

18 Don't Kick the Bucket II 5.8

Locate a pillar on the north wall of Ships Prow near a cairn (it's unlikely the cairn is still around after 25 years, but you never know). Climb the pillar to a belay ledge on the left. Trend left past several more pillars (loose) to a crack shooting past some roofs, and finish with a short pitch. Descend west and around Chasm Lake. FA: Ron Olevsky, 1974.

Fricke's guide states that most of the obvious one- and two-pitch crack and corner systems on the north side of Ships Prow have been ascended (on aid), probably by climbers stormed off the Diamond. None of them are significant enough to have been named or recorded. Note that the cliffs on the south side of Chasm Lake have also seen some action. Topher Donahue and friends climbed three short routes on a wall due north of the Chasm Lake outlet, finding excellent climbing from 5.9 to 5.12. They also spotted several old pitons in cracks nearby, testament to earlier routes in this area that were never recorded.

The East Face Cirque

The majority of the technical climbing on Longs Peak takes place on the East Face. The routes found here are typically long and involved. Many parties bivouac (permit necessary) above Chasm Lake, on Broadway, or on the ridge near Chasm View, though it is common to finish the free climbs with no bivvy.

Climbs are described left to right below Broadway, beginning with the Lower East Face and traversing over to Chasm View Wall, and then left to right above Broadway, starting with the east side of the Beaver (the Upper East Face) and ending at the Diamond. The numbering system begins anew for each of the major sections of the face.

Approach: To reach the cirque, hike 4.5 miles to Chasm Lake, skirt the lake on the right using a footpath that stays about 50 feet above the lake, and head up to Mills Glacier. The glacier is usually hard snow until softened by the sun, and since most parties arrive around dawn, extra care is needed to cross the slope. It is a good idea to bring sturdy boots and a sharp rock to cut steps.

Lower East Face

Overshadowed by the Diamond, the Lower East Face sees little action despite several appealing lines. Because of its position beneath Broadway, the Notch Couloir and upper **Kiener's**, this face is subject to rock fall (although the rock itself is quite sound). Wet sections will be found in all but the driest years as the face drains snow melt from Broadway. As with the Diamond, the sun leaves the face around noon.

Descent: All routes, save the first, end at Broadway, the quarter-mile long ledge system running across the middle of the entire East Face. Descend from Broadway by rappelling **Crack of Delight** (four double rope rappels) or by way of Lambs Slide (bring an ice axe). For many of these routes, it may be easiest to continue to the summit of Longs via upper **Kiener's** (or any of the routes in this area), as the traverse over to **Crack of Delight** can be troublesome.

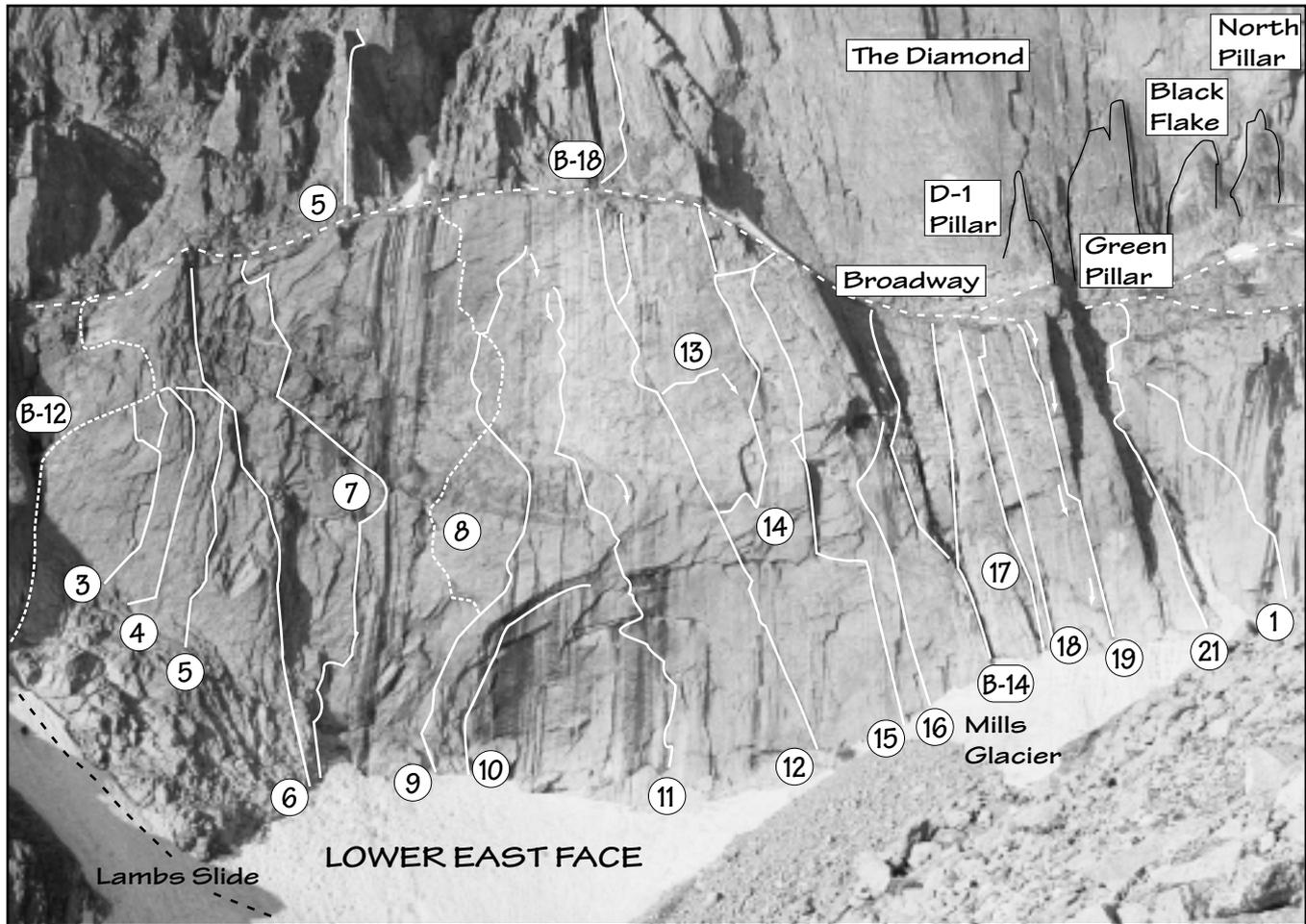
B-17 Kiener's Route II AI 2 5.3 ★★★

A splendid mountaineering route. The left side of Mills Glacier sweeps up into a wide, 1,000 foot couloir known as Lambs Slide. Ascend this until it is possible to move right onto Broadway (ice axe and crampons are essential). Broadway can be reached with less ice climbing via Glacier Rib. This is the long band of rock bordering Lambs Slide on the left; it is most easily accessed with a gully 200 feet below the foot of Lambs Slide. Climb on the rib (3rd class, loose) until level with Broadway, then traverse 200 feet across Lambs Slide. Once on Broadway, traverse 1,000 feet to the base of the Notch Couloir, a snow gully left of the Diamond. Most of the traverse is very easy (a spot of 5.1 lies above **Stettner's Ledges**), but tremendously exposed. Cross the couloir and belay at bolts on the right. Two options reach Kiener's chimney directly above. The easiest goes left into Notch Couloir, up for thirty feet, then right over several rock steps (spot of 5.3), and finally back left into a long, low-angled chimney. Belay in the chimney at two pitons. A more difficult and direct method climbs straight above the bolt belay to the chimney (5.5). Head up the easy chimney, then make an unexpected right turn at its end into a narrow passage. This leads onto a long ledge; belay on its right side. Angle back left for a full pitch of steps and corners, 5.0. A short pitch ends the technical difficulties. Wander up 700 feet of talus and gullies (3rd class when free of snow), angling right. The final pitches climb the Staircase, a long section of giant rock steps on the right. Move right at the end of the Staircase, coming very close to the edge of the Diamond, to avoid a huge, steep dihedral below the summit. Turn from the south slopes onto the east slopes and scramble two hundred feet to the top.

