

## Introduction

Winnipeg, situated on one of the most unrelievedly flat parts of North America, is a surprisingly good place for a rock climber to live. Only 100 miles to the east of the city is the Canadian Shield. Excellent granite cliffs abound in this canoeing paradise and opportunities for making first ascents of aesthetic routes are unlimited.

### The Climbing Environment

The Canadian Shield is the largest exposure of crystalline rock on the Earth. Between one and four billion years ago there were stupendous mountains in this part of

the world. Our playground is the eroded roots of these ancient ranges.

Because of its great age, the geology of the Shield is complex. Most of its rock is metamorphic and has weathered to form monotonous boggy landscapes of no interest to climbers. Fortunately for us, the Kenora region has unusually large amounts of unmetamorphosed granite. The overall aspect of this land may be as flat as the prairies, but from up close it is like a vast Japanese garden - full of hidden niches where rock, water and forest meet.

The area covered by this guidebook lies between Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg. An intractable wilderness of

lakes and evergreen forest, it is now used for little but logging, fly-in fishing and wilderness canoeing. The only indications of human presence in much of this region are enigmatic "rock-paintings" which date from pre-Columbian times.

Ice disappears from the lakes around the first of May and reforms at the end of October. Spring and autumn are the best climbing seasons. The awesome populations of biting insects that the Shield annually produces are most obvious between June and the middle of August. Winter is the best season for exploration - skiing through this granite maze in search of new cliffs is a fascinating sport in itself.

Black bear and moose are the only warm blooded hazards in the area. However, they avoid people if given a chance so make noise when portaging and keep a clean campsite. Wasps nest in crevices in the rock and they are aggressive in the autumn.

Climbing is a risky sport and many of the sites in this guidebook are remote. It is worth thinking about what you would do if an emergency arose. From Gunton or the Lily Pond the closest help is in Winnipeg. From Minaki, Redditt, or ELA, Kenora is closer. There is helicopter service from Kenora. The ELA camp at map coordinates (see ELA section) 474008 is staffed year-round and has a radio telephone.

All of the sites described in this book are within 200 miles of Winnipeg. Further east near Thunder Bay are impressive cliffs of up to 400 ft high. However, the rock that we found there was diabase and was very loose, especially on the lower levels. A fully active guardian angel is recommended for anyone climbing there. Forty miles east of Thunder Bay, just north of the Trans-Canada Hwy, is a tourist attraction called Ouimet Canyon. Cliffs of up to 300 ft high form a gorge that stretches for more than a mile. The climbing is spectacular, with fair rock, but the west side is subject to falling stones, bottles, food containers, and other debris sent down by the North American tourist, presumably testing the laws of gravity. There are other similar canyons in the same area, however, which may be more attractive to climbers.

## The Grading of Climbs

This guide uses the standard North American grading system. The grade describes the difficulty of the hardest "move" on the route. The grades are compared with the British system in the table below. The comparison is very approximate and may not coincide with comparisons given by others. The important point is that there is, or should be, uniform intervals of difficulty between the grades.

Grade	British
5.0	Moderately Difficult
5.1	Difficult
5.2	Very Difficult
5.3	
5.4	Severe
5.5	Hard Severe
5.6	
5.7	Very Severe
5.8	Hard Very Severe
5.9	Extremely Severe
5.10	

Climbs with grades of 5.6 or above should only be attempted by parties with skilled leaders.

A second grade (A1, A2, ...) is given on a few routes, to describe the difficulty of the direct aid moves, ranging from easy to extremely precarious. Clean aid (using chocks instead of pitons) is indicated by C1, C2, ...

Some climbs are more rewarding than others. Routes with special merit are indicated by a star grade:

- \* good
- \*\* very good
- \*\*\* outstanding

Figuring in this highly subjective scale are: setting, exposure, interesting moves, and overall satisfaction.

Local climbing ethics are much the same as those accepted elsewhere. The vast majority of even the most

difficult leads can be well protected with artificial chockstones and natural runners. Pitons are rarely carried and should not be used on established routes. However, it is certainly legitimate to carry a hammer on first ascents of serious new routes.



A.A. McCoubrey in a reflective moment.

### Climbing History

Climbing has a long history in the Winnipeg area. The Alpine Club of Canada was founded here in 1906 and the Winnipeg section was active right from the start. It was especially vigorous from 1925 to 1940 when A.A. McCoubrey, F.R.G.S. and Ferris Neave were section chairmen. McCoubrey was remarkable: besides being section chairman for most of this period, he was vice president of the club (1928), president of the club (1932-34), editor of the Canadian Alpine Journal for

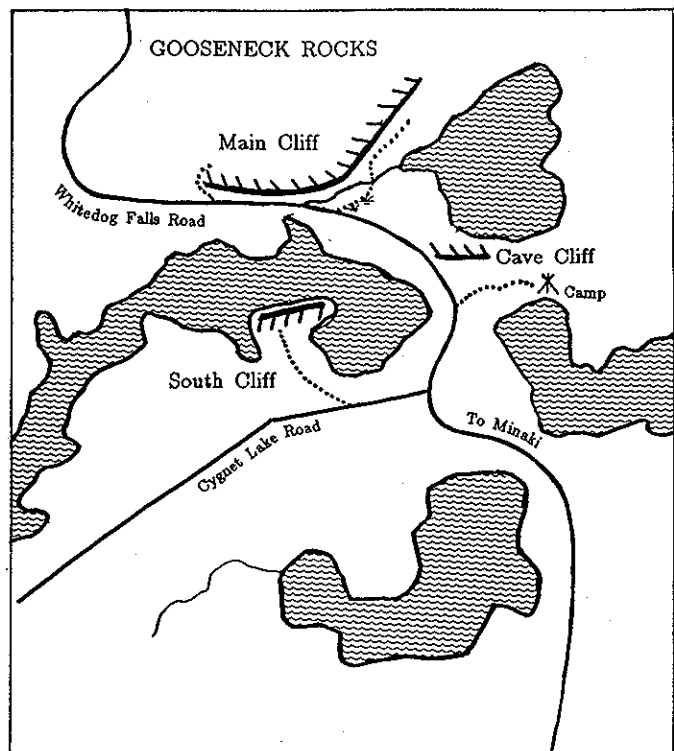
12 years, and chairman of two important committees (Ski Mountaineering and Glaciers). In the '20s and '30s Winnipeg Section members practiced rock climbing at the Gunton quarries and skiied on the only steep slopes around - the banks of the Assiniboine River - in preparation for their explorations in the western mountains. These were serious mountaineers that routinely bagged impressive peaks. To their credit are several notable first ascents in the Rockies and Purcells



Winnipeg section ski outing, circa 1930

(CAJ 18: 74-81, 92-95, 21: 33-41, 22: 98-101, 214, 217, 23: 1-16). Their most famous adventure was a strong attempt on Mount Waddington at a time when it was an internationally recognized prize (CAJ 22: 32-45, see also C. Jones 1976, *Climbing in North America*). This same group made a special contribution to Canadian alpinism in the sport of ski mountaineering (CAJ 19: 160-162, 20: 178, 21: 122-127, 240, 22: 164-166, 23: 81-85, 27: 76-80, 28: 116-119, 66: 19-20).

By the end of World War II the Winnipeg section was inactive. Things started happening again in the early 1970's when Peter Aitchison began climbing regularly at the Gooseneck Rocks near Minaki and John MacKenzie put the Winnipeg section back on its feet. Like our predecessors, we still practice climb at Gunton and enjoy local ski touring. We have even followed their lead and have been active in ski mountaineering in the Canadian Rockies. Of course, when it gets warm we are busy with local granite and we don't see as much of the mountains as they did during the summer.



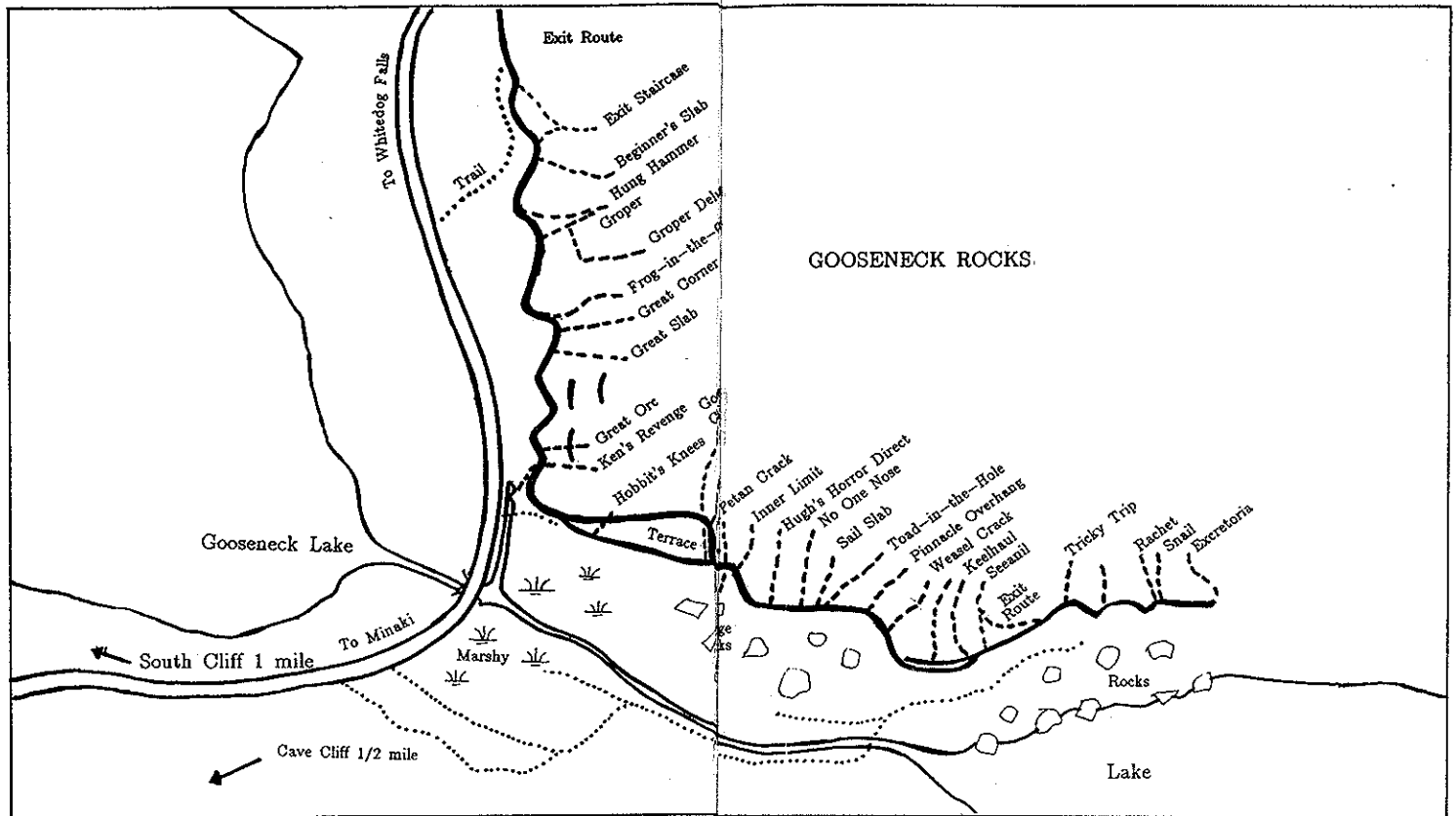
## Gooseneck Rocks

*Peter Aitchison on a steep face  
at Minaki*

This is unquestionably the most important climbing site in the Winnipeg region. Its 63 graded routes include everything from beginner's slabs to the longest, most difficult and most sustained climbs attempted locally. It is also very accessible – the most spectacular routes are right beside the road.

There are three distinct cliffs here (see map of area): The Main Cliff on the north side of the road, South Cliff on the south shore of the lake in front of the Main Cliff (we believe the lake is called Gooseneck Lake), and Cave Cliff which you pass on the east side of the road just before reaching the Main Cliff.

To get to these cliffs travel 120 miles east along the Trans-Canada Hwy from Winnipeg (or ten miles west from Kenora) and turn north on the road to Minaki (641). After 8 miles turn left on the Kenora-Minaki road (596).



