

Desk Copy

TELLURIDE ROCK

AN INTERIM GUIDE

BY BILL KEES

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

As suggested by the sub-title, this guide is a stopgap. Its purpose is to provide information so the climber can enjoy his visit more thoroughly and consistently, and with greater safety. The Telluride area is a rich lode for rock-climbers. We hope this guide will be of service by showing where the gold lies.

Royal Robbins

PUBLISHED BY: ROBBINS MOUNTAIN LETTERS, Box 4536, Modesto, California 95352.

Author's Note

Before getting into the nuts and bolts of this guide I would like to take a brief moment to assure the readers that this book has not been the result of a mere whim. I have spent many long hours over the last six years pondering "The Great Debate," a guide or no guide. After listening to the entire spectrum of arguments many times over, it has become increasingly clear that there is no moral right or wrong involved in this issue, only individual's opinions. It is my firm belief that the positive aspects of the guide far outweigh its faults. So it is with great excitement and a healthy frame of mind that I have chosen to share the joys of Ophir with you.

Please give it its due respect and take from it only what is yours--"The Experience."

Bill Kees

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my gratitude to those who have helped bring this bit of information to you. A guidebook is not as easy as it looks to put together. Cooperation and a sense of a common goal are the principal elements of success here--and this book has had plenty of both.

Royal Robbins---besides publishing this guide was a source of inspiration and support throughout the entire project.

Tim Kudo---sat down and helped with editing, route descriptions and basic organization on more than a few occasions.

Allen Pattie---was always there with his sense of humor and wine bottle, which helped keep perspective.

Dan Langmade---gave consistent interest and many fine photos, especially the peel shot on "Blood on the Cracks."

Pat O'Boyle---gladly donated the section on geologic background. Pat did a fine job describing what took place in laymens' terms.

My wife, Susan and the kids Scott, Lorraine and Blake assisted so many ways, so many times, that words become meaningless.

Lastly, the Ophir Wall Bums, and enthusiastic group of humans to whom this guide is dedicated, for what good is a guidebook without climbers?

SCOPE OF THIS GUIDE

This guide is concerned almost entirely with climbing in the Ophir area and on the Ames Wall, both of which are about 11 miles south of Telluride. Most of the climbing has been done in these two areas. There is a lot of rock around Telluride which is relatively unexplored, but which may someday yield good routes. We hope to eventually include all the rock around Telluride in this guide. Send corrections and new routes to Bill Kees, Box 931, Telluride, Colorado 81435.

Camping:

Sanctioned camping areas are in the Telluride Town Park or at the U.S. Forest Service's Sunshine Camp Ground located on Highway 145 between Telluride and Ophir. Unsanctioned camping has never been a problem and should continue to be so as long as folks use site discretion, clean up their messes, and stay off private, fenced or posted property. The use of a stove instead of a fire ring will also help insure free camping.

Water:

Water near the Ophir Wall is not all good. It is not advised to drink from the Howards Fork, which runs through mill sites and tailings dumps as it drains the Ophir Valley. The best and closest water near the Ophir wall is the little streamlet that runs under the Ophir Road about 300 feet west of the Ophir Post Office.

New Information:

A current updated note book form of this guide is available at Olympic Sports in Telluride for your convenience. In dealing with what is at best confusing subject matter, mistakes are inevitable. Corrections and new route information should be entered in the above mentioned notebook or sent directly to the author, Box 931, Telluride, Co 81435.

Geology:

The geology of the Ophir area is that of a sequence of Mesozoic age sedimentary rocks that have been intruded by intermediate composition granitic and volcanic stocks and dikes. The geologic contact between the sedimentary rocks and the intrusive rocks may be seen at the turn off for Ophir at Highway 145. The sediments have been dramatically upturned on the north side of the contact and the intrusive rocks, (Ophir Needles) form the south side of the contact. The Howards Fork (Ophir) Valley and the south fork of the San Miguel River occupy glacial valleys that have been carved into the entire intrusive mass. The Ophir Wall and Needles form the most resistant part of the intrusion, making them an ideal climbing terrain. Their toughness and durability is due to the molten incorporation of the surrounding rock types and their jointed structure. In particular, Cracked Canyon is extremely well-jointed. It was also the last area to be exposed to weathering, making it a real garden of fine climbs.

The Ames Wall, as has been noted above, is actually a structural "outlier" of the Ophir Needles. That is, the Needles intrusion is connected to the Ames granodiorite in the sub-surface. These rocks have, therefore, much the same properties of toughness and hardness as the Ophir rocks. The Ames rocks, however, are fragments of underlying rocks that have been brought to the surface by the semi liquid intrusive magma. The Ames intrusion is a "sill," that is, it has intruded itself horizontally between the strata of the underlying Dakota formation and the overlying Mancos formation. The Ames Wall, therefore, is slightly different in mineral composition from the Ophir Wall due to different strata encountered at its geologic contacts. Both the Ophir Needles and the Ames Wall are about 22 million years old and form steep cliffs due to the presence of valley glaciers about 10,000 years ago.

Helpful Hints:

All routes are described from left to right. Due to Ophir's complex crack system, route descriptions are not enough. Study the photographs--some large prints are on display at Olympic Sports. Route finding will always be necessary.

LOOSE ROCK

Loose rock is more of a problem in the Ophir area and on the Ames Wall than in many climbing areas. This is partly because the region has seen rather little climbing, and partly because of the structure of the rock, being fractured into comparatively small chunks. This fracturing produces rock rich in climbing opportunities, but at the price of occasional looseness, especially along the tops of the Ophir Wall and East Buttress, along the rim of Cracked Canyon (in fact, the talus on the approach to and in the bed of Cracked Canyon is curiously and devilishly unstable), and along the top of the Ames Wall. Use extra caution when traversing above climbs or when descending so as to avoid knocking rocks on climbers below, be especially careful in and around Cracked Canyon. Rocks knocked into it can go all the way to the bottom, or start talus avalanches which can rake the entire canyon. Because of the above, direct rappels from climbing routes are urged so as to minimize dislodging of rocks on descents.

Also urged are climbing helmets.

NEED HELP

In case of emergency, contact the San Miguel County Sheriff's office. Randy and Vera Belisle, the very nice folks living in the large house at the base of the Ophir Wall, are willing to extend their help. A loud shout will get their attention. If they are not at home, the nearest phone is two miles east in old Ophir.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

Just below the Ophir Wall is a private residence. The owners are friendly to all. Let's keep it that way by walking around their property, not through it.

