

the first five. The last two pitches consist of a slightly overhanging three-inch splitter crack that runs for nearly 60 meters. All belays are equipped with good bolts and/or fixed pins. With four ropes fixed, we spent one night on the wall on a huge heavily foliated ledge at the top of pitch 8. The bottom half of the route is almost all aid, requiring much thin nailing; it consumed the better part of two days. We feel the grade (V) is a conservative rating, and the aid is of a high standard.

RON RAIMONDE

COLORADO

BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON

Hallucinogen Wall, Solo Ascent. It was reported that Amanda Tarr soloed the Hallucinogen Wall in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison over five days in June. This was the first female solo of the route. (*Climbing* 171)

North Chasm View Wall, Link-up of Stoned Oven and Air Voyage. It was reported that Jeff Hollenbaugh and Mike Pennings linked up *Stoned Oven* (5.11c) and *Air Voyage* (5.12a), both on North Chasm View Wall, in a day, freeing everything apart from the 5.12a offwidth on *Air Voyage*. The pair managed the 3,000 feet of climbing by beginning an hour before light and finishing an hour after dark. (*Climbing* 170)

GORE RANGE

Peak C, New Route. On August 9, Benny Bach and I climbed an eight-pitch, 5.7+ route on the north face of Peak C in the Gore Range. The incessant rain of the summer of 1997, supposedly a side-effect of the El Niño weather phenomenon, left the face extremely wet. We know little of the history of this impressive face but suspect our route was mostly new.

CAMERON M. BURNS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Long's Peak, The Diamond, Smash the State. Between May 15-20, Ken Sauls and I made the second ascent of *Smash the State* (VI- 5.8 A5) on the Diamond of Long's Peak. Jim Beyer made the first ascent of this route in April of 1988, solo. Doug Hall and Ken had discussed doing the route, but Doug was killed in an avalanche in January, 1997. When Ken invited me to join him, it appealed to me as a memorial ascent for Mr. Hall, whose great spirit I will never forget.

We started hiking close to noon on Thursday, May 15. We carried all of our gear in one (large) load. We arrived at Chasm View at about 9 p.m., set up the ledge on a boulder and crawled in for a very windy night. At about 10 a.m., we made our way to the rappels for the descent to Broadway. We roped up for three pitches across Broadway to the base of the route, fixing lines and then ferrying our loads across.

The first pitch went quickly. We hauled up our bags, then Ken set off on the second pitch, leading about one-third of it, then rappelling back to help set up the ledge. A good night's rest and Ken finished up the second pitch through steep roofs and corners. The difficulty (A3) is

demanding due to the quality of the stone. In the afternoon, I set off on the third pitch (A4); some A1 gear led to a hook move, then I placed five heads to another hook, which led to some circuitous flakes (somewhat dubious), and to the S-shaped roof. After this lead we discussed style; it became clear to me that it is better to use pitons if possible, as they make cleaning easier and therefore have less impact.

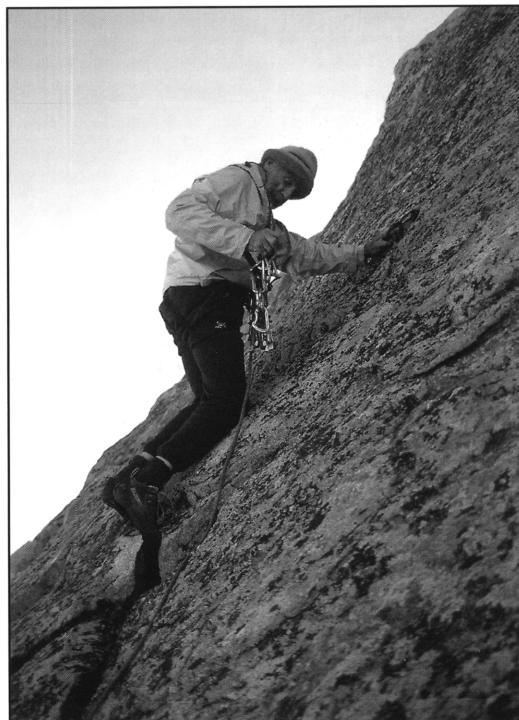
Ken led the fourth pitch (A5a). A sharp edge stands out from the lip of the S-roof. By using duct tape, Ken was able to lessen the sharpness of the edge. Up and away he went, a brilliant lead on hooks, nuts, copperheads, beaks, etc. Ken found an A1 stopper at about 40 feet height, calling into question the A5 rating. This pitch just ends in blankness and it is necessary to pendulum to the right to join the *King of Swords* route.

Late in the day, I headed up pitches familiar from a 1993 ascent, using a mix of free and aid on the 5.12/A1 climbing to make it to Table Ledge, where we camped. On day 5, two more pitches of 5.10/A1 brought us to the top. Wild place.

JONNY ALLEN, unaffiliated

The Ship's Prow, Bologna Pony. It was reported that Jim Redo and Pat Adams put up a new 500-foot line on *The Ship's Prow* that follows the obvious overhanging arête on the formation. *The Bologna Pony* (5.12b/c) features thin crack climbing on the first pitch and face climbing above. Protection is a mix of bolts and traditional. All belays are bolted, but the top rappel requires back clipping to avoid hanging in space. (*Climbing* 173)

WYOMING



WIND RIVER RANGE

Goat Flat, Bomber Lake Arête. On September 5, Fred Beckey and I climbed a long, low-angled ridge south of Bomber Lake in the northern Wind River Range. The ridge leads to Goat Flat, an enormous, flat plateau south of the Bomber Creek drainage. The majority of the 1,500-foot ridge was 4th-class climbing with short sections of lower 5th class. We climbed unroped for all but the final 120 feet of the ridge, which Fred led via 5.6 slabs right on the very crest of the arête (II 5.6). In his mid-70s, Fred looked pretty old while walking along the trail. When he climbed, however, he had the grace and style of a 20-year old.

CAMERON M. BURNS

Fred Beckey on the first ascent of Bomber Lake Arête. CAMERON BURNS