After 20 miles, and 2 miles before Minaki, turn left on the Whitedog Falls road. The cliffs are 8 miles down this road. The total driving time from Winnipeg is about 3.5 hours.

### Main Cliff

This 0.25 mile long cliff is highest (200 ft) near the road. These faces are vertically fractured and steep, offering spectacular crack and corner routes. In this section is a good corner route - Groper, and four outstanding long

routes - Frog-in-the-Crack, Great Corner, Great Slab, and The Great Orc. To the west of this face is the Beginner's Slab, then more broken cliffs. To the east, the Main Cliff is very steep and overhanging for some distance from the road, where some excellent hard climbs have been completed such as Gooseneck Chimney, Inner Limit, and Hugh's Horror Direct. Still farther right the rock becomes more varied with numerous cracks, corners and overhangs. Outstanding climbs here include Pinnacle Overhang and Excretoria.

## *Slab and Western End of Main Cliff*

### **EXIT STAIRCASE, 5.1, 40 FT**

Start at the slab below the inside corner with a flake-edged crack. Climb up the corner using this crack for handholds, move through the tree, and up a small slab to the top. An easy scramble leads to the top of the cliffs. This route is used as a descent route and is usually climbed without a rope, but care should be taken in a descent if unfamiliar with the lower section.

### **BEGINNER'S CORNER, 5.3, 30 FT**

Start at the highest point above the rubble slope below an outside corner. Climb up the outside corner and continue up to the big ledge above Exit Staircase.

### **BEGINNER'S SLAB, 5.3, 120 FT**

Start at the left side of a large ramp at the top of the rubble slope, just right of Beginner's Corner. Many variations on this route are possible. The route ascends the centre part of the slab.

1. 55 ft. Proceed right along the ramp, up to the ledge above, and left to a small pinnacle. From top of pinnacle move up to the corner (slightly to the right) then move left from the corner and up to the dead jack pine and belay, or continue to the top in one pitch.
2. 65 ft. Continue directly up to the large ledge and tree belay.

Hugh Spencer, Barbara Spencer. 1972 July 1

### **HUNG HAMMER, 5.4, 120 FT**

Start 20 ft right of Beginner's Slab below a steep ascending staircase of small ledges. Take some small chocks for protection. The route ascends the right side of the slab.

1. 50 ft. Ascend the series of ledges and from the highest ledge make the delicate move onto the slab above. (An equally delicate variation is to traverse left, just before the move onto the slab, to a narrow crack where protection is better.) Continue up to a belay to the right of a bush (or climb it in one pitch).
2. 70 ft. Continue directly up the slab to the ledge and tree belay.

Peter Aitchison, Larry Jordan, Elmer Howitt. 1972 Aug 12



*Gooseneck Rocks, 1 Frog-in-the-Crack, 2 Great Corner, 3 Great Slab*

### Roadside Face

#### GROPER, 5.6, 110 FT \*

This fine, well protected route is the obvious inside corner above the short rubble slope to the right of the Beginner's Slab.

1. 50 ft. Climb the ledges to a stance straddling the corner below the obvious crux - the wide crack above. Climb the crack using layback or jam holds to the alcove above.
2. 60 ft. Climb the arete or slabs to the left above the alcove.

Peter Aitchison, Hugh Spencer. 1972 Sept 23

#### GROPER DELUX, 5.7, 150 FT \*\*

A new and exciting finish to Groper that offers spectacular exposure.

1. 50 ft. Same as Groper.
2. 100 ft. From the belay stance in the alcove, traverse right across the steep wall and climb up the cracks and slab above to the top.

Peter Aitchison, Robert France. 1980 May 4

#### FROG-IN-THE-CRACK, 5.9, 205 FT \*\*\*

A remarkable route offering exciting, sustained, and exacting climbing of practically every type. Start close to the road below some ledges about 20 ft left of the prominent outside corner.

1. 40 ft. Climb up the ledges and hand traverse quickly to the right using the horizontal crack 8 ft above the ledge until a good foothold is reached below the big flake. Move up and right to the vertical crack, then up to the big ledge above. (The first ascent was made a grade or two easier by an aid move using an unhammered knife blade piton inserted into a hole at the back of the ledge above.)
2. 50 ft. Move around to the right, up the corner, forcing a way through the bush. Climb the crack in the arete above using lay-away holds until it curves over the crest. Move around to the right and belay on a good ledge.

3. 40 ft. Climb straight up the corner above the ledge for about 20 ft, move left onto a small slab, and up to a good tree belay. An interesting alternative of equivalent difficulty traverses left from the belay stance onto an intimidating face. The crack in the face offers good jamming.

4. 75 ft. Climb straight up the slabs to finish.

Aid 5.8 A2: Peter Aitchison, Hugh Spencer. 1972 Aug 13  
Free: Ian Clarke, Geoff Murray, Trevor Down. 1978.

#### GREAT CORNER, 5.9, 160 FT \*\*\*

This strenuous and spectacular climb goes straight up the majestic inside corner by the road, just right of Frog-in-the-Crack.

1. 80 ft. Climb up the corner overcoming a number of overhangs, to the ledge with the birds nest (used by ravens some springs).
2. 80 ft. Climb up the corner and face to finish.

Peter Aitchison. 1975 July 1

#### GREAT SLAB, 5.9, 180 FT \*\*

A startlingly exposed route up the slab and over the overhang (crux) to the right of Great Corner. Start about 10 ft left of the right-hand corner of the slab where large boulders are close to the wall.

1. 110 ft. Go straight up 40 ft then trend left to the large ledge with bolt runner in the middle of the slab at 1/3 height. Step down and left, then move up the left side of the slab (15 ft from Great Corner) to the overhang. Traverse right under the overhang and up through the weak point to the ledge with bolt belay.
2. 70 ft. Go up 8 ft on small holds. Move right and then left to the top.

Peter Gough, Peter Aitchison. 1979

#### THE GREAT ORC, C2, 130 FT

A challenging aid route, overhanging all the way. Start at the foot of a small inside corner going straight up the cliff, 30 ft left from where the cliff moves away from the road. Climb up from the ditch to the ledges below the corner.



Gooseneck Rocks, Main Cliff. 1 Great Orc, 2 Ken's Revenge

Climb the corner using aid until a few free moves complete the route to a tree. Only artificial chockstones were used in the first ascent including about 12 small Chouinard stoppers (wedges).

Peter Aitchison, Ken Lertaman, 1976 Feb 18

#### KEN'S REVENGE, 5.10, 150 FT

A striking but unsatisfying climb up a series of steep corners and ledges. It starts below the corner where the cliff to the right moves away from the road.

1. 65 ft. Climb up to a large ledge, then up a short desperate overhanging corner to another large ledge and carefully ease past the thin flake.
2. 85 ft. Follow the series of ledges trending leftwards, then up a hard vertical corner, just right of the Great Orc.

Aid 5.7 A3: Peter Aitchison, 1975 Oct

Free: Geoff Murray, Trevor Down, 1978 May 20

#### HOBBIT'S KNEES, 5.6, 40 FT

This route follows an overhanging curving crack up a series of ledges, trending to the right. Start about halfway along the large terrace on the part of the cliffs moving away from the road to the north. The climb finishes on this terrace. Climb the corner. The original ascent used a few aid moves at the steepest part.

Aid: Ken Lertaman, Peter Aitchison, 1975 Feb 21

Free: Peter Gough 1978

#### NIB'S CORNER, 5.5, 60 FT

Start at the corner crack 20 ft left of the crack at Revelation. The crack starts 10 ft up and finishes on the terrace above the Revelation crack.

Ian Clarke, 1977 May

#### REVELATION, 5.7, 160 FT

A failed attempt to find an easy way to the top of the cliff. Start below the right-hand end of the biggest terrace below the corner-crack of Gooseneck Chimney.

1. 70 ft. Climb up and then left 20 ft along the ledges to the overhanging crack. Ascend the crack to the ledge. Continue up easily to the terrace.



2. 30 ft. From the right-hand side of the terrace, ascend the short chimney to the next terrace (part of Gooseneck Chimney).
3. 60 ft. Climb up a chimney on the wall to the right, and continue up the face until a large ledge is reached above and to the right of the terrace. Walk off to the right.

Aid 5.4 Cl: Peter Aitchison, Bob Sanford. 1972 Oct 21  
Free: Ian Clarke, Rick Hiebert. 1976

### GOOSENECK CHIMNEY, 5.8, 190 FT \*\*

A spectacular climb offering hard chimneying and other difficulties. It can be hard on knees, back and elbows, so wear suitable clothes. Start as for Revelation, at the corner crack below the right-hand end of the big terrace.

1. 60 ft. Climb the crack to the terrace. The overhang (crux) was overcome using a chimney technique but must be jammed by short climbers.
2. 75 ft. Ascend the short rock chimney and walk up to the foot of the main chimney.
3. 55 ft. Ascend the chimney. It is more difficult than it looks.

Peter Aitchison, Larry Jordan, Hugh Spencer. 1973 July 1

### INSITU, 5.5, 90 FT

A novel alternate finish to Gooseneck Chimney. Continue deeper within the chimney until forward progress is impossible and then go up. Due to the narrowness of the chimney, it is climbed without a rope (you won't go anywhere if you slip) and helmet (if you wear one, decide at the bottom which way you want your head to face for the rest of the climb). Because of the cave-like nature of this finish, it may remain wet after the rest of the cliff is dry.

Peter Aitchison. 1980

### PETAN CRACK, 5.10, 110 FT \*\*

A jamming "test piece" second to none on the cliff. It follows the crack 50 ft left of Inner Limit. Start below the overhangs.

1. 50 ft. Climb up and left through the overhangs to a broad ledge.
2. 60 ft. Climb straight up the finger and hand crack. The initial 20 ft are overhanging and were originally done with aid.

Aid 5.8 C2: Anil Shukla, Peter Aitchison. 1975 Oct  
Free: Casey Shaw, Everett Fee. 1984 July 15

### INNER LIMIT, 5.9, 120 FT \*\*

An extraordinarily spectacular and exacting route up the overhanging corner. It can be well protected if large chocks are carried for the first pitch. Start in the corner below the small overhang.

1. 80 ft. Overcome the overhang, then move up and left to the flakey edge. Ascend the flakey edge to the big ledge.
2. 40 ft. Climb up the overhanging corner using bridging, together with hand and foot jams.

Peter Aitchison. 1974 Sept 15

### Lakeside Climbs

#### HUGH'S HORROR DIRECT, 5.8, 110 FT \*\*

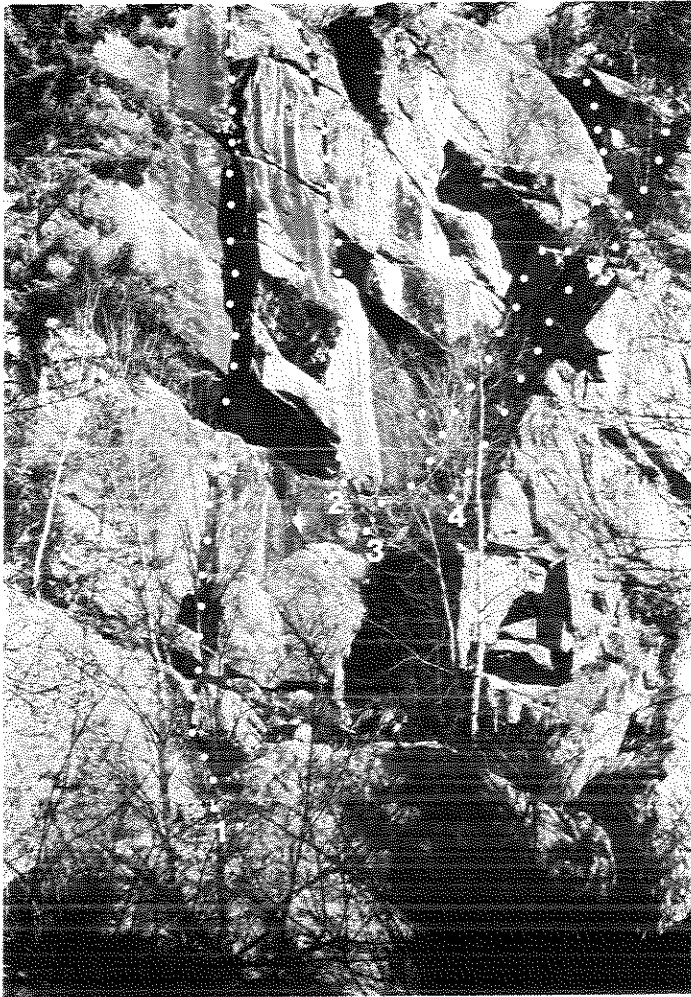
A nice route up an intimidating piece of cliff. Start below a chimney to the right of the outside corner formed at the end of the right wall of Inner Limit.