Variation: One can turn left at the end of the Kiener's Chimney (a common mistake) and climb into the Notch Chimneys just right of the Notch Couloir. This is harder, and several run out dihedrals must be negotiated before a rightward traverse regains the line (5.6). FA: Walter Kiener, a climbing guide, pieced together this route in 1924, looking for the easiest way up the east face with an eye toward future clients. Very little new ground was covered on the ascent. It's possible he did this over several visits, with help from Agnes Vaille and Carl Blaurock. Another guide from this era, Guy C. Caldwell, installed cairns all the way up the route and advertised his services in the Aug 7, 1925 issue of the Estes Park paper (an article about his trail building efforts appeared earlier that summer). Note that both Elkanah J. Lamb (in 1871) and Enos Mills (in 1906) descended the east face. It is not clear what route was followed on these intrepid descents, though most authorities put the line near the Notch Couloir, beginning, perhaps, with a descent of **Stepladder** (see **The Beaver**). It is clear that both men traversed south once Broadway was reached, then finished down Lambs Slide, and both nearly perished. Lamb slipped and narrowly escaped a long fall, while Mills was swept away in an avalanche.

1 Glendenning's Arete II 5.4

This takes an indistinct line up the triangular buttress between Lambs Slide and **Alexander's Chimney**. 1. Climb Lambs Slide to the foot of a dihedral near the prow of the buttress, and follow the dihedral to a mossy ledge. 2. Angle right in a gully, and as it narrows, move left below a big block to gain the arete. Climb over the top of the block, then cut back right to a belay at blocks. 3. Go straight up to Broadway. FA: Jack Glendenning, Crowell and Fay, 1953.



2 Bongalong II 5.5 A1

This is a variation to the previous line, climbing the first crack left of **Alexander's** (A1) and then switching left higher up. FA: Jerry Brown, Rod Smythe, and others, 1966.

B-12 Alexander's Chimney II 5.5 *

Alexander's climbs the first major break right of Lambs Slide. It is most appealing as an ice climb in late fall, and is sometimes used as a more direct start to **Kiener's**. The description given here (with all of the variations) is for a summer ascent. Get to the chimney with several hundred feet of Lambs Slide and a traverse across a 4th class rock band (the rock band can be climbed directly to minimize the amount of snow encountered). 1. Go up the chimney to a belay below a huge chockstone, wet 5.5. 2. Move onto the face and traverse right on a long ledge system; belay at Dog Ears Flake on its far right side. 3. Go straight up for 40 feet (5.5), then traverse up and left to a belay flake. 4. Continue traversing left to the Yellow Bowl, cross over to its left side, then up to Broadway. FA: Werner Zimmerman climbed this general line in 1919, though it was named after an ascent by J. W. Alexander and Jack Moomaw, 1922. **Variations:** **Left Detour** (5.5) traverses left on pitch two instead of right, intersecting **Bongalong** and **Glendenning's Arete**. FA: Melvin Wickens and Sharps, 1930. Or, after reaching the arete on **Glendenning's**, move back onto the left wall of the chimney and take that to Broadway. FA: Glendenning and Bob Frauson, 1950s. **Right Detour** moves right after 30 feet of pitch one and utilizes a small dihedral (5.6) to avoid ice in the chimney. FA: Bill Eubanks and Brad Van Diver, 1948. **Kuncl Direct** traverses right for thirty feet on the second lead before finishing straight up in a fine left-facing jam (5.6). It joins the main line in the Yellow Bowl. FA: Ernie Kuncl and John Deeming, 1959. The headwall between **Kuncl Direct** and the standard third pitch has been climbed in a few other spots. Carl Blaurock and company surmounted the right side of the Yellow Bowl with a triple shoulder stand on the third ascent, 1922. There are at least two other variations, though these are commonly done only in winter — see the ice climbing section.

3 Kor's Door II 5.9 ***

A rectangular inset lies about 100 feet right of the base of **Alexander's**. **Kor's Door** climbs up its right side, and over two roofs above. Scramble up the 4th class rock band right of Lambs Slide to a good ledge below the inset. 1. Climb to a leaning flake at the bottom left side of the inset, and belay on the right. 2. Ascend the right side of the inset then through the roof at its top (gorgeous 5.9 hands) to a small stance. 3. Continue the crack to another roof and turn it on the right (5.9). Belay on a good ledge on the left. 4. Follow a thin, right-facing dihedral directly above the belay (5.8), or climb easier flakes on the left, and reach the right end of the long ledge on **Alexander's**. Follow that route to Broadway (5.5), or finish with **Hornsby Direct** (see **Stettner's Ledges**). FA: Layton Kor and Jonathan Hough with some aid, 1958.

4 Malander's Passage II 5.8+ **

This route takes the long crack system thirty feet right of **Kor's Door** in three leads, ending on the far right side of the traverse pitch on **Alexander's**. Reach the crack by traversing right on a fading ledge (5.8+), or with a more difficult direct start. FA: John and Jim Malander, 1963. FFA: Michael Covington and John Marts, 1965.

5 Tight Squeeze II 5.7 *

Tight Squeeze ascends the next line right of **Malander's Passage**, a flake system leading to a narrow chimney. Above the chimney it joins **Stettner's Ledges**. Start below a double roof in the bottom flake. 1. Good face holds gain the flake. Pass the stepped roofs to the right and belay (5.7). 2. Lieback the flake system (5.8 on the left, 5.7 on the right) then traverse left to the base of the squeeze, 5.7. 3. Thrash up a six-inch crack, 5.7, and merge with **Stettner's**. FA: Paul Mayrose and Bob Bradley, 1962.

6 Stettner's Ledges III 5.8 **

A major accomplishment for its time, **Stettner's Ledges** was the hardest climb in Colorado for twenty years, and perhaps the hardest climb in America of such length when it was put up. Its traditional rating is 5.7, though "traditional" is used loosely here — the Yosemite rating system wasn't yet established in 1927. The upper left tongue of Mills Glacier points to a long corner and flake system which angles left; this is the route. The corner faces north and is shaded most of the day, thus extra clothing is recommended. 1 and 2. Follow the middle of the flake system to an alcove 250 feet above the glacier, 5.6. 3. Climb out the right side of the alcove past the Piton Ladder, 5.8 and often wet, and go to Lunch Ledge. 5.8 variations lie to the left and right. 4. Move left on Lunch Ledge and take a steep right-facing corner to another ledge. **Tight Squeeze** joins in here. 5 and 6. Two more pitches straight up the final dihedral provide a fitting finish (5.8, **Hornsby Direct**, FA: Dave Hornsby and Harold Walton, 1949) but the original line diagonalled left on **Alexander's Chimney**. FA: Paul and Joe Stettner, 1927.

7 Striped Wall IV 5.7 A4

This is a particularly dangerous route because it lies below the Notch Couloir in the direct line of falling rock. Begin at a large, right-facing corner just right of **Stettner's** and follow the topo. Bring a helmet. FA: Wayne Goss and Layton Kor, 1965.

