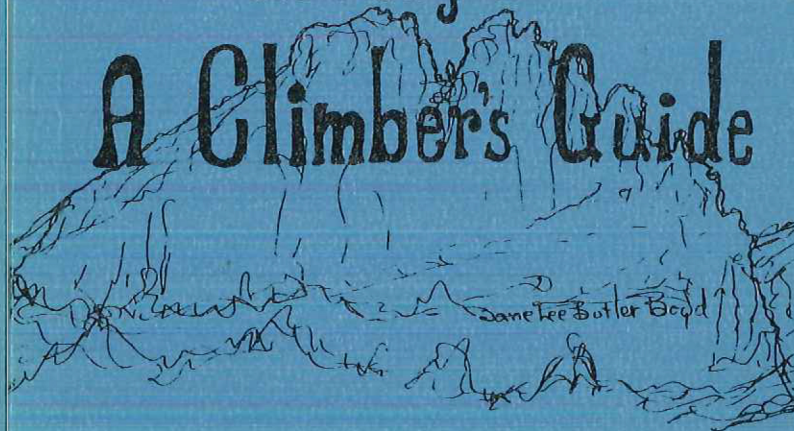


Seneca Rocks,

West Virginia

A Climber's Guide



Bill Webster

Rich Pleiss

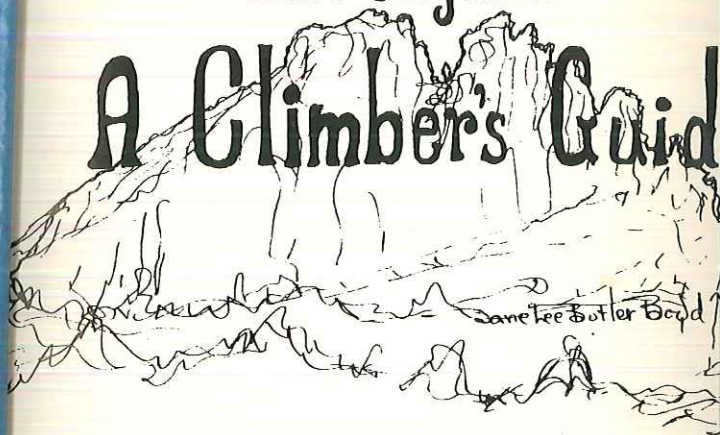
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Rock guide
Book (503)
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West Virginia

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Bill Webster

Rich Pleiss

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Bill Webster and Rich Pleiss

Editing and Design by Ms. Alison Taylor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Pages |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Location | 2 |
| Facilities and Services | 2 |
| Alternate Activities | 4 |
| Access | 6 |
| Nature of Climbs | 6 |
| Using the Guide | 8 |
| General Description | 9 |
| Descent Routes | 11 |
| Rating System | 13 |
| Routes—Southern Pillar | 15 |
| Routes—South End | 18 |
| Routes—South Peak West Face | 23 |
| Routes—North Peak West Face | 36 |
| Routes—South Peak East Face | 38 |
| Routes—North Peak East Face | 47 |
| Photographs | 51 |
| Local History | 60 |
| Local Geology | 62 |
| Credits | 64 |

ILLUSTRATIONS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Location of Mouth of Seneca | 3 |
| Mouth of Seneca | 7 |

INTRODUCTION

No one who calls himself a rock climber today can seriously challenge the fact that "his" sport has been rapidly accelerating in many different directions. It wasn't too many years ago that rock climbing was merely a method of training and a way of staying in condition between mountaineering expeditions. Little thought was given to the rock as a medium of expression; but, this attitude, which seemed to be ingrained in many early European climbers, began to weaken.

Today it is relatively safe to say that a very large percentage of rock climbers will never climb a true mountain, but this does not in any way detract from their accomplishments of the last few decades. In rock "gymnasiums" all over the world, truly awesome accomplishments have been made under a wide variety of circumstances. Rock climbers are developing and experimenting with new techniques, new ethics, new equipment, and new rock. This evolution has been responsible for a steady increase in the quality of climbers and their routes.

The increase in demand for areas in which to climb has made many, once peaceful areas overcrowded, noisy, and in some instances unsafe. Most climbers have experienced these conditions and may ask, "Why a guidebook?" The fear that a published book could only draw more people is well founded. However, two solid reasons remain why this book should exist.

The first reason or justification for this or any guidebook, is the question of safety. As the sport gains in popularity, there will be many people with limited knowledge, who will want to climb. Any aid in location of a route which falls within a person's ability, can only help. As a climber increases his skill and knowledge, he may well discard this guide, but it exists to help those who are unfamiliar with Seneca.

The second warranted concern which we present is conservation. By providing a detailed guidebook to an already popular area, we feel that much pressure will be relieved from those areas that still remain relatively wild.

Seneca Rocks is a popular area that will be used regardless of the availability of an information source.

SENECA ROCKS

We hope that we may enable people to save time, frustration and to avoid hazards, while visiting West Virginia. The area is very beautiful and we hope that any visitors will respect it enough to keep it that way.

LOCATION

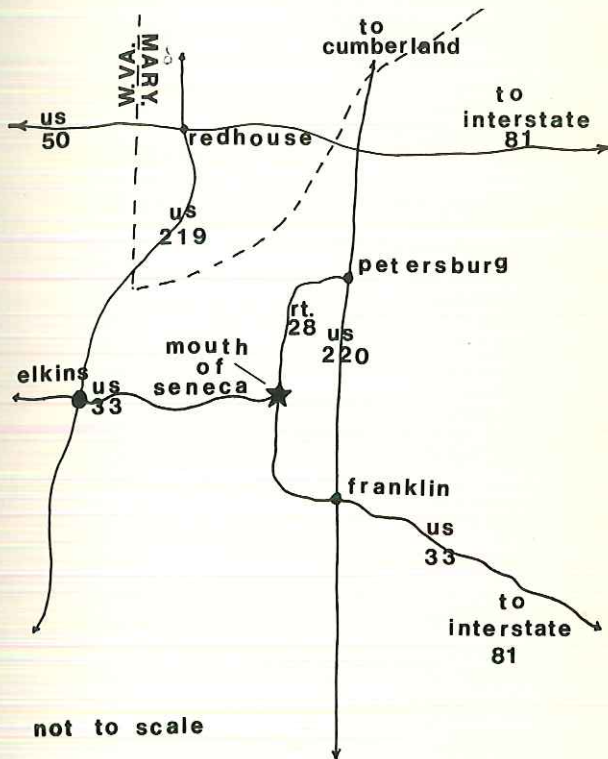
Seneca Rocks are located in Pendleton County, West Virginia, near the Virginia border. The rock formations are within sight of the village of Mouth of Seneca, a crossroads town serving northeastern West Virginia. The entire village is built around the junction of routes 33 and 28, the only major roads in the area.

This area is extremely mountainous and suffers from generally poor maintenance, including terrible snow removal. When planning your route, remember that the mountain ridges run North and South. Roads that cut across the "grain" will have more curves and are generally more difficult to drive.

AREA FACILITIES AND SERVICES

CAMPING—There are two places to camp when climbing at Seneca. The first is Seneca Creek Campground, a National Forest Service facility which is five miles from the rocks. To reach this campground from Mouth of Seneca, drive west on route 33 towards Elkins. Five miles from the town there will be a green road marker on the left hand side of the road which will read, "Whites Run Road". The campground is approximately one mile up this road.

The closest campground to the rocks and thus the most popular, is The Pavilion in Mouth of Seneca. The Pavilion is reached by taking the dirt road that lies between the bridge over Seneca Creek and the post office, then going through the gateway. The area contains a large field for tents, some latrines, and a large picnic pavilion. To stay at the Pavilion, one must pay a nominal fee of 25¢ a night per person. This fee, which is used for upkeep, can be paid at Buck Harper's General Store at the three-way intersection. Please pay the fee or the right to camp at this ideal spot may be removed. There are times when it might be wise to camp somewhere else, especially on crowded weekends when the noise level absolutely prohibits sleeping.



MOTELS—For those climbers who find sleeping outside too strenuous or uncomfortable, there are two motels in the area. Yokums is one mile to the north on route 28 and the 4-U is two miles to the south on route 33.

FOOD AND SUPPLIES—Food and general supplies can be purchased in a number of establishments in the immediate area. Buck Harper's General Store and Yokum's Store, both of which are located at the intersection in Mouth of Seneca, are perhaps the most convenient in which to buy basics.

If cooking is not for you, there are also several businesses that sell food: Yokums Restaurant one mile north on route 28, the 4-U Restaurant two miles south on route 33, and Harry's Bar and Grill, which is next door to Sites restaurant, ½ mile west on route 33.

HOSPITALS—If you have special medical needs, take care of them before you visit Seneca. The closest hospital is a half-hour away, at Petersburg, and the only one capable of handling anything serious is at Elkins, about 45 minutes away.

CLIMBING SUPPLIES—Seneca is blessed with a climbing store, The Gendarme, to sell you whatever you left at home. There is also a rescue box at the store with a Stoke's litter, equipment and rope.

ROAD EMERGENCY SERVICE—A toll free number is available in case of emergencies in rural areas. Dial 1-800-642-9061, and ask for the West Virginia State Police.

ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

In addition to climbing Seneca Rocks, there are a variety of other activities in which to participate when visiting the Pendleton County vicinity. The people and the land have come together to form a recreation haven. We have listed here some of the activities that the area has to offer, but the list is not complete and can be expanded to fill many different needs.

HIKING—The Monongahela National Forest contains many scenic trails of varying lengths. Both day and

multi-day backpacking trips are possible in the area's many mountains. Two of the newly designated National Wilderness Areas, Dolly Sods and Otter Creek, are close by. There are also several National Forest Ser-Recreation Areas, the largest being Smoke Hole and Spruce Knob.

KAYAKING AND CANOEING—The streams of the Seneca Rocks area are fast flowing and quite popular whitewater runs. The North Fork, Seneca Creek, and other nearby streams all provide excellent recreation opportunities.

CAVING—The limestone stratas that occupy much of the land mass of eastern West Virginia, hold many natural caverns of various sizes. There are over a hundred wild caverns for those with experience. Those who wish to remain clean may visit one of the two commercial caves in the immediate vicinity.

FESTIVALS—In West Virginia, it seems that every community has some sort of festival during the year. Those which you might want to travel to from Seneca are: Alpine Festival in Davis - (February), White Water Weekend in Petersburg - (March and April), West Virginia Wildflower Pilgrimage in Davis - (May), Pocahontas County Pioneer Days in Marlinton - (July), Tri-County Fair in Petersburg - (August), Teasure Mountain Festival in Franklin - (September), and the Mountain State Forest Festival in Elkins - (October).

FISHING AND HUNTING—For those who desire to hunt or fish, the Seneca area is excellent. Most of the streams in the area are stocked with trout and the hills contains a wide variety of game. Check local laws and property regulations before going afield.

SWIMMING—On hot days, swimming may seem more sensible than climbing, and if this is the case, the Northfork is the place to go. The closest swimming hole can be reached by driving to the last macadam monstrosity (parking lot) that services the new visitor's center. Drive off the parking lot onto the dirt road which runs down the field toward the river. Park by the trees and walk down to the river.

A second swimming area is found 4.4 miles to the North, on route 28. This hole has a deep pool and a make shift diving board. If you wish to remove your clothes, keep in mind that this is not the Shawangunks. Be semi-discreet if a local resident complains. Remember that you are on private land, so respect the wishes of the owners.

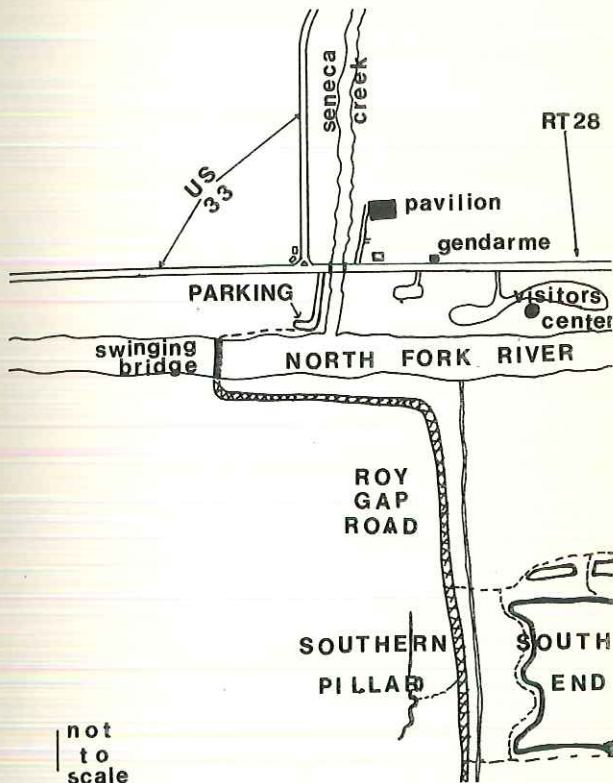
ACCESS

From Mouth of Seneca there are two different ways of reaching the rocks, but only one is of interest to most climbers. The first way and the most difficult is to locate Yokum's restaurant, a short distance north of the village. On the right side of the establishment is a dirt road which angles down and to the right. Follow the road to a swinging bridge. Keep right past the first utility right-of-way, until a steep, well kept right-of-way is reached. Follow the right-of-way until it meets a trail to the right which continues to the North Peak.

The second method of access, and the most desirable for climbers, begins near the three-way intersection in Mouth of Seneca. On the right-hand side of the bridge that spans Seneca Creek is a dirt road which is marked "Roy Gap Road" which you will follow for 150 yards to a parking area near the stream. From the parking area, walk upstream for 100 yds. to the dilapidated swinging bridge, which is barely "hanging in there" and has been condemned by the Forest Service. Occasional illegal repair jobs have extended the life of the bridge somewhat, but it is still unsafe. By either using the bridge or wading, cross the stream and continue walking the road on the other side, which will lead directly to the base of the South End and the Southern Pillar.