1. 40 ft. Climb up the chimney to a large ledge.
2. 70 ft. Climb up the corner and crack until a stance is gained on an edge at the top of the crack, bounded on the right by a slab. Move left onto the main face, ducking underneath the large flake in an extraordinarily mentally difficult move. Move up and left to finish by the juniper bush.

Original route: Hugh Spencer, Peter Aitchison, Grant Skiver. 1974 June 9  
First Pitch: Ian Clarke, Rick Hiebert. 1975  
Full climb: Peter Aitchison, Ian Clarke, Richard Tilley. 1976 April 11

#### NO ONE NOSE, 5.6, 70 FT \*\*

A delightful route offering varied climbing up the crack beside the black streak on the rock. The route can easily be identified by a thin nose of rock, two thirds of the way up, projecting about one ft out from the route. Climb up



Gooseneck Rocks, Lakeside Climbs. 1 *No One Nose*,  
2 *I'm Losing You*, 3 *Richard's Reply*, 4 *Sail Slab*

the small slab at the base, and follow the crack and corner to the top.

Peter Aitchison, John McKenzie. 1973.

#### I'M LOSING YOU, 5.9, 50 FT

Start 10 ft right of No One Nose, beneath the overhang. Climb the muddy crack, past the tree, and move right underneath the overhang. Move up on holds in the crack to the horn on the face. Use jamming moves to reach the top. Take large chocks and slings for protection.

Geoff Murray. 1980 May

#### RICHARD'S REPLY, 5.6, 50 FT

A nice short route. Start as for I'm Losing You. Climb up to the right to the foot of a broken slab (Sail Slab). Ascend the corner on the left side of the slab and traverse left above the overhang to a ledge. Make a difficult move up from the ledge, trending right to finish.

Richard Tilley, Peter Aitchison. 1975 Oct

#### SAIL SLAB, 5.2, 50 FT

Start as for Richard's Reply. Climb up the steep broken slab, keeping right of the tree, then up the gash to the top of the cliff. A harder finish is to move left onto the steep slab for the final 10 ft.

#### DURIN, 5.6, 70 FT

Starting about 10 ft left of the corner of Toad-in-the-Hole, climb up the left wall to a good ledge. Traverse right 10 ft, then up to the left to finish at the overhang.

Bottom part: Peter Aitchison, Anil Shukla, others. 1974

Full climb: Everett Fee, Douglas Leonard. 1980 Sept 6

#### TOAD-IN-THE-HOLE, 5.6, 70 FT

This route ascends the dark corner set back about 60 ft to the right of No One Nose and an equal distance to the left of the overhangs of Pinnacle Overhang. It is often wet, but is interesting when dry. The crux is in the final moves.

Peter Aitchison, Chris Armstrong, Bob Sanford. 1975 Sept 14

#### DREAMS OF B.L. AND THE BEACH, 5.9, 90 FT \*\*

This route starts 30 ft left of the pinnacle on Pinnacle Overhang and follows a series of cracks and corners



Gooseneck Rocks, Lakeside Climbs. 1 Durin,  
2 Toad-in-the-Hole

trending up and left. Climb a 15 ft handcrack to a small shelf. A bold traverse left along this shelf leads to the corner which takes you through the overlaps above.

Casey Shaw and Peter Aitchison. 1984 April 10

#### PINNACLE OVERHANG, 5.4, 100 FT \*\*\*

A superb route offering fine climbing and spectacular positions. Start just right of the outside corner to the right of the big overhang.

1. 30 ft. Climb up the ledges to a tree belay on the terrace.
2. 70 ft. Move left to the top of the pinnacle and step above the overhang. Traverse left on the lip of the overhang for about 30 ft until the wall above can be climbed to finish the route.

Peter Aitchison, Brian Metcalf, Bev Parslow. 1972 Oct 8

#### WEASEL CRACK, 5.6, 70 FT \*

A challenging crack climb. Start at the foot of the crack cleaving the face just right of Pinnacle Overhang.

1. 30 ft. Climb the cracks to a tree belay on the terrace.
2. 30 ft. Climb straight up the crack(crux).

Hugh Spencer, Peter Aitchison, Larry Jordan. 1972 Aug 13

#### KEELHAUL, 5.6, 60 FT

This tricky route ascends the face 20 ft to the right of Weasel Crack. Climb the dark corner for a few feet and then go left past the trees onto a ledge. Climb the awkward cracks and corners to the top.

Peter Aitchison, Chris Armstrong, Bob Sanford. 1975 Sept 14

#### RAINOUT, 5.4, 50 FT

Start as for Keelhaul. Ascend the corner further, then take a rising traverse to the right to the top of Exit Route. It is easy to get off route by ascending too far in the corner.

#### SEEANIL, 5.5, 50 FT

A nice short crack route. Start below the crack hidden behind the trees right of Keelhaul. Climb up the crack to finish at the top of the Exit Route.

Anil Shukla, Richard Tilley, Gerard Messaros. 1974 Sept 14

### EXIT ROUTE, 5.1, 40 FT

This route takes a diagonal traverse up, from right to left. Start on a large boulder and climb up to and ascend the easy ledges. Often climbed up or down without ropes.

### TRICKY TRIP, 5.5, 30 FT

Goes up the short corner set back to the right of Exit Route. There is a nice mantleshelf move to start.

Peter Aitchison, Hugh Spencer. 1972

### GEOFF-MURRAY-WEEKEND, 5.9, 20 FT

A short, challenging problem. Begin at the obvious flake 15 ft right of Tricky Trip. Ascend the corner and follow the flake to the left to join Tricky Trip.

Casey Shaw, Peter Aitchison, Robert France. 1982 May 2

### GUTCLUTCH, 5.6, 60 FT

A nerve wracking route up the overhanging corner. Start on the left side of an embayment, just to the left of a prominent arete. Climb up into the corner, and then up over the overhang using jamming and footholds on the left wall.

Hugh Spencer, Peter Aitchison. 1973 June 30

### RATCHET, 5.3, 60 FT

A straightforward but good route. Start below a corner just right of a prominent arete. Climb into the corner and up the chimney to finish. Beware of loose rocks near the bottom.

### BLOOD-ON-THE-TRACKS, 5.9, 60 FT \*

An interesting route up the obvious crack, overhanging at the start, to the right of Ratchet.

Geoff Murray, Peter Gough. 1978

### SNAIL, 5.5, 70 FT

Start 20 ft right of Ratchet.

1. 20 ft. Ascend the sloping ledge from right to left and belay at the pine tree.
2. 25 ft. Move up the corner and make a tricky move round to the right, then crawl towards the right, along the ledge until it broadens into a large shelf.

3. 25 ft. Ascend some ledges at the extreme right of the shelf, and make the difficult move up and left to finish as for Excretoria. A more direct finish is to climb directly left and up from the large shelf.

Hugh Spencer, Larry Jordan, Barbara Spencer. 1972 July

### EXCRETORIA, 5.6, 50 FT \*\*

A short, satisfying climb up the large chimney near the right end of the cliff. Bridge the chimney, facing outwards, to a big ledge (there used to be a bird's nest here but no trace of it is left), and climb up and onto the ledge on the left. Continue up to the left, looking for unusual hand and footholds, to finish. Alternatively go up the crack on the right using offwidth jamming.

Peter Aitchison, Hugh Spencer. 1972 Aug 5

### POSER, 5.6, 30 FT

The prominent squeeze chimney 40 ft right of Excretoria. It is difficult to protect.

Casey Shaw, Dirk Erkau. 1980 Aug 24

### IT'LL ALL COME OUT IN THE WASH, 5.7, 40 FT

Start just right of Poser. Gain the ledge and swing out to the right. Ascend the crack and move quickly through the overhangs to the right around the arete. Continue up the crack system to finish.

Douglas Leonard, Robert France. 1982 July 4

### LE GRAND TRAVERSE, 5.8, 460 FT

A long climb that offers an enjoyable sense of exploration. No less than 16 established routes are crossed, ascended, or descended. It includes several overhangs, some interesting downclimbing, a single aid move, and some delicate face climbing.

1. 5.8, 50 ft. Begin at the base of Excretoria. Follow the obvious ledge to the left, with a tricky duck around the corner, to a belay part way up Snail.
2. 5.3, 70 ft. Continue a rising traverse left past the bottom of Blood-on-the-Tracks, crossing Ratchet, to finish on top of the rising ledge immediately to the left of Gutclutch.
3. 5.5, 80 ft. Proceed along the ledge to the left and reverse



Gooseneck Rocks, Main Cliff.  
Geoff Murray on Ken's Revenge

the top part of Tricky Trip (the leader must be mindful of the second here). An alternative would be to reverse Gutclutch and climb Geoff-Murray-Weekend to the Exit Route. Regardless, traverse left, descend a few feet of Seeanil, reverse Rainout, and move left out of the chimney to gain the large terrace bisecting Keelhaul and Weasel Crack.

4. 5.2, 90 ft. Walk along the terrace and around the corner to Pinnacle Overhang. From here squeeze down the inside of the pinnacle.

over the boulders near ground level to a short wall.

6. 5.7, 20 ft. Ascend the face to the large ledge, using a difficult arm reach move and belay from the top.
7. 5.5 C2, 30 ft. Move left, staying high, by reaching across the large corner and inserting aid, to pass over the blank facing wall. Continue around the corner and belay on the next large ledge.
8. 5.6, 70 ft. Move left to the bottom section of Toad-in-the-Hole. Continue left, climbing part way up Durin to a series of ledges and belay.
9. 5.3, 50 ft. Reverse Sail Slab to the ground.

Peter Aitchison, Robert France, 1983 Aug 2

## Cave Cliff

This fairly small cliff is partially hidden in the trees on the east side of the road about 0.25 mile south of the Main Cliff.

### CAVE DIRECT, C3, 80 FT

A challenging artificial route scaling the roof of the cave towards the north end of the cliff. The climb follows the right-hand crack in the roof, and was climbed using chocks.

1. 15 ft. Climb up to the ledge at the back of the cave (the first move may require a large chock).
2. 65 ft. Move out along the horizontal crack and up to finish.

Peter Aitchison, 1975 May 31

### DIMRILL STAIRS, 5.6 C1, 80 FT

Start to the right of Cave Direct at the foot of some ramps, climbing diagonally right.

1. 60 ft. Free climb the ramps to a ledge below a shallow corner leading to the top of the cliff.
2. 20 ft. Climb up the corner using aid, moving left where the crack divides.