B-13 Smear of Fear IV M6 WI 6-

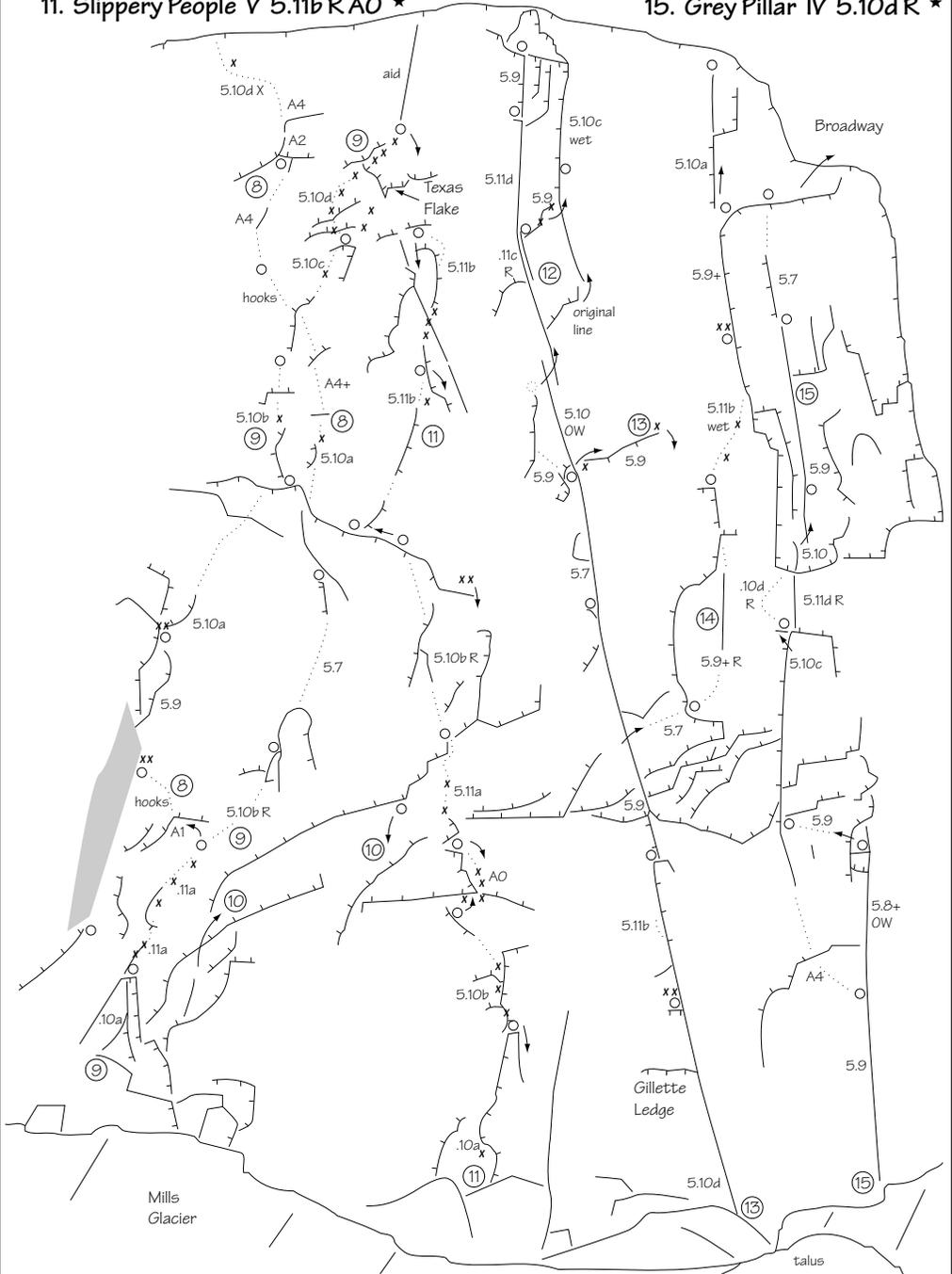
See ice climbing section.

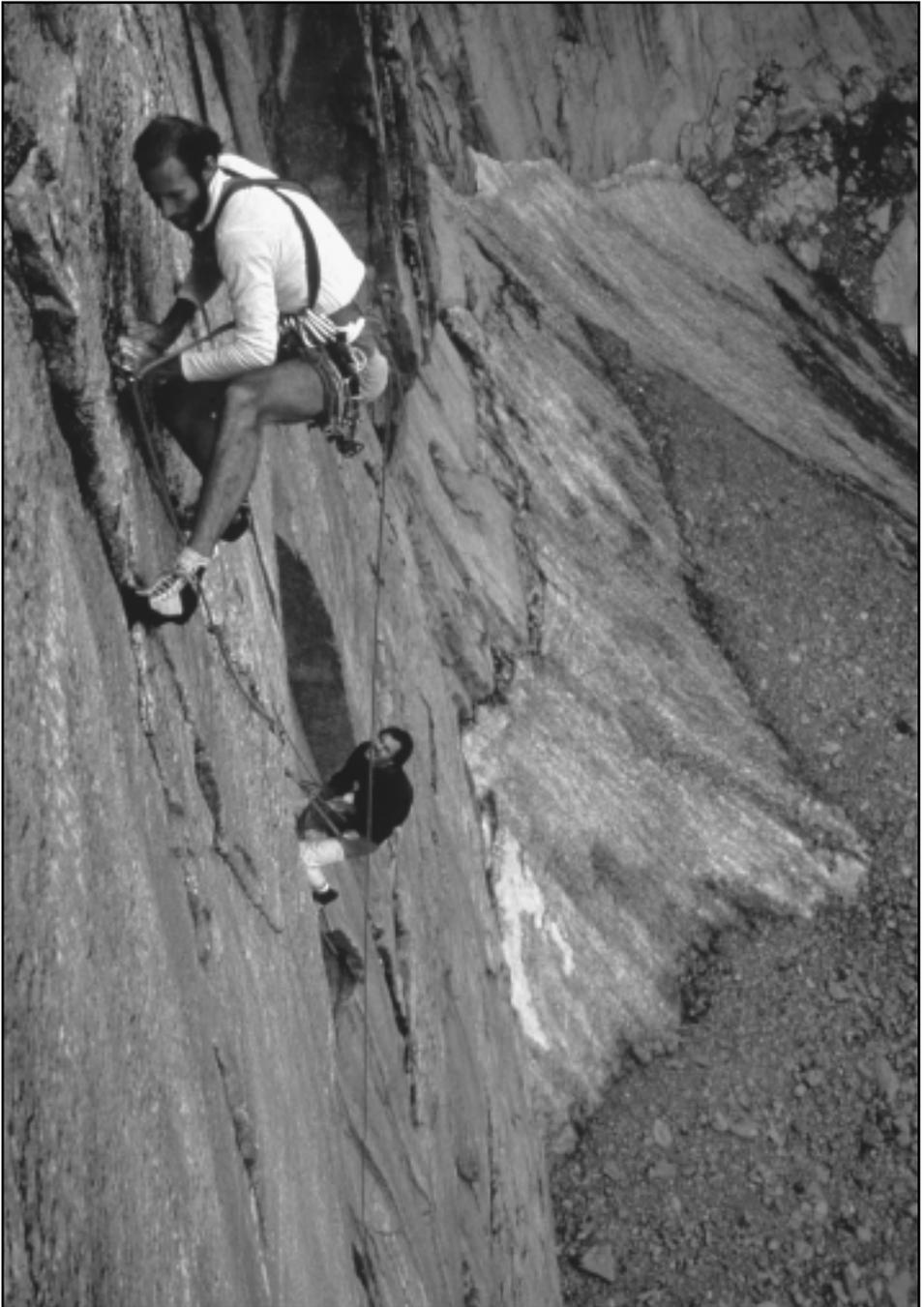
8 Anti Nuclear Tide V 5.10d X A4

Begin with the first two leads of **Endless Summer** (previously difficult nailing, but now tempered with some fixed gear), then make a traverse left along an overhang. Hook over the roof, and climb easy, though run out rock to a bolted stance. From here the route follows the line of **Smear of Fear** until reaching a diagonal system called the Slash (**Striped Wall** climbs along the Slash further left). Angle right above the Slash to arrive at the long ledge on **Endless Summer**, then do a difficult A4+ pitch to its right, reconnecting with it at the undercling flake. Hook up and left to a sling belay. Continue straight up with more hooking and difficult nailing to a single bolt belay beneath a prominent roof. This roof is just right of the water streak coming from the Notch Couloir, and is the most prominent feature on this part of the wall. Nail over the roof, then traverse hard left for forty feet past a bolt or two (5.10d X) until a line of small holds leads to Broadway and the old bolt belay on **Kiener's**. Bring aid gear from hooks to four inches. FA: The first lead might be the line of **Big Bear**, an unfinished route listed in Nesbit's guide with no FA team; it appears that **Big Bear** strayed left toward **Smear of Fear** before reaching its high point. The route described here was done by Jim Beyer, 1987.