NATURE OF SENECA ROCKS' CLIMBS

Seneca climbing is unlike that of any other area in eastern United States and is probably unique in its nature. Seneca is much steeper than many other eastern rocks, and for that reason alone, techniques change. There are none of the long friction climbs or friction aprons similar to those of the Adirondacks, New Hampshire or the Carolinas. The vertical slope is also much steeper than most Shawangunk climbs.



Another aspect of Seneca that is worthy of note, is the structure of the rock strata itself. The almost vertical slabs of quartzite have created numerous exceedingly long vertical lines. Horizontal zones of weakness are quite rare and relatively unimportant. Ledges are the result of breakage at the top of the strata. Because of this tendency to break at the top, Seneca has fewer overhangs than might be expected on a rock of such size.

Actual climbing takes place in cracks and chimneys. Flakes of all sizes are a common aspect of Seneca, and are the key to many climbs. Other features which are seen often, include various sized blocks (some of which are loose), vegetated (but not unpleasantly so) ledges, minor summits, and fairly solid climbing.

Certain exposed climbs, particularly those near the Gunsight, are subject to high winds which produce a definite danger. Another air related hazard is the problem of pigeons. These birds, very seriously can create many dangerous situations. There are few Seneca climbers who haven't been severely shaken after a pigeon has flown from an intended handhold.

USING THE GUIDE

This guide takes advantage of the fact that Seneca lies in an almost perfectly north-south axis. To orient yourself, remember that while facing the West Face (this is the face one can see from Mouth of Seneca), south is to your right and north is to your left. All directions are given with the assumption that you are facing the rock.

Route descriptions and photographs are given as exactly as possible, but they are not intended to act as roadmaps. Route finding on Seneca is part of the challenge, and can be done safely if climbers use their heads.

Pitch lengths and all other measurements given in feet are not exact, except that the pitches are under 150 feet, unless otherwise stated. Use common sense: don't plan on a bare minimum amount of equipment because the guidebook states the pitches are short.

If you are unfamiliar with the area and the rock still confuses you after reading the guide, ask someone

to help. Once the trails and a few landmarks are learned, Seneca is easy to get around on.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

In order to climb safely on Seneca, it is wise to learn the different features by name and by sight. The first view of Seneca that the visitor usually receives is from the village of Mouth of Seneca. From here a definite profile is clearly seen: a large curved peak emerging from the hillside, a sudden depression, and another large curved peak.

The face on the left is the North Peak - West Face. This is identified by the two large blank areas. Another feature which can not be seen from the road is the huge chimney, No Dally Alley, formed by a detached flake.

To the right of the North Peak - West Face is the most easily identifiable segment of the formation, the Gunsight, a sudden and dramatic depression between the two peaks. Silhouetted in the center of the Gunsight is a 30 foot blade of rock, the Gendarme, which is clearly outlined against the sky.

Further to the right is the most complex face on the rock, but, at the same time, it is one of the easiest to navigate around. Immediately to the right of the Gunsight is the South Peak - West Face. This face can be broken down into several areas: Pleasant Overhangs, Thais Face, Main Face, Face of a Thousand Pitons, Cockscomb and Humphrey's Head, all of which contain climbs.

Approximately 200 feet right of the Gunsight is an enormous black inside corner that rises unbroken from the ground to the summit. The west face of this corner has a tremendous slanting roof, Pleasant Overhangs, and the north face is known as Thais Face. Around the corner and to the right is the main face, further right of which is another huge inside corner. The south face of this corner is dubbed, Face of a Thousand Pitons. The west side of this corner is a most prominent feature known as the Cockscomb, which has its own summit yet is still physically connected to the main rock mass. Immediately right of the Cockscomb is a smaller peak known as Humphreys' Head, having at its base a wide comfortable shoulder of rock known

as the Luncheon Ledge. This has become a notably popular congregating site, and the logical locale to ask questions or secure help in finding a route. The West Face continues below the Luncheon Ledge and finally or chimneys. The Lower Broadway Chimney is easily ends as a high corner near Roy Gap Road.

Around the corner from the South Peak - West Face, and parallel to Roy Gap Road, is the South End. This face, possessing few route finding difficulties, can be viewed from the road. Its largest feature is the cave which lies just to the left of the center of the face. To the right of the cave is a prominent buttress which is broken by an 8 foot roof. This important piece of rock is the Totem Buttress. At the southeast corner the face ends at still another buttress, this one large and sloping.

Beginning at the southeast corner of the South End and taking in the cliff as far as the Gunsight, is the South Peak - East Face. This face, runs parallel to the South Peak - West Face, and they are separated by 200 feet of rock at the base and only 3 feet of rock at the summit. The most important aspect of this section of the cliff is the Broadway Ledge. The vast majority of climbs leave this ledge which breaks the entire cliff from the top of the South End all the way to the Gunsight Notch. The ledge traverses under Humphrey's Head, the Cockcomb, and the main East Face. Many climbs can be located by noting the character of this (mostly 4th class) ledge, which is broken twice by minor Chimneys. The Lower Broadway Chimney is easily recognized by the big slanting block, making scrambling most ungraceful. To the right is the Upper Broadway Chimney which is approximately 15 feet high and lies directly below the Cockcomb. From the top of the Upper Chimney the ledge is easily followed to the next landmark - a very large detached flake known as So'er. The climbs in this vicinity use the flake as a reference point. The ledge terminates in the Gunsight Notch.

The North Peak - East Face is one of the more confusing expanses on Seneca. This face is shorter, more broken, heavily vegetated, and contains fewer climbs per area than the rest of Seneca. Many of the climbs are located by their distance from the Gunsight Notch or by the distance from the large, left facing, in-

side corner to the right of the notch. About one half the distance up the cliff from the Gunsight Notch, to the end of the rock, is an approximately 15 foot pillar leaning against the face, used to mark route locations. The last prominent landmark, which lies near the end of the cliff, is a highly visible notch on the skyline cradeling a relatively large pine tree.

Another area, which is not directly connected to the main body of the rock, lies opposite the South End. The free standing section, known as the Southern Pillar is recognized by the long narrow flakes and accompanying chimneys, on which the climbs are located.

Viewed from right to left, this section begins as a rotten wall which is primarily overhanging. To the left of this wall is an obvious steep chimney, left of which is the largest flake on the Southern Pillar, known as the Western Buttress. The next largest rib is the Eastern Buttress, located next to the last, piece of rock on the formation.

DESCENT ROUTES

When climbing at Seneca, getting up is only half the challenge. The very nature of the rock often creates difficulties in organizing descents, the uniquenesses of which are overlooked by a few parties every season. It isn't uncommon for several midnight rescues to take place every year in order to get people off who didn't budget their time properly. This is especially true on the South Peak where several rappels are essential in order to safely reach the ground. **ALMOST ALL RAPPEL ROUTES REQUIRE A 150 FOOT ROPE!**

SOUTH PEAK—The usual descent route, which generally follows **OLD MAN'S ROUTE**, begins at the pine tree found at the top of the last pitch. Rappel to the last wide ledge near the top of **LE GOURMET**. The obvious large dead pine on the south end of the ledge can be used next if two 150 foot ropes are tied together; this rappel brings one to the ground. If a single 150 foot rope is used, continue 20 feet north on the ledge until a medium sized Black Birch is reached; use the tree having a crook in its trunk. This puts one on the **LE GOURMET TRAVERSE** ledge, about 20 feet from the last tree. The last rappel will place the climber on

a sloping ramp, 10 feet off the ground. Scramble from there down to the trail.

The second most desirable rappel route follows the line of OLD LADIES' ROUTE. The first tree is a large pine, located directly above the last pitch of WINDY CORNER, on the extreme southern end of the Summit Ledge. Rappel, on the East Face, to the pine at the end of the second pitch of OLD LADIES' ROUTE. Rappel once more to gain the Broadway Chimney. Since both of the chimney trees were heavily damaged in a recent glaze storm, it is wise to rappel with caution. From the bottom of the chimney, walk south for approximately 15 feet, to a medium size tree which is used to reach the ground. Instead of making the last rappel, one can reach the Luncheon Ledge after downclimbing the Lower Broadway Chimney and continuing for 150 feet to the termination of the ledge. At this point, scramble up and enter a chimney which is formed by a detached flake. Walk through the Chimney to the Luncheon Ledge.

Another alternate descent route for more experienced climbers is to downclimb OLD LADIES'. However on some weekends there are parties using this route almost constantly and traffic jams will occur when people are climbing in both directions.

If the climber is in the vicinity of CONNS' EAST DIRECT START, it is possible to downclimb a series of vegetated ledges. This approach will end at the East Face Trail, just south of the Gunsight.

The least desirable descent route follows CONNS' WEST on the West Face. This route is started by first rappelling off the pine on THAIS' ESCAPE. From there, scramble down to the tree just above CONNS' WEST. It is wise to leave a runner on the tree in order to guarantee a good pulldown. The route is also undesirable because of all the scrambling which must be done in order to reach the ground.

COCKSCOMB—Descend the Cockscomb via the small pine on the south end. A runner should be left because of the difficult pulldown.

GUNSIGHT—The Gunsight Notch can be descended by walking north on the PINE TREE TRAVERSE ledge.

until a pine with an extreme crook in its base is encountered. A short pendulum starts this rappel which is almost exactly 75 feet. The ends of the rope should be tied together.

NORTH PEAK—Climbs that start on the North Peak are usually very easy to descend from: simply walk off and follow the trail to the road.

SOUTH END—All South End climbs eventually end on the Broadway Ledge or near the Luncheon Ledge. For those climbs ending on Broadway Ledge, see the above descent routes for the South Peak.

SOUTHERN PILLAR—Although some climbers rappel down the GREAT CHIMNEY route, it is not recommended. It may be best to simply walk off the back and descend on the eastern side of the Southern Pillar.

RATING SYSTEM

In order to save confusion and to promote a system that we strongly support, this guidebook will use only the Yosemite Decimal System in its ratings. The YDS is advantageous for several reasons: 1) it has sufficient range in order to finely differentiate between ability levels, 2) it is easy to understand, 3) it has become the widest used method in the United States.

As with all rating systems, this one does have its faults. The biggest problem involved with rating a climb, is in who does the rating. An inexperienced climber might overrate an easy climb, while a real "hard man" might dangerously underrate the same route. We have used ratings that seem to have become fairly established, and we have taken the liberty to correct the ratings of some climbs listed in other publications. This was done only after hearing excessive complaints and a few "horror" stories.

The standards of Seneca climbing are proceeding at a rapid rate and can be observed by noting the occurrence of numerous 5.9 and 5.10 routes in the last few years. Several aid climbs have fallen, and new lines are being added every year.

| | |
|------|---|
| 5.0 | — extremely easy |
| 5.1 | |
| 5.2 | — easy |
| 5.3 | |
| 5.4 | — difficult |
| 5.5 | |
| 5.6 | — very difficult |
| 5.7 | |
| 5.8 | — extremely difficult |
| 5.9 | |
| 5.10 | — approaching human limitations |
| 5.11 | unbelievable! ! (as of this writing there were no 5.11's on Seneca) |

THE SOUTHERN PILLAR

Several long and narrow flakes rise abruptly on the right-hand side of Roy Gap Road. These flakes and the chimneys between them have been neglected for many years, but recent climbing activity has added several fine routes. At present there are 12 climbs and 1 variation on the Southern Pillar, but there are plenty of opportunities for first ascents.

To reach the rocks, scramble up over boulders to the base of the desired climb. Please use care while scrambling to the base. This precaution should be used in order to prevent personal injury and erosion of the scree.

1. FEAR OF FLYING 5.7

I. START: On the far right wall, which is above the cave and to the right of the western buttress, there is a large arching, black and orange dihedral. Approximately 25 ft. to the right of this dihedral climb the chimney and right facing corner until below an overhang. Swing left and up, then step back into the cracks and climb to the top. (100 ft.)

II. Scramble down and to the right.

FIRST ASCENT: Rich Pleiss — Eugene Genay (April 1975)

2. THE VICTIM 5.7

I. START: Just to the left of the arching dihedral climb the face and crack until below a squeeze chimney. Continue through the chimney and up and right to the top. (100 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Rich Pleiss — Eugene Genay (April 1975)

3. BIZARRE GRANDIOSE 5.9

I. START: Just to the right of ROY GAP CHIMNEYS is a square cave. Climb the right wall of the cave to reach a flake. Climb the flake to gain the corner. Climb straight up the corner to a birch tree. (45 ft.)

II. Continue straight up the corner to the top. (75 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Greg Collum — Ron Augustino (April 1975)

4. ROY GAP CHIMNEYS 5.6

I. **START:** Climb the obvious chimney that lies to the right of the prominent western buttress and belay on the right wall. (100 ft.)

II. Continue climbing in the chimney to another belay on the right wall (80 ft.)

III. Climb the corner to a belay. (30 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

5. CLIMBIN' PUNISHMENT 5.9

I. **START:** Climb the first inside corner which lies 10 ft. to the left of ROY GAP CHIMNEYS. (45 ft.)

II. Climb straight up the corner, past a small overhang, to a point below the large overhang. Go around the corner to a belay. (80 ft.)

III. Climb the overhang to the "botanical garden" above. and belay at a tree. (30 ft.)

IV. Walk down the ramp to the crack in the face, and climb the crack to the top. (35 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Herb Laeger - Mike Goff

NOTE: The climb is 5.8 if the top pitch is avoided by taking the dirty crack on the right.

6. RIGHT TOPE 5.9

I. **START:** Climb the second inside corner which lies 20 ft. to the left of ROY GAP CHIMNEYS and 10 ft. to the left of CLIMBIN' PUNISHMENT. Climb up the corner for 40 ft. to the first overhang which is passed on the right face. Continue up to the next overhang, and layback around and up the flake to a ledge. Climb up to a larger ledge and belay. (115 ft.)

II. Climb the crack on the face to the top, and continue on up to the top of the pillar. (45 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Herb Laeger — Eve Uiga

7. RHODODENDRON CORNER 5.4

I. **START:** Climb GEBHARDT — DUFTY for 40 ft., then traverse to a narrow ascending ledge on the west face. Continue up a large detached flake and belay. (80 ft.)

II. Traverse diagonally 20 ft. to the right, then across until it is possible to drop 8 ft. to a good ledge at an inside corner. (40 ft.)