Ken Lertzman, Peter Aitchison, 1975 June

### HESITATION, 5.7, 70 FT

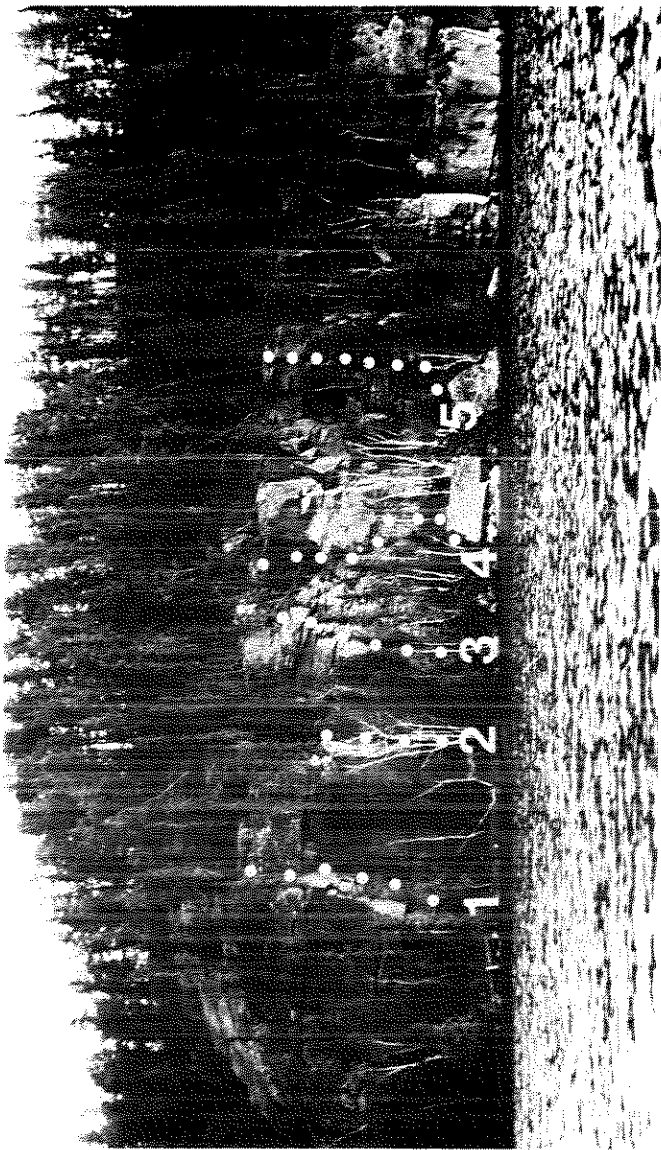
About 100 ft from the south end of the cliff is an easy looking inside corner with a single overhang.

Peter Aitchison, Everett Fee, 1983 Sept

### LORIEN, 5.10, 60 FT \*

Towards the south end of the cliff, a prominent left-trending and somewhat overhanging crack slashes the cliff. The first ascent used direct aid methods.

Aid C2: Peter Aitchison, Anil Shukla, Richard Tilley, 1975 June  
Free: Peter Gough, Peter Aitchison, 1979



Gooseneck Rocks, South Cliff, Eastern Section. 1 Lazy Layaway, 2 Falling Stars, 3 Deception Corner, 4 Opening Shot, 5 Nice Route

## South Cliff

This cliff is located on the south shore of Gooseneck Lake and is usually approached by canoe. It can also be reached by a 10 minute hike from the gravel road (marked Rockwood Lodge Landing/Cygnnet Trailer Park) that joins Road 596 immediately east of Gooseneck Lake. There are two sections of cliff separated by a broken area and it is difficult to reach one section from the other on land from the bottom of the cliff. Refer to photograph for route identification.

### *Eastern Section of Cliff*

#### **COLONIZED PLANET 5 – SHIKASTA, 5.7, 80 FT \***

A good route that ascends the right side of the prominent jagged-edged flake located on the large wall halfway up the cliff. Begin by carefully climbing past the broken chockstones in the wide chimney to gain a large ledge. Continue up the crack to the top of the huge flake and move onto the face to the undercling just out of reach.

Robert France, Peter Aitchison 1982 July 25

#### **LAZY LAYAWAY, 5.7, 40 FT**

Located at the first right-facing corner on the extreme left end of cliff. Climb the crack and finish with a nice layback to the top.

Peter Aitchison, Robert France 1981 Sept 19

#### **FALLING STARS, 5.9 C2, 80 FT \***

A sustained climb located in the right-facing corner 30 ft left of Deception Corner. Start by overcoming a short overhang to gain the ledge. Climb up the corner and face. Regain the crack near top and use a few aid moves to exit onto large ledges to the left.

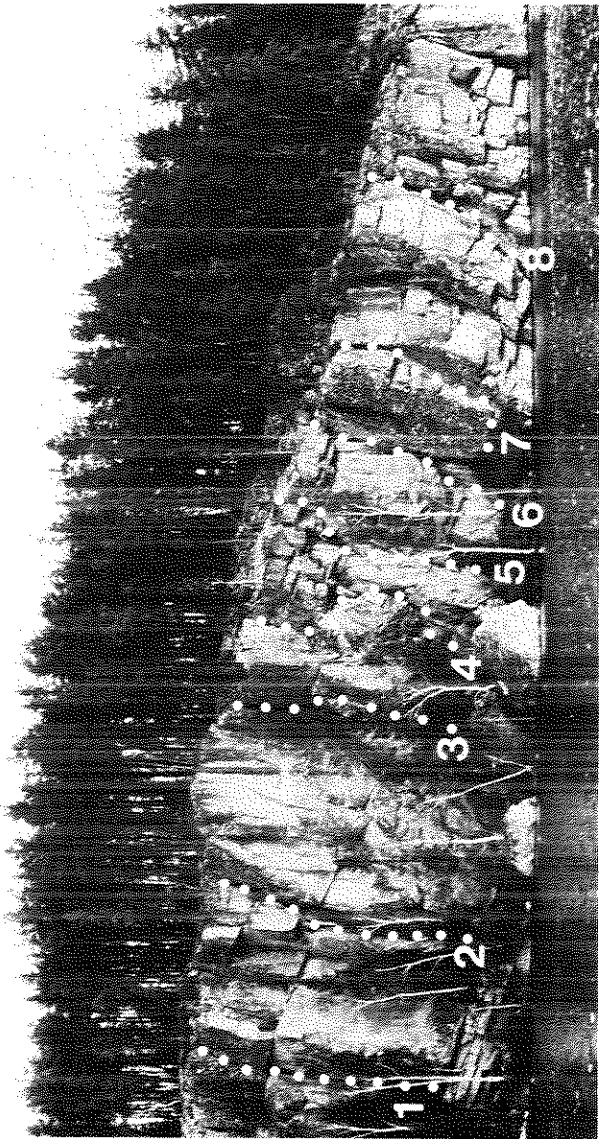
Peter Aitchison, Robert France 1981 Sept 19

#### **DECEPTION CORNER, 5.6, 60 FT \***

The route goes up the prominent sloping dihedral, starting just left of where the cliff sets back from the water. The overhangs at the top are easier than they look.

Peter Aitchison, Richard Tilley, Garry Yamashita 1980 May





Gooseneck Rocks, South Cliff, Western Section. 1 Skinnee Chimney, 2 Reflection Corner, 3 The Swimmer, 4 Redemption, 5 Green Team, 6 Roofroof, 7 Lightning Bolt, 8 Gurusvale

**PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK, 5.8 C3, 80 FT**

Located 30 ft right of Deception Corner and easily recognized by being the rightmost of a series of large overhangs.

1. 50 ft. Begin by bridging up a short corner. Gain a ledge and tend to the left around a series of corners to reach the arete just underneath the overhang, two-thirds of the way up the route.
2. 30 ft. Bridge under the overhang (crux) and insert aid high in the crack to finish.

Peter Aitchison, Robert France. 1982 Aug

**OPENING SHOT, 5.6, 70 FT**

Start just left of the big triangular overhang. Go up the grey wall, traverse a few feet left to the ledge, and up the corner to the top.

Peter Aitchison, Richard Tilley, Garry Yamashita. 1980 May

**NICE ROUTE, 5.6, 60 FT**

Start right of the big triangular overhang, at a block bridging the gap between the face and the flatter ground. The top part of the route is up the prominent crack splitting the cliff. Climb up 10 ft then traverse right 10 ft and up to a big ledge (original route was split here). Climb up the crack above.

Peter Aitchison, Richard Tilley, Garry Yamashita. 1980 May

*Western Section of Cliff*

**SKINNEE CHIMNEY, 5.7, 70 FT \***

Start 50 ft left of Reflection Corner below the prominent narrow chimney. Go straight up the crack-chimney-crack to the top. If you like chimneys you will love this.

Richard Tilley, Robert France, Peter Aitchison. 1980 July 13

**CAPTAIN GRANITIC AND THE PIZO-ELECTRIC KID, 5.9, 100 FT \***

This route follows the crack and corner system located at the highest point on the cliff, about 10 ft left of Reflection Corner. It is a challenging mix of climbing problems.

1. 65 ft. Climb up the narrow crack in the left-facing corner. Then traverse to the left beneath the prominent overhang to gain the large ledge.



*Gooseneck Rocks, Main Cliff.  
Doug Leonard on the Great Slab*

2. 35 ft. Climb the crack using jamming techniques.

Aid 5.7 C3: Casey Shaw, Robert France. 1982 Oct

Free: Peter Aitchison. 1983 June

**REFLECTION CORNER, 5.8, 80 FT \*\*\***

A fine climb with sustained interest. Start below a corner at the highest part of the cliff. Climb the corner, first trending left, then moving right to avoid the steep wall near the top.

Peter Aitchison, Richard Tilley. 1975 June

**THE SWIMMER 5.6, 60 FT**

Starts in an inside corner 25 ft left of Redemption. Layback

the corner to a terrace and then up another corner to the top.

Everett Fee, Casey Shaw, Dirk Erkau. 1980 July 13

**TEMPTATION, 5.8, 70 FT**

Start 15 ft left of Redemption below a short crack under the roof. Climb the crack and make an awkward move left to a narrow ledge. Follow the seam below the bulge and traverse right onto a wall. Finish up the short inside corner at the top of Redemption.

Douglas Leonard, Peter Aitchison, Dan Price. 1983 Aug

**REDEMPTION, 5.6, 70 FT \***

A good climb to the right of Reflection Corner following the right side of a very large flake of rock. Climb up the

right side of the flake, left across the top of the flake and up a short corner to finish.

Peter Aitchison, Anil Shukla. 1975 June

**GREEN TEAM, 5.8, 80 FT \*\*\***

Superlative and sustained climbing up the right-facing corner 10 ft to the right of Redemption. Go straight up the corner, traversing right near the top.

Everett Fee, Robert France, Peter Aitchison, Richard Tilley, Casey Shaw. 1980 July 13

**ROOFROOF, 5.8, 70 FT \***

An interesting corner route up the largest corner, towards the right end of the cliff. Climb up the corner and circumvent the tricky overhang on the right.

Peter Aitchison, Richard Tilley, Robert France. 1979 Sept

**LIGHTNING BOLT, 5.8, 60 FT \***

A corner with three overhangs to the right of Roofroof. Begin by traversing right from Roofroof along the vegetation. Climb up the corner to the top.

Peter Aitchison, Douglas Leonard. 1982 May 2

**GUNWALE, 5.4, 30 FT**

A short right-trending corner near the right-end of the cliffs. Step carefully from canoe onto rock, and go past the bush to the top.

Richard Tilley, Lia Lugenbuhl. 1975 June



## Redditt Airport Cliff

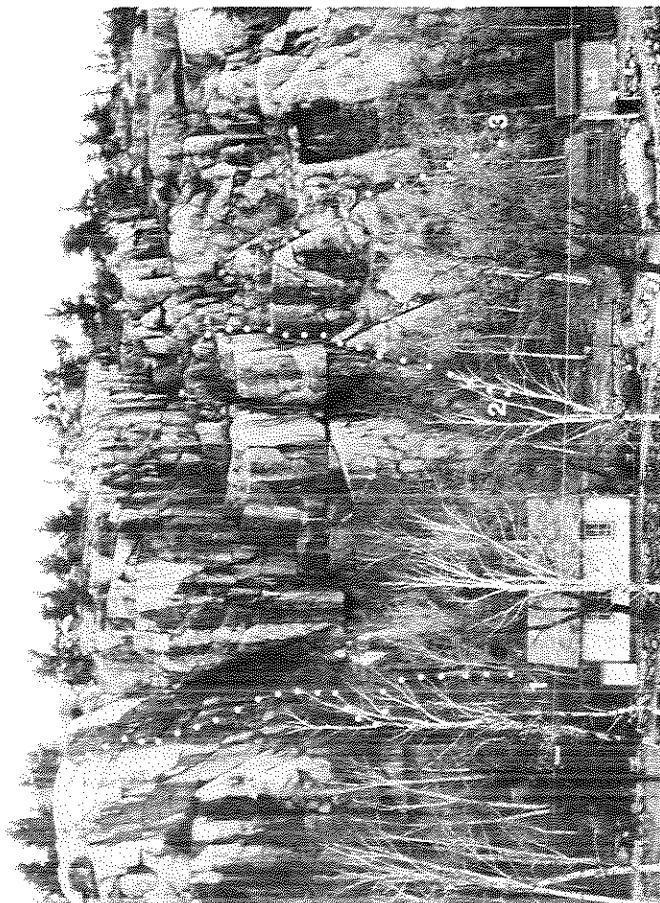
Redditt is a small town located on the C.N.R. line 30 miles north of Kenora. It may be reached by taking the Redditt/Black Sturgeon Lake Road (666) as it leaves the waterfront between Keewatin and Kenora and goes past the pulp mill.