LOWER EAST FACE - Diagonal Wall

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| 8. Anti Nuclear Tide V 5.10d X A4 | 12. Diagonal Direct V- 5.11c or 5.11d R *** |
| 9. Endless Summer IV 5.11a R * | 13. The Diagonal V 5.11b AO ** |
| 10. Nassawand III 5.7 A3 | 14. Directagonal V- 5.11b ** |
| 11. Slippery People V 5.11b RAO * | 15. Grey Pillar IV 5.10d R * |





Roger and Bill Briggs on *Diagonal Direct*, Lower East Face.

GLENN RANDALL PHOTO

9 Endless Summer IV 5.11a R *

In 1987, Layton Kor returned from a 20-year hiatus from climbing to put up (with Dan McGee) a new route called **The Question Mark** (V 5.10 A4, some ground shared with previous route). **Endless Summer** is the free version of that line, involving difficult route finding up a face devoid of continuous features. Begin at a triangular flake located at the left end of a long, arching roof band. 1. Jam the crack in the middle of the flake, 5.10a. 2. Work up an angling slash (fixed pins, 5.11a) and continue past three bolts to a belay even with the roof band. 3. Angle right (5.10b R) toward a black streak, and climb to the top of a flake just left of the streak. 4. Head up left to a long ledge system (using an intermediate belay if necessary), 5.7. 5. Angle left to a bolt half way up the pitch (the bolt out right is on **Anti Nuclear Tide**), then take a right-facing corner to a belay below a small roof, 5.10b. 6. Cut back right, aiming for an undercling flake. Turn the flake on the right and climb past a bolt (5.10c) to a little ledge. Two off-route bolts are seen above the right end of the ledge. 7. Clip a pin on the left, pull through an overlap (bolt), then angle past the left edge of a flake shaped like Texas (more bolts, 5.10d). The wet, vegetated crack above is the last pitch of **The Question Mark**; the free route rappels down **Slippery People**. Rack: RPs, TCUs and a standard rack to #3 Friend. Bring a helmet, and double ropes for the rappels. FFA: Greg Davis and Todd Bibler, 1990.

10 Nassawand III 5.7 A3

An old, unfinished route climbs the underside of the big arch right of **Endless Summer**, then rappels to the ground. FA: Michael Covington and Steve Hickman, 1969.

11 Slippery People IV 5.11b R A0 *

This route features clean, white rock in its upper pitches, but the lower pitches are usually wet. When combined with the first four leads of **Endless Summer**, it is a two-star route. Start 100 feet left of **Diagonal** at a line of flakes leading to an imposing roofband. 1. Climb past a bolt to a left-facing flake (5.10a) and belay on its top. 2. Pass two overlaps on a left-angling pitch with two bolts and a pin. Belay below the roof. 3. Move right (pitons) beneath the roof, then aid a bolt ladder to a belay atop a pointed flake. 4. Head up and left to the next roof band (5.11a), then pull over on the right to another pointed flake. 5. A left-leaning pitch up small right-facing features (5.10b R) gains the long ledge system shared with **Endless Summer**. 6. Walk left on the ledge and re-establish the belay. Connect a series of left-facing corners to a stance left of a longer, arching dihedral (5.11b). 7. Traverse right past two bolts and a piton, then ascend a thin dihedral system to a small (but long) arching overlap (5.11b). Exit right, then cut back left at a pin to a belay at a roof. This is the high point of the route; three rappels (from the belay anchors) end at the long ledge. Traverse to the right side of the ledge and rappel from bolts to the third belay. Two more rappels reach the ground. Rack: same as **Endless Summer**. FA: Greg Davis and Todd Bibler, 1990.

12 Diagonal Direct V- 5.11c or 5.11d R ***

Diagonal Direct ascends the most obvious line on the Lower East Face, a long leaning crack system that extends all the way to Broadway. On the first ascent, Layton Kor and Tex Bossier endured epic suffering when hit by a savage storm. Start at the prominent crack system below the left edge of the Diamond. 1. Take the crack past Gillette ledge (named for its razor-sharp edge) to a small stance (bolts), 5.10d. 2. Continue up the crack, step left (5.11b) and go to a grassy ledge. 3. Pull over a stepped roof band (5.9) to a belay flake after a full pitch. 4. Follow the line for an easy pitch — the original **Diagonal** traverses right from the belay. 5. Lead through a wide section with a fixed bong, or climb the face on the left to an optional belay stance. Step right, then take a continuously difficult, waning crack to a stance at 160 feet, 5.11c R. 6. Traverse right past fixed pins to the base of a right-facing dihedral, and go up a short distance. 7. Take the dihedral to Broadway, wet 5.10c. Include plenty of thin wires. FA: Layton Kor and Floyd Bossier, 1963. FFA: Charlie Fowler and Jeff Achey, 1980, though Mark Wilford and Pat Adams almost pulled it off in 1977. **Variation:** Instead of traversing right on pitch 6, continue up the same thin crack to a belay below Broadway (spicy 5.11d ***), and complete the route with a short 5.9 pitch. FA: Roger Briggs and Chip Chace, 1987.

13 The Diagonal V 5.11b A0 **

The completion of **The Diagonal** convinced RMNP rangers to lift the ban on Diamond climbs that existed in the late 1950s. Begin at the angling crack system described in **Diagonal Direct**, and climb that route for four pitches. 5. Step out of the **Diagonal Direct** line at a bolt, and traverse a small flake right (5.9). Continue right (5.9 face) to a lone bolt, lower off fifty feet, and pendulum over to a ledge. 6. Angle up right past a bolt and join the free version, **Directagonal**. FA: Ray Northcutt and Layton Kor, 1959.

14 Directagonal V- 5.11b **

A free variation of **The Diagonal**. Do the first two leads of **Diagonal Direct**. 3. Pull through the stepped roofs, then hand traverse right on a good flake to the base of a prominent right-facing dihedral capped with a roof (5.7). 4. Climb an incipient crack out right (5.9+ R) to the right edge of the dihedral's roof, and head up to a ledge with bolts. The pendulum on **The Diagonal** ends at this ledge. 5. Work up right (bolts) to a wet undercling that leads into a left-facing system, 5.11b. Belay at bolts. 6. Climb the corner, 5.9+, and belay on a ledge that extends over to Broadway. 7. Scoot off right, or climb a direct finish up an obvious corner with overhang, 5.10a. Bring extra thin gear. FFA: Roger and Bill Briggs, 1977.

15 Grey Pillar IV 5.10d R *

Start 100 feet right of **The Diagonal** at an obvious crack line (the left of two) leading into some huge roofs. 1. Follow the crack to a bolt belay, 5.9. 2. Struggle up a lengthy offwidth (5.8+) to a big block. 3. Make a long traverse left to the base of a huge corner (5.9). 4. Fire up the corner and over the left edge of the massive roof utilizing cracks on the left wall, 5.10c. 5. Climb poorly protected rock up left (5.10d R), then move back right and pull over an overhang (5.10). Step right into a continuous crack and belay. 6 and 7. Follow the crack and dihedral to Broadway.