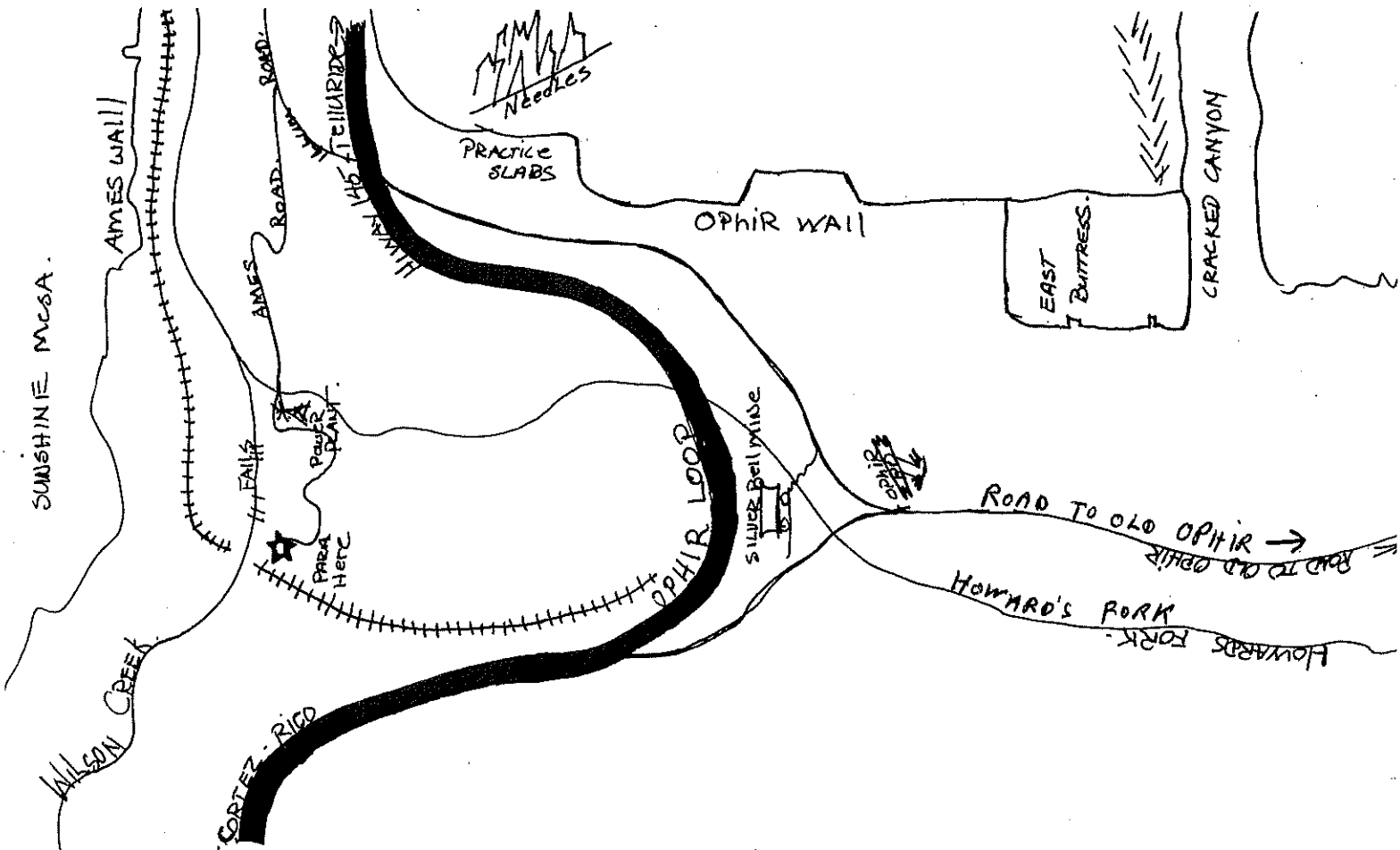
U. S. A. ROCK BUM
by Allen Pattie

He's a hippie and a logger and a climber in disguise.
A boozier and a brawler and a lover telling lies.
He stares into his fires on his long nights in the woods.
He does like he damn pleases like any gypsey should.
His truck is broken down, so he travels with his thumb.
He's got stories and glories befitting all good bums.
He don't care 'bout your opinion of the way he spends his days.
Because he's sure that what he's doing is more than just a craze.
He works when he gets hungry and begs when he must.
There's a sign stuck on his pack that says "Yosemite or Bust."
You'll see him in the springtime on the highway in the heat.
With ropes a-dangling, chokes a-clanging, no shoes upon his feet.
If you have half a heart, please don't deny his thumb.
East his load, take him down the road, he's a U. S. A. Rock Bum.

Dedicated to the Ophir Wall Bums.

MAP OF OPHIR AREA AND AMES WALL

To reach Ophir from Telluride drive three miles west to Highway 145 and follow it south eight miles.



STEMS + SEEDS - Eric Trommer + KK
89
Ophir Wall Area

Routes 1 thru 4 are located on the west facing shoulder of the Ophir Wall. Approach--scramble past the practice slabs on the left. Continue up and right to base of 80-90 foot west-facing friction slab.

Sunset Overhang

Class - 5.9

Grade I

First Ascent - 5/1978 by Allan Pattie and Scott Burbank

To locate this climb follow path at base of friction slab until one comes to an awkward-looking overhang of black rock about 10 feet above the ground. Climb this black overhang, then move up and right on a dirty ledge. Continue straight up and undercling the second overhang. Now layback the white-and-orange-streaked flake to a ledge--a few friction moves will deliver you to the belay and rappel tree. This route is best done in the warmth of the afternoon sun. If you go late enough, the sunsets are a real treat.

Eight feet to the left of the black overhang is a more direct, but easier 5.8 variation to the beginning of this climb done by Allan Pattie and Tim Kudo in September of 1978.

Huckleberry's Fin

Class 5.9

Grade I

First Ascent - Jim Manning and Bill Kees, 4/73

This one-pitch route lead by Jim Manning has only been lead once. On the aforementioned west-facing slab, locate a tin one-inch to half-inch black dike intrusion 80-90 feet uphill from the southwest shoulder of the Ophir Wall. Climb the dike on scant-to-no protection at the crux, then surmount the steep head wall. Rappel from the small conifer on the left. (one rope)

Easy Overhang

Class 5.7

Grade I

First Ascent - Chris Renn, Bill Kees, 6/73

A delightful one pitch climb. Start 5-8 feet right of Huckleberry's Fin. Climb the slab up and right on pretty face holds to base of headwall. A few moves over the headwall tops one out. Rappel from the conifer on the left.