III. Climb the inside corner and through the overhang into another inside corner. Climb up to a belay tree. (75 ft.)

IV. Work up to the left toward a small buttress and follow it to the top.

FIRST ASCENT: John Christian — Arnold Wexler

8. GEBHARDT — DUFTY 5.7

I. **START:** From the foot of the prominent western buttress, climb straight up the face to a good belay. (135 ft.)

II. Continue up the buttress to the top and belay. (115 ft.)

III. Traverse across the top of GREAT CHIMNEY to gain a ledge on the right side of the neighboring buttress. Climb the face of the buttress to the top. (60 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Bob Gebhardt — Bob Duffy

NOTE: The climb may have some loose rock on the first two pitches.

8A. M.E. 5.7 From the top of the second pitch, traverse right and up the inside corner to the top.

FIRST ASCENT: Matt Hale - George Livingstone (1968)

9. GREAT CHIMNEY 5.1

I. **START:** Climb straight up to the chimney which lies to the left of the main buttress. Belay on the large buttress ledge. (150 ft.)

II. Continue up the chimney to the top. (110 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Mark Carpenter — Tal Bielefeldt (1965)

10. INITIATION 5.4

I. **START:** Scramble up to a ledge on the west side of the eastern buttress. Climb the face to a belay near the top of GREAT CHIMNEY. (135 ft.)

II. Scramble up and to the left to exit at the top.

FIRST ASCENT: John Markwell — John Christian (1971)

11. MRS. ROBINSON 5.6

I. **START:** Scramble up the left side of the eastern buttress until just below the chimney created by a

huge detached flake. Climb the crack, aiming for a large vegetated ledge. (40 ft.)

II. Move into the chimney, and climb up to a belay (100 ft.)

III. Climb up and to the left, aiming for a large block. From the top of the block, step left to a vegetated ledge. (100 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

12. CLEANING LADY 5.0

I. START: On the east face, climb an obvious corner to the left of a smooth face, and then up and to the right to the top. (135 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Herb Laeger — Eve Uiga

THE SOUTH END

This is the distinct face that rises to the left of Roy Gap Road and lies directly across from the Southern Pillar. The South End is approximately 25 ft. high with generally solid rock, some fantastic exposure, and several classic lines. The twelve major routes and eight variations, range in difficulty from 5.4 to 5.10, with several climbs also containing up to Aid 3.

Cross the stream on the left side of the face, and follow the obvious eroded trail uphill. Take the right hand trail straight over to the southwest corner and traverse along the base of the cliff.

13. ECSTASY 5.7

I. START: Climb the sloping southwest buttress by ascending the fluted cracks to a belay below the overhang. (90 ft.)

II. Step right for 5 ft. to gain a large crack. Climb the crack for a short distance until it is possible to traverse right onto the orange face. Wander up and right gradually approaching a small belay stance. (125 ft.)

III. Step right for 5 ft. to the foot of a crack. Climb the crack through the overhangs and up to the top (40 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

NOTE: Excellent chock placements make this exposure climb a little less committing.

13A. ECSTASY DIRECT FINISH 5.8 — Instead of completing the traverse on the second pitch, climb up towards the arching buttress. Climb the buttress to the top. (100 ft.)

14. SIXTH SENSE 5.9

I. START: At the left-hand side of the cave, locate the largest of the overhanging flakes. Climb just to the left of these overhangs and straight up the face to a small stance and a mostly hanging belay. (50 ft.)

II. Climb up and to the left, going around the small overhangs, and past the traverse of ECSTASY. Continue up to the base of the large arching inside corner. (100 ft.)

III. Climb the inside corner and overhangs to the top. (50 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Bob Williams — Barry Wallen (1966)

FIRST FREE ASCENT: Matt Hale — Ray Snead (1973)

14A. OCEAN CITY 5.8 — From the hanging belay of SIXTH SENSE, traverse up and to the right, over rotten rock, to the foot of a crack. Climb the crack to a belay on SIMPLE J. MALARKY. (85 ft.)

15. SATISFACTION #1 5.6 aid 3

I. START: Approximately 20 ft. inside the cave, on the left wall, is a small inside corner facing left. Climb the crack to the top of the cave. (35 ft.)

II. Traverse left along the crack system to the lip of the cave. Belay here to avoid rope drag. (20 ft.)

III. Climb mixed, aid and free to the intersection of SIMPLE J. MALARKY. (85 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Mark Carpenter — Barry Wallen (1965)

16. SATISFACTION #2 5.6 aid 1

I. START: Just inside the left wall of the cave, climb an obvious crack which is studded with fixed pins. Climb to the top of the cave. (60 ft.)

II. Continue aid climbing until the crack intersects with SATISFACTION #1. Finish on SIMPLE J. MALARKY. (45 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Barry Wallen — Mark Carpenter (1965)

NOTE: Some of the pins are of dubious quality.

17. SIMPLE J. MALARKY 5.6

I. START: Just right of the cave, climb the face up to a large ledge with a tree. (35 ft.)

II. Climb the prominent ramp to the left, past the break, and up to an overhanging inside corner facing right. (75 ft.)

III. Climb diagonally upwards and to the right, through the overhangs, and to the gully. Scramble up to the pine tree. (60 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Jim McCarthy — Arnold Wexler

NOTE: This climb is well protected on all leads and can easily be done with artificial chocks.

17A. SJM CAVE START 5.6 — Instead of starting directly on the face, begin at the back of the cave. Climb up and then traverse right onto the face. Continue up to the tree. (45 ft.)

17B. SJM WESTERNLY EXTENSION — On the second lead, continue past the belay ledge, and traverse around a bulge. Step left for 10 ft. to a good belay below a white overhanging corner. The next three variations start at this corner.

17C. SJM TRAVERSE FINISH 5.6 — From the end of 17B, climb the inside corner for 15 ft. to a line of horizontal weakness. Traverse right, under the overhang and around the corner, to easier holds. Scramble up to the pine tree. (70 ft.)

17D. SJM OVERHANG FINISH 5.7 — From the end of 17B, climb the inside corner to its top. Step right, then climb up and under the large roof. Climb through the roof at the notch, and scramble up to the pine tree. (30 ft.)

17E. SJM ECSTASY CONNECTION 5.6 — From the end of 17B climb down 15 ft. to the bottom ledge. Traverse down and to the left, and then up and to the left, to meet ECSTASY at the top of the second pitch (30 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Rowland Tabor

18. P—QUAD 5.7 aid 2

I. START: Climb the first pitch of SIMPLE J. MALARKY.

II. Climb the right slanting ramp to a large white overhanging dihedral, which is surmounted using aid. Proceed through the overhang to a ledge. (40 ft.)

III. Continue up the left face of the Totem Buttress to the top. (100 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: George Livingstone — Thais Weibel (1967)

19. WILD MEN ONLY 5.7 aid 3

I. START: Climb up and to the left, on the Totem Buttress, to gain a crack which is followed to the ledge below the overhang. (90 ft.)

II. At the left end of the ledge, use aid to surmount the overhang at its widest point. Continue straight up, past a block, and enter a squeeze chimney which is climbed to the base of an overhang. Traverse left, and then up to a ledge. (145 ft.)

III. While keeping to the right of the overhangs, continue up the center of the buttress to the top. (80 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Tom Evans — Chips Janger — Bob Lyon (1967)

20. TOTEM 5.10

I. Start: Climb the outside of the Totem Buttress to the ledge below the roof. (90 ft.)

II. Climb the wall and overhang, following a line of fixed pins, through the notch and up to a belay. (30 ft.)

III. Continue up the inside corner, until reaching a small overhang. Climb through the overhang, up a short wall, and up to a ledge. (145 ft.)

IV. Climb the corner to the top. (90 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Ivan Jirak

FIRST FREE ASCENT: John Stannard (1971)

NOTE: Chocks are used everywhere but the crux, which has many fixed pins already in place.

21. TONY'S NIGHTMARE 5.6

I. START: Climb the ramp and inside corner directly to the right of the Totem Buttress and below the huge "A" shaped chimney. Follow the corner past a small tree and a sloping ledge until a wall is encountered.

Climb the wall, and belay below the chockstone overhang. (65 ft.)

II. Climb past the chockstone, into the large chimney above. Climb 10 ft. up the chimney, then traverse right to easier holds. Scramble up to a belay. (50 ft.)

III. Exit on SKYLINE TRAVERSE.

FIRST ASCENT: Tony Soler — Ray Moore — Lorraine Snyder (1950)

NOTE: Beware of avian excretion!

21A. TONY'S NIGHTMARE DIRECT FINISH

Instead of traversing right, climb straight up the chimney to the crack above. Climb the crack to the top (95 ft.)

22. YE GODS AND LITTLE FISHES 5.8

I. START: About five feet right of the small cave, climb the obvious ramp and steep, left-facing inside corner. Climb to the top using the crack and thin face holds. (90 ft.)

II. Climb up the right facing inside corner, then up the orange and black flake. Continue up a slab until the climb intersects with SKYLINE TRAVERSE. (60 ft.)
FIRST ASCENT: Tom Evans — Chips Janger (1968)

22A. ORIGINAL Y.G.A.L.F. 5.8 — After climbing the inside corner for 10 ft., step left to a ramp and continue up parallel to the inside corner. Step back right into the corner, and climb to the top. (100 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Arnold Wexler — John Reed — Ed Mosburg (1953)

FIRST FREE ASCENT: unknown

NOTE: This somewhat indirect way of getting to the top was the original line.

23. L.S.D. 5.4

I. START: Climb the east buttress of the South End in a variety of ways to join with SKYLINE TRAVERSE at the end of the first pitch. There are many variations of this route and many different places to belay. All variations are rated 5.4 in severity. (180 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

24. THE SHAMBLER 5.8

I. START: Climb ECSTASY to the top of the second pitch.

II. Climb SJM — ECSTASY CONNECTION, to the end of the second pitch of SIMPLE J. MALARKY.

III. Traverse up and to the right, aiming for the black gully and a belay. (50 ft.)

IV. Cross the gully and traverse the Totem Buttress above the overhang. Continue right until it is possible to reach the belay ledge on TONY'S NIGHTMARE. (60 ft.)

V. Finish by doing TONY'S NIGHTMARE, and exit on SKYLINE TRAVERSE.

FIRST ASCENT: Ray Snead — Ben Mealey (Sept. 1974)

SOUTH PEAK — WEST FACE

This impressive face, which can be seen from Mouth of Seneca, is the large peak on the right. It begins approximately 200 ft. from Roy Gap Road and ends as a sloping ridge that terminates at the Gunsight. The face is characterized by inside corners and several very enormous overhangs. Some of Seneca's finest routes appear on this face, which affords spectacular exposure, solid rock, and relatively easy access. There are 37 major climbs and numerous variations that range in difficulty from 5.0 to 5.9.

Access is provided by the West Face Trail which comes close to every route. The trail is located on the left side of the South End, and can easily be recognized by the switchbacks and erosion problems. In order to reach THE BURN and ECSTASY JUNIOR, it is necessary to leave the trail at the point where the side trail cuts right toward the South End. To reach the other 35 climbs, the climber must continue up the trail until it levels out in a Hemlock grove. From there, scramble up a talus slope, over a short wall, and up the base of the rock. The trail should meet the cliff near LE GOURMET DIRECT START or the Face of a Thousand Pitons. To the right is the Cocksomb, Humphrey's Head, and the Luncheon Ledge. To the left the trail follows the base of the cliff until just below the Gunsight.

While hiking on the trail, please remember to use the switchbacks. These soil saving devices were built by climbers for the benefit of climbers. Shortcuts provide water with more direct channels with which to cut the slope of the hill, and thus badly erode the trail.

25. THE BURN 5.8

I. START: Between the southwest corner and the regular ECSTASY JUNIOR route, there is a shallow inside corner facing right. Climb the corner and face straight up to a ledge. (70 ft.)

II. Climb to the left and through the overhang reach several thin cracks which lie to the right of the larger crack. Climb the cracks aiming for a ledge with two trees (50 ft.)

III. Step right for 10 ft. then climb the shallow crack until it goes behind a flake. Climb up and intersect with ECSTASY JUNIOR near the top of its last pitch. (60 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

FIRST FREE ASCENT: Jeffery Burns — Richard Pleiss (1974)

NOTE: The Crux offers excellent nut protection.

26. ECSTASY JUNIOR 5.4

I. START: Approximately 150 ft. north of the southwest corner, scramble up and right to a ledge with a large pine tree.

II. From the tree, climb up and to the right in order to reach a prominent crack. Climb the crack to the vegetated ledge and belay. (60 ft.)

III. Climb the inside corner facing right, then ascend the crack over a small overhang and into a pseudocave. Continue past the cave and follow the crack to the top. (80 ft.)

IV. Scramble up to the Luncheon Ledge.

FIRST ASCENT: Chris Scoredos — Don Jacobs — Robert Britton

26A. ECSTASY JUNIOR VEGETABLE VARIATION 5.4 — Instead of climbing the inside corner to the top, traverse left and climb the vegetated crack. (100 ft.)

26B. ECSTASY JUNIOR TRAVERSE 5.5 — From the top of the first pitch of ECSTASY, traverse left across the West Face to join ECSTASY JUNIOR. (400 ft.)

26C. SOUTHWEST BUTTRESS VARIATION 5.5 — Climb straight up the crack that is found on the second

pitch of ECSTASY. Climb straight past the point where ECSTASY traverses, and continue to the ledge. (30 ft.)

27. GERT'S GRUNGY GULLY 5.0

I. START: From the pine tree at the bottom of the first pitch of ECSTASY JUNIOR, climb the easy vegetated gully on the left. After leaving the gully, scramble to the Luncheon Ledge.

FIRST ASCENT: Gert Christie

28. HUMPHREY 5.1

I. START: From the Luncheon Ledge, climb a variety of easy routes on Humphrey's Head. (45 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

NOTE: This area is used for top roping, farcing, eating, sleeping, or for anything else you can think of.