FA: Layton Kor and Tex Bossier, 1963. FFA: John Bragg and Bill Briggs, 1977.

Variations: The original aid line nailed an A4 slab left of the first belay, and then went up to the third belay. Once over the massive roof, it went straight up thin cracks to the second overhang. These thin cracks have now been done free and renamed **A-Wee-Earl Grey** (5.11d R, FA: Derek Hersey and Bobby Campbell).

16 Shining Slab III 5.10a *

1. Ascend the crack and corner twenty feet right of **Grey Pillar** (sustained 5.9) and crank over a roof (crux). 2. Jam up a fine crack (usually soaking wet) to a good ledge, 5.9. 3. Go up along cracks into a right-facing dihedral and belay. From here the route angles right across a slab (avoiding the huge dirty roof above) into the upper stretches of **Field's Chimney**. FA: Stan Shepard and Burbank, aid, 1963.

B-14 Field's Chimney II 5.5

The fanned-out chimney system right of the main wall of the Lower East Face holds a disagreeable and loose route of poor quality, plus several variations. Its position directly beneath the free climbs of the Diamond further exposes it to rock-fall; an ascent in the summer is not recommended. In winter, however, it is a challenging mixed route; see the ice climbing section. FA: Ernie Field and Warren Gorrell climbed the left side of the fan, 1936. **Wedding's Detour** steps left at the initial fork in the chimney and climbs up for a couple pitches to the right side of a roof, then back into the original line. FA: Gale Wedding, Al Auten, and Graves, 1952. Old pitons in the right side of the fan suggest an early ascent; this is the line taken by the mixed winter route.

The next four lines are located on the narrow buttress between **Field's Chimney** and **North Chimney**.

17 Craig's Crack II 5.8 *

Two long dihedrals in the middle of the buttress face each other. **Craig's Crack** takes the left dihedral (right-facing), which becomes a deep, and usually wet chimney higher up. Some sections of the chimney can be avoided by climbing the face on the left. FA: Robert Craig, Roger and Hassler Whitney (with some aid), 1952.

18 Overhang Dihedral III 5.10c *

This route takes the right (left-facing) dihedral through two large overhangs in five leads. FA: Layton Kor and Pat Ament, aid, 1964.

19 Crack of Delight II 5.7 *

An obvious crack and chimney line begins at a large flake fifty feet right of **Overhang Dihedral**. Switch left after two leads (both 5.7) when the crack becomes a right-facing corner, and follow an evident chimney for two more leads (5.7). The route harbors heavy vegetation, and is now equipped with four double bolt anchors (not all of them on belay ledges) to facilitate retreat from Broadway. FA: Kor and Bossier, 1963.

20 La Dolce Vita VI 5.8 A4

The line described here is the bottom portion of a long route that continues up the Diamond. Climb **Crack of Delight** for two pitches. Stay with the same system instead of switching left, and aid up a steep dihedral into the upper reaches of **North Chimney**. FA: Renato Casarotto and Charlie Fowler, 1984.

21 North Chimney II 5.5

The Lower East Face ends at a pronounced cleft on the right. **North Chimney** ascends this cleft (many options available) for three or four loose pitches to reach Broadway. It sees heavy traffic as it is the main line of approach for Diamond routes, and thus it is essential to avoid knocking rocks loose on this route. Listen for the whirring sound of falling ice from the **D-1** exit chimney — in early season, chunks big enough to be lethal can cut loose. The cleanest line begins on slabs just left of the highest tongue of Mills Glacier. Follow the slabs and corners on the right to a huge chockstone blocking the right side of the chimney. In May and June (if the snow is soft), one can kick steps up the snow tongue to this point. Pass the chockstone on the left, then go back right to a left-facing corner above the stone. Angle left (loose slabs) and back right to a short jam crack (5.5) and then head right across grassy ledges to the base of a left-facing corner. Lieback this to a fixed anchor at the base of the **Dunn — Westbay** pillar. Traverse 100 feet across Broadway above the chimney (spot of loose 5.2) to the D-1 pillar and the base of the **Casual Route**. FA: E. H. Bruns (with W. F. Ervin?) 1924 or 25.

Chasm View Wall

The expansive, light colored wall right of **North Chimney** is Chasm View Wall, so named for its position beneath Chasm View. The routes feature steep, high-quality granite, providing a good introduction to the more demanding Diamond climbs. Because the cliff bends from east to south-facing and receives sunlight well into the afternoon, climbing here is decidedly more relaxing than on the neighboring walls.

Approach: Hike past Chasm Lake to Mills Glacier. The first several routes are accessed directly from the glacier. A long ramp and ledge system which runs for several hundred feet up and right (4th class in a few spots, and above the more distinct ramp of **Fifth Avenue**) begins near the right tongue of the glacier, and it is used to gain the base of the remaining routes.

Descent: For routes that end on Broadway, there are several descent choices. Either traverse left on Broadway and rappel **Crack of Delight**, or locate the anchors on top of **Babies Are Us** and rappel that route. One can also traverse right and climb out via **Chasm View Cut-off** (or its variation). This leads to the ridge between Chasm View and Mount Lady Washington, as do the climbs on the right side of the wall. From the ridge top, walk east to the Camel descent gully; follow that back to Mills Glacier (described at the beginning of the Longs Peak section). Extra gear can be left at the base of the Camel gully for pick-up after the climb, provided this is the choice of descent.

1 Near North Unfinished

A picture in Nesbit's Longs Peak guide demarcates this route that climbs all but the last pitch of the slab right of **North Chimney**. It appears to follow the obvious cracks and corners one system left of the next route. Its difficulty and FA team are not listed.

2 Eclipse II 5.10a ★

Eclipse follows the arching dihedral below a huge flake seen midway up the wall about 200 feet right of **North Chimney**. A 4th class ramp leads off of Mills Glacier toward the base of the dihedral. 1. Climb the dihedral for fifty feet (or the slab on the left), then face climb out left for a short stretch. Continue up to and over a roof (5.9+) in the dihedral. 2. Follow the line (sometimes wet) to the end of the arch, 5.10a. 3. Pop over an apex, and go up a shallow dihedral (5.9). 4 and 5. Two pitches (5.7, 5.5) up good rock end at Broadway. FA: Ament and Boucher, 1963. FFA: Beyer and Casey, 1990.