Pork Shoulder

Class 5.6

Grade I

First Ascent - Chris Renn and Bill Kees, 6/73

This route starts about 20 feet right of obvious water ruts. Climb directly up corner on 5.6 face holds to top of shoulder...two pitches. Rappel from tree on left.

Jug Handle

Class 5.7

Grade II

First Ascent - Norm Gray and Bill Kees, 1974

Although somewhat hard to find, this route is worth some searching. Locate this route from the old Ophir Road. On the south wall, as the wall rises higher toward the east, Jug Handle lies in the transition between the slab section on the left and the broken overhanging section on the right. Approximately 150 feet downhill to the left of a mature evergreen at the base of the wall, climb the definite black-stained wall on easy face holds to a bushy platform 80 feet high--5.6. A little looking on the left side of the platform will reveal the actual jug handle. Move from this large

platform on thinner holds, then climb the shallow but pleasant V groove 80 feet into an alcove. The third pitch continues up a more pronounced gully above the alcove past a low-angle overhang to easier climbing.

A more direct start climbs to the platform via broken cracks 30 feet to the right of the black stained wall, 5.8.

Descent: Scramble left and follow the natural drainage to the lowest conifer on the south face. One double-rope rappel.

The Arc

Class 5.6

Grade I

First Ascent - Unknown

The climb starts at the base of the large conifer mentioned in the above route. Follow the obvious arching cracks right over some loose slabs to three fixed pins. Next pitch traverses right then move up to ledge system directly above the belayer. The last pitch follows a dihedral to the top.

Descent: Same as route #5.

Hairy Cherry

Class 5.8 or 5.9

Grade II

First Ascent- Danny Smith and Bill Kess, 1974.

This route can best be located from the Ophir Road. To the left of the highest scree pile, two large southeast-facing slabs can be seen. This fine route is located in the center of the western-most slab.

Climb a vertical broken crack twenty feet onto the face of the slab and follow the continually thinning crack to an alcove. Now step left into an easy broken section. Follow this weakness until it is possible to make an awkward move or two right which will put you on the face of the slab again. Continue to the top of the slab, then attack the remaining 20-30 feet of headwall.

Descent: Same as #5.

Hippo's Dance

Class 5.6

Grade I

First ascent - John Turk and Marion MacKay, 1978.

Start up the prominent chimney just right of Hairy Cherry. Climb past a small conifer and work right into a crack system that goes straight up for a few feet, then angles left to a substantial belay. The second lead traverses left 5.4 along some prominent ledges. Then follow an easy crack to the top of the wall. Same descent as #5.

Undecided

Class 5.8

Grade I

First Ascent - Henry Barber, Greg Davis and Kim Parish, 1972.

150 feet uphill from Hairy Cherry to the immediate right of the eastern most of the two obvious southeast-facing slabs is a large east-facing dihedral.

The climb begins directly below this dihedral. First pitch wanders up easy fifth class holds to base of the above-mentioned dihedral. The second pitch stays in the book to its top.

Descent: Same as #5.

*Descent note for Ophir Wall:

This descent route applies to all of the following routes topping out on the higher section of the Ophir Wall.

Walk east, to the Bowling Alley, a steep gully which leads to the east

DR. Gizmo -
EMOTIONAL RESCUE

buttress. Avoid a low traverse which ends in a cliff. Now one can either rappel from the little curved tree on the south side of the gully to the east, or descend to the extreme southwest corner of the buttress and scramble down a third class chute past the large pine to easy ground.

Hot Wee Wee

Class 5.9

Grade III

First Ascent - Henry Barber and Partner, 1973

Looking at the Ophir Wall from the dirt road, three obvious west-facing dihedrals can be seen. Hot Wee Wee lies in the western-most of these books.

- (1) Climb fourth class rock to where the wall steepens.
- (2) Face climb the steep wall on the left, 30-40 feet, to an alcove. Exit alcove on the right 5.9 to easier ground.
- (3) Move up dihedral or climb face to the left 120 feet to good belay stance.
- (4) Continue up the dihedral a short distance and exit right on the steep ramp, or continue in book which widens into a chimney to the top 5.9.
- (5) Navigate short head walls--be careful here, as last 100-200 feet can be easy or hard depending on route finding. Full rack suggested.

Spring Fever

Class 5.8 or 5.9

Grade III

First Ascent - John Turk, Tim Kudo, Bill Kees, 4/78.

Around the corner and to the right of Hot Wee Wee, a large third class ramp can be seen diagonalling up and right to the "Big Ledge."

Walk up ramp 30-40 feet to first dihedral.

- (1) Climb a stacked series of short books 70-90 feet until it is possible to move left across the face to easier ground.
- (2) Scramble fourth class ledges to base of what looks to be a blank wall with a noticeable yellow stain on the left.
- (3) Climb the exciting section of yellow stained wall, turning the overhang on the left. Now move up and right to base of chimney. This is the crux pitch and is 5.8 or 5.9, depending on route finding.
- (4) Climb chimney, which is not as easy as it looks, continue on mixed ground another 30 feet to easier going.
- (5) Navigate summit head walls--easy to hard.

Horse Chaser Direct

Class 5.8 or 5.9

Grade I

First Ascent - Greg Davis and Mary Hubbard, 9/76.

Immediately to the left of the obvious "A" shaped overhang under Orion's Belt is the beginning of this fine climb.

Climb steep face on small finger holds to a point where it is possible to traverse right out over the roof of the above mentioned overhang. Continue trending in the same direction to a good stance directly above overhang. This is dicey territory and takes good control. Move from ledge to a flake which is to your left. Maneuver past flake to ramp.

Small wires suggested.

Orion's Belt

Class 5.9

Grade I

First Ascent - Bob Sullivan and Partner, 1973

Third class the large ramp leading right toward the "Big Ledge."

HIDDEN
SECRETS

Orion's Belt is the dihedral where the ramp and Big Ledge meet.

- (1) Climb the book, 120-140 feet, terminating near bushes which leads out of the steeper main dihedral.
- (2) At this point one has a choice of dihedrals, climb the one on the right, 40-50 feet, which will bring you out on the south-facing slabs
- (3 & 4) Short head walls broken by grassy ledges.

Crescent Moon

Class 5.7

Grade I

First Ascent - Bill Kees and Partner

This is a fun climb and, though hard to find, worth some effort.

Forty feet right of the overhang below Orion's Belt, notice a slight weakness about 15 feet off the ground.

- (1) Climb off balance face holds on steep rock moving left into a broken area. Push on to a bush 80 feet up.
- (2) Follow easy ramp right to its top, here make use of nice crack to gain a system of ledges leading to the Big Ledge.

Descent: Walk west toward Orion's Belt. Rappel (2 ropes) from anchors at base of dihedral or scramble down the ramp.