This excellent granite cliff is situated within the Redditt township, just north of the C.N. tracks alongside the airport runway. A private road runs along the base of the cliff, and one house has a garden fenced all the way to the cliff. Vehicles must be left near the large warehouse. Permission for climbing should be obtained from Mr. Cranston who lives in a house near the end of the road running along the base of the cliff.

The cliff offers good crack and corner routes up to 130 ft high. Due to the highly fractured nature of the rock, the cliff takes on a very 'blocky' formation with many horizontal lines. Therefore most climbs are broken up by ledges into a series of short hard sections followed by good resting places. Consequently there is little sustained hard climbing. The presence of many ledges means that extra caution must be used by leaders because the 'clean fall', characteristic of the large open areas present on the other cliffs in the region, will not occur here. The various jamming techniques are particularly useful.

There has been little activity here and many attractive lines still await development. The unique horizontal fracturing offers the possibility of some interesting girdle traverses. Unfortunately, in later years it has been difficult to obtain permission to climb here.

Several prominent features serve as landmarks dividing the cliff into three major sections. The western (left) end of the cliff finishes at the obvious slab or wall that bisects the cliff just behind the large house. The middle section extends from here to the large rectangular-shaped block perched on a ledge at about half cliff height and situated directly above the small house and huge boulders. The eastern (right) end of the cliff comprises the more broken and shorter routes to the right of the 'landmark block'. The climbs are described left to right. Refer to photographs for further route identification.



Redditt Airport Cliff, Western Section, 1 Double Finish,  
2 Inclinators, 3 Split Crack

### *Western Section*

#### **INITIATE, 5.5, 60 FT**

The upper part is the obvious wide crack near the left end of the cliffs. The lower part is a series of ledges.

Robert France, Jim Cushon. 1979 July

#### **SHORT LEDGE, 5.5, 110 FT**

One of a number of interesting crack and corner lines at the left end of the cliffs. Start 30 ft left of the outside corner left of the house, at a small corner below a chimney.

1. 70 ft. Climb the corner to a ledge below the chimney.
2. 40 ft. Climb the chimney.

Richard Tilley, Anil Shukla, Peter Aitchison. 1976

#### **DOUBLE FINISH, 5.7 CI, 130 FT \***

The upper pitch ascends the prominent wall left of the large dihedral corner directly behind the house. Start below the left end of the ledge at the base of the dihedral, at an overhang.

1. 40 ft. Climb straight up the cracks, traverse left under the overhang, and then climb up to the big ledge. Two aid moves were used.
2. 90 ft. Climb a jagged crack on the wall to the left of the corner (unclimbed but very attractive).

Peter Aitchison, Richard Tilley. 1976 Oct 10

### *Middle Section*

#### **INCLINATION, 5.7, 100 FT**

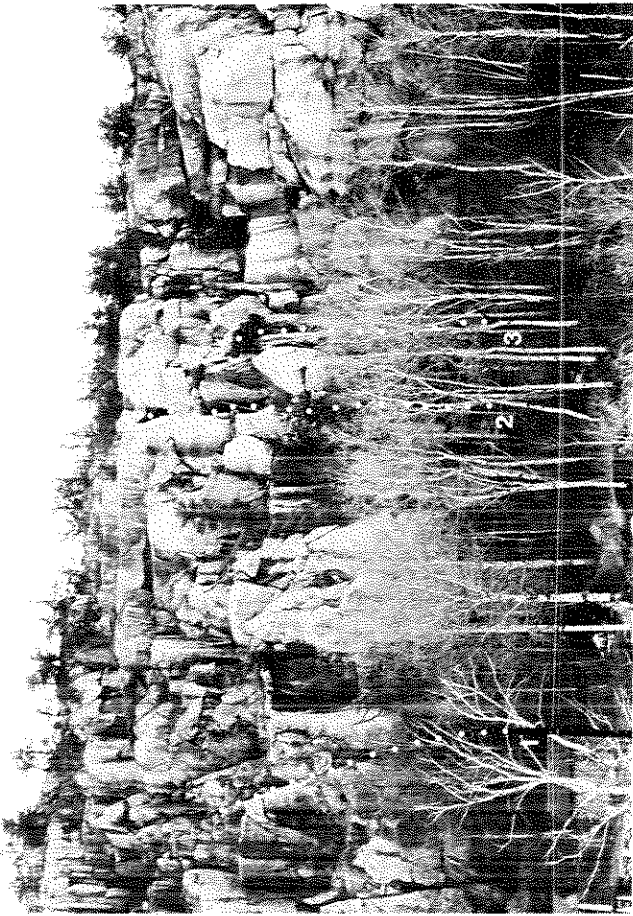
Behind the large house at the right-hand end of the garden, take a right-trending crack.

1. 50 ft. Start at the slab, traverse into the crack, then up to a ledge.
2. 50 ft. Follow corners and cracks to the top (variable finish).

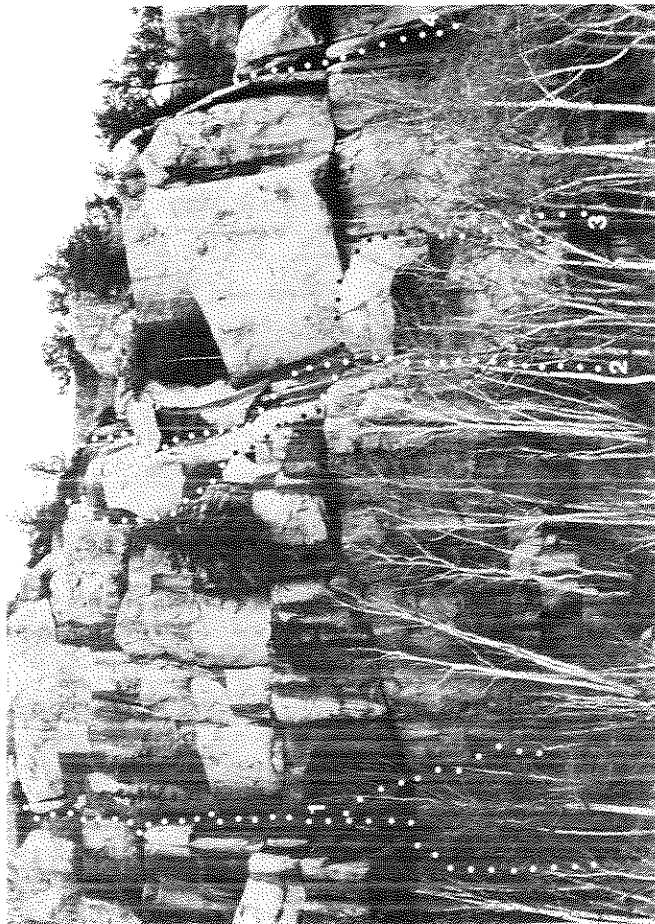
Peter Aitchison, Allan Benoit, Dorland Brown. 1979 May 19

#### **SPLIT CRACK, 5.7, 80 FT**

Behind the sheds adjacent to the large house, take the rightmost of two parallel cracks.



Reddall Airport Cliff, Western Section. 1 Split Crack.  
2 Oblique Corner, 3 Broken Crack



Redditt Airport Cliffs, Western Section. 1 Nazgul, 2 Guathir,  
 3 Tree Beard, 4 Redditt Crack

1. 30 ft. Climb up to a tree belay.
2. 60 ft. Move left and up a tricky corner and cracks above (variable finish).

Richard Tilley, Peter Aitchison. 1979 May 27

**OBLIQUE CORNER, 5.7, 80 FT \***

A good route starting at a prominent corner some way to the left of the broken middle portion of the cliffs. Climb the corner and continuation cracks and corners above.

Peter Aitchison, Peter Gough. 1978 July 23

**BROKEN CRACK, 5.7, 90 FT \***

An obvious crack, trending right, at the left side of the broken middle portion of the cliffs.

1. 40 ft. Climb the crack moving right of the bushes.
2. 80 ft. Move up to the left to finish(variable).

Peter Aitchison, Allan Benoit, Dorland Brown. 1979 May 20

**CRACK AND CORNER, 5.5, 90 FT**

At the right-hand side of the broken middle portion of the cliff, climb up a series of corners and cracks trending left below a chimney-like crack just left of the overhanging section.

1. 40 ft. Climb up through the tricky chimney to a ledge.
2. 40 ft. Continue up to the top (variable finish).

first ascent partly unknown

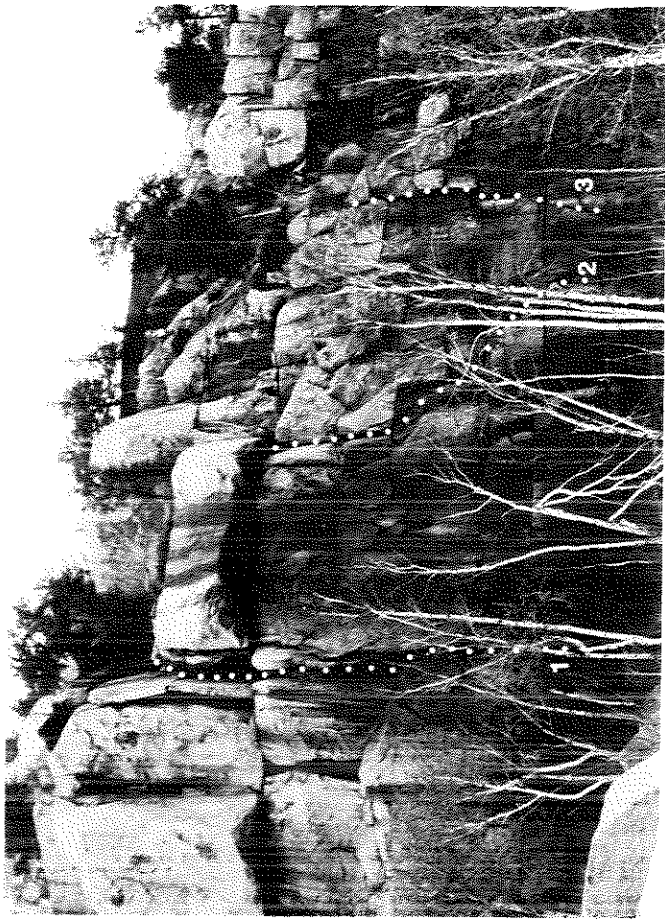
**NAZGUL, 5.9, 120 FT \*\***

A straight and direct line that is easily recognized on this cliff where many of the longer climbs require horizontal traverses. This route follows a series of cracks and corners behind the huge granite boulder just left of the first house reached from town.

1. 80 ft. Begin with either of two starting variations and climb straight up, breaking the climb at the ledge with the large spruce tree.
2. 40 ft. Continue up the corner crack (crux) to the top.

Peter Aitchison, Ken Lertzman. 1976 June 5

Alternate start, 40 ft left: Douglas Leonard, Robert France. 1981 June



Redditt Airport Cliff, Middle Section. 1 Redditt Crack,  
 2 Bregalad, 3 Piece of Mind

### **GWAIHIR, 5.7, 110 FT \*\***

This interesting route starts behind the huge boulders and the first (small) house reached from town. It follows an obvious crack system through an overhang 40 ft left of the 'landmark block'.

1. 60 ft. Climb up the cracks, going left of the overhang and belay.
2. 50 ft. Move up the corner a few feet, then traverse left onto the slab and around the outside corner, and finish on a short inside corner.

Peter Aitchison, Ken Lertzman, 1976 June 5

### **TREE BEARD, 5.8 CI, 130 FT \***

Start 20 ft right of Gwaihir, below a vertical crack.

1. 60 ft. Make a hard mantleshelf, ascend the crack, and move left to the belay ledge mentioned in Gwaihir.
2. 70 ft. Crossing the route of Gwaihir, make a low traverse left, rounding the outside corner with an aid move. Then climb up to the left of Gwaihir to finish.