3 Zigzag II 5.7 A2

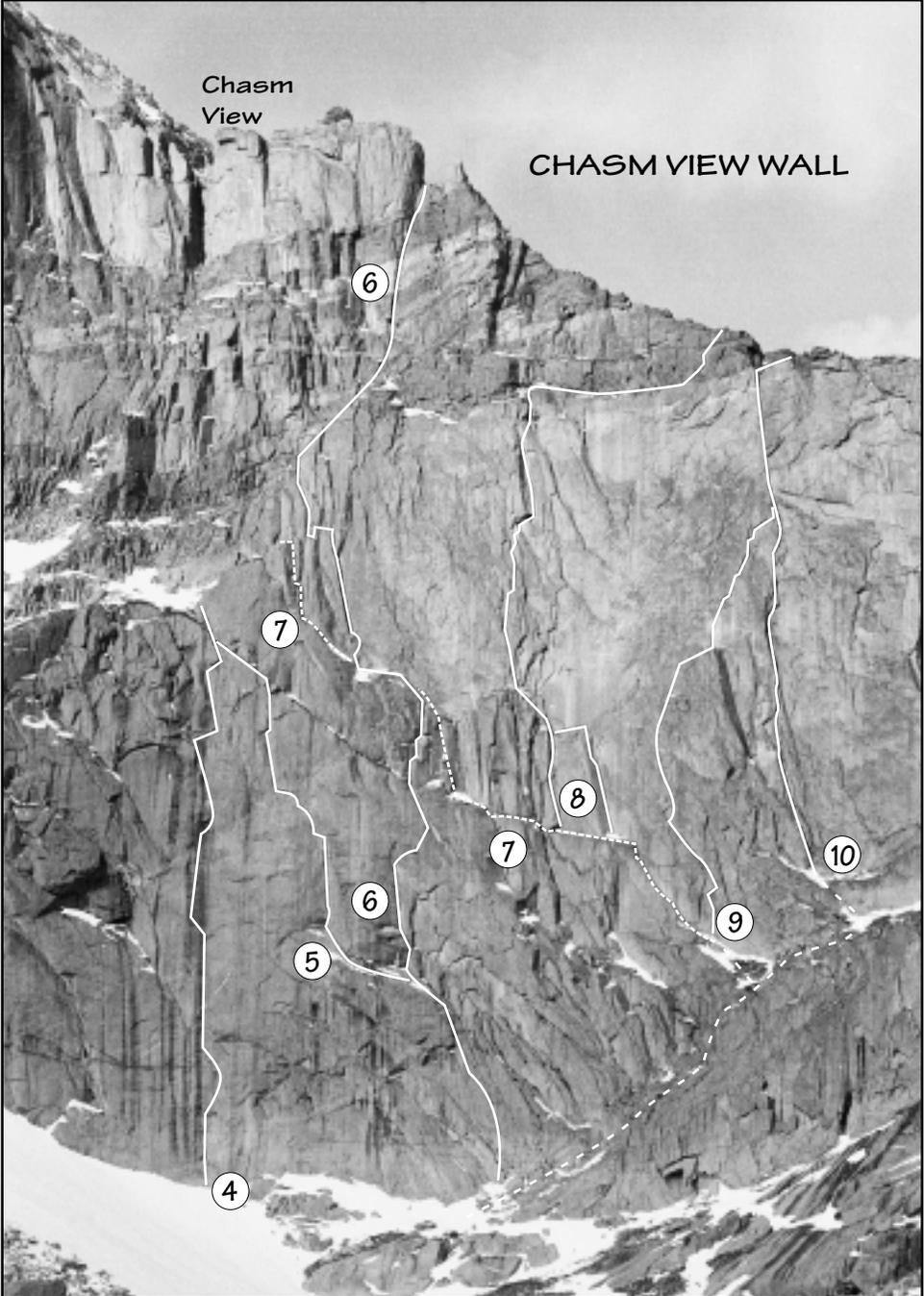
Begin at the base of the **Eclipse** dihedral. 1. Do the first pitch of **Eclipse** until reaching a belay slot in the corner. 2. Traverse right out of the corner and cross a slab beneath a huge roof; belay at the end of a left-facing dihedral that meets the right side of the roof. 3. Aid through the roof and climb an open book dihedral above to a slanting crack. 4. Follow the slanting crack system to a belay ledge beneath Broadway, then traverse the ledge left to join the last few feet of **Eclipse**. FA: Layton Kor and Floyd (Tex) Bossier, 1963.

4 Babies R Us III 5.12a ★★★ (if dry)

This route climbs the longest and most prominent of several black water streaks between **Zigzag** and **Invisible Wall**. Whenever the streak is wet, so is the route — an August or early September ascent is recommended. Begin five feet right of the streak from a snow belay on Mills Glacier. 1. Smear up a smooth slab (5.9 R) to a sloping, triangular ledge in a pod — the route starts on this ledge in high snow — and ascend past a pin and bolt to a small corner rising up right. Climb the corner (5.7 R) and follow three bolts to a double bolt belay, 5.11a. 2. Work past a flake (TCUs) and a fixed pin, then clip seven bolts (5.12a initially, easing off to 5.11) to a two-bolt belay in the water streak. The crux can be aided if desired. 3. Move left past three bolts toward an arete, then take a thin crack to a pin/bolt stance. 4. Climb right (5.9+, bolt) and place a 3.5-inch cam at the base of a right-facing corner. Follow this (5.7) to a fixed nut belay. 5. Take an obvious zigzag line of cracks to Broadway (5.10a), finishing with a 5.11a section past two bolts, or climb an easy chimney on the left. Include RPs, TCUs, and a #4 Camalot on the rack, as well as 10 long runners and edging shoes. Rappel the route to descend. FA: Bret Ruckman and Randy Farris, both recently inducted into fatherhood, 1998.

5 Invisible Wall IV 5.8 A4

Begin near the right side of Mills Glacier at the base of the approach ramp that leads to the remaining routes. 1. Climb an orange, arching corner (left-facing) and belay shortly after its top at several closely packed cracks, excellent 5.8. 2. Follow the cracks left to a large overhang above a slab, and move around the left side of the roof (tension traverse on FA) to the base of a prominent open book corner. 3. Free climb the corner until forced onto aid (A1) and belay near its top. This is a short lead, and it may be possible to combine it with the next. 4. Finish the corner (A3), tension traverse left to an arch, and set up a belay midway across it. 5. Nail left beneath the arch (A3), and turn its left side into a shallow dihedral; belay at the first available anchor. This pitch is also short, and could be combined with the next. 6. Climb the dihedral to its end at a small roof, step right to a good crack, and



follow it to an alcove belay. 7. Move left out of the alcove to a short A4 section (RURPs and hooks) to a left-slanting ledge. This is near the left end of a long, conspicuous diagonal crack that cuts across the middle portion of the wall. Hand traverse left on this to the right edge of Broadway, and the last belay of **Babies R Us**. Rappel that route to descend. FA: Layton Kor and Larry Dalke, 1965.

6 **Royal Flush IV 5.11c** **

This line starts with **Invisible Wall**, but then climbs straight up through the rightmost of several dihedrals in the middle of the route to a big square notch at the top of the wall (200 feet right of the Chasm View notch). 1 and 2. Do one-and-a-half leads on **Invisible Wall** to the roof, but jam out its right side (5.8) to a belay stance at the bottom of a slot. 3. Squeeze up the slot and jam a strenuous crack (5.10b). When the crack dies, move right on big knobs to a belay flake, 5.9 R. 4. Climb the dihedral above to a slanting roof, and traverse beneath it until reaching a break (5.8). Go straight up a broken corner system and belay on any of several ledges. 5. Continue up to an easy ramp and traverse left for fifty feet, then do a short 5.6 wall to a stance beneath a perfect, leaning dihedral, the rightmost of several such corners. A variation to the left (5.9) is marked on the topo. 6. Stem the dihedral (exquisite 5.10a), exit left, go up fifteen feet, then traverse twenty feet left to a little roof (#2 Friend in roof to protect second). Drop down ten feet and belay. The greenery in the dihedral can be avoided entirely by using a crack on the left wall for protection. 7. Pop over the left side of the little roof and take a thin crack (5.11c) followed by a ramp/corner to the extreme right side of Broadway. 8. Move the belay right and climb a short 5.6 headwall to the base of a dirty chimney, the left-hand of two. 9. Climb the chimney with some unpleasant, loose offwidth (5.9 R) and belay after a full pitch at a ledge thirty feet below the square notch. 10. Climb to the left side of the notch, 5.9. This long route can be made shorter by escaping left on Broadway after the seventh pitch (rappel **Babies R Us**). FA: Bernard Gillett and Scott Ahlgren, with Jerry Hill on the first five pitches, 1993. **Variations:** A 4th class ramp that starts 40 feet above the orange corner can be used to gain the first belay. One can also avoid the loose chimney at the top by climbing **Chasm View Cut-off**, or its variation.