Honey Pot

Class 5.10

Grade III

First Ascent - Greg Davis, Budge Hirke, 1973 or 1974.

At present, this is the most difficult climb on the Ophir Wall, and a peek from the road will answer the question why.

To locate this route, look for a spectacular "Y" shaped crack above the "Big Ledge" and 80 feet left of the prominent Post Office Crack.

- (1) At the base of the wall directly below the "Y" shaped crack, ascend the east-facing chimney to a good belay ledge.
- (2) Climb face another 60 feet, or it may be possible to combine pitches 1 and 2 to big ledge.
- (3) Step into the staccato crack leading up to a small alcove just below a point where the crack branches; move up right hand crack, 5.10 to a grassy ledge and continue up and right to the base of a massive east facing dihedral which cannot be seen from the ground.
- (4) Climb dihedral 80-100 feet.
- (5) & (6) Short head walls. Dan Langmade

A variation done by Ace Brown ascends the left side of the "Y" crack-- 5.10. It is thought to be a little harder, but easier to protect than the branch on the right.

Post Office Crack

Class 5.7

Grade III

First Ascent - Unknown

The Post Office Crack was probably the first route to have ascended the entire wall. No first ascent information can be found at this point, but evidence along the route suggests that it was done long before the other routes on the wall. It is the most obvious and easiest route to ascend the entire wall.

- (1) Climb chimney to big ledge 150 feet.
- (2) Continue via either of two pleasant jam cracks leading to a large roof. Turn this obstacle on the right and move up to the second roof, underclinging to the right to a good belay. Memorable pitch.

- (3) It is easy to get lost after this. The key to success here is to head up and left toward the large conifer.
- (4) Summit summit blocks. See descent note.

Raindance Direct

Class 5.9

Grade III

First Ascent - Greg Davis and Henry Barber, 1974.

This route originally shared the first pitch of the Post Office Crack; however John Turk and Bill Kees added a direct start in the spring of 1978.

Begin approximately one hundred feet east of the Post Office Crack, just right of the arched overhang at the base of the wall.

- (1) Climb good ledge system, moving up and right to the top ledge 110 feet off the ground.
- (2) Follow the top ledge to the right until it transforms into an east-facing book. As this book steepens, it is possible to move right onto the face and ease up two wonderful left-arching parallel cracks to the big ledge. Continue up bush-filled dihedral for full rope.
- (3) Work up dihedral to a point where one can traverse left onto a smaller flake system below some gigantic roofs (5.9). Follow flakes to a good belay below and left of overhangs. The protection is poor at the crux--crack n- ups were used on the first ascent.
- (4) Traverse left on a good ledge until it is possible to move up and right on a smooth face 5.7 or 5.8.
- (5) & (6) Climb blocky terrain to top. See descent note.

Batman's Delight

Class 5.9

Grade II

First Ascent - Tim Kudo, Bill Kees & Jim Gribin, 7/78.

This is a fun climb which offers good holds and excellent protection with enough exposure to make it popular. The route is located on the east side of the wall - above the East Buttress.

From the road, hike the talus to the southwest corner of the east buttress, scramble the 3rd class descent route mentioned at the beginning of the section dealing with the East Buttress. Hike up to the base of the wall and follow the trail right (east) until one comes to the base of a large west-facing dihedral which has three overhangs, the highest being the most obvious.

- (1) Climb 20-40 feet to base of left-facing overhang, which is passed on the left. 5.9 Move up on easy holds to top of second overhang, which is easier than the first, but awkward.
- (2) Lead up and right over broken rock, then make a 10 foot traverse into a beautifully sculptured 2-3 inch crack passing the last overhang on the right.

Descent: Walk east on a good ledge to the Bowling Alley.

Lankes

Class A3

Grade II

First Ascent - Dan Langmade and Bill Kees, 1976.

This is a grand practice route. The rock is good, the climbing is mostly A2. A sky hook and belay seat are essential. Someday it may become a free route, but it will not be easy.

Above the East Buttress at the base of the Ophir Wall-Lankes is the striking crack that bisects the vertical wall just right of Batman's Delight.

It is two pitches long and requires many medium sized nuts.

Descent: Rappel 70 feet from tree on the right.

EAST BUTTRESS OF THE OPHIR WALL

As viewed from the Ophir post office, the East Buttress is the obvious rock mass which protrudes from the right side of the Ophir Wall. This 200-300 foot buttress has two main walls; The west-facing wall, which joins the Ophir Wall at a definite right angle, and the south-facing wall which can be divided into three distinct sections by two prominent chimneys. Contentment Chimney is a forty-foot wide recess with double cracks at the base. Further uphill to the east lies the Lost Bonanza Chimney, which is about four feet wide. These are two important reference points for finding other routes.

Descent For west-facing routes and south-facing routes descend as follows unless otherwise noted. Locate the large pine tree just below the top of the southwest corner. From this tree scramble down the gully leading to the large pine at the base of the west face.

Although this area looks broken and not too interesting, a surprising number of fine climbs will reveal themselves upon close inspection.

Book of Stones

Class 5.7 or 5.8

Grade I

First Ascent - Unknown.

This two-pitch climb is located in the large dihedral where the Ophir Wall and the West Face of the East Buttress converge. It is a natural drainage and many loose rocks are lurking near its top. A helmet and good choice of belay spots may be helpful.

Stay in the book to its top. Long runners are helpful.

Chestnut

Class 5.9

Grade I

First Ascent - Royal Robbins, Bill Kees, 9/78

Downhill from the Book of Stones approximately 100 feet, is a right-facing dihedral with brown and green markings.

(1) Climb the steep face 15 feet to fixed pin at the base of the dihedral. Move right on small ledges, then back into the book.

Very dicey. Small wires suggested. Rappel from small evergreen on the left.

Sugar Mama

Class 5.7

Grade I

First Ascent - Dan Langmade and Steve Morse, 6/78

This route follows a large right-facing black-stained openbook located 30-40 feet downhill from Chestnut.

(1) Climb the book to an intersecting ramp which comes in from the left. Ease up this ramp to blocky ledges. Shortly after the first ascent, Alan Pattie and Royal Robbins stayed in the dihedral, rather than exiting left, making a more direct line. 5.9.

Small wires suggested.

The Slot

Class 5.7

Grade I

First Ascent - Henry Barber and partner, 1973.

This the deep dagger-shaped chimney which narrows at its top just right of the previously mentioned black dihedral.

(1) Start directly below the chimney, climb 40 feet to base of chimney. The rest is obvious. The climb is easier than it looks and the protection is excellent.

