

Colorado

Octopussy, Colorado. On the frozen waterfalls that coat the limestone cliff bands above Vail, Jeff Lowe made what may be the most difficult ice climb yet achieved. He has written a full article about this which appears earlier in this *Journal*.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Keith Reynolds and Courtney Scales made the third ascent of Earl Wiggins' *High and Dry* (VI, 5.10+, A4) in the spring of 1994. The second ascent had been in 1984.

CAMERON M. BURNS

Mount Fairchild, Honcho Boncho Buttress, Rocky Mountain National Park, 1992 and 1994. On June 20, 1992, Doug Byerly and I climbed a new line on the Honcho Boncho Buttress (east cirque) of Mount Fairchild. *Power Struggle* ascended the prominent dihedral and crack system on the south side of the buttress. As the name implies, considerable power and energy were expended throughout the sustained crux pitches, which involved laybacking and thin crack/face climbing. On June 25 and 26, 1994, Tom Bohanon and I returned to climb a variant. I was particularly excited about the prospect of freeing the thin cracks of the first pitch, which we climbed to the right of the 1992 route, and the eight-meter roof in the second pitch, which Byerly and I thought would be either moderate aid or very difficult free climbing. *Live With Me* (IV+, 5.11c/d, A3) takes in the most notable feature of the buttress in the fourth pitch, a gently overhanging 40-meter golden-red headwall, which we climbed at A3. I remain skeptical of this feature being climbed free. We climbed the whole route in eight pitches.

TERRY MURPHY

Lover's Leap, Wet Mountains, "Dull Roar of the Putterman." The Wet Mountains are probably the most beautiful Front Range climbing area that remain free of the massive crowds of climbers. In 1986 during a visit to the Crestone group, I got my first glimpse of the 500-foot spire called Lovers' Leap by the locals. I vowed to return. It took until 1992 for me finally to do a route on Lovers' Leap when Ann Robertson and I climbed a four-pitch route on the south face. This III, 5.9+ route had been done before, but it was undocumented. Finally, in April 1994, I got my chance at a new route (IV, 5.8, A2). Brian Takei joined me. We chose a line directly up the prow where the east and south faces meet. The left side of the face had been climbed, but the extreme right side was a little different, a complex maze of overhanging roofs and rotten rock. On the first of six leads, four of which were aid, Bird Beaks were the key. This pitch overhung for half its length. The second lead eased off to vertical: thin pitoning