7 **Tip Toe II 5.7** *

Babies R Us and **Invisible Wall** both finish at the left end of a long, conspicuous diagonal crack. **Tip Toe** begins at a ramp leading to the right side of this crack. Scramble up right from the right edge of Mills Glacier along a rising ledge system (some 4th class) for 300 feet to the base of the ramp. 1. Take the left-leaning ramp to its top, 5.7, and belay beneath a classic open book (the second pitch of **Red Wall**) on a good ledge. 2. Traverse the ledge left and step down to navigate an overhang (hand traverse beneath it). Climb a short slab, then delicately move around a corner. Drop down again beneath another overhang, and hand traverse to a good ledge. 3. Step down off the left end of the ledge, then go back up to another. Several short cracks and pillars climb to the right end of an easy ramp (5.7); follow this left (overlapping **Royal Flush**) to a convenient belay. 4. Traverse to the left end of the ramp and set the belay below two wide cracks. 5. Climb the right crack for 25 feet, then take the left crack to Broadway, 5.7. FA: Cecil Oulette and Dick Woodford, 1956. **Variation: Big Toe** (5.9, FA: Harvey Carter and John Auld, 1959)



The incredible sixth pitch of *Royal Flush*, Chasm View Wall.

PHOTO: SCOTT AHLGREN

begins at a big flake on the approach ramp and climbs an easy pitch up left to a short, square headwall at the base of a sweeping dihedral. Surmount the headwall and take the dihedral until intersecting with the normal line near the end of its second pitch.

8 **Red Wall III 5.10a *****

An overhang in the center of Chasm View Wall provides the crux pitch on this fine route. 1. Begin with the first pitch of **Tip Toe**, and belay below your choice for the second pitch. 2. The open book dihedral on the right is thin 5.10c and was the original line, while the next dihedral left is 5.8. After half a pitch on either option, move left on easy ground to a belay terrace beneath several flake systems. 3. Choose the left-hand of several steep flakes, then move left to a wide crack flush with the wall. Climb this (with bomber liebacks inside) to the top of a huge flake. 4. Climb a right-facing corner toward the left edge of the overhang in the center of the wall, the major feature on the route. Begin a rising traverse from one dihedral to another as the roof nears, then undercling the roof to a hanging belay at its right end, 5.10a. Bring plenty of runners for this sustained section. The traverse can be made forty feet below the roof, also 5.10a. 5. A long pitch ascends the corner system above the right end of the roof (5.9), ending at a dark band. 6. Traverse right on the band (5.7) — this is the last pitch of **Chasm View Cut-off**. FA: Layton Kor and Tex Bossier, with aid, 1963. Walter Fricke and Van Slyke climbed the line described above in 1969. **Variations:** A direct start climbs the right side of a pillar to a thin crack that ends on the first belay ledge, 5.11a. The original aid route on pitches three and four followed an upside-down staircase flake to the right, then slanted back left along a right-facing dihedral to meet the roof. This has now gone free at 5.11c, and was climbed by Topher Donahue and Kim Czismazia in 1995 (after doing the direct start); bring double #0.75 to #1.5 Friends. The steep flake line left of the staircase flake was nailed in 1968 by Mike Donahue (Topher's dad) and Kehmier; this variant joins the standard line at the end of pitch three, atop the big flake. From the top of the big flake, one can make a rising traverse left along right-facing features to reach the rightmost of three flakes. Follow this flake until reaching dark colored rock and the far right side of Broadway, then exit with **Chasm View Cut-off**, or descend left along Broadway. FA: John Allens and Mike Pennings, 1990s.

9 **The Middle Path III 5.11b ****

This interesting route finds a passageway between **Red Wall** and **Directissima**. Begin on the ramp start to **Tip Toe** and **Red Wall** below two right-facing flakes that merge together 40 feet above. 1. Climb the right flake with a dogleg jog (5.8 lieback), then angle left along the top of the flake to its left side. 2. Step right and ascend a short left-facing corner to an overlap (5.10a), traverse left along it, then go up a left-facing, 5.9 flake. 3. Hand traverse straight right on a bomber flake, 5.6, and belay on top of a prominent right-facing dihedral near **Directissima**. 4. Take a right-leaning, stepped flake to the third belay on **Directissima**, 5.11b. 5. Follow **Directissima**, 5.10a. FA: Chip and Monika Chace, 1996. **Variation:** A run out direct start climbs half way up the open book on **Red Wall**'s second pitch, then traverses right to the first belay of this route (5.10 R).

10 Directissima III 5.10a ★★★

Directissima takes the crack and corner system dropping straight down from the right end of the dark band mentioned in **Red Wall**. Approach as with that route (4th class), but continue along the rising ledges for another 150 feet to a U-shaped ledge. 1. Start with a slightly leaning pitch to the bottom of the system, 5.8 on the left or 5.9 on the right. 2. The main line follows a shallow corner to a belay below overhanging flakes (5.10c). Keep the grade at 5.10a by taking the flake out left, 5.9. 3. Big holds lead through the overhanging flakes (5.9), but the tight spot higher up holds the strenuous crux of the route (5.9+ OW). 4. Continue straight up, passing a roof (5.10a) and an often-wet jam crack (5.9). Rack to a #4 Camalot, with emphasis on big pieces. FA: Layton Kor and Bob LaGrange, 1960. FFA: Roger Briggs and Chris Reveley, 1974.

11 Indirectissima II 5.9 ★

Approach as for **Directissima**, then scramble to the right side of the highest ledge. 1. Climb the left side of a flake system for a half pitch, then hand traverse left to a ledge, 5.7. 2. Chimney behind an enormous flake and belay on its top, rewarding 5.2. Fricke called this the “most enjoyable chimney on the East Face (or in the whole Park, for that matter).” 3. The original line traversed twenty feet right (5.7) and nailed a corner (A2) to a wide spot. Step right at this point and face climb to a big ledge. The free version (FA: Larry Dalke and Cliff Jennings, 1967) jams an overhanging flake on the left (crux), then moves right to the big ledge. 4. An easy pitch angles right to the ridge. FA: Walter Fricke and Jock Glidden, 1967.

12 Van Diver’s Fantasy I 5.6

This route climbs the extreme upper right edge of Chasm View Wall, finishing near the point where the rim begins to rise again. Start at **Indirectissima** and make a long, slowly rising traverse toward a prominent left-leaning slash, or climb directly to here from **Fifth Avenue**. The last pitch begins left of the slash at a flake which is four feet from the wall; climb more or less straight up to the rim, 5.6 FA: Brad Van Diver, 1948. **Variation: Fisherman’s Fantasy** (also known as **Fisherman’s Folly**) starts at the base of **Directissima** and makes the slowly rising traverse a bit lower than described above. It continues in this manner all the way to a small notch in the ridge (not the larger saddle of the next line).

13 Fifth Avenue 4th class

This unpleasant route begins at the base of the approach ramp for the previous routes and takes a lower ramp system up and right for several hundred feet before snaking up a gully to a prominent saddle in the Chasm View — Lady Washington ridge. It is reportedly loose, and not recommended.

The next two routes start from the right side of Broadway and climb only the upper portion of Chasm View Wall.

14 Hornbein Crack II 5.8

Hornbein Crack was an important development in high mountain free climbing at the time of its first ascent. It is rarely climbed today. The route starts at the right side of Broadway and climbs to a vertical offwidth crack in a big, left-facing corner that leads to Chasm View. Do two or three pitches of relatively easy rock, with

some 5.8 at the end, to reach the base of the crack. Lieback for fifty feet (5.8, bring wide gear) to the lip. FA: Tom Hornbein led it in 1953 with Cary Huston, having top roped it twice previously. **Variation:** The thin crack ten feet right of the crux pitch was nailed in 1953 by Harvey Carter and Clifford Smith, A2.