Adam's Rib

Class 5.7 or 5.8

Grade I

First Ascent - Royal Robbins and Alan Pattie, 7/78

NOT RT
GO Left

Immediately right of the slot is an 8-10' wide rib of rock.

- (1) Climb this rib 165 feet on small face holds. Small to medium wires suggested.

Adagio

Class 5.

Grade I 9

First Ascent - Bill Kees and Royal Robbins, 8/78.

Located just left of the large conifer at the base of the wall. Adagio is the prominent open book, approximately 110 feet in length. It has an acute right-facing overhang near its top.

- (1) Make a few delicate 5.9 moves into the book, which is followed to its top.
- (2) Scramble up face climb 30 feet to good ledge. Climb a steep 30-foot section 5.9 going past a four-foot pine. Good route.

Rickety Split

Class 5.10

Grade I

First Ascent - Royal Robbins and Bill Kees, 8/78

This difficult route begins at the base of the large pine mentioned in Adagio. It follows a thin seam which appears to lead up to a 2" overhang.

- (1) Stuggle thirty-forty feet on small holds to four feet below the ceiling where it is possible to make a delicate traverse right to a prominent, but short, left-facing book. Surmount the book to easier ground.
- (2) Climb steep head wall 30-40 feet via good crack. 5.7.

Pine Box

Class 5.10

Grade I

First Ascent - Henry Barber and Partner, 1974

This is an extreme route due not only to difficulty, but also scarcity of protection. The route is located on the west face near the southwest corner.

- (1) Approach this broken, right-leaning open book by traversing in from the left, follow the book to a ledge.
- (2) Walk right five to ten feet and step into a clean crack trending right. A fall on the first pitch could result in the use of this climb's title.

LOOSE GOOSE 5.7 F/A - Allen Pattie, R. Robbins, 29 June 1978

The interest of this route is provided by the problem of loose rock on the first pitch. Start directly below a prominent R-leaning pillar on the L side of the S face of the E Buttress. Follow a ramp up R and go straight up at the first opportunity. Climb the corner formed by the pillar. (2) Climb the short dihedral on the L to a conifer. Climb the corner just L of the tree to a larger conifer.

Arachne

Class 5.10

Grade I

First Ascent - Royal Robbins and Dan Langmade, 6/78.

This route is located just left of Contentment Chimney on the south face. (See introduction to East Buttress regarding Contentment Chimney.)

- (1) Climb the first flared overhanging crack to the shelf below the right-facing corner, now climb the face to the right of the corner, using the corner higher up.
- (2) Follow the clean right-facing dihedral, directly above the first pitch.

Contentment

Class 5.6

Grade I

First Ascent - Bill Kees and Partner, 1972

This climb is located in Contentment Chimney, climb and is recommended for beginners.

It's a good

- (1) At the base of the previously mentioned chimney, climb the left side to a large platform fifty feet out. Next ease up the inside crack via a five-inch crack to a good belay at base of chimney.

- (2) The chimney is straight-forward

Descent: Rappel climbing route.

The Bush

Class 5.7

Grade I

First Ascent - ?

This is an enjoyable route which lies on the west-facing wall of Contentment Chimney.

- (1) Climb to the same platform as in the route above.
- (2) The "Bush" itself can be seen near the top of this fine route.

Descent: Rappel the climbing route.

Yorkey's Crumpet

Class 5.8

Grade II

First Ascent - Bob Sullivan and Partner, 1975

- (1) Make use of the righthand crack of Contentment Chimney. Follow this crack until it ends, continue up the line of least resistance on good, but somewhat broken faceholds to a well-defined ledge, which can be seen from the ground.
- (2) Follow ledge right and deal with the slender west-facing book which tops out.

Descent: Rappel Contentment Chimney.

Encore

Class 5.10

Grade II

First Ascent - Dan Langmade and Royal Robbins, 9/77

This route lies on the corner just right of Contentment Chimney, crossing Yorkey's Crumpet where it traverses from the chimney.

- (1) Climb the rounded corner (nose) just right of Yorkey's Crumpet. Stay generally close to the nose itself and avoid wandering onto the flanking faces. This protection. Belay on good ledge to the right.
- (2) Traverse back to the left side of the nose and climb directly up overhanging, overlapping leaves of rock. The rock is very steep here, but holds are good. Good protection begins half-way up. Belay on the right.
- (3) The final pitch is a short, severe dihedral which is the crux of the route.

N/R BONANZA CHIMNEY 5.3

This is the deep, gravelly chimney just west of Cracked Canyon.

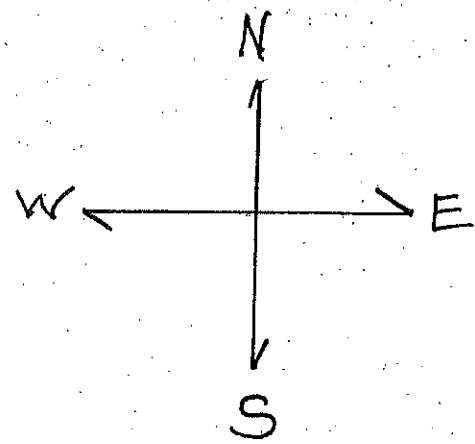
Summertime

CRACKED CANYON

- FAT CACK
- Blood on the Cracks -
- DESCENT
- Cenotaph Corner -
- BLACK MARBLE
- Orange Peel -
- Nid D'Oiseaux -
- String of Diamonds -
- Tobacco Road -
- Tee Hee -
- Limey Peel -
- Icy Fingers -
- Detour -
- Where The Wild Things Are -
- The Thin Edge -
- Rappel Gully
- TREE
- Bluegrass -
- DESCENT
- RET
- Crack
- Javelin -
- Cello -
- First Step -
- Othello -
- Iago -
- Chip Off -
- Squeeze -

THE NARROWS

- Rocky Flats
- DESCENT
- Crack of Mind
- Chewbacca
- Thor
- Come on Sun
- Dog Leg
- Puppy Leg
- K9
- Barrel of Monkeys
- Green Arête
- Attica
- BONES
- Chimney Sweep
- Froggy Bottoms
- White Book
- Algebra
- Entrance Exam
- Fox Trot
- Pirouette
- Breakfast of Champions
- Thunderbolt
- DESCENT
- Tintinabulation
- Teachers Pet
- Third Grade
- Beginners Luck
- GENESIS
- Exodus
- Margin
- 100602



CRACKED CANYON

Cracked Canyon is a gash in the south side of the Ophir intrusion. It lies just east of the Ophir Wall. (See map.) The 75 to 300 foot walls offer an extraordinary number of climbs in a small area. Most of them are of a high quality, and a full range of difficulty is available.

