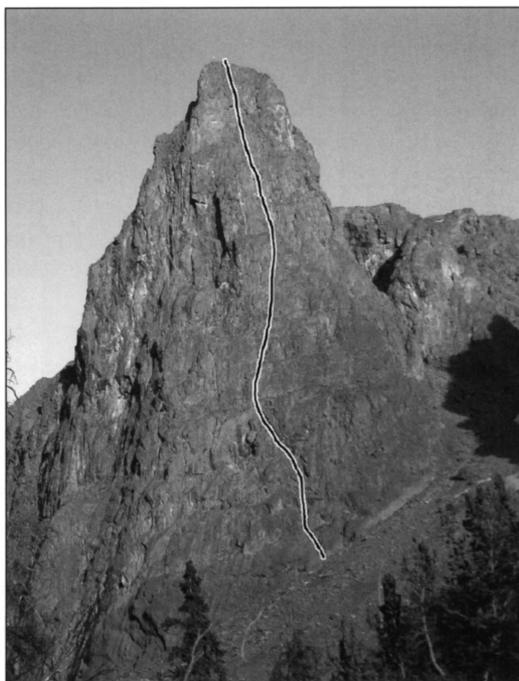


reaches the talus bench. We then scaled the obvious crack cleaving the center of the south face of the summit pinnacle in a 70m pitch. Continental Drifters (IV 5.11a) provides 1,100' of stellar rock and engaging climbing. Unfortunately, the 5th pitch crux finger crack is rather gritty, and was aided on lead and freed on second. It awaits a free lead, and should clean up nicely if it receives a few more ascents.

TREVOR BOWMAN

Lost Eagle Pinnacle, Jenkins-Fleming Direct. On July 1 Patrick Fleming and I, both secret members of the notorious Wyoming Alpine Club, whined our way up a new route on the northwest face of Lost Eagle Pinnacle. Beginning at dawn we headed for a left-leaning, left-facing dihedral, found another one a few pitches up, moved back right, ascended a chimney choked with ice, then continued up the middle of the face to the summit. Descending the opposite side (south face), we spilled down five 200' raps to reach the top of a high gully, and walked west and then north down scree. We were back in time for dinner, with hair-raising stories of friable rock, freaky runouts, and a fridge-sized boulder that we pulled down on ourselves while rapping. Don't believe any of it. Gorgeous adventure: 13 pitches, 5.9R.

MARK JENKINS, AAC

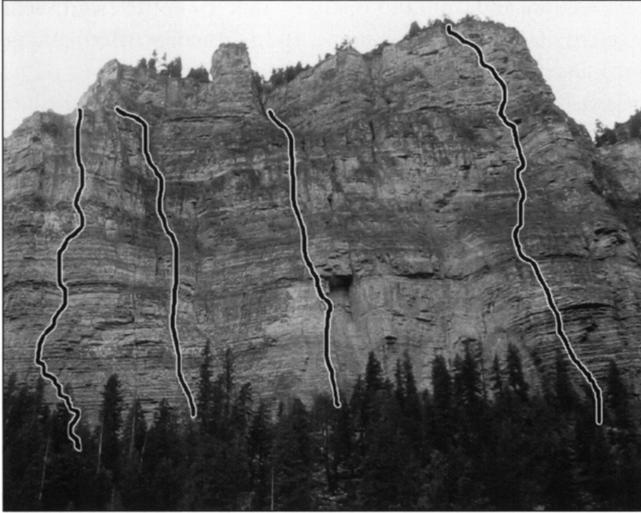


The Jenkins-Fleming Direct on Lost Eagle Pinnacle. Mark Jenkins

Colorado

Grizzly Creek, Mudflap Girl and Mudwall. Unreported from 2005, in the Grizzly Creek drainage of Glenwood Canyon, Chris Kalous and I established Mudflap Girl (700', IV 5.10), the first new route on the wall since Layton Kor's explorations in the 1960s. Several climbers not present on the final ascent began work on the route in fall 2002. Mudflap Girl ascends the tall buttress on the north end of the Grizzly Creek Wall, mostly via gear-protected climbing, with some bolts and fixed pins. The hardest climbing is well protected, but there are runout sections and route-finding challenges throughout. Though still a big adventure, this is probably the most user-friendly route on the wall.