29. OLD LADIES' ROUTE 5.1

I. START: From the Luncheon Ledge, climb through the notch formed by Humphrey's Head and the Cockscomb and climb up and left on large holds. Follow the line of least resistance to a ledge which overlooks the East Face. There should be a first aid box there that is secured to a block by a bolt. (100 ft.)

II. Climb down and to the right aiming for the obvious ledge. Follow that ledge past the Cockscomb to a large pine tree directly below the Cockscomb Notch. (75 ft.)

III. Diagonal up and to the right until it is possible to enter a chimney which is formed by a sloping flake. Climb the chimney to the Summit Ledge. (100 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

NOTE: This is the easiest climb to the South Peak and because of this, it is also the scene of numerous fiascos on crowded weekends.

30. HEARTBURN 5.6

I. START: Climb the rotten crack and face which lies on the far right-hand side of the Cockscomb. (45 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: George Livingstone - Thais Weibel (1967)

31. COCKSCOMB PINE TREE 5.3

I. START: Climb the first pitch of OLD LADIES' ROUTE.

II. Climb through the huge chimney and out onto the west face of the Cockscomb. Angle up and to the left aiming for a large dead pine tree. (120 ft.)

III. Either climb to the top or finish on COCKSCOMB PINE TREE TRAVERSE.
FIRST ASCENT: unknown

31A. COCKSCOMB OVERHANG 5.4 — After leaving the chimney, traverse to the right and climb to the top of the obvious block. Traverse right until beneath the overhang. Climb through the overhang to the top of the Cockscomb. (55 ft.)
FIRST ASCENT: Paul Bradt — Sam Moore — Don Hubbard (1939)

31B. COCKSCOMB OVERHANG DIRECT 5.9 — From the first aid box at the top of the first pitch of OLD LADIES' ROUTE, climb the overhanging crack straight up to the intersection with COCKSCOMB OVERHANG. (100 ft.)
FIRST ASCENT: Mike Nicholson (1967)

32. BREAKNECK DIRECT 5.9

I. START: Climb the thin crack and face which lie 20 ft. to the right of BREAKNECK. (80 ft.)

II. Finish on COCKSCOMB PINE TREE TRAVERSE.
FIRST ASCENT: unknown
FIRST FREE ASCENT: Jeffrey Burns (1974)

NOTE: This thin line went "all nut" on the first free ascent. The climber should be forewarned: loose rock is a hazard.

33. BREAKNECK 5.4

I. START: Climb the face directly below the birch tree then traverse right 10 ft. to a position directly under the large flake. Continue straight up past the flake to a good ledge. (75 ft.)

II. Work right in order to gain a crack which is followed to the dead pine. (70 ft.)

III. Climb straight up, or exit on COCKSCOMB PINE TREE TRAVERSE.

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

NOTE: Some parties belay on a small stance directly below the flake because of very bad rope drag.

33A. JANKOWITZ-KAMM 5.4 — From a point about 10 ft. below the end of the first pitch, climb up and to the left, following a line of weakness. Continue up to the Cockscomb Notch. (55 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Jerry Jankowitz — George Kamm

34. COCKSCOMB PINE TREE TRAVERSE 5.3

I. START: From the dead pine tree, traverse left in to the Cockscomb Notch. (35 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

35. TRIPLE S 5.8

(SHIPLEY'S SHIVERING SHIMMY)

I. START: At the intersection of the Cockscomb and the Face of a Thousand Pitons is a very huge inside corner. Climb the corner straight up to the Cockscomb Notch. (100 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Jim Shipley — Joe Faint (May, 1960)

NOTE: This climb "sucks in" artificial chocks.

35A. TRIPLE S DIRECT FINISH — Traverse back into the crack system and climb the large unstable looking crack to the top. (55 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Chips Janger — Matt Hale (1968)

36. AGONY 5.9

I. START: Climb the twin cracks and chimney system that splits the center of the Face of a Thousand Pitons. Belay in the chimney. (90 ft.)

II. Climb straight up the chimney and cracks to the top. (85 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: George Livingstone — Tim Schenkle

FIRST FREE ASCENT: Matt Hale — Bob Lyon (1968)

NOTE: This climb was originally done by starting at the foot of TRIPLE S and traverse left. John Stannard first climbed the direct start in 1971.

37. MARSHALL'S MADNESS 5.9

I. START: Climb the vertical crack system that splits the Face of a Thousand Pitons on the far left. Climb straight up to a blocky belay stance. (35 ft.)

II. Continue up the crack system, bearing slightly to the right, then back left to a belay at the top. (125 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Tommy Marshall — John Christian
NOTE: This climb was originally done by traversing left across the entire face to the first belay stance. If this indirect approach is taken, the climb is rated 5.8.

38. COTTONMOUTH 5.9

I. **START:** Climb the small, arching, right-facing inside corner that lies just around the corner from the Face of a Thousand Pitons. After 15 ft., step left and to a mostly-hanging belay. (15 ft.)

II. Climb the face and dihedral, until 10 ft. from the point at which the dihedral arches again. Climb left around a corner to the face and a belay. (60 ft.)

III. Climb up until it is possible to regain the dihedral then right again to the Face of a Thousand Pitons. Climb the cracks to the top. (100 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

FIRST FREE ASCENT: Matt Hale — Tom Evans (1969)

NOTE: The problem of route finding may seem a bit imposing in this case.

39. HORRENDOUS TRAVERSE ? ? ? ? ?

I. **START:** From the top of the first pitch of TRIPLE S, traverse horizontally across the Face of a Thousand Pitons to a belay near the outside corner. (40 ft.)

II. Continue traversing across the West Face aiming for the vegetated ledge that ends the first pitch of LE GOURMET DIRECT START. (40 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: John Christian — Bob Hinshaw (1959)

NOTE: "Uncertainty" is the best way to describe this climb. There are at least 5.5 moves and the original party reported using aid at least once.

40. NECK PRESS 5.7

I. **START:** Approximately halfway between the Face of a Thousand Pitons and the south face of LE GOURMET DIRECT START, climb the small shallow inside corner, bypassing a block on its right. (60 ft.)

II. Step into the large inside corner and climb the crack to the belay. (60 ft.)

III. Climb the crack or the squeeze chimney to the right of the last pitch of OLD MAN'S ROUTE (60 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

41. LE GOURMET DIRECT START 5.4

I. **START:** About 25 ft. to the left of the Face of a Thousand Pitons is a prominent inside corner facing right. Climb the left side of the south facing wall into a shallow chimney; step right, out of the chimney then straight up to the large vegetated ledge. (100 ft.)

II. Scramble up the vegetated ledges to the right in order to reach the tall south facing wall. Climb the chimneys and slanting blocks to the top. (100 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

42. LE GOURMET 5.4

I. **START:** Climb the ramp and inside corner which lie just to the left of LE GOURMET DIRECT START. (70 ft.)

II. Traverse right, passing a flake, until it is possible to round the corner and reach the south facing wall. Climb up to the ledge. (100 ft.)

III. Finish as described in LE GOURMET DIRECT START.

FIRST ASCENT: Larry Griffin (1965)

43. LE GOURMET TRAVERSE 5.0

I. **START:** This ledge runs the full length of the main West Face. One end is located at the top of the first pitch of LE GOURMET, and the other ends near the beginning of OLD MAN'S ROUTE. This ledge intersects PRUNE and is the start of FRONT C. (250 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

44. FRONT C 5.5

I. **START:** From the LE GOURMET TRAVERSE ledge climb the obvious left facing inside corner to the spacious ledge above. (35 ft.)

II. Finish on OLD MAN'S ROUTE.

FIRST ASCENT: Sayre Rodman

45. PRUNE 5.5

I. **START:** Approximately 60 ft. to the left of the start of LE GOURMET DIRECT START, climb the broken face to a small ledge. Continue straight up the face, about 15 ft., to the left of a small inside corner facing right. Wander up the face for another 90 ft. and belay on the LE GOURMET TRAVERSE ledge. (100 ft.)

II. Following discontinuous cracks, climb straight up the face past a broken area to a small belay ledge. (55 ft.)

III. Continue straight up to a belay on OLD MAN'S ROUTE. (55 ft.)

IV. Climb the right facing inside corner, formed by a flake, which lies almost directly behind the belay. Step left and climb through a small overhang, then continue up to a belay. (50 ft.)

V. Ascend up the left-facing inside corner to a flake. Climb the flake in any number of ways to the top. (50 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

NOTE: Many parties seem to experience route finding difficulties that often cause an early retreat. Remember that the first three pitches involve no large inside corners, and that the fourth pitch uses the inside corner facing right. It appears that there are several unrecorded variations that have been done. On the first pitch it is possible to climb an inside corner to the right of the regular route that may be harder than 5.5. The beginning of pitch IV can be started by climbing the inside corner that lies 10 ft. to the left of the regular start, or by the 5.7 corner variation. This left-facing corner lies 5 ft. left of the above variation and directly right of CONNS' WEST route and is 70 ft. in length.

45A. MARKWELL VARIATION Climb the last pitch by using the jam crack in the north edge of the flake.

FIRST ASCENT: John Markwell — Bob Livingstone (1971)

45B. CHRISTIAN VARIATION Climb the last pitch by gaining the West Face and continuing through a small overhang to the top.

FIRST ASCENT: John Christian — Arnold Wexler (1971)

46. OLD MAN'S ROUTE 5.1

I. START: Directly around the corner from the start of THAIS, climb very easy ledges to the base of a large crack and black inside corner facing left. Climb the corner then traverse right along a series of ledges until progress is barred by another chimney. (150 ft.)

II. Climb the chimney and traverse an easy ledge until it ends at a vegetated platform. At the south end of this platform is a large dead pine leaning over the West Face. (160 ft.)

III. Climb up and to the right over blocky ledges to the base of a chimney and crack which is topped by a chockstone. Continue up the crack to the pine above and belay. (160 ft.)

IV. Walk through the chimney to join the Summit Ledge on the East Face.

FIRST ASCENT: Pim Karcher — Ken Karcher — Dick Gaylord — Bob Tieman (1949)

NOTE: At the beginning of the first pitch it is better to climb high if there is some confusion. It is conceivable to climb LE GOURMET TRAVERSE if an early mistake is made. This climb provides bombproof protection from both vegetation and chock placements.

47. TRAFFIC JAM 5.7

I. START: : This pitch starts in the chimney that is located at the top of the last pitch of OLD MAN'S ROUTE, and climbs the smooth south-facing wall. Using the crack system, and clean white face, move up past the overhang, and then on up to the top. (40 ft.)

II. Traverse on the East Face until it is safe to down-climb to the summit Ledge.

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

48. CRITTER CRACK 5.7

I. START: Climb the jam crack just to the right of the last pitch of LE GOURMET. (50 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Dave Carman — Mike Murphy — John Markwell (1972)

49. CRISPY CRITTER 5.7

I. START: Climb the thin crack 15 ft. to the right of the right of the last pitch of LE GOURMET. (50 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Gary Aitken — Charlie Fowler

49A. POOR MAN'S CRITTER 5.6 — Climb CRISPY CRITTER for 8 ft. then step left to another crack which is followed to the top. (55 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Gary Aitken — Steve Piccolo

50. CONN'S WEST 5.2

I. START: Climb OLD MAN'S ROUTE until just below a prominent crack system to the right of the WESTPOLE overhang.

II. Climb the crack to a good ledge. (60 ft.)

III. Climb up and to the right through a gully filled with rock. (60 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: N. C. Hartz — Henry Schluter — Earl Richardson (1944)

50A. CONNS' WEST DIRECT FINISH 5.4

From the top of pitch II, climb the inside corner to the left.

FIRST ASCENT: Arnold Wexler

51. BY PASS 5.7

I. START: Climb the crack pitch of CONNS' WEST for approximately 25 ft., then diagonal up and to the left until level with the first WESTPOLE overhang. Climb the wall to a tree and ledge at the intersection of THAIS' ESCAPE. (100 ft.)

II. To the left of the edge, climb the second crack to a sloping ramp. Traverse right 10 ft. to join WESTPOLE midway through the fourth pitch.

FIRST ASCENT: John Markwell — John Christian — Arnold Wexler (1972)

52. CLARICES' CLIMB 5.7 aid 2

I. START: Climb the vegetated squeeze chimney that merges with the righthand corner of the WESTPOLE overhang. (70 ft.)

II. Climb up to the roof and traverse across the right wall with aid to a tree. (30 ft.)

III. Diagonal up and to the left to join WESTPOLE above the overhang. (25 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: A. Clarke — D. Kepler (1972)

53. WEST POLE 5.6

I. START: At the extreme left end of the main West Face, climb up the first pitch of OLD MAN'S ROUTE until it is possible to move left onto a broad ledge directly under the huge overhangs.

II. Climb the face and cracks until just below the roof (65 ft.)

III. Climb directly through the double overhangs to a small ledge. Continue up and to the right, aiming for a large ledge with a good tree. (65 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: George Bogel — Jim Payznski (1970)

FIRST FREE ASCENT: Tim Beaman — Larry Myer (1971)

53A. WEST POLE DIRECT FINISH — Climb the crack and corner which lies to the left of the belay tree on the last pitch. (50 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: John Markwell

53B. GRANDIOSE 5.6 — From a point which is approximately 25 ft. below the first overhang, traverse right and belay in the CLARICES CLIMB chimney. (15 ft.)

II. Continue right and belay from CONNS' WEST. (20 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Joe Faint — Jim Shipley

54. THAIS 5.5

I. START: To the left of the main West Face is a tremendous inside corner facing left. The north facing wall is the Thais Face. Near the outside corner of the Thais Face, climb the buttress, aiming for a ledge beneath the black chimney. (75 ft.)

II. Climb through the chimney and onto the face. Continue up and slightly to the left, belaying at a ledge which lies to the left of a crack. (110 ft.)

III. Diagonal up and to the right, aiming for a sloping ledge on the West Face (intersection with THAIS' ESCAPE). (60 ft.)

IV. Traverse back onto the buttress and angle up and to the left, aiming for a good ledge on the West Face. (75 ft.)

V. Continue along the ledge then up to the summit. (60 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: John Christian — Bob Hinshaw (1954)

55. THAIS DIRECT 5.6

START: This climb ascends the extremely long inside corner formed by the intersection of the West Face and Thais Face. Work straight up the corner to a blocky belay ledge which lies at the right-hand side of the huge roof. (110 ft.)