Route descriptions begin on the west wall starting at the mouth of the canyon and work uphill to the highest climb up the canyon: Summertime. Here the descriptions move across the canyon and work down the east wall to the mouth of the canyon.

For those using the Rappel Gully for descent, an 80-foot rappel will get you down.

See map for reference.

SQUEEZE 5.8 First Ascent - Unknown

Climb the crack in the corner on the left side at the mouth of Cracked Canyon. The second pitch ascends a short, but awkward crack leading to a rappel tree. Two ropes recommended or use descent route mentioned above.

CHIP OFF 5.9 First Ascent - Chris Vandiver, Chip Kamin.

This route follows the outside corner just right of Squeeze.

IAGO 5.8 First Ascent - Jim Sweeney, R. Robbins July, 1978

Starts 25 feet R of Squeeze. Climb an overhang to a ledge, then take the wall above, keeping just left of the corner of Othello. Belay on a ledge just below the top. (2) Climb a slanting crack on L.

OTHELLO 5.9 F/A - Jim Sweeney, R. Robbins, July, 1978

This route lies in a corner 35 feet up from Squeeze. Climb an overhanging jam crack to gain access to the corner. Follow it to the top.

FIRST STEP 5.10 F/A Dan Langmade, and partner. First Free Ascent - Chris Vandiver, Jim Sweeney, R. Robbins, August, 1978

"Before you can walk a thousand miles, you must take the first step." This route ascends the L-facing corner just L of Cello. Hard, but excellent.

CELLO 5.10 F/A - Chris Vandiver, R. Robbins, August, 1978

This route is about 60 feet up from Squeeze and just L of Javelin. It climbs an overhang to a corner and follows it to meet Javelin 40 feet below the top.

JAVELIN 5.10 F/A Chris Vandiver, R. Robbins, July, 1978

This difficult route starts about 80 feet above the bottom of the canyon. An arrow crack splits a slightly overhanging wall. Follow the crack to its end, then wander the face above to a ramp which leads up right to a good ledge. The second pitch goes up a short crack above the ledge, 5.9.

THE CROCK 5.10 F/A C. Vandiver, R. Robbins, July 1978

The Crock ascends a loose corner which begins with double cracks about 30 feet R of Javelin. This route ends at a horn, 110 feet up, from which one can rappel.

BLUEGRASS 5.8 F/A Michael Lake, Allen Pattie, July 1978

Thirty feet down canyon from Rappel Gully, this climb starts with three mantles up a series of ledges. Move left 15 feet on a sloping shelf to the bottom of a L-facing flake system. Follow the flakes to the top of the pillar. Then climb straight up 30 feet to a belay.

RAPPEL GULLY CHIMNEY 5.7

This is the deep chimney in the back of Rappel Gully.

CRACKED CANYON

Summertime

DESCENT

Blood on the Cracks

Cenotaph Corner

Orange Peel
Mid D'Oiseaux

String of Diamonds

TEE Hee

Limey Peel - Icy Fingers
DECOUR.

Where The Wild Things Are

The Thin Edge

Rappel Gully

TREE

Bluegrass

DESCENT
Crock

Javelin

Cello

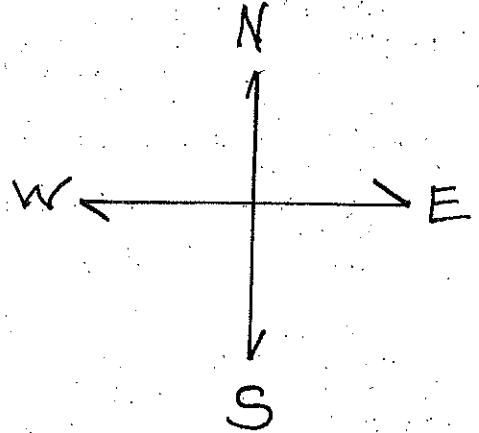
First Step - Othello

Iago

Chip Off - SQUEEZE

THE NARROWS

Rocky Flats



DESCENT

Crack of Mind

Chewbacca

Thor

Come on Sun

Dog Leg

Puppy Leg

K9 - Barrel of Monkeys

Green Arête - Attica

BONES

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RAPPEL GULLY CHIMNEY 5.7

This is the deep chimney in the back of Rappel Gully.

THE THIN EDGE 5.10 F/A Chris Vandiver, R. Robbins, July 30, 1978

This stunning route lies on the great slab forming the R wall of Rappel Gully. At the R side of the slab is a shallow crack which begins half-way up. The problem is first to reach the crack and then to climb it. The bottom of the crack can be gained from the left. This is a serious and complicated route, requiring care.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE 5.9 F/A C. Vandiver, R. Robbins, July 1978

Around the corner and uphill from the Rappel Gully is a corner with overhangs bristling above. Climb the crack, passing the first overhang on the left. Follow a steep ramp up right, and then a trough up left to belay ledge. The second pitch leads to a sturdy conifer.

DETOUR 5.8 F/A C. Vandiver, R. Robbins, July 1978

Above the Rappel Gully is a left-facing corner with squarish steps on the main wall. Climb this corner with occasional detours around loose blocks.

LIMEY PEEL 5.9 F/A Pete Livesey, Alec Livesey, Geoff Birtles, R. Robbins
August 1978

This exciting route ascends the steep face just right of Detour. A chockstone in Icy Fingers can be used to protect the initial moves. Climb up and left, following an arete which leads to a ramp partly composed of loose blocks. Climb the ramp until good holds allow a traverse R. Climb onto the face and follow it to the top.

ICY FINGERS 5.8 F/A Bill Kees, partner, April 1974

This climb starts 15 - 20 feet above Detour. Ascend a greenish vein leading to a left-facing dihedral, which lies back near the top. Scramble to Rappel Gully for descent.

TEE HEE 5.9 F/A Tim Kudo, Dan Langmade, Alan Pattie, June 1978

Located 15 feet up from Icy Fingers is a striking 3-6 inch crack which splits an obvious overhang near the top. This is a good route, but hard for its grade.

STRING OF DIAMONDS 5.10 F/A Kevin Cooney, R. Robbins, July 1978

Thirty feet above Tee Hee and directly across from Dogleg is a series of diamond-shaped pockets leading steeply up left. Climb a trough 20 feet and pass a large block on the right to a ledge with a small pine. Climb awkward moves up and left and follow the diamonds to a ledge. Finish up the right side of a short face to a tree.