Peter Aitchison, Richard Tilley, 1976

### **REDDITT CRACK, 5.8 CI, 120 FT \***

A crack and corner route of sustained difficulty and exposure. Start behind the first (small) house reached from town, below a prominent split in the upper part of the cliff formed by two immense flakes immediately left of the 'landmark block'.

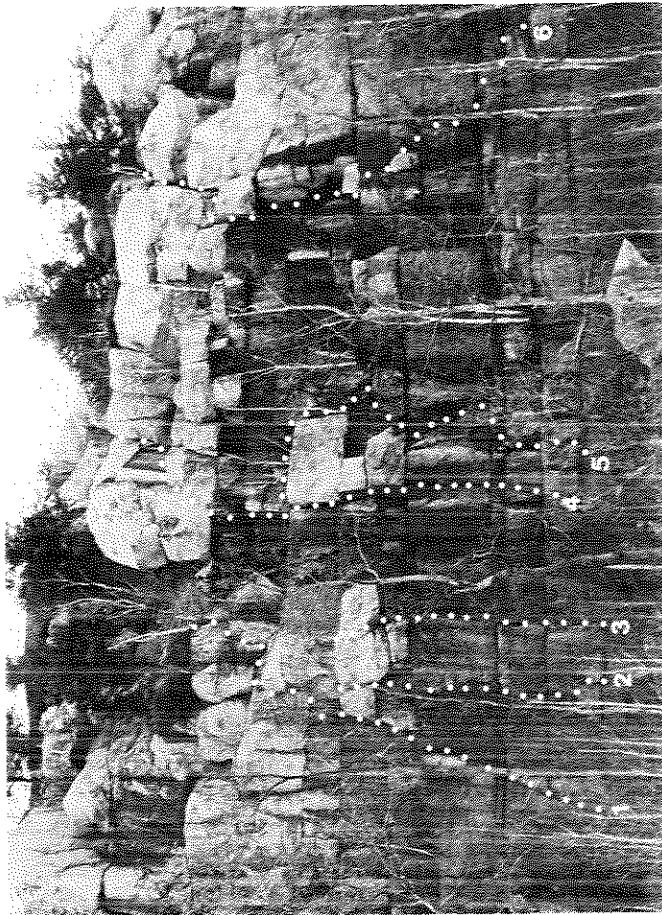
1. 60 ft. Climb up a few feet, traverse left and then back right to avoid the smooth section. Continue up and over the bulge to a belay ledge.
2. 60 ft. Climb the corner with one aid move 10 ft from the ledge. Continue up the flaring chimney to the top (an easier alternative follows the hole at the back of the chimney).

Peter Aitchison, Richard Tilley, 1977 May 1

### *Eastern Section*

### **BREGALAD, 5.6, 90 FT**

An interesting crack and corner route starting 20 ft right of Redditt Crack, immediately right of the 'landmark block'.



Reddit Airport Cliff, Middle Section. 1 Piece of Mind, 2 Nice, 3 Elrohir, 4 New Horizons, 5 Electric Arc, 6 Flakey

1. 50 ft. Climb the prominent left-trending crack, move left then up to a ledge and belay.
2. 40 ft. Climb up the crack at the back to finish.

Peter Aitchison, Richard Tilley. 1976

**PIECE OF MIND, 5.4, 80 FT**

A nice crack route. Start at the deeply incised crack, 10 ft right of Bregalad. Watch out for loose rock at the crux. Climb straight up the crack and ledges to finish (variable).

Peter Aitchison, Richard Tilley. 1977 May 1

**NICE, 5.7, 45 FT**

A fine crack climb just right of Piece of Mind. Go straight up the crack.

Peter Aitchison, Peter Gough. 1978 July 23

**ELROHIR, 5.8, 50 FT \***

This is the leftmost of the three cracks up the nearly vertical wall just right of Bregalad. Climb the crack using jamming techniques.

Peter Aitchison, Ken Lertzman. 1976 June 5

**NEW HORIZONS, 5.5, 100 FT**

A nice route following the large straight crack to the right of Elrohir. There is a rock overhanging part of the crack.

1. 50 ft. Climb the ledges and crack, past the overhanging rock, to a ledge.
2. 50 ft. Climb a series of cracks and corners to the top (variable finish).

Peter Aitchison, Peter Gough, Janet Gough. 1978 July 23

**ELECTRIC ARC, 5.6, 50 FT**

Climb up between the two flakes just right of New Horizons, and move right and up to finish (variable).

Peter Aitchison, Craig Parfait. 1979 May 27

Alternate finish: Richard Tilley, Gerhard Dehis. 1979 May 27

**FLAKEY, 5.6, 80 FT \***

A very fine crack and corner climb. Start below a jagged flakey-edged crack in the steep wall towards the right end of the cliff, 20 ft right of Electric Arc.

1. 30 ft. Climb the crack for 15 ft to a ledge, traverse left

and climb the left-trending flake to a ledge below a corner (beware of the red-colored piece at the crux).

2. 30 ft. Climb the corner and cracks above (variable finish).

Peter Aitchison, Richard Tilley. 1977 May 1

### CHALLENGE, 5.7, 60 FT

A mantleshelf and crack route starting below an obvious corner at the right-hand end of the cliff, where it extends further down the hillside.

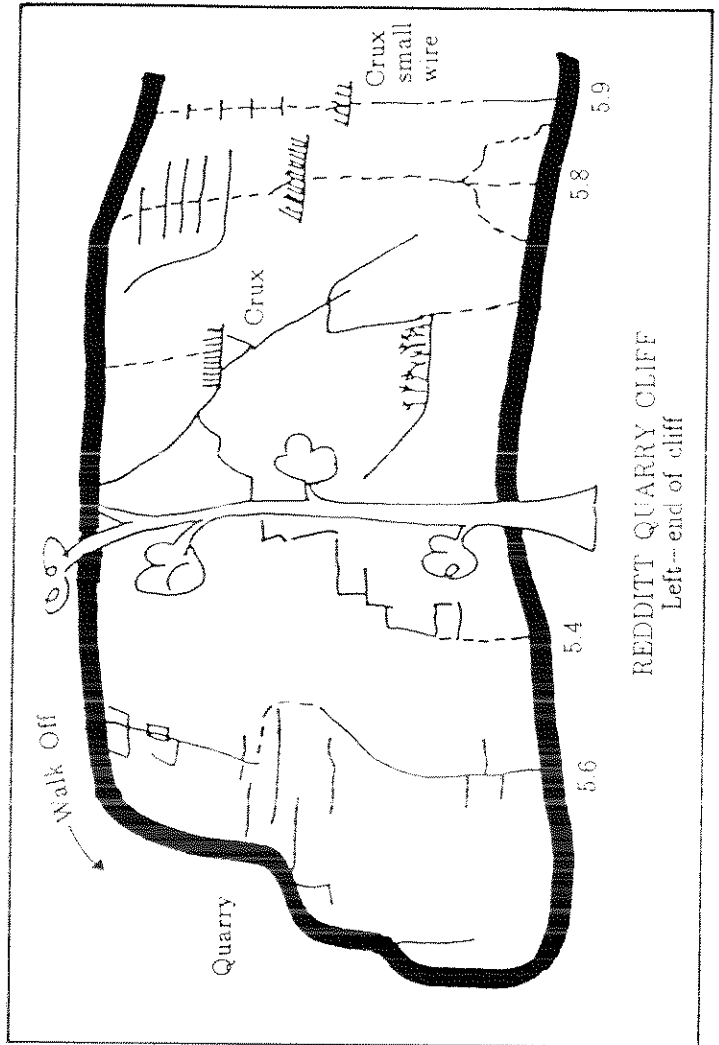
Peter Gough, Janet Gough, Peter Aitchison. 1978 July 23



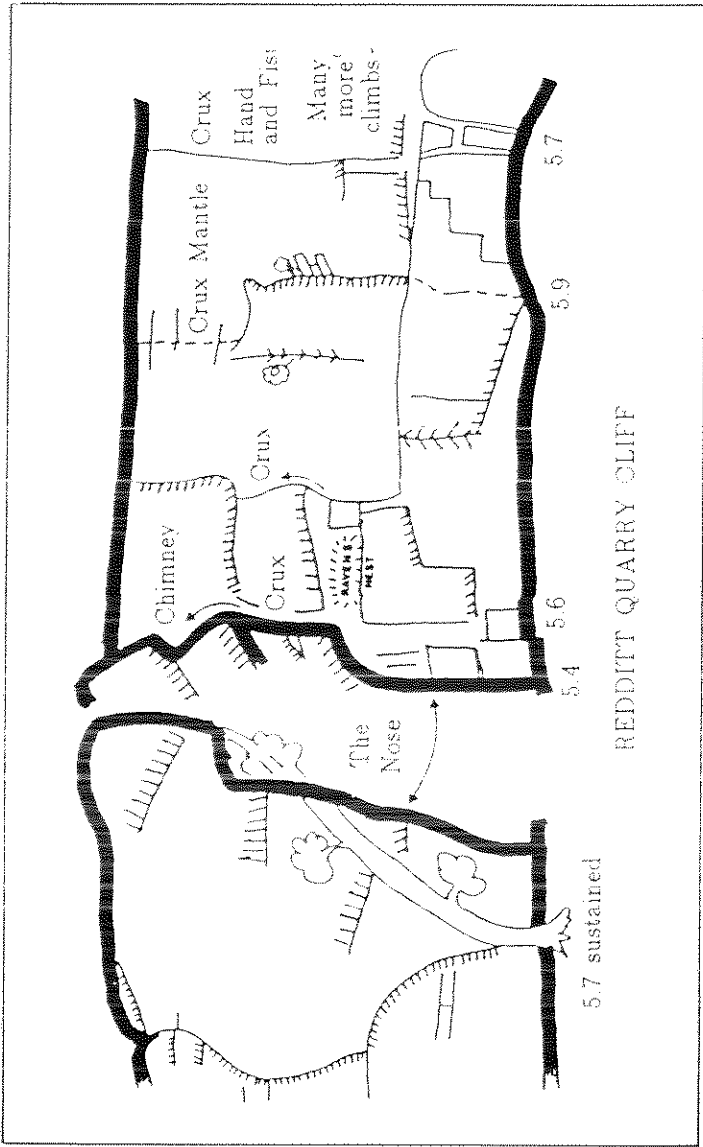
Redditt Quarry Cliff.  
Tibor Bodi on a steep face

## Redditt Quarry Cliff

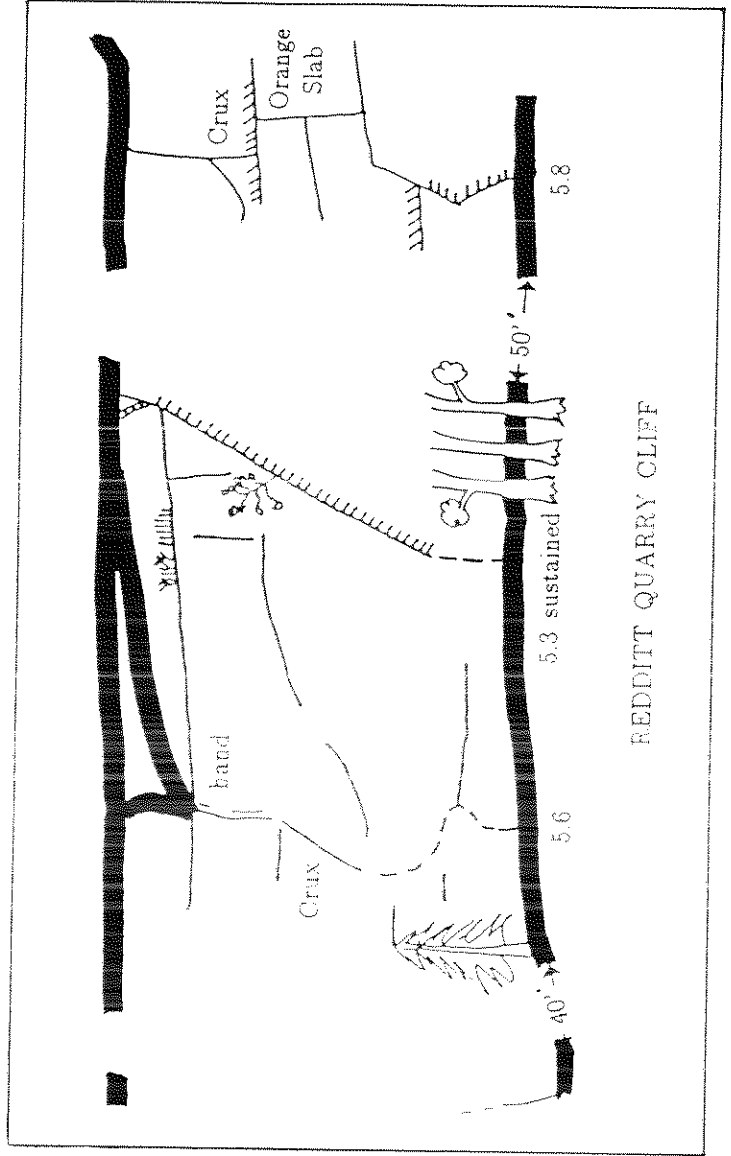
Located 1.5 miles south of the town of Redditt just on the west (left) side of Road 666 is another fine small granite cliff. During 1978-79 a dozen or so routes ranging in difficulty from 5.4 to 5.9 were established by Peter Gough, Janet Gough and Peter Aitchison. In 1981 a new 5.10 route by Everett Fee and Casey Shaw was added. Climbs are short (20 ft to 30 ft), unnamed, and usually top-roped, although practice leading is certainly possible. Refer to map for route identification. Due to the number of climbs over 5.7 in grade, this cliff is recommended as a practice area for advanced rather than novice climbers (the reverse of the situation at The Lily Pond).