II. Continue up the slightly overhanging crack to a ledge. From the ledge, climb up and to the left for 20 ft. to a small notch with a tree. (110 ft.)
FIRST ASCENT: unknown

55A. THAIS' ESCAPE 5.2 — From the end of the first pitch of THAIS DIRECT, traverse up and right across Thais Face to a notch on the outside corner of the buttress. Climb the ramp to easier ground and scramble to the summit. (40 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: John Christian — Jim Shipley (1956)
NOTE: Until recently there was another climb on Thais Face. This route, THE BUTTRESS FINISH, which was put up by Fritz Weisner was destroyed by a massive rockfall in the winter of 1972.

56. DRESSING ROOM 5.1 aid 1

I. **START:** At the point where the Summit Ledge ends at the final scramble, traverse left until just below the overhang. Using aid, climb through the overhang to the summit. (30 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

57. PLEASANT OVERHANGS 5.7

I. **START:** Scramble up a series of large ledges to a tree which lies about 100 ft. to the left of THAIS DIRECT. From the tree, traverse right to gain a squeeze chimney that has a chockstone in it. Climb the chimney and overhanging inside corners in order to reach the belay ledge at the right-hand side of the roof. This belay is also used on THAIS DIRECT. (110 ft.)

II. Traverse diagonally up and to the left for about 60 ft. until just below the corner. Pull the overhang and proceed up to a very small and very exposed belay stance. (100 ft.)

III. Follow the inside corner up to a tree near the summit. (50 ft.)

IV. Climb an easy lead to the summit. (35 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Jim Shipley

57A. PLEASANT OVERHANGS DIRECT START
 This climb ascends the distinct flake that meets PLEASANT OVERHANGS, midway through the second pitch. The first ascent party reported at least one 5.8 move and some aid. There is a bolt placed below the roof.
FIRST ASCENT: Tom Evans (1966)

58. GREENWALL 5.6

I. **START:** To the left of the beautiful green wall, and directly below the right side of the Gunsight, are two distinctive inside corners. Climb the innermost corner and belay on the large ledge which is directly below the green wall. (60 ft.)

II. Scramble up to the base of the giant flake and belay. (30 ft.)

III. Climb straight up the corner past two overhangs to a belay at a good tree. (100 ft.)

IV. Continue to the summit. (35 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: John Christian — Jim Shipley — Alan Talbert (1956)

NOTE: The large size of the crack makes the lower overhang crux a bit difficult to protect, but the rest of the climb is secure.

59. TOMATO 5.7

I. **START:** Using the GREENWALL corner or the flake to the left, ascend to the wide ledge and belay off of one of the two pines. (50 ft.)

II. Step right to the corner and then climb up to the intersection with GUNSIGHT TO SOUTH PEAK. (80 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Tom Evans — Matt Hale (1969)

60. GUNSIGHT TO SOUTH PEAK 5.3

I. **START:** From the base of the Gendarme, climb straight up the narrow ridge until it is possible to traverse right onto the West Face. Follow holds to the base of a short chimney which is climbed to the top. (100 ft.)

II. Walk, crawl, climb, or slither across the summit ridge to the register.

FIRST ASCENT: Paul Bradt — Don Hubbard — Sam Moore (1939)

NOTE: On certain days this climb can be dangerous due to high winds. (See: South Peak — East Face. GUNSIGHT TO SOUTH PEAK DIRECT)

61. GENDARME DIRECT 5.8

I. **START:** On the west face of the Gendarme, climb a

flake up and to the right. Mount a shoulder and continue to the top. (35 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Gordon Graham (1974)

NOTE: This short lead is also short on protection.

62. BANANA 5.6

I. START: Climb the only vertical flake on the first headwall directly below the Gunsight. (30 ft.)

II. Scramble up vegetated ledges to the top.

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

NORTH PEAK — WEST FACE

This is the rock that lies to the left of the Gunsight as seen from Mouth of Seneca. The ominous face contains only 10 climbs, of which, only 3 are harder than 5.4. There are unclimbed lines on this face but they are sure to be extremely difficult.

Access to the area can be made by simply continuing on the West Face Trail past the Gunsight. The greatest concentration of climbs is around the truly enormous chimney No Dally Alley. To reach No Dally Alley, begin on WEST FACE TO GUNSIGHT NOTCH then scramble up and to the left to reach the southern entrance to the chimney.

63. WEST FACE TO GUNSIGHT NOTCH 5.3

I. START: Near the far left-hand side of the Gunsight Notch, the headwall dips to only 10 ft. high. Climb at this point, then traverse right up a series of ledges to the base of the Gendarme.

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

64. PINE TREE TRAVERSE 5.0

I. START: From the Gunsight Notch, follow a series of dirty vegetated ledges along the West Face to the North Peak.

FIRST ASCENT: Princess Snowbird?

65. MADMEN ONLY 5.10

I. START: At a point which is approximately 45 ft. to the left of the Gunsight Notch, climb up to a small chimney. Climb the chimney and flake to a belay at the ledge and then up to the foot of a crack. Climb the

crack to a good ledge. From the ledge, traverse right, across the blank wall to gain another crack which is followed to the summit.

FIRST ASCENT: Jim Shipley — Joe Faint

FIRST FREE ASCENT: George Livingstone — Roger Craig (1966)

66. MALEVOLENCE 5.10

I. START: Climb the crack and face approximately 60 ft. to the left of MADMEN ONLY and just to the right of the boulder. Enter the inside corner facing right and climb up for 45 ft. to the end of the crack. Traverse right and climb the left facing corner and crack straight to the top. (140 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Hunt Prother — Charlie Rollins (Oct. 1974)

NOTE: Overhanging, strenuous, and barely adequate protection.

67. MISTAKEN IDENTITY 5.4

I. START: From the extreme south end of No Dally Alley, climb up and to the right on a sloping ramp. Enter the inside corner above, which is climbed to its top. Traverse to the left to gain a large ledge with a tree. This tree is directly above No Dally Alley. (140 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

68. KAUFFMAN'S RIB 5.4

I. START: Climb the top of the outside flake that forms No Dally Alley. Ascend the ridge of the huge flake to its top, then step across the chimney using a natural chockstone bridge. (140 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Andy Kauffman (1955)

NOTE: Because of the heavy vegetation across from the chockstone, it may be easier to jump the chimney at another point.

69. ONE STOP 5.3

I. START: This climb starts 60 ft. inside the huge chimney. Climb the chimney and flake to a belay at the top of the flake. (75 ft.)

II. Traverse back into the chimney and continue to the top. (20 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

70. NO DALLY ALLEY 5.2

I. START: This climb starts at a pile of breakdown near the small northern entrance to the chimney. Follow the wall of the main rock and climb up and to the right aiming for a crack. Climb the crack to the top of the flake. (65 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: John Christian — Ed Worrell — B. Hemphill (1954)

71. CIRCUMFLEX 5.8

I. START: This climb ascends the large face on the outside of the No Dally Alley flake at the extreme left-hand side of the North Peak. From the top of 10 ft. high boulder, climb the line of weakness which runs vertically up the white wall. Pull the huge overhang just to the right of the apex and continue to belay at the corner above. (80 ft.)

II. Climb the corner and the face to the top. (40 ft.)
FIRST FREE ASCENT: Herb Laeger (1974)

NOTE: This climb, which requires some innovative protection, was first done toproped by Dennis Grabner and Neil Arsensault.

72. UP FRONT 5.3

I. START: At a point approximately 50 ft. to the right of the north entrance of No Dally Alley, climb the broken face by zig-zagging to a belay. (70 ft.)

II. Step right for 5 ft. on the ledge and climb the crack to the left of the inside corner. (20 ft.)

III. After a short scramble, climb the ridge to the chockstone bridge and step across.

FIRST ASCENT: June Lehman — Linda Harris (1974)

SOUTH PEAK — EAST FACE

The East Face of the South Peak offers much variety for the climber. The routes range in difficulty from 5.0 to 5.10 and provide different types of climbs of varying interests. The face can be divided into three separate climbing areas, which are bordered by a natural landmark, the Broadway Ledge. There are three

SOUTH PEAK — EAST FACE

southeast corner climbs which end on the Broadway Ledge, and there are the main face climbs which begin on Broadway Ledge. The only major exceptions are the climbs which begin on OLD LADIES' ROUTE.

The southeast corner can be reached by taking the East Face Trail from Roy Gap Road. The trail hugs the base of the cliffs and goes all the way to the North Peak. Only 3 of the climbs actually begin at ground level, the rest being variations of SKYLINE TRAVERSE.

Except for the OLD LADIES' ROUTE starts, (see: South Peak — West Face), almost all of the other climbs begin from the Broadway Ledge. The ledge itself extends from the South End to the Gunsight notch. It is mostly 4th class with two 5.0 sections, one at the Upper Broadway Chimney and one at EAST FACE TO GUNSIGHT NOTCH. There are 4 basic ways to reach this important feature.

1. Walk through the chimney which lies to the right of the Luncheon Ledge on the West Face. Scramble up, then down to the top of the South End. The Broadway Ledge begins around the corner on the East Face.
2. From the end of the second pitch of OLD LADIES' ROUTE, rappel to Broadway Ledge.
3. Climb any of the southeast corner routes (WORRELL'S THICKEST, 5.1 is the easiest)
4. Walk up the East Face Trail until just to the left of the Gunsight. Scramble up a series of ledges to meet Broadway Ledge near CONNS' EAST DIRECT START.

73. SKYLINE TRAVERSE 5.3

I. START: The climb begins at a chimney and crack 25 ft. to the right of the southeast corner of the East Face. Climb the crack and chimney, to a small ledge, then move right 3 ft. Climb the corner then move back left to the belay ledge. Clip into fixed pins and belay. (110 ft.)

II. Traverse left across the short exposed face to reach a large sloping chimney. Climb the chimney, move left, and belay at a tree. (75 ft.)

III. Continue straight up to the Broadway Ledge. (50 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Paul Bradt — Don Hubbard — Sam Moore (1939)

NOTE: This was the first recorded ascent of Seneca Rocks, although there is evidence that others made it to the South Peak before this party.

74. HERO PENDULUM 5.5

I. START: From the top of the first pitch of SKYLINE TRAVERSE, traverse right, around a block, and follow the horizontal line of weakness to an intersection with WORRELLS THICKET. Drop 6 ft. and follow the ledge to a pine.

FIRST ASCENT: David Kepler — George Pinkham

NOTE: The first ascent party reported a definite protection shortage.

75. THE TOMATO THAT ATE CLEVELAND 5.7

I. START: Approximately 20 ft. to the right of the start of SKYLINE TRAVERSE, climb the block, then step left to the base of a crack. Climb the crack and belay at the base of DUFTY'S POPOFF. (45 ft.)

II. Climb DUFTY'S POPOFF, then traverse right at the top to a belay. (100 ft.)

III. Climb the overhanging corner to the top. (40 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: A. Clarke — D. Kepler — D. Mong (1973)

76. KAUFFMAN — CARDON 5.2

I. START: From the belay at the top of the first pitch of SKYLINE TRAVERSE move right for 30 ft. to a tree. (30 ft.)

II. Climb diagonally up and to the right, across a gully and onto the buttress. Climb the buttress to a belay tree. (60 ft.)

III. Traverse right on the ledge for 60 ft. then move up to Broadway.

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

77. DUFTY'S POPOFF 5.6

I. START: From the end of the first pitch of KAUFFMAN — CARDON, climb the long orange inside corner to the overhang. Step right, climb through the overhang, and diagonal left to the top. (100 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Art Gran — Bob Dufty (1959)

78. BEE STING 5.4

I. START: From the end of the first pitch of KAUFFMAN — CARDON, just before the easy ledges are reached, climb the face using cracks. Climb left and up to the top. (65 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: George Livingstone — Arnold Wexler — Andy Kauffman (1966)

79. CARDON'S RIB 5.3

I. START: From the end of the second pitch of KAUFFMAN — CARDON, step right and then climb the face on the left edge. (50 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Phil Cardon — John Christian (1970)

80. WORRELL'S THICKET 5.1

I. START: Approximately 100 ft. from the southeast corner is a dirty ramp next to a very large pine tree. Climb the ramp for 200 ft. until it merges with Broadway Ledge. (200 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Ed Worrell — Blondie Worrell

81. WIND UP 5.5

I. START: At the extreme left-hand side of Broadway, climb a small layback flake to a ledge. From the ledge, climb the left-hand crack to the top. (75 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Buddy Guthrie — Tom Whitesol (1974)

82. REVERSE C 5.1

I. START: From the Broadway, climb a shallow rotten flake, to the right of WIND UP and 20 ft. from the left side of Humphrey's Head. Continue up a corner facing right. (90 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Bob Gebhardt - Cliff Alexander

83. A CHRISTIAN DELIGHT 5.4

I. START: Near the southern end of the Broadway Ledge, directly below Humphrey's Head climb the steep white wall to a small stance below a slightly overhanging block. Pass to the left of a laurel bush, then up and right. Climb the flake to the notch between Humphrey's and the Cockcomb's (140 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: John Christian (1970)

84. UP AND COMING 5.4

I. START: Starting from the Broadway, at a point just below the righthand edge of Humphrey's Head, climb the inside corner facing left. Continue up to the first aid box at the end of the first pitch of OLD LADIES' ROUTE. (140 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: John Lehman — John Christian — Sally Greenwood (1970)

85. RICHARD'S MILLHOUSE 5.5

I. START: From the mound at the bottom of the Upper Broadway Chimney, climb the crack to a ledge. Continue up and left and intersect OLD LADIES' ROUTE near the left-hand side of the Cockscomb. (60 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Dan Taylor — Todd Eastman (1974)

86. BROADWAY TO OLD LADIES' 5.5

I. START: From the top of the Upper Broadway Chimney, climb the face and crack just to the left of the broken area. Step left to avoid the broken area, and continue to a ledge. Scramble up to OLD LADIES' ROUTE. (30 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

NOTE: Rockfall has removed some protection and increased the grade.