NID D'OISEAUX 5.9 F/A C. Vandiver, R. Robbins, July 1978

Starts just R of String of Diamonds. Climb up L to a wedged leaning block. Pass it on the L. Entrance to the corner above is blocked by dangerously loose blocks. Detour L around these and then move back R to the corner which leads to the top of Orange Peel. This is a serious route, but pleasing and exciting if climbed carefully.

ORANGE PEEL 5.10 F/A Bill Kees, Jack Koffman July 1973

This is a classic left-leaning jam crack just above String of Diamonds and directly across from Chewbacca. Strenuous, but well-protected. 165 foot rope recommended for rappel.

CENOTAPH CORNER 5.10 F/A Bill Kees, R. Robbins, July 1978

This is the prominent south-facing open book which starts 40 feet above the ground. Awkward, poorly protected moves lead into the corner, which is strenuous but well-protected.

BLOOD ON THE CRACKS 5.10 F/A Tim Kudo, Dan Langmade, June 1978

The first obvious R-facing dihedral above Cenotaph Corner contains a crack in which skin and blood can be shed. Climb the dihedral until it curves right to the roof. Surmount the overhang and follow the crack until it peters out, continue up difficult face holds to a loose-looking block at the top.

SUMMERTIME 5.9 F/A Jerome and Jack Koffman, July 1974

This delightful route is located near the top of Cracked Canyon on a south-facing slab, which can be seen from the Ophir Road. The route bisects the slab and is worth the walk.

Start on the outside corner directly below the crack, make a few contortions, including a memorable move into the crack and belay at the horizontal section 110 feet up. The second pitch continues up the narrowing crack to a large flat section. From this point step left and face climb the last 35 feet. To descend, walk off the back side of the slab. One rope.

ROCKY FLATS 5.7 F/A Allen Pattie, Dan Langmade, May 1978

At present, this is the highest climb on the east side of Cracked Canyon. This route is located on a south-facing slab in the highest of two deep gullies. The climb starts on a series of face holds and shallow, leaning cracks which lead to a ledge. Follow a pair of right-facing cracks to the left edge of the slab. Go around the corner and belay from a cheering stance.

CRACK OF MIND 5.8 F/A Jack Koffman, 1975

This and the next 4 or 5 climbs are all recommended. Crack of Mind is a 4" to 5" crack located at the top of the Narrows section (see illustration). Large chocks suggested.

CHEWBACCA 5.7/5.8 F/A Bill Kees, R. Robbins, October 1977

A good introductory route located in the inside corner of a left-facing 8-foot book.

Descent: For all the routes in this area bushwack up canyon to a cairn. Scramble to gully floor.

THOR 5.10 F/A Bill Kees, Royal Robbins, July 1978

This route splits the white overhang just downhill and around the corner from Chewbacca. Start directly below the overhang and climb up and slightly R to a crack which is followed to the top.

COME ON SUN 5.10 F/A Kevin Cooney, Ace Krale, June 1978

On the steep wall just across from String of Diamonds, climb up to gray, left-leaning arch on poor protection. From a chockstone wedged beneath an overhang, climb straight up the steep face to a stack of loose blocks on the left. Stand on these blocks (carefully) and finish on the right via thin holds.

DOG LEG 5.7 F/A Bill Kees and partner, 1974

This is the first route on the steep east wall at the beginning of the Narrows. Dog Leg is a classic "dog leg" crack leading left. Good route.

PUPPY LEG 5.9 F/A Dan Langmade, Tim Kudo, June 1978

As the canyon narrows to 45 feet wide, locate a fractured chimney six feet at the base and narrowing as it rises to a two foot roof. Climb up, step left and surmount the overhang via a L-leaning finger-and-hand crack.

TOP of the CRACK move LEFT ON 5-7-5-8 FACE holds
K9 5.2 TO TOP

Easy chimney just below Puppy Leg.

BARREL OF MONKEYS 5.2

This is the crack below K 9 and just left of Green Arete.

GREEN ARETE 5.5

Takes the L side of the arete just L of Attica. Needs to be cleaned of loose rock.

ATTICA 5.9 F/A Jim Sweeney, R. Robbins

Attica is a handsome R-facing corner L of Bones. Climb the corner and finish up a 6" crack.

BONES 5.7 F/A Jim Gribin, Dan Langmade

The start of this climb is located 10 feet up from Chimney Sweep and follows the crack system with a small bulge in the middle.

CHIMNEY SWEEP 5.5 F/A - Allen Pattie, Dan Langmade, June 1978

At a point where the canyon begins to narrow is a prominent 3-foot-wide chimney. Climb the chimney to a large block and move outside to the right to finish.

FROGGY BOTTOMS 5.7 F/A - Dan Langmade, Jim Gribin

Climb straight up the face halfway between Chimney Sweep and White Book.

WHITE BOOK 5.4

About 175 feet above the bottom of the canyon is an obvious R-facing corner, the left wall of which is multi-fissured and white. The route goes up the bushy corner. Nasty.

ALGEBRA 5.6

This climb begins 20 feet R of White Book. Climb straight up a slab to a crack and follow it to the top.

ENTRANCE EXAM 5.0

Follows a crack just R of Algebra.

FOXTROT 5.3

Ascends just L of Pi rouette. Start not in the corner, but up an easy crack in the face to the L. Pass the overhang via a gully on L.

PIROUETTE 5.8

This is a clean finger crack which splits a smooth face just below a large overhang. Turn under the overhang on the R and follow the gully to the top.

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS 5.6 F/A - Allen Pattie, Paul Hebert, June 1978

The route lies 15 feet uphill from Thunderbolt. Climb a low-angle right-facing dihedral through a bush to a large stance. Move left on easier ground.

THUNDERBOLT 5.6

This is the upward-flaring deep crack just down from Breakfast of Champions.

TINTINABULATION 5.4

Follows an obscure L-facing corner L of Teacher's Pet.

TEACHER'S PET 5.8

This climb starts directly below an obvious rappel tree about 30-40 feet into the canyon. Follow a shallow crack past 2 overhangs, then take the crack on the right.

THIRD GRADE 5.8

This involves the right-facing corner and overhang just L of Beginner's Luck. Climb the face to the corner, continue up corner and pass the overhang on the L. Now climb straight up and turn the next overhang on the R. Follow the R-facing corner to the top.

BEGINNER'S LUCK 5.6

This is a good route, and great for learning to lead. A tube is helpful at the top. This route is the first ^{major} crack on the E wall of the canyon. It is 3-6" wide.

EXODUS 5.8 F/A - Allen Pattie

Goes up the outside corner just L of Genesis.

GENESIS 5.1

This is the first open book up from the bottom of the canyon.

MARGIN 5.1

Takes the crack on the R page of Genesis.