In April 2007 Tony Angelis and I completed an old Layton Kor project, Mudwall (600', IV 5.10+), in the same drainage. The line follows a cryptic path up the obvious, continuously overhanging sector, with few discernable features. It was attempted twice by Kor in the



Get there early, beat the crowds. The Grizzly Creek Wall, from left to right: Mudwall (2007), Culp-Kor (early '60s), Bear Paw (Dalke-Kor, mid '60s), Mudflap Girl (2005). *Jeff Achey*



Jeff Hollenbaugh lost in a sea of mud on an earlier attempt at Mudwall. *Jeff Achey*

mid-1960s. On the first attempt he and Bob LaGrange managed, by Kor's account, "75' of direct aid on terribly rotten rock." Kor returned with Huntley Ingalls, his partner for the first ascent of the Titan in Fisher Towers, and they managed only another 75', reaching, "a section of even worse rock, where we could find placements for neither pitons nor expansion bolts." Ingalls promptly declared the rock nothing "like the Dolomites," replaced Kor's proposed moniker "Cima Fantissima" with the unarguably apt "Mudwall," and

refused to return. The line stood idle for 40 years until a spontaneous, rainy day assault on the appalling overhangs in June 2005 yielded an intriguing 60' of progress.

Despite the enthusiasm of that day, I was apparently the only one with enduring curiosity about the blocky overhanging expanses that continued above. I experienced the same difficulty Kor reported in finding partners, but recruited Tony Angelis, a talented ice climber and peak-bagger with some rock experience. My fondness for less-than-bullet stone, Angelis's near-complete naivete, and our mutual need for distraction from personal concerns proved a potent mix. In four early season visits in 2007 we pushed Kor's neglected brainchild to the top of the crag.

Memorable passages included the 30' of gently overhanging sand that had finally thwarted Kor and Ingalls, overcome in a flurry of desperate free-climbing (this section later cleaned up into 5.9+), handlebar-like rails that allowed the wildly overhanging White Dihedral to go all free on-sight, the tottering pillars and improbable blank bulges (and four-hour belay session) of the Wonder Wall, and the unexpected, uncalled-for, Birdbeak-protected crux on the "only vertical" last pitch. Excluding the challenges we encountered with layers of grit, mobile blocks,

route finding, establishment of protection, and continuous anxiety that the entire escarpment might somehow collapse, most pitches failed to surpass mid-5.10 in difficulty, offering large holds, dramatic, exposed positions, and good belay ledges on which to recover.

We placed bolts only at belays, but with an eye toward posterity we equipped the route with a generous number of Dolomites-style soft-iron pitons (from a retired climber's collection that we had acquired in trade for tequila). We used some aid to establish many of the pitches, but on our final push we climbed the route all free. We did extensive cleaning during our several rappels and re-climbs of the pitches, and it would be a shame if this spectacular route was not recommendable to someone. Alas, imagination fails me as to whom.

JEFF ACHEY

Capitol Peak, the Crystal Dragon. In October, when fall storms lashed the high peaks of Colorado's Elk Range with almost daily fronts of freezing rain and snow, a thin ribbon of water ice breached the 800' lower granite buttress guarding the steep couloirs and rock bands of Capitol Peak's (14,130') north face. When the weather broke Kevin Dunnett and I rounded up our gear and a couple of mules to ease the approach, and headed in.



The Crystal Dragon on Capitol Peak. *Royal Laybourn*

We agreed that the opportunity to climb this type of ephemeral, almost mythical, line trumped all obligations. Five years and four attempts on this face, with a cast of strong and talented companions, had only whetted my desire. As I age and the years pass (47, 48, 49, 50...), a deep internal debate has questioned the strength of my desire, the strength of my arms, the depth of my endurance, and the intrinsic value of the rewards.

Even from our camp at the bottom of the face, we weren't sure there was enough ice. Scoping the line through our binoculars offered no encouragement. We headed off predawn to flounder through frozen boulders and snowfields up to the base of the face. The overlaps were loaded with icy daggers and narrow bands of water ice, with a constant shower of spindrift. Solid tool placements and excitement at finding quality ice allowed me to move quickly through the roofs without placing much gear. The first and second pitches held the thickest ice, averaging 3-4", although much better bonded than in previous years. Kevin's lead on the second pitch required crossing difficult vertical rock bands to connect isolated plaquettes of ice. His hanging