87. DISCONTENT 5.4

I. START: From the end of the second pitch of OLD LADIES' ROUTE, climb up and left following a large orange crack through an overhang to the top of the Cockscomb. (85 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Richard Pleiss — Bill Webster (April, 1974)

87A. EXPLETIVE DELETED 5.8 — Climb DISCONTENT for 5 ft. then angle right, up an overhanging orange flake to the top. (85 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Dan Taylor — Todd Eastman (1974)

88. WINDY CORNER 5.4

I. START: From the end of the second pitch of OLD LADIES' ROUTE, climb directly up into the Cockscomb Notch and belay. (30 ft.)

II. Climb the left-facing corner and slight overhang to the Summit Ledge. (20 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

NOTE: WINDY CORNER deserves its name.

89. JANE'S ROUTE 5.2

I. START: From the end of the second pitch of OLD LADIES' ROUTE, climb the inside corner which lies directly to the right of WINDY CORNER. (90 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Jane Showacre

90. OLD LADIES EXCITEMENT 5.4

I. START: From the end of the second pitch of OLD LADIES' ROUTE, traverse right onto the East Face until it is possible to climb straight up to the top. (90 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

91. AMAZING GRACE 5.7

I. START: Approximately 15 ft. from the top of OLD LADIES' EXCITEMENT, traverse right and up until it is possible to reach the Soler flake. (120 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Larry Conrad — Mike Schmidt (1974)

92. DINAH MOE — HUMM 5.9

I. START: Just to the right of the Upper Broadway Chimney, climb a crack on the outer edge of the fractured inside corner facing left. When the corner arches left, step to a flake which is followed to OLD LADIES' ROUTE. (50 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: L. Buddy Guthrie (1975)

93. DIRTY OLD MAN 5.5

I. START: Climb the left facing flake which lies 30 ft. to the right of the Upper Broadway Chimney. From the flake, step right to a ledge system, then climb up and to the right to a belay tree. (60 ft.)

II. Continue up to meet OLD LADIES' EXCITEMENT. FIRST ASCENT: Charlie Fowler — Jon Harris — Dave Bushman (circa. 1973)

94. FROSTED FLAKE 5.8

I. START: Climb the tight, lichen covered, right-facing flake which lies 60 ft. to the left of the Soler

flake. Continue through the overhang to a tree belay. (45 ft.)

II. From the belay, climb up and to the right, to an inside corner. Climb the corner for 10 ft., then step left onto the face. Continue up a series of bulges to the top. (75 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Jim Callahan — Linda Connelly — Brock Baker (1974)

NOTE: Both pitches are lead clean, with some interesting applications of natural protection on the second pitch.

95. SOLER ROUTE 5.7

I. START: Climb the left side of the incredibly tall and steep flake that splits the East Face below the South Peak summit. (120 ft.)

II. From the top of the flake, climb an overhanging crack until it is possible to diagonal up and to the left toward a small sloping ledge. From the ledge, climb the cracks straight to the summit. (130 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Tony Soler — Ray Moore (1951)

95A. SOLER ESCAPE 5.5 — From the top of the first pitch, downclimb slightly until it is possible to continue through an orange section and an overhang to reach the summit ledge.

96. TALBERT PICKLEFISH 5.7

I. START: Climb the first pitch of SOLER ROUTE.
II. Downclimb the corner until it is possible to move 8 ft. to the left to reach the base of a prominent crack. Climb the crack straight to the top, finishing on a ledge between two pines. (90 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Dennis Grabnegger — Dick Muller (1973)

97. CONNS' EAST 5.4

I. START: Climb the first flake to the right of SOLER ROUTE. Ascend the flake and move right until the top is reached. Traverse right along the top of the flake for 10 ft. to a slightly overhanging wall which has a vertical crack running through it. (125 ft.)

II. Traverse right onto a thin face, then diagonal up and to the right to easier holds. Continue up to a good ledge with a tree for belaying. (50 ft.)

III. Traverse right to an arching chimney formed by a flake. Climb the chimney to the base of a second shorter chimney. Climb past the boulder chockstone and up to a bolt near the north end. (100 ft.)

IV. Climb the top of the ridge to the Summit register
FIRST ASCENT: Pat Milligan — George Livingstone (1971)

98. CASTOR 5.9

I. START: From the Soler flake, walk north along the Broadway Ledge until directly under the diamond-shaped block of CONNS' EAST DIRECT START. Approximately 35 ft. to the left of this block, there are two crack systems splitting the face. Climb the crack system on the left to the top of the sloping flake. Continue up to the top on the flake and belay. (80 ft.)

II. Step right a few feet, then climb straight through the overhang and continue to the summit. (90 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Pat Milligan — George Livingstone (1971)

99. POLLUX 5.9

I. START: Climb the crack system which lies directly to the right of CASTOR. From the top of the crack, finish the flake to its end (80 ft.)

II. From the belay, start up and then right until it is possible to gain a small inside corner facing right. Climb the corner to the top. (90 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Pat Milligan — George Livingstone (1971)

NOTE: The severity is 5.9 on both pitches with a relative thinness of protection on the second pitch.

100. CONNS' EAST DIRECT START 5.6

I. START: Near the north end of the Broadway Ledge, there is a diamond block about 15 ft. above a very small inside corner facing right. Climb the face and enter the crack above the block. Follow the crack up and then to the left to a good ledge. (40 ft.)

II. Climb the crack and corner that is on the right-hand side of the ledge in order to reach a vertical crack. Climb the flake up and to the right, then ascend a short wall to reach the good ledge and pine tree. (60 ft.)

SOUTH PEAK — EAST FACE

FIRST ASCENT: Arnold Wexler (1954)

NOTE: Is the first 15 ft. really only 5.6?

100A. CONNS' EAST RAMP 5.4 — From the top of the first pitch of CONNS' EAST DIRECT START, climb the sloping flake to the left, until it merges with the regular CONNS' EAST route.

101. ORANGEAID 5.9

I. START: From the top of the second pitch of CONNS' EAST, traverse left to reach the vertical orange cracks. Climb the cracks and continue straight through the overhang to the summit. (125 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Mark Carpenter — Barry Wallen (1966)

FIRST FREE ASCENT: John Stannard (1971)

NOTE: The protection is questionable.

102. ALCOA PRESENTS 5.8

I. START: From the belay which ends the second pitch of CONNS' EAST, climb the crack which is directly behind the tree. Traverse left at the overhang for 5 ft. to the base of a shallow inside corner facing right. Climb the face and corner to the top. (100 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Joe Faint — Mike Nicholson

FIRST FREE ASCENT: Tom Evans — Bob Lyons — Bob Williams (1968)

NOTE: Don't stand on the pin!

103. HIGH TEST 5.9

I. START: Approximately 35 ft. right of CONNS' EAST DIRECT START, climb the thin cracks to a sickle-shaped ledge. From the top of the ledge traverse right to a crack system which is followed to the top. (145 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Herb Laeger — Eve Uiga (1974)

104. NIP AND TUCK 5.10

I. START: Near the north end of the Broadway Ledge is a large block. Begin at the left end of the block by climbing the thin cracks up and to the left. Continue through the overhang and jam crack above to reach the summit. (140 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Herb Laeger — Eve Uiga (1974)

NORTH PEAK — EAST FACE

FIRST FREE ASCENT: Bob Richardson — Rich Perch Herb Laeger (1974)

NOTE: Eve Uiga freed the climb on the second. The route was lead "all nut" even though the protection is a bit thin.

105. EAST FACE TO GUNSIGHT NOTCH 5.0

I. START: From the north end of the Broadway Ledge, climb up to the base of the Gendarme.

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

106. GUNSIGHT NOTCH EAST 5.2

I. START: From the East Face Trail, climb directly up the base of the Gendarme. (60 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Paul Bradt — Sam Moore — Don Hubbard (1939)

107. GUNSIGHT TO SOUTH PEAK DIRECT 5.5

I. START: From the base of the Gendarme, climb the ridge until it is possible to traverse left onto the East Face. Climb several small flakes up the side of the large overhang (the Gryphon's Beak), then traverse back to the ridge. Climb to the top and belay. (100 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Chris Scordoos

108. THE GENDARME 5.4

I. START: Climb the sloping east face of the Gendarme from right to left. Step up on the blocky ledge and go to the top. Standup! (45 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Paul Bradt — Sam Moore — Don Hubbard (1940)

NOTE: The climb is protected entirely by fixed pins and the rappel is off two bolts. The summit also has a register which is popular.

NORTH PEAK — EAST FACE

This section lies high on the hill and is more remote than the rest of the climbing areas. The cliffs are shorter, more vegetated, and more broken, thus making it a "wild haven" on certain crowded days. Several of the lines are really quite nice and well worth the hike. There is the added incentive of several unclimbed lines that can be done in a relatively unspoiled area. The recorded routes range in difficulty from 5.0 to 5.9.

NORTH PEAK — EAST FACE

Access to the face is by the East Face Trail, which is taken past the Gunsight and along the base. It is also possible to take any of the tourist trails to the North Peak, then hike down the base of the cliff.

109. GUNSIGHT TO NORTH PEAK 5.0

I. START: This climb begins at the northeastern end of the Gunsight Notch, and winds its way across the North Peak ridge. It is long and can be split into as many pitches as the climber wishes. Climb the wide chimney at the northeast corner of the Gunsight to a good ledge which is followed to the inside corner leading right. Ascend the corner to the top of the ridge, then traverse the ridge to a chimney. Pass through the chimney and follow the ridge to the North Summit. (400 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Chuck Sproull — Sallie Jordan — Peter Gardiner (1969)

110. EYORS TAIL 5.3

I. START: Just below the right-hand edge of the Gunsight, climb up and to the right on ledges to an inside corner. Climb the corner to a small ledge. (90 ft.)
II. Continue up the corner and face to a good ledge which is the intersection with GUNSIGHT TO NORTH PEAK.

FIRST ASCENT: unknown

111. ROUX 5.2

I. START: Just to the right of the Gunsight, climb a series of ledges and a flake up and to the right, aiming for a large pine tree. (60 ft.)

II. Continue up and to the right to the top. (60 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Matland Sharpe — Linda Harris (1971)

111A. BEAR'S DELIGHT 5.5 — From the pine at the top of the first pitch, step left to the base of an inside corner which is climbed to an intersection with GUNSIGHT TO NORTH PEAK. (30 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: John Christian — W. Putnam (1971)

112. SALLY'S PERIL 5.6

I. START: Approximately 100 ft. from the Gunsight, climb a face and ledge to the base of a short inside

NORTH PEAK — EAST FACE

corner. Climb the corner to a wide comfortable ledge above. (50 ft.)

II. Scramble right, along the ledge to reach a prominent flake. (75 ft.)

III. Climb the chimney to the top. (50 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Chuck Sproull — Sally Jordan — Peter Gardiner (1971)

113. THE FINGER STINGER 5.8

I. START: Approximately 25 ft. north of SALLY'S PERIL are two inconspicuous cracks. THE FINGER STINGER starts at the left-facing corner and crack. Climb the corner to its top, then traverse right until just below the overhang. Climb up and then left to a corner which leads to a tree. (65 ft.)

II. Traverse left 20 ft. to a large inside corner facing right. Climb the corner to the top. (30 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Herb Laeger — Eve Uiga (1974) #3

114. UNRELENTING VERTICALITY 5.9

I. START: Approximately 30 ft. to the right of SALLY'S PERIL and 5 ft. right of THE FINGER STINGER, is a crack slanting up and right. Climb the crack aiming for several small bushes. (65 ft.)

II. Move 20 ft. to the right and climb the crack which has a tree growing out of it. Continue following the crack and end with an easy hand traverse to the left. (100 ft.)

FIRST ASCENT: Herb Laeger — Eve Uiga — Charley Collins (1974)

NOTE: The first pitch is hard and the protection is poor.

115. WOLERY 5.6

I. START: About halfway between the Gunsight and the termination of the cliff, there is an unmistakable block leaning against the face. Climb the left-hand side of the block to its top. (25 ft.)

II. From the top of the block, climb a groove up and left until it is possible to traverse right to gain the corner. Climb the corner to the top of the flake and belay. (50 ft.)

NORTH PEAK — EAST FACE

III. Step right then climb the inside corner to merge with GUNSIGHT TO NORTH PEAK. (30 ft.)
 FIRST ASCENT: John Christian — W. Putnam (1971)

116. CHRISTOPHER ROBIN 5.2

I. START: Approximately 70 ft. to the right of the leaning block of WOLERY, scramble up to a ledge and pine tree. Step left to gain a crack which is followed through the overhang to the top. (55 ft.)
 FIRST ASCENT: unknown

117. EXPOTITION 5.2

I. START: About 70 ft. right of the leaning block, climb the shallow gully up and to the right. (30 ft.)
 II. Climb the rotten inside corner facing left, then step right 5 ft. to an obvious crack. Climb the crack to the top. (45 ft.)
 III. Climb straight up to the summit ridge. (15 ft.)
 FIRST ASCENT: Maitland Sharpe — Linda Harris (1971)

117A. QUESTION MARK 5.3 — At the top of the gully, step left to a crack. Climb the crack then traverse right until it is possible to climb straight up into the "V" notch.
 FIRST ASCENT: Tom Stenger — Rick Varner

118. LONG LEGGEDY BEASTIES 5.4

I. START: Climb straight up the face, until on a ledge 10 ft. to the left of the "V" notch. Walk into the notch. (40 ft.)
 FIRST ASCENT: Maitland Sharpe — Linda Harris (1971)

119. POOH'S CORNER 5.1

I. START: Climb the ledges and inside corner to the right of the "V" notch. Climb through the notch and belay. (30 ft.)
 FIRST FREE ASCENT: unknown

120. OH POOH 5.1

I. START: To the right of the "V" notch, climb straight up to the smaller notch and belay. (30 ft.)
 FIRST ASCENT: unknown

NORTH PEAK — EAST FACE

121. HEFFALUMP TRAP 5.3

I. START: From the point where the cliff ends, walk to the left for 80 ft. until below a slightly overhanging flake. Climb up and to the left, to the top of the flake. Continue up to the top. (40 ft.)
 FIRST ASCENT: unknown

121A. HEFFALUMP TRAP DIRECT 5.2 — Climb the left side of the flake, and finish HAFFALUMP TRAP.