15 Chasm View Cut-off I 5.7

This is another route that is rarely sought out as the sole objective of the day's climb. It is most often used as an exit from the right side of Broadway, or a finish to several routes on Chasm View Wall. Traverse Broadway to its far right side, and rope up when it seems prudent. Follow narrowing ledges formed by the juncture of the lighter colored rock of Chasm View Wall and the dark band above it, crossing over the top of **Red Wall**, until reaching a small overhang midway between **Red Wall** and **Directissima**. Move up and right around its right side, then angle right to the crest. FA: Bill Eubanks, Tom Hornbein, and Brad Van Diver, 1950. **Variation:** Traverse Broadway to a point directly below a square notch on the rim (**Royal Flush** finishes in this notch). Climb 5.6 rock to the base of a deep, curving chimney on the right (**Royal Flush** takes the more difficult left chimney), then follow the chimney to the right side of the notch (5.7). FA: This appears to be the line of ascent taken by Frank Carey and Jim Gregg in 1950 (**Chasm Chimney**), though it's possible it wasn't done until much later by Roger Briggs.

16 Rollyco Stair I 5.6 R

This is not on Chasm View Wall, but on the bench left of the base of the Camel gully. A deep snow ditch forms on the right side of lower Mills Glacier left of the Camel gully; start inside the ditch at the base of a small, overhanging dihedral. Climb through the dihedral and straight up a gray water streak to a stance at 130 feet. Continue straight up for another pitch to a narrow stance, then walk off left. FA: Pat Ament and Larry Dalke, 1964.

Upper East Face

The mostly broken terrain above Broadway but left of the Diamond goes by the generic label of Upper East Face, though this area is really comprised of two sections: the east side of the Beaver, bordered on the left by Zumie's Thumb and on the right by the Notch Couloir, and the small portion of the mountain between the Notch Couloir and the Diamond. Only this latter slope actually faces east — for the most part, the East Face of Longs Peak faces northeast.

Approach: The climbs on the Upper East Face are most often approached with Lambs Slide and a traverse of Broadway, though some are commonly linked with a route on the Lower East Face.

Descent: For those climbs ending on the Beaver, descend to the Loft and reverse the Ramp (see introductory material on the Southeast Ridge, pages 31-32), or continue along the southeast ridge. The descent from the summit is described at the beginning of the Longs Peak section (page 28).

The routes are described left to right, beginning with Zumie's Thumb and ending at **The Window**, which runs along the left corner of the Diamond.

1 Zumie's Thumb III 5.9 *

Ascend Lambs Slide beyond the cutoff to Broadway and scramble (first right, then left) onto the lower left corner of the buttress below the thumb. Look for several crack lines that converge together near the base of deep alcove, and belay from a flat rock at the base of the second crack from the left. 1. Take this crack for 125 feet to a sloping stance. 2. Follow a grassy gully to the alcove and the base of two chimneys, and climb the right wall of the left chimney to a big ledge. 3. Scramble up and right for 300 feet to a saddle. 4. Climb the right side of the buttress overhead and belay behind a flake. 5. Work up and left (passing a pointed flake) to a good ledge at the base of prominent crack, about 100 feet below the left side of the thumb. 6. Climb the crack for 25 feet, then switch left to a crack that leads to a terrace on the south side of the thumb. 7. Climb to a jam crack that leads to a sloping shelf (5.9), then take an easier crack to a fixed belay on the small summit. FA of entire buttress: Chuck Schobinger and John Amato, 1959 (with aid on the seventh pitch). Tom Hornbein, Dexter Brinker, and Harry Waldrup did the last pitch of this route in 1951. They hiked through the Loft and rappelled from the rim of the Beaver to the notch behind the thumb, leaving a fixed line. Traversing out to the terrace on the south face, they nailed the last pitch (employing a shoulder stand to reach the sloping shelf), and then rappelled to the notch and prussiked back to the rim. One could also perform a Tyrolean traverse to regain the rim if only the last pitch is climbed. If a rope has not been previously fixed to the rim, it is necessary to make three long rappels south from the notch, landing in the upper right arm of Lambs Slide. Descend this back to Chasm Lake, or descend just the upper arm and climb the last portion of Lambs to the Loft. One scheme that works well with a party of three: send two members up the long buttress while the third climbs to the Loft and rappels from the rim. The team can then rejoin at the terrace below the last pitch. **Variation:** Nail the northwest corner of the thumb on the last pitch, A2 (FA: Harvey Carter and Clifford Smith, 1953).

2 Zumie's Couloir (?)

The gully system immediately right of **Zumie's Thumb** may have been climbed at some point, but if so, its ascent is shrouded in mystery. Walter Fricke writes: "Paul Nesbit [in his Longs Peak guide] shows a dotted line running up this on the photograph of the East Face in his book, but is now unsure why he did so." Godfrey and Chelton's book shows a photo of Ernie Field, Warren Gorrell, Baker Armstrong and an unknown climber, with the caption, "...after an ascent of Zumies Chimney in 1937." Whether the chimney and the couloir are one in the same is not known.

3 4 Pitches, 24 Hours II 5.10a

The only information I have on this route is that it climbs the wall half way between **Zumie's Thumb** and **Eighth Route** for four pitches, with a crux fist crack in a dihedral on the second pitch, and nice position above the Lower East Face. Perhaps it begins with the pretty formation similar in shape to Teeter Totter Pillar (then again, perhaps not). FA: Matt Hobbs and Follari, 1998.

B-15 Eighth Route II 5.6

This route is described in the ice climbing section. As a summer route (5.6), it is somewhat unappealing, climbing a wet and grassy gully in its lower portion.

4 Joe's Solo II 5.6 (?)

This ancient passage is also shrouded in mystery. It begins with the right side of the gully just left of the next route, and climbs easily for 400 feet to a bowl of broken rock. At this point one can traverse left into **Eighth Route** and follow that, but Joe Stettner believes he climbed the difficult headwall above, angling right to the edge of the buttress, then cutting back left at a dark band of rock (with rock climbing as hard as 5.7 or 5.8). Given that he was unroped and alone, later climbers have questioned this line. FA: Joe Stettner, 1936.

5 Teeter Totter Pillar III 5.8 *

Begin at the base of a striking crack on the east side of the 350 foot pillar just left of Notch Couloir. 1 and 2. Climb the crack for two pitches (both 5.8), stepping right around a corner into a short dihedral near the end of the second lead. 3. Face climb into a left-facing dihedral on the right side (north face) of the pillar, and belay part way up it. 4. Complete the dihedral (5.7) and traverse a ledge at its top to the right, then climb easily into the notch behind the pillar. From here the route finding becomes difficult. Take a chance with the outside arete of the buttress above, or traverse left on broken rock into **Eighth Route**, and finish on that. FA: Michael Covington and Duncan Ferguson, 1977. **Variation:** A direct finish by Gary Neptune and party is said to climb the north wall of the upper buttress via steep crack systems (5.10?).

B-16 Notch Couloir II AI 2+ M3-

See ice climbing section.

The remaining routes on the Upper East Face begin right of **Notch Couloir**. The first of these is upper **Kiener's Route**, described as a complete line in the Lower East Face section (see page 43).

6 Broadway Cut-off II 5.5

A variation to upper **Kiener's Route**. Begin about 200 feet right of the Notch Couloir below a pronounced chimney. Traverse up and left on easy ramps and ledges to the base of a chimney with chockstone. Ascend the chimney and crank over the chockstone (crux), then join **Kiener's**. It's possible the original line continued left beneath the chimney to join **Kiener's** at a lower point. FA: Ernie Field and Warren Gorrell, 1936.

B-18 Schobinger's Cracks II 5.8

This has been done as a challenging mixed climb in the winter (M6), though it was done first in 1958 by Chuck Schobinger and John Amato (5.6 A1, now free at 5.8, and often wet). See the ice climbing section for a description of the line.

B-19 The Window III 5.7 *

This, too, was first done as a summer rock climb, though even in summer it is common to find ice on the route. See ice climbing section.