REDDITT QUARRY CLIFF



REDDITT QUARRY CLIFF



Lily Pond. 1 Chicken's Choice, 2 The Tits, 3 Staircase Direct, 4 Staircase, 5 Dihedral, 6 The Nose, 7 The Pig, 8 Beginner's Crack, 9 Exit Route

## The Lily Pond

This small practice cliff is located in Whiteshell Provincial Park on the north side of Hwy 44 just west of Caddy Lake. It is an excellent training area although the rock is less admirable than at other cliffs in this region. There are enough boulder exercises to occupy an afternoon even for the most advanced climber. First ascents of most routes are unknown.

### Roadside Cliff

This cliff is situated on the shoulder of the highway opposite the Lily Pond. Climbs are listed from left to right (see photo).

#### CHICKEN'S CHOICE, 5.4, 40 FT

A straight forward crack, 20 ft left of The Tits.

#### THE TITS, 5.5, 40 FT

Bad crumbly rock at the bottom. Bridge with arms up between the two protuberances and gingerly layback or climb straight up the next 40 ft section.

#### STAIRCASE DIRECT, 5.9, 40 FT

Start at the outside corner on the left end of the cliff. Reach up and grab 2 small flakes (1 for each hand), bridge left foot, and bring right foot up to small ledge. Continue up crack.

#### STAIRCASE, 5.3, 40 FT \*

A very good line with sustained moderate difficulties. It starts on the left side of the dihedral near the centre of the face. Climb up the corner to a big terrace. Move onto the face, up the steps, and up a corner at the top.

#### DIHEDRAL, 5.5, 40 FT

Start to the right of Staircase on the other side of the bulge. Move up and then left to gain the same terrace as in Staircase. Layback or jam the corner.



### THE NOSE, 5.7, 45 FT \*\*

The finest route of the cliff. Start below an overhang a few feet right of Dihedral. Move up and bridge below the overhang, then right to 'keyhole'. Mantel on to small ledge and put in a piece up and to the left, trying not to think where your last piece is. Then move up to a jug handle traverse right to the 'nostril' where you can rest. Finally go back (left) onto the face around the corner and finish trending slightly left.

### THE PIG, 5.5, 45 FT

A straightforward crack 10 ft right of The Nose. The crux is in the last 12 ft where it moves left on the face.

### BEGINNER'S CRACK, 5.3, 30 FT

Start 5 ft right of The Pig. Climb straight up crack.

### EXIT ROUTE, 5.1, 25 FT

Start a few feet left (and above) of Beginner's Crack and trend right past the blocks.

## Eastern Cliff

About 1.5 miles east of the roadside cliff and across a creek is another interesting cliff. It is hidden by trees in the summer.

### SLOW-POKE, 5.4, 50 FT

A fun climb towards the left end of the cliff. Climb the left corner using unconventional moves and follow the obvious crack, angling off to the right, to the top.

Robert France, Peter Aitchison, Richard Tilley. 1979 Oct

### TOP GRUNT, 5.7, 50 FT

A strenuous climb that starts below the obvious flake in the middle section of the cliff, 30 ft right of Slow Poke. Layback up the flake to a large ledge and follow the crux finish on the left-hand side.

Peter Aitchison, Robert France, Richard Tilley. 1979 Oct

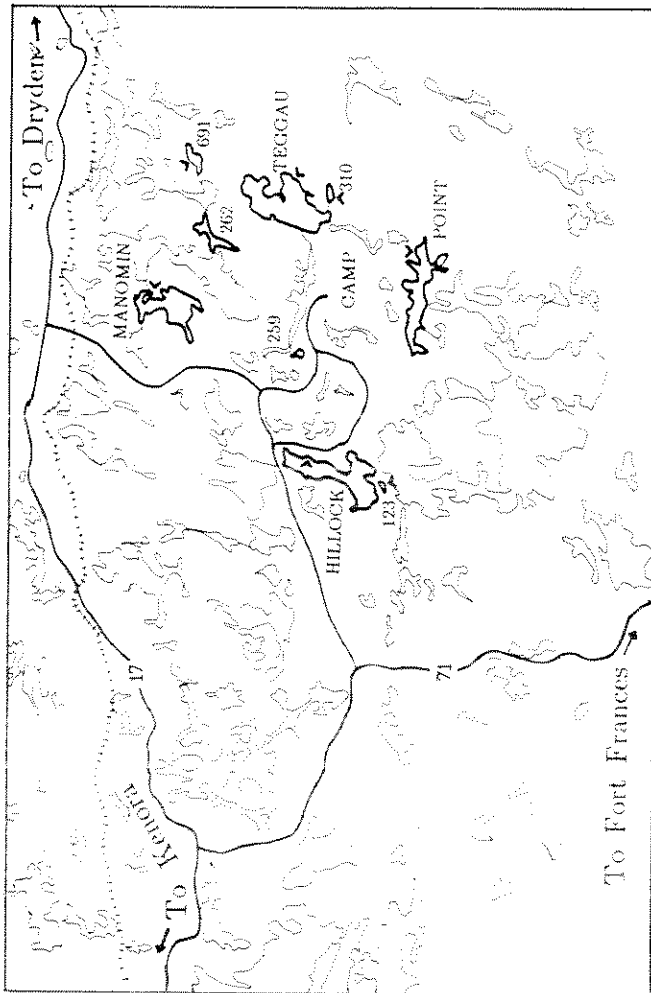


Lake 123.  
Everett Fee on Beaver Toe

## Experimental Lakes Area

The Experimental Lakes Area (ELA) is a 200 square mile area centered 30 miles southeast of Kenora, Ontario. This area, roughly bounded by Dryberry, Eagle, and Dogtooth lakes, is an excellent place to canoe and climb in a rugged wilderness of great beauty.

Although these cliffs are no farther from Winnipeg than the Gooseneck Rocks at Minaki, access to them is much more difficult. The terrain is complex and the cliffs, which are generally smaller than the Goosenecks, occur more or less randomly over a large area. Directions to any particular site based solely on landmarks can be very confusing. Accordingly, a method of giving precise directions is necessary. The method that we have adopted

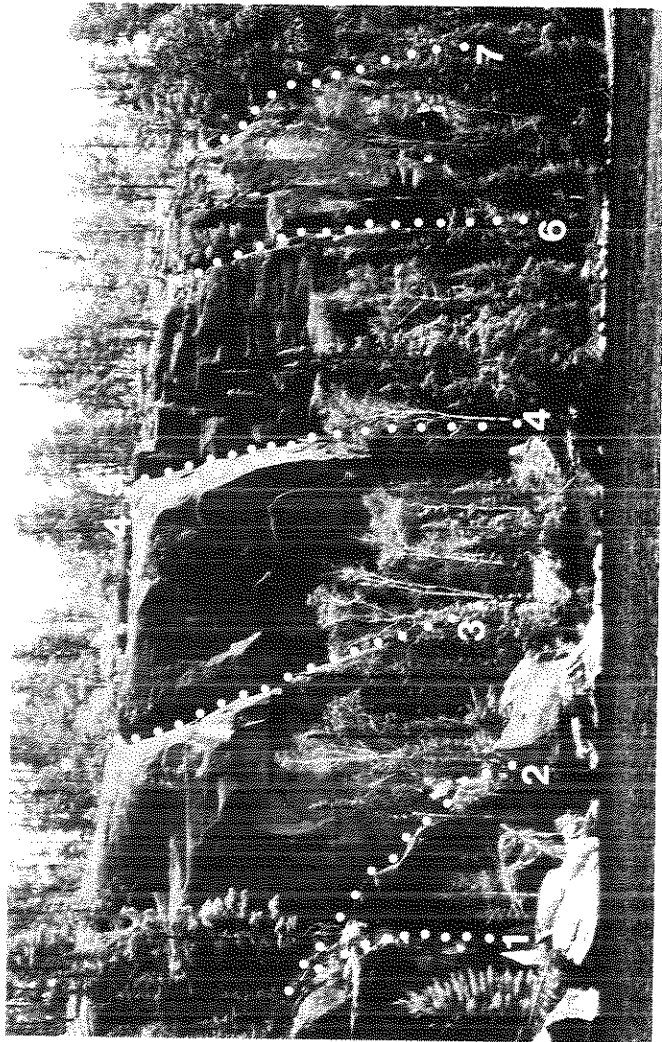


Experimental Lakes Area

is to use grid coordinates on the 1:50,000 topographic maps Dryberry Lake (52/F12) and Feist Lake (52/F13) (available from the Canada Map Office, 602 Booth St., Ottawa). These coordinates have the format of a 6 digit number and allow a location to be specified to within 100 yards; their use is explained on the maps. These maps are also helpful for locating new cliffs but be prepared for surprises: many fine cliffs are not prominent on them and "hot prospects" have usually been disappointments.

Lakes are highways here and are continually being referred to when giving directions. However, there are more than one thousand lakes in the ELA area and less than 5 of them have recognized names. Fortunately, the federal government uses this area for limnological research and has numbered all of the lakes. These lake numbers are invaluable for any kind of work in the area. A map showing the lake numbers is available from the Librarian, Freshwater Institute, 501 University Crescent, Winnipeg R3T 2N6 for 3. Request the "Experimental Lakes Area map".

ELA is 180 miles (about a 3.5 hour drive) east of Winnipeg. A logging road, marked "Highwind Lake Road", which branches off Ontario Hwy 71 twelve miles south of the Trans-Canada Hwy, penetrates into the heart of the region. At mile 11.4 this road branches at the northeast corner of Hillock Lake (370041) and beyond this point it is wise to proceed cautiously. Roads marked "all weather" on the map are passable but rough. "Dry weather" roads might be washed out. On the other hand, several unmarked roads exist which are in good condition if they have been used recently for logging. Final access to the cliffs is usually by canoe. Access times are given from the time that you leave the road and are for a party of experienced paddlers who are familiar with the terrain.



Lake 123, 1 *Early Morning Madness*, 2 *Autumn Clow*, 3 *Solid Geometry*, 4 *Everell's Error*, 5 *Beaver Toe*, 6 *The Bitter End*, 7 *Full Moon Coming*

## Lake 123

The cliff located on the northeast corner of this small lake (375990) is the best climbing site so far discovered in the ELA region. It is only 100 ft high and a few hundred yards in width but every 30 ft or so the steep face is broken by sharp-edged cracks that run for the whole height of the cliff. Climbs follow these marvelous cracks and many superb routes (Jamming 101, Suzy, Under the Sword, Yosemite Prep, My Go Now, Beaver Toe) are classic granite problems involving sustained jamming, chimneying, stemming or laybacking. Because of the unusually fine-grained nature of the rock, face holds are frequently small and rounded, and slab moves are the cruxes of other equally interesting but more varied routes (Solid Geometry, Full Moon Coming, Chan-Balhum).