PHOTOGRAPHS

WARNING THESE PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH!

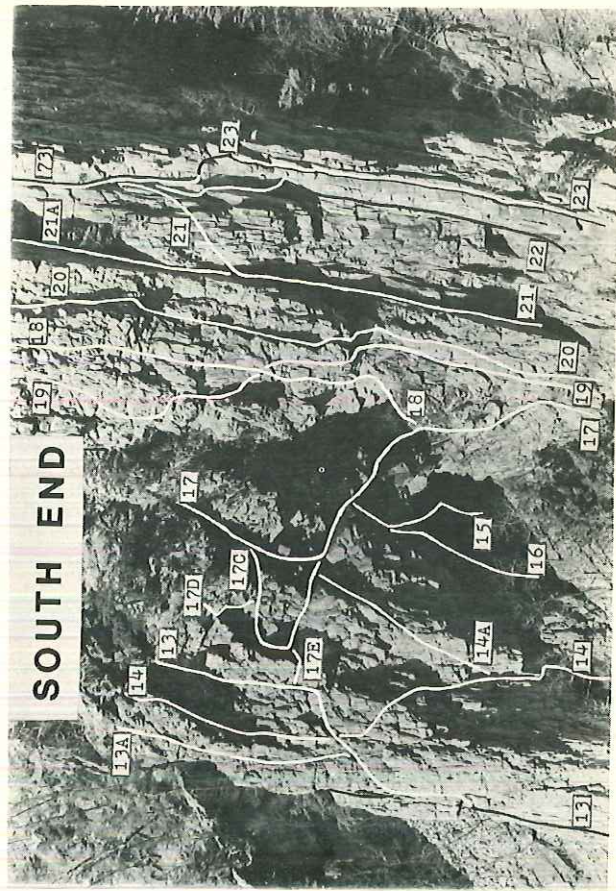
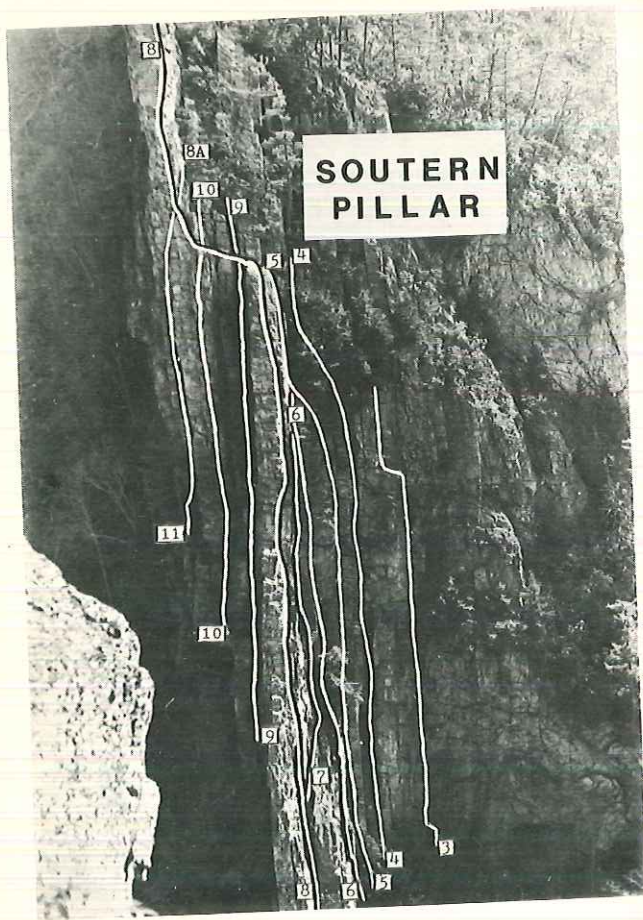
If you use these photographs as a substitute for route finding and common sense you may well be a case in point. These prints are placed here in order to give an idea to the location of certain climbs: they are not roadmaps.

Due to space limitations or some others factors certain routes were left off the photographs in the following pages. A list for each area is given for those that were omitted.

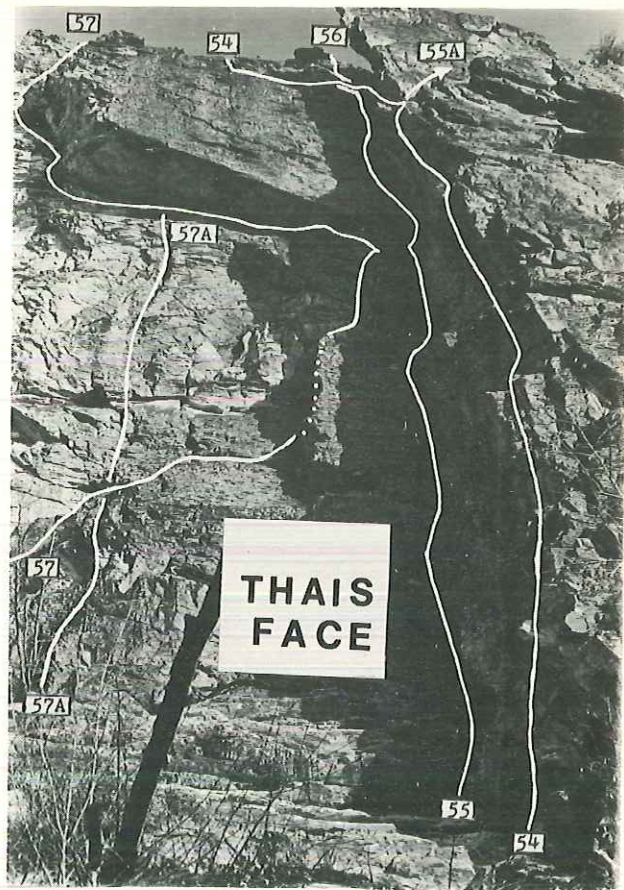
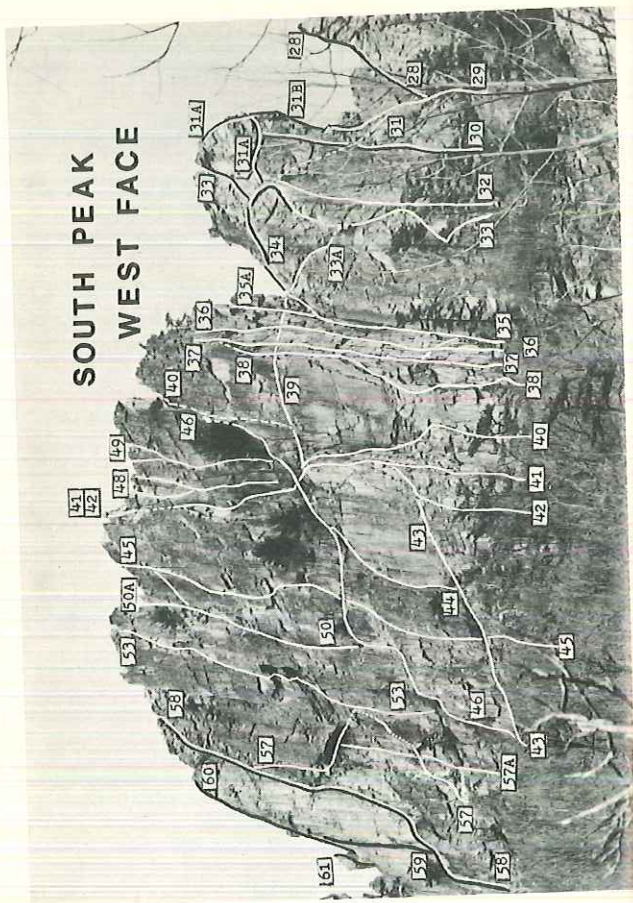
SOUTHERN PILLAR—1, 2, 12

SOUTH END—17A, 22A, 24

SOUTH PEAK—WEST FACE—25, 26, 26A, 26B, 26C, 27, 45A, 45B, 47, 51, 52

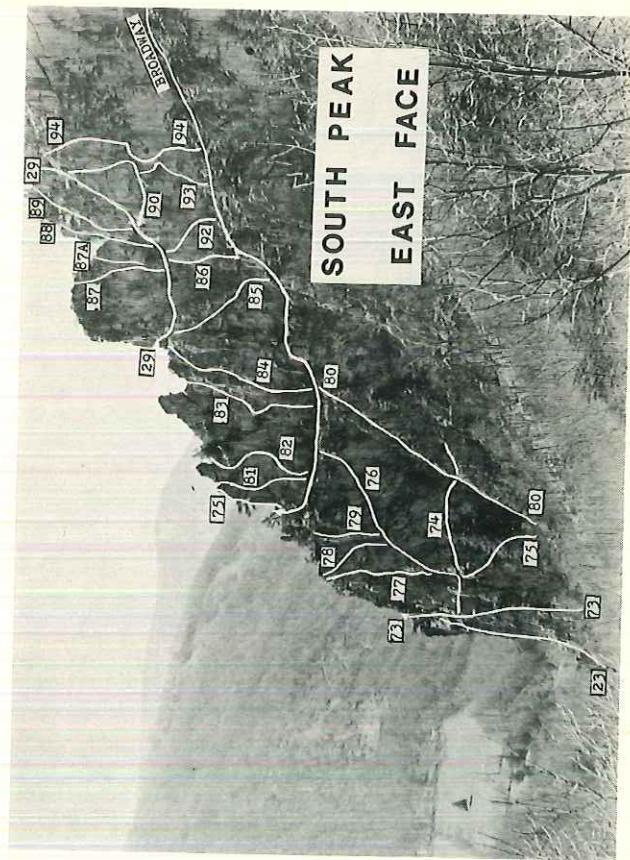
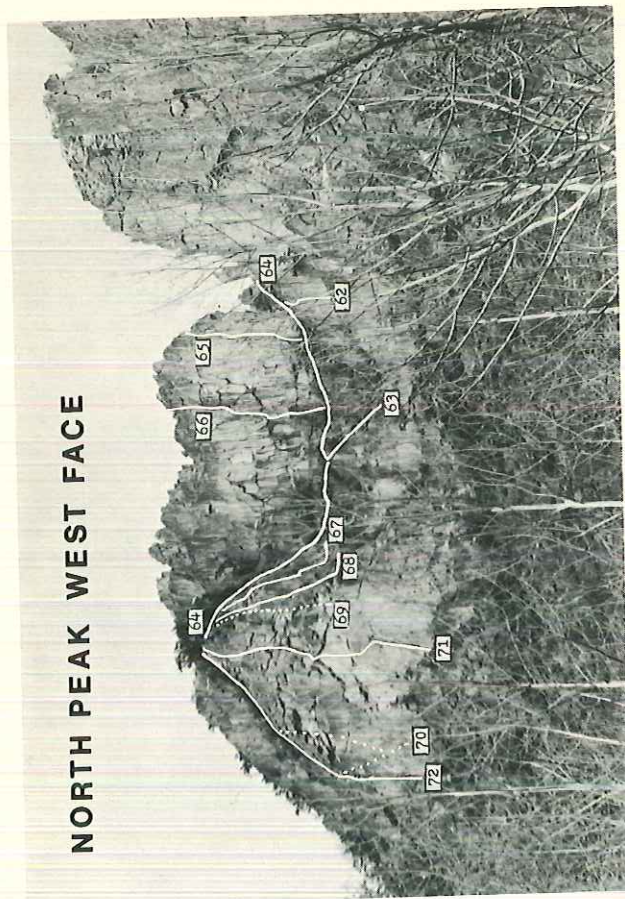


SOUTH PEAK WEST FACE

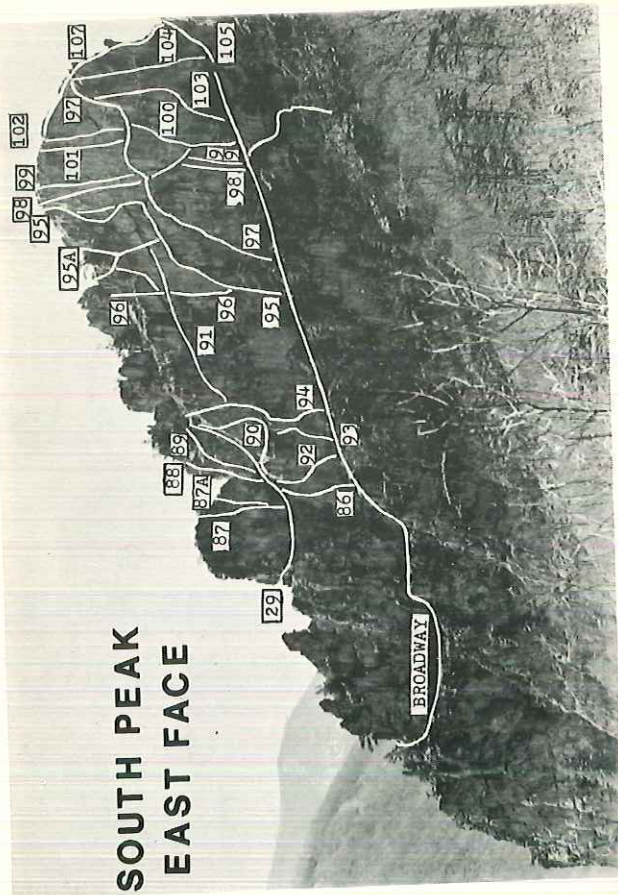


THAIS FACE

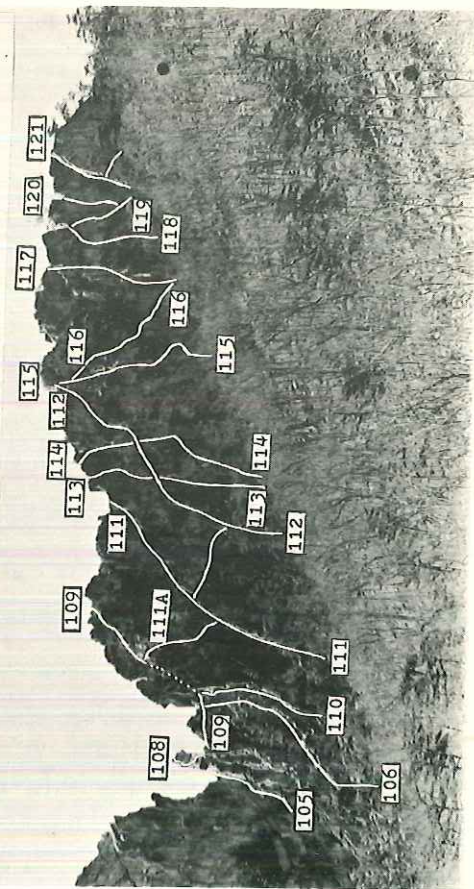
NORTH PEAK WEST FACE



SOUTH PEAK EAST FACE



NORTH PEAK EAST FACE



HISTORY

The historical significance of Seneca Rocks dates back many thousands of years to the presence of an Archaic Indian tribe that is believed to have stayed at the junction of Seneca Creek and the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River. In the centuries since that first known tribe the rock formation was a major landmark for many different groups of Indians. The Seneca Trail, a major warpath and hunting trail, branched west and south at the rocks. This trail was used by both the Algonquins and the Tuscaroras prior to the coming of white men to the region. The rocks also served as the last home of the Seneca Indians, and it is from this remnant population that the formation received its name.