NOTE: A route was done by Tim Kudo on the S-facing wall just east of Cracked Canyon. A route description was not available at time of printing, but the climb lies about 30 feet R of the edge of Crack Canyon. Difficulty is 5.9 or 5.10.

AMES WALL AREA

This is a good climbing area with an easy approach, visited by few people. The 600 to 700 foot wall has a slight northeastern exposure, thus the sun is gone by 1:00 p.m. The best time to climb in Ames is the warm midsummer months. The river crossing can be hazardous early in the spring.

Three strata of rock exist at Ames. The lower 50-75 feet is hardened Dakota sandstone formation, which holds protection well. The middle 400-500 feet of rock is a granitic sill that occurred the same time as the Ophir intrusion.

The uppersection, 100-150 feet is the soft Mancos shale formation, which although soft, is laid back enough to cause no problem.

The approach is relatively easy. Directly west of the Ophir turnoff, leave Highway 145 and head west toward the Illium Valley on a good dirt road. Turn left at the first junction which leads to the Ames power plant and the Lake Fork Junction Development. Do not go across the bridge leading to Lake Fork Junction, but turn left at the sign and drive south past the power plant on a dirt road to a point at which you are stopped by a chain strung across the road. Walk across the river near the downed railroad trestle. Continue on opposite side of river up road 150 feet to a not-so-well defined railroad bed which lies to the right. Follow bed north to base of Ames Wall. Raspberry picking can be good in the fall.

Descent: For all routes topping out on the Ames Wall, walk back toward river crossing on the rim of the wall.

Gravity's Deception

Class 5.8

Grade III

First Ascent - Bob Sullivan and Bill Kees, 5/77.

This very enjoyable route has all the elements of a classical rock climb. Moderate climbing; hard, clean rock; excellent protection and great exposure. A highly recommended route.

For the start of the route and its first 2 pitches, see Wild Raspberrys below.

The third pitch leaves the flat grassy ledge, called Allen's Pasture and ascends the spectacular crack on the north-facing side of the open book to a sling belay at a bush just below a slight overhang. The last pitch continues on some of the most exciting rock in the area. Bypass the last overhang on the left. Double up on middle-sized nuts.

Wild Raspberrys

Class 5.7

Grade III

First Ascent - George Braun and Bill Kees, 1974.

This is the first known route on the Ames Wall. From the railroad bed, Wild Raspberrys can be seen as the chimney located in the depths of the second dihedral from the south or left side of the wall. The straight vertical crack of Gravity's Deception can also be seen on the north face of the same dihedral.

The route begins in a tree-to four-foot chimney located on the outside corner of a 40-50 foot right-facing dihedral at the base of the wall. Climb

the chimney to its top, then walk left 20-30 feet to a 40 foot 8"-12" squeeze chimney with a chockstone at the top.

The second pitch climbs up and left over bushy ledges to a 4' x 6' grassy ledge known as Allen's Pasture.

The third pitch climbs the obvious open book to the base of a chimney.

The fourth pitch, which appears to be a good technical chimney, can be 3rd or 4th classed to the top. Take the rim trail back to the car.

Precarious Pinnacle

Class 5.9

Grade I

First Ascent - Tim Kudo and Bill Kees, 1977.

This good route can best be located from the railroad bed. It is situated about 200 feet north, or right, of the open book of Wild Raspberrys. Look for a flying buttress with the top 30 feet actually separated from the wall. The top of the route is about 400 feet and ends at the transition between the granite and soft Mancos shale. It is the only route that does not top out on the wall.

After locating the pinnacle, the route begins on the left side of the buttress in an obvious "V"-shaped crack or gully.

- (1) Climb face holds 10-15 feet into a crack or gully. After 100 feet, it is possible to go right or left. Stay left and climb fifty feet of 5.9 to the top of a large block and good belay. The right variation appears to be more difficult off-width. Second pitch continues over large blocks and interesting solution pockets to good belay 120 feet up (5.8 or 5.9.) Last pitch is easy and obvious.

Descent: Rappel climbing route. Pay close attention to rope handling and loose rocks, especially on the first rappel.

Meat Grinder

Class 5.8 or 5.9

Grade III

First Ascent - Dan Langmade and Bill Kees, 1976.

The Ames Wall is bisected by a large gorge, the Meat Grinder is located in the first main dihedral to the right of this gorge.

- (1) At the base of the right-facing dihedral, climb via chimney and face holds to the base of the open book.

The first ascent party climbed the open book 5.7-5.8 to a sling belay just below an awkward chute called the Nickle Slot, which is the crux. It may be possible to avoid the sling belay and climb through the slot on the second pitch. Next pitch goes over blocky ledges to transition between good and rotten rock. Last pitch wanders through rotten rock to top 5.2

OTHER CLIMBS

NEEDLE ROCK 5.8/5.9 First Ascent - Unknown

This is the spire seen high above the south side of town. To approach it, take cat roads up the ski area to Camel's Garden. From this point, bushwack to the base. This climb is not noted for more than its spectacular location, affording a great view of town. Follow the obvious crack on the west face. It is marked by a bolt near the bottom. A double-rope rappel gets one down.

TELLURIDE EDGE

This is a cliff of red sandstone, a half-mile long and about 60 feet high, facing south just above Telluride. The rock is good for sandstone, and many short routes have been done. Most of the routes, if not all, have been led. Top-roping is awkward because of the unstable nature of the slope above the cliff. Most of the routes can be reasonably well protected with nuts. At the western end of the edge many routes are short enough to boulder.

BOULDERING

ILLIUM ROCKS

Drive straight out of Telluride on Highway 145 down Keystone Hill. Take the first left near the bottom and drive $\frac{1}{2}$ mile past the first bridge. Numerous boulders lie back in the trees about 200 feet from the road on the left side.

IDORADO BOULDERS

Located in Telluride Valley just east of the mine. Drive east past the mine toward Bridalveil Falls. At the first switchback past the dump, park next to a large conglomerate boulder. The boulders are a short distance ahead. A short rope might help on some of the bigger ones.

BEAR CANYON BOULDER

Located at the end of the 3-mile dirt road up Bear Canyon just south of Telluride, this boulder of high-quality conglomerate is excellent for teaching beginners. It is also good for bouldering and top-roping difficult face climbs. Another boulder with good potential is just downstream and about 150 feet above the road on the west side of the canyon.

SOCIETY TURN

Three miles west of town, where the road splits, is Society Turn. An edge of yellow sandstone descends nearly to the road here. This edge is suitable for some bouldering and traversing. It often offers dry, warm climbing even in mid-winter.

