' West .....   | 40   |
| Conns' West Direct Finish .....                           | 40   |
| Cottonmouth .....   | 44   |
| Dressing Room .....                                       | 38   |
| Dufty's Popoff .....                                      | 73   |
| East Face to Gunsight Notch .....                         | 83   |
| East Face to Gunsight Notch,<br>Northerly Variation ..... | 83   |
| Ecstasy .....   | 59   |
| Ecstasy, Jr. ....   | 56   |
| Eeyore's Tail .....                                       | 86   |
| Expotition .....  | 89   |
| Far Right East Face .....                                 | 81   |
| Front C .....   | 43   |
| G-D .....   | 93   |
| Gebhardt—Dufty Route .....                                | 93   |
| Gendarme .....  | 84   |
| Gert's Grungy Gully .....                                 | 56   |
| God Damn .....  | 93   |
| Grandiose .....   | 40   |
| Great Chimney .....                                       | 93   |

## APPENDIX B — Alphabetical List of Climbs

|                                     | Page |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Green Wall .....                    | 33   |
| Gunsight to North Peak .....        | 84   |
| Gunsight to South Peak .....        | 31   |
| Gunsight to South Peak Direct ..... | 33   |
| Heartburn .....                     | 52   |
| Heffalump Trap .....                | 90   |
| Heffalump Trap Direct .....         | 90   |
| Horrendous Traverse .....           | 48   |
| Humphrey .....                      | 54   |
| Initiation .....                    | 91   |
| Jane's Route .....                  | 54   |
| Jankowitz-Kamm .....                | 51   |
| Joe R .....                         | 73   |
| Kassen .....                        | 72   |
| Kauffman-Cardon .....               | 72   |
| Kauffman's Rib .....                | 29   |
| L.S.D. ....                         | 72   |
| Le Gourmet .....                    | 42   |
| Le Gourmet Direct Start .....       | 43   |
| Le Gourmet Traverse .....           | 43   |
| Long Leggedy Beasties .....         | 89   |
| Lower Skyline Direct .....          | 72   |



## APPENDIX B — Alphabetical List of Climbs

|                                       | Page |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| M.E. ....                             | 94   |
| Madmen Only .....                     | 29   |
| Marshall's Madness .....              | 44   |
| Mrs. Robinson .....                   | 91   |
| Neck Press .....                      | 43   |
| No Dally Alley .....                  | 26   |
| Ocean City .....                      | 61   |
| Oh Pooh .....                         | 90   |
| Old Ladies' Excitement .....          | 54   |
| Old Ladies' Route .....               | 52   |
| Old Man's Route .....                 | 39   |
| One Man, One Piton .....              | 52   |
| One Stop .....                        | 28   |
| Orangeaid .....                       | 81   |
| P-Quad .....                          | 64   |
| Pine Tree Traverse .....              | 29   |
| Pleasant Overhangs .....              | 34   |
| Pleasant Overhangs Direct Start ..... | 35   |
| Pollux .....                          | 83   |
| Pooh's Corner .....                   | 89   |
| Prune .....                           | 41   |
| Reverse C .....                       | 74   |

## APPENDIX B — Alphabetical List of Climbs

|                                      | Page |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Rocking Slab .....                   | 72   |
| Route 22 .....                       | 70   |
| Roux .....                           | 86   |
| Roy Gap Chimneys .....               | 94   |
| Sally's Peril .....                  | 87   |
| Satisfaction No. 1 .....             | 62   |
| Satisfaction No. 2 .....             | 62   |
| Shiple's Shivering Shimmy .....      | 47   |
| Simple J. Malarkey .....             | 63   |
| SJM, Westerly Extension .....        | 64   |
| Sixth Sense .....                    | 61   |
| Skyline Traverse .....               | 70   |
| Soler Escape .....                   | 79   |
| Soler Route .....                    | 77   |
| Thais .....                          | 35   |
| Thais Buttress Finish .....          | 38   |
| Thais Direct Finish .....            | 38   |
| Thais Direct Start .....             | 37   |
| Thais Escape .....                   | 38   |
| Tomato .....                         | 31   |
| Tony's Nightmare .....               | 67   |
| Tony's Nightmare Direct Finish ..... | 68   |

## APPENDIX B — Alphabetical List of Climbs

|                                   | Page |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Totem .....                       | 65   |
| Triple G .....                    | 56   |
| Triple S .....                    | 47   |
| T6 .....                          | 82   |
| Up and Coming .....               | 75   |
| Up Front .....                    | 26   |
| West Face to Gunsight Notch ..... | 30   |
| West Pole .....                   | 39   |
| Wild Men Only .....               | 64   |
| Windy Corner .....                | 75   |
| Wolery .....                      | 88   |
| Worrell's Thicket .....           | 74   |
| Ye Gods and Little Fishes .....   | 69   |

If you find any inaccuracies, have any comments, or wish to record a new climb please jot them down here immediately and send them to:

SENECA ROCKS GUIDEBOOK EDITOR  
 Mountaineering Section  
 Potomac Appalachian Trail Club  
 1718 N St., N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20036

If you find any inaccuracies, have any comments, or wish to record a new climb please jot them down here immediately and send them to:

**SENECA ROCKS GUIDEBOOK EDITOR**

Mountaineering Section

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

1718 N St., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036

If you find any inaccuracies, have any comments, or wish to record a new climb please jot them down here immediately and send them to:

**SENECA ROCKS GUIDEBOOK EDITOR**

Mountaineering Section

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

1718 N St., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036



If you find any inaccuracies, have any comments, or wish to record a new climb please jot them down here immediately and send them to:

SENECA ROCKS GUIDEBOOK EDITOR  
Mountaineering Section  
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club  
1718 N St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

If you find any inaccuracies, have any comments, or wish to record a new climb please jot them down here immediately and send them to:

SENECA ROCKS GUIDEBOOK EDITOR  
Mountaineering Section  
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club  
1718 N St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

If you find any inaccuracies, have any comments, or wish to record a new climb please jot them down here immediately and send them to:

SENECA ROCKS GUIDEBOOK EDITOR  
Mountaineering Section  
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club  
1718 N St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

If you find any inaccuracies, have any comments, or wish to record a new climb please jot them down here immediately and send them to:

SENECA ROCKS GUIDEBOOK EDITOR  
Mountaineering Section  
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club  
1718 N St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

If you find any inaccuracies, have any comments, or wish to record a new climb please jot them down here immediately and send them to:

SENECA ROCKS GUIDEBOOK EDITOR

Mountaineering Section

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

1718 N St., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036