In later years Europeans settled the fertile Germany Valley and turned the Seneca Trail into a wagon road. Nestled far back in the hills of what was then western Virginia, the valley managed to avoid being the scene of any major historical event. Since what we consider to be important history is usually stained with blood, this was undoubtedly the best thing that could have happened.

The climbing history at Seneca began in 1935 with a roped descent of the North Peak by Paul Bradt and Florence Perry. Then in April of 1939 Paul Bradt, Don Hubbard, and Sam Moore completed the first recorded ascent of the South Peak summit. This was done via SKYLINE TRAVERSE, COCKSCOMB OVERHANG, and part of WINDY CORNER. On the summit they discovered evidence of an earlier ascent, an inscription which read, "D. B. Sept. 16, 1908".

After doing EAST FACE TO GUNSIGHT NOTCH with Jim Lamb in September of 1939, the trio returned in 1940 to record several more first ascents. This third trip to Seneca culminated with THE GENDARME, GUNSIGHT TO SOUTH PEAK, and a descent of OLD LADIES ROUTE.

The next intensive climbing period started in 1943 when the U.S. Army began training mountain troops for action in the Appenines. Their presence can be felt even today because of the many rusty pitons they left behind. Over 75,000 pitons were driven in

Seneca, Champe, Nelson, and other West Virginia rocks. Although they did many routes most of which went unrecorded, the army climbers are best remembered by their ascents of CONNS WEST and CONNS EAST.

After World War II climbing activity increased as is evidenced by the first climbing guide published by the Explorers Club of Pittsburg in 1949. The fifties and early sixties were dominated by John Christian, Jim Shipley, Tony Soler, Arnold Wexler, and others who together increased the quality of Seneca climbs with routes such as GREENWALL, SOLER ROUTE, and TRIPLE S.

The sixties saw a dramatic increase in the difficulty of Seneca climbing. During this period climbers finished COTTONMOUTH, P—QUAD, and COCKSCOMB OVERHANG DIRECT. More importantly this was a period of concentration on free climbing and it resulted in the freeing of MADMEN ONLY, ALCOA PRESENTS, and AGONY. These routes were done by men such as Tom Evans, Matt Hale, George Livingstone, Bob Lyons, Barry Wallen, and others.

The events of the sixties have progressed into this decade. The activity in the last few years seems to contradict the current notion that Seneca is "climbed out". Herb Laeger, Eva Uiga, John Stannard, Matt Hale, Ray Snead, Jeff Burns, and others have contributed to the process of climbing in the seventies. This decade has already seen the free ascents of TOTEM, SIXTH SENSE, ORANGEAID, and BREAKNECK DIRECT. Many difficult new routes have also been added. These include HIGH TEST, CIRCUMFLEX, CLIMBIN PUNISHMENT, and NIP AND TUCK. Hopefully with a little imagination and a great amount of skill, Seneca climbers will be able to complete new routes for years to come.

The future of Seneca climbing depends on the actions and policies of the U.S. Forest Service, which at the time of this writing had entered the construction phase of a major recreation development at Mouth of Seneca. In addition to the visitors center which is already started, the Forest Service plans on constructing two campgrounds, a picnic area, and possibly an amphitheater. The plans also call for the removal of

the Pavilion, the climbing store, and the swinging bridge. A shortage of funds has slowed the implementation of these plans and has created an air of uncertainty as to when they will be initiated. What is even more ominous then the eventual change in an old and loved environment is the attitude that some Forest Service personnel have toward rock climbing. One employee started that he favored all the "high risk" sports except for rock climbing. If climbing is to remain at Seneca we must make our views known to the Forest Service and cooperate with their personnel. We can only hope that the organization never acts on the misplaced feelings of some of their inside people.

GEOLOGY

The soaring crags of Seneca Rocks are made of a rock layer called Tuscarora Sandstone, which is approximately 250 feet thick. The white quartz of the Tuscarora topsmost of the high ridges of the central Appalachians, and comprises the climbing faces of the Shawangunks in New York State.

The sand grains from which the Tuscarora formed were deposited about 440 million years ago, in an extensive sheet at the edges of an ancient ocean that once existed where today's Atlantic is. One hundred forty to one hundred ninety million years later, that ocean was slowly destroyed as Africa and North America were driven together by processes still not fully understood. The slow collision of the African and North American continental margins formed the Appalachian mountains, and threw the Tuscarora and surrounding rock layers into great folds and zones of sheared rock. Several miles below the earth's surface, one of the largest such folds formed a miles-wide arch in the Tuscarora.

After tens of millions of years of erosion had stripped away the overlaying rock, fragments of the northwest wall of that arch remain as the vertically tilted Seneca Rocks, Champe Rocks, and other such land forms extending in a straight line northwest and southwest along North Fork Valley. The top and southeast slope of the arch are preserved on the skyline of North Fork Mountain, whose Tuscarora cliffs are visible to

the east from Seneca Rocks. The base of the arch has been traced, geophysically and by oil drilling, to depths of more than two miles below today's ground level. Cross sections through the arch are spectacularly exposed on Route 33 between Franklin and Judy Gap, at North Fork Gap west of Petersburg, and at Greenland Gap and other gaps northeastward as far as the Delaware Water Gap.

Today, a climber moving up a face or standing in the sun atop one of the peaks of Seneca Rocks might encounter rare fossils, some cross beds, or other records of conditions under that same sun nearly half a billion years ago when the Tuscarora sand was deposited. He or she might find folded layers, sheared zones, or fractures acquired much later as this active planet thrust up a now-eroded mountain range that might once have rivaled the Himalayas. The ring of hammer on rock, the white gleam of the weathering-resistant quartz in the rock, and the unusually strong cement that binds many of the quartz grains together, explain why Seneca Rocks remain standing whereas softer rocks around them have long since been worn away by wind, rain, ice, and streams.

More information about the Tuscarora Sandstone and other rocks, land forms, or environmental problems of West Virginia is available from the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey, and the Department of Geology and Geography of West Virginia University, both in Morgantown.

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CREDITS

Putting this guidebook together involved many hours of research, typing, and constant worry over the seemingly endless stream of difficulties that kept cropping up. It is no exaggeration to say that this project involved the work of many other people in overcoming these "minor" problems. Our thanks go out to Denise Cundiff who helped get the ball rolling by supplying us with more needed information. We wish to give our appreciation and a new jar of coffee to Alison Taylor who typed, edited, proof-read the copy, and worked on the photographs. And finally we wish to express a very deep gratitude toward Ms. Helen Taylor whose support for our project enabled us to continue and eventually finish.

Information for this book came from many different sources and it would be impossible to list everyone who contributed. Let it be known that seemingly endless hours were spent bullshitting in the Gendarme and at the Pavilion to acquire most of the data. Another invaluable source was the New Route Book located in the Gendarme. Historical information was borrowed from three printed sources. The history of Indian movements in the Seneca region was borrowed from an unpublished paper by Donald Cunningham entitled, "Seneca Rocks". The climbing history was supplemented by information which appeared in an article by John Markwell in the April 1973 edition of OFF BELAY magazine, pp. 15-26. During the writing phase we were constantly referring to the book, *A Climber's Guide to Seneca Rocks West Virginia* edited by F. R. Robinson, copyright 1971, to double check our own information. And finally we wish to thank Professor Wheeler of the WVU Geology department for writing the supplemental information concerning Seneca's geology.

ROUTE INDEX

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| A Christian Delight | 41 |
| Agony | 27 |
| Alcoa Presents | 46 |
| Amazing Grace | 43 |
| Banana | 36 |
| Bears Delight | 48 |
| Bee Sting | 41 |
| Blaarrie Grandiose | 15 |
| Breakneck | 26 |
| Breakneck Direct | 26 |
| Broadway to Old Ladies | 42 |
| Burn, The | 24 |
| By Pass | 32 |
| Cardons Rib | 41 |
| Castor | 45 |
| Christopher Robin | 50 |
| Circumflex | 38 |
| Clarices Climb | 32 |
| Cleaning Lady | 18 |
| Climbin Punishment | 16 |
| Cockscomb Overhang | 26 |
| Cockscomb Overhang Direct | 26 |
| Cockscomb Pine Tree | 25 |
| Cockscomb Pine Tree Traverse | 27 |
| Conns East | 44 |
| Conns East Direct Start | 45 |
| Conns East Ramp | 46 |
| Conns West | 32 |
| Conns West Direct Finish | 32 |
| Cottonmouth | 28 |
| Crispy Critter | 31 |
| Critter Crack | 31 |
| Dinah Moe — Humm | 43 |
| Dirty Old Man | 43 |
| Discontent | 42 |
| Dressing Room | 34 |
| Duffys Popoff | 40 |
| East Face to Gunsight Notch | 47 |
| Ecstasy | 18 |
| Ecstasy Direct Finish | 19 |
| Ecstasy Junior | 24 |
| Ecst. Jr. Southwest Buttress Var. | 24 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Ecst. Jr. Traverse | 24 |
| Ecst. Jr. Vegetable Var. | 24 |
| Eeyores Tail | 48 |
| Explosive Deleted | 42 |
| Expotition | 50 |
| Fear of Flying | 15 |
| Finger Stinger, The | 49 |
| Front C | 29 |
| Frosted Flake | 43 |
| Gebhardt—Dufty | 17 |
| Gendarme, The | 47 |
| Gendarme Direct | 35 |
| Gerts Grungy Gully | 25 |
| Grandiose | 33 |
| Great Chimney | 17 |
| Greenwall | 35 |
| Gunsight Notch East | 47 |
| Gunsight to North Peak | 48 |
| Gunsight to South Peak | 35 |
| Gunsight to South Peak Direct | 47 |
| Heartburn | 25 |
| Heffalump Trap | 51 |
| Heffalump Trap Direct | 51 |
| Hero Pendulum | 40 |
| High Test | 46 |
| Horrendous Traverse | 28 |
| Humphreys | 25 |
| Initiation | 17 |
| Janes Route | 43 |
| Jankowitz—Kamm | 27 |
| Kauffman—Cardon | 40 |
| Kauffmans Rib | 37 |
| Le Gourmet | 29 |
| Le Gourmet Direct Start | 29 |
| Le Gourmet Traverse | 29 |
| Long Leggedy Beasties | 50 |
| L. S. D. | 22 |
| Madmen Only | 36 |
| Malevolence | 37 |
| Marshalls Madness | 27 |
| M. E. | 17 |
| Mistaken Identity | 37 |
| Mrs. Robinson | 17 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Neck Press | 28 |
| Nip and Tuck | 46 |
| No Dally Alley | 38 |
| Ocean City | 19 |
| Oh Pooh | 50 |
| Old Ladies Excitement | 43 |
| Old Ladies Route | 25 |
| Old Man's Route | 30 |
| One Stop | 37 |
| Orangeaid | 46 |
| Pine Tree Traverse | 36 |
| Pleasant Overhangs | 34 |
| Pleasant Overhangs Direct Start | 34 |
| Pollux | 45 |
| Poohs Corner | 50 |
| Poor Mans Critter | 31 |
| P—Quad | 21 |
| Prune | 29 |
| Prune—Christian Var. | 30 |
| Prune—Markwell Var. | 30 |
| Question Mark | 50 |
| Reverse C | 41 |
| Rhododendron Corner | 16 |
| Richards Milhouse | 42 |
| Right Tope | 16 |
| Roux | 48 |
| Roy Gap Chimneys | 16 |
| Sallys Peril | 48 |
| Satisfaction #1 | 19 |
| Satisfaction #2 | 19 |
| Shambler, The | 22 |
| Simple J. Malarky | 20 |
| SJM—Cave Start | 20 |
| SJM—Ecstasy Connection | 20 |
| SJM—Overhang Finish | 20 |
| SJM—Traverse Finish | 20 |
| SJM—Westernly Extension | 20 |
| Sixth Sense | 19 |
| Skyline Traverse | 39 |
| Soler Escape | 44 |
| Soler Route | 44 |
| Talbert Picklefish | 44 |
| Thais | 33 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Thais Direct | 33 |
| Thais Escape | 34 |
| Tomato | 35 |
| Tomato That Ate Cleveland, The | 40 |
| Tonys Nightmare | 21 |
| Tonys Nightmare Direct Finish | 22 |
| Totem | 31 |
| Traffic Jam | 27 |
| Triple's | 27 |
| Triple's Direct Finish | 49 |
| Unrelenting Verticality | 42 |
| Up and Coming | 38 |
| Up Front | 15 |
| Victim, The | 36 |
| West Face to Gunsight Notch | 32 |
| Westpole | 33 |
| Westpole Direct Finish | 21 |
| Wild Men Only | 42 |
| Windy Corner | 41 |
| Wind Up | 49 |
| Wolery | 41 |
| Worrells Thicket | 22 |
| Ye Gods and Little Fishes | 22 |
| Y.G.A.L.F. — Original Route | |