It is possible to hike into the cliff in 20 minutes by following the more-or-less bare granite ridges which intersect the road at 384998, 1 mile east of the southeast corner of Hillock Lake. The trail is vaguely marked with red flags and following it is a good test of route finding skill. It is simpler and much more pleasant to go in by canoe. A short portage which starts at the bottom of a hill immediately opposite a parking spot on the north side of the road at 378998 leads to Lake 122. The water level in this lake has dropped about 10 ft in the last few years and there is a lot of exposed shoreline giving it a peculiar, somewhat desolate, atmosphere. Canoe across this lake to another short portage at 376993. Access time 20 minutes.

The climbs described below occur from left to right on the cliff at the northeast end of Lake 123. Large boulders at lake level below the huge overhang on the main face provide easy access to the climbs and are also a convenient place to enter the lake for a swim. A 15 ft high flake of rock leaning against the face about 150 ft right of these boulders is an important feature for locating several climbs which are not visible from the lake. There is an exit route near the left end of the cliff which can be hard to find from the top and tricky even when you are on route. The right end of the cliff is even more awkward but it is fun to poke around the fascinating chimneys and caves there.

Generally it is most expedient to rappel from the large tree on the left edge of the terrace above and slightly to the right of the big flake.

#### JAMMING 101, 5.5, 50 FT \*

A straightforward and recommended introduction to the rock on this cliff. Start at the left end of the cliff at the point where the cliff meets the lake. Follow the crack.

Everett Fee, Casey Shaw. 1981 Oct 7

#### SUZY, 5.9, 85 FT \*

An attractive meat grinder 30 ft right of the exit route near the left end of the cliff.

1. 55 ft. Climb the left leaning offwidth crack up to the pulpit, an inverted triangle. Exit directly over the roof on hand jams (crux).
2. 30 ft. Continue up the narrow chimney to a tree belay.

Aid 5.9, Cl: Everett Fee, Casey Shaw. 1981 Oct 7

Free: Casey Shaw, Everett Fee. 1984 Aug 26

#### LITTLE ONE, 5.5, 85 FT

An obscure and somewhat vegetated route hidden behind a spruce tree near the left side of the cliff. It starts just to the left of a 20 ft high free-standing granite finger.

1. 55 ft. Move up the dark inside corner to a clump of maple. Traverse left and make a mantleshelf move onto a ledge. Move back right to cracks and flakes which lead to a tree belay.
2. 30 ft. Follow thin cracks in the middle of the slab to a tree belay.

Dirk Erkau, Everett Fee, Casey Shaw. 1982 Sept 7

#### UNDER THE SWORD, 5.8, 80 FT \*\*

Exceptionally classy. It starts 60 ft right of the exit route on the left end of the cliff below a detached finger of granite.

1. 20 ft. Climb the left side of the granite finger and step onto a large terrace.



Lake 123. Casey Shaw on Everett's Error

2. 60 ft. Layback the right side of the huge flake in the corner of the terrace directly under the precarious looking block (it is quite solid). An awkward crack above the block leads to the top.

Everett Fee, Casey Shaw.  
1981 Sept 9

#### YOSEMITE PREP, 5.9, 90 FT \*\*

A strenuous and poorly protected gem. It starts on the right side of the detached granite finger on the left side of the cliff.

1. 20 ft. Chimney, jam and layback up to a big terrace.

2. 40 ft. (Crux) Climb the left side of the huge flake in the corner of the terrace and hand traverse left to a tree belay.

3. 30 ft. Follow the corner to a tree belay.

Casey Shaw, Everett Fee, Robert France. 1982 Sept 6

#### RAINCHECK, 5.10, 80 FT

An intimidating line located in the inside corner to the left of the low overhangs behind the lakeside boulders. It is a good route that stays dry when the rest of the cliff is wet.

Aid 5.6 Cl: Peter Aitchison, Everett Fee. 1982 May 29

Free: Casey Shaw, Everett Fee. 1984 Aug 26

### EARLY MORNING MADNESS, 5.6, 50 FT

A curious unsustained route. It goes up the left inside corner of the big square alcove behind the lakeside boulders. Veer to the left at the top, taking care to not knock off the loose foothold. The direct finish up the overhanging jam crack is 5.8.

Casey Shaw, Everett Fee, 1981 Sept 9

### POG, 5.8 C1, 50 FT

A short hard route. It goes up the overhanging crack on the right side of the big square alcove behind the lakeside boulders. Climb up to a ledge, then move right to the base of the large crack. The crux is in the last 5 ft where a large hex was held for balance. Finish to the right onto a small ledge.

Dan Dunbar, Ian Clarke, Bill Clark, 1984 Oct 8

### AUTUMN GLOW, 5.5, 50 FT

Memorable mainly for a weird body position at the crux. It starts below the huge overhangs on the main face and follows the corners and low angled slabs which trend to the left.

Everett Fee, Casey Shaw, 1981 Sept 8

### SUSPENDED ANIMATION, 5.6 C2, 100 FT

A fine mixed route that goes up the prominent cracks immediately under the huge overhangs at the tallest part of the cliff.

1. 50 ft. Free climb the vertical cracks to a ledge. Mixed aid and free moves lead up and right past a thin flake and a most unusual crack in the roof. Step above the overhang to a small stance and belay (hanging).
2. 50 ft. Follow the irregular pegmatite crack and delightful slabs to the top.

Robert France, Everett Fee, Casey Shaw, 1982 Sept 5

### SOLID GEOMETRY, 5.8, 110 FT \*\*\*

An elegant line of great character. It is the obvious weakness through the overhangs on the main face. Follow the crack on the right side of the steep ramp at the tallest part of the cliff.

1. 60 ft. Using varied techniques climb to the top of a chest high flake 10 ft beneath the overhang. Traverse across the slab under the overhang (crux) and belay (hanging) at a small stance just above the overhang. (It was originally climbed in one pitch by using two ropes and abandoning the rope that was used below the overhang once above it.)

2. 50 ft. Continue up the easy (5.4) crack to the top.

Everett Fee, 1981 July 19

### BEAVER TOE, 5.6, 105 FT \*

A complex line that provides a satisfying climb no matter which way you go at it. It follows the crack and chimney system to the right of the tallest part of the cliff. The chimney at the top is prominent when viewed from the lake but is not visible from the bottom.

1. 55 ft. Follow cracks, a narrow chimney and steep sharp edged flakes to the belay stance below the main chimney.
2. 50 ft. Climb the chimney and continue on through the boulders to the top. To avoid rope drag above the chimney, climb the slab on the left.

Everett Fee, Lucille Doucette, 1981 May 16

### EVERETT'S ERROR, 5.7, 100 FT

An interesting offwidth problem. It can be hard on the knees and forearms so wear suitable clothing.

1. 55 ft. The first pitch is the same as Beaver Toe.
2. 45 ft. The parallel vertical cracks at the left of the belay are a challenging crux.

Everett Fee, 1981 May 16

### THE BITTER END, 5.8, 90 FT

An innocent looking chimney which turns into a flared overhanging horror. It starts 30 ft left of the 15 ft high flake.

Everett Fee, 1981 Aug 1

### MY GO NOW, 5.10, 70 FT \*\*

The cleanest line on the cliff. Start behind the big flake and either jam up the crack in the corner or climb the flake and traverse across to the right trending crack under the roof. A tantalizing problem involving offhand jamming, awkward chimneying and minimal footholds lies ahead.

Aid 5.7 C2: Everett Fee, Casey Shaw, 1981 Oct 7

Free: Casey Shaw, Everett Fee, Dirk Erkau, 1982 Sept 7

### FULL MOON COMING, 5.7, 65 FT \*\*

A fascinating, sustained route. It starts 10 ft right of the 15 ft high flake and follows the thin left trending crack. Only strong fingers need apply.

Casey Shaw, Everett Fee, 1981 Sept 9

### COMPLICATION, 5.7, 55 FT

The easy looking crack that goes straight up the face a few steps to the right of Full Moon Coming. The crux is at the top.

Peter Aitchison, Everett Fee, Richard Tilley, 1982 May 29

### KUKU AFRICA, 5.5, 65 FT \*

Twenty feet to the right of the 15 ft high flake is a dark corner covered with lush moss at the bottom. The grade applies only if your legs span the chimney.

Everett Fee, 1981 May 16

### CHAN-BAHLUM, 5.9, 80 FT \*\*\*

An exceptionally exacting and sustained crack and slab climb located on the right side of the outside corner to the right of Kuku Africa. It is easily identified by the prominent nose two thirds of the way up. Named for a big-nosed king who reigned between 683 and 701 A.D. in Palenque, a Mayan ceremonial center in the Mexican jungle.

Peter Aitchison, Everett Fee, 1982 May 29

### BEGINNER'S CHIMNEY, 5.4, 90 FT

About 150 ft right of the 15 ft high flake the area beneath the cliff becomes broken up into an extensive boulder field. Just at the start of this boulder field is a cleft that goes up to a chimney which is hard to see from below.

1. 30 ft. Climb the cleft to a ledge and go up and left to an alcove.
2. 60 ft. Scramble to the base of the chimney and continue to the top.

Everett Fee, Casey Shaw, 1981 Sept 8

### COMPOSURE, 5.6, 40 FT

An fine short route with sustained interest. It is the inside corner full of chockstones just to the right of an impressive overhang about 60 ft from the right end of the cliff.

Casey Shaw, Everett Fee, 1981 Sept 8

## Hillock Lake

This large, anchor-shaped lake about 11 miles along ELA 314 Road from the highway. It is easily accessible and consequently favored by both scuba divers and weekend campers.

There are two cliffs close to Hillock Lake: The Main Cliff is on the southwest side of the lake at 368990 and is easily seen from the road at the point where the road veers away from the southwest corner of the lake. This cliff is best approached by canoe but can also be hiked to. In either case, start from the campsite at 367999. Access time 1/2 hour. The smaller Bush Cliff is located mid-way along the south branch of the ELA road between the turn-off at the summer camp and the above-mentioned campsite. To reach this cliff from the road, hike south along a logging trail for about 5 minutes.

The great height of the Main Cliff (about 200 ft above lake level) provides a view that is unequalled anywhere in the region.

### *Main Cliff*

#### **MEPHISTO, 5.8, 80 FT \***

A challenging crack climb located about a third of the way from the north end of the cliff. Start up the thin, slightly left-trending crack below the prominent overhang (a birch tree is growing mid-way up). Climb to a position beneath the overhang and then complete a very airy traverse left and follow a crack to a large ledge. Belay from here or continue up the crack on the right to the top.

Douglas Leonard, Robert France, 1982 Sept 11

#### **PLUM-LINE, 5.7, 85 FT \***

This route ascends the obvious right-facing corner 20 ft right of Mephisto.

1. 60 ft. Climb the crack to below the treed ledge.
2. 25 ft. Chimney up the V-shaped slot and step to the left onto another ledge. Move right above the slot and climb the short crack to the top.

Robert France, Douglas Leonard, 1982 Sept 11

#### **CLIMAX, 5.8, 80 FT \*\***

An excellent route with sustained climbing. Goes up the left of the two obvious crack/chimneys in the middle section of the cliff.

Peter Aitchison, Peter Gough, 1979

#### **CHICKEN SHIT, 5.7, 90 FT \***

An enjoyable climb on the right end of the cliff just to the left of a gigantic flake. Belay from the top of the large block. Move up the chimney, around the overhang to the left, and up to a ledge below the crux (the leader stood in a sling here).

Richard Tilley, Robert France, 1979.

### *Bush Cliff*

#### **FEAR OF FLYING, 5.7, 70 FT \***

Delicate and sustained climbing. One of the first obvious lines past the large boulders from the left (north) end of the cliff. Ascend the vertical crack through a small treed ledge, and follow its continuation to the left. Traverse left, underneath the overhang near the top, to a large tree. Exit through broken ledges to the right.

Robert France, Anil Shukla, Peter Aitchison, 1983 June 9

#### **BUNDEROON KAA BAGEECHA, 5.7, 80 FT \***

Another good route located right of the cliff centre near large overhangs near the top.

1. 25 ft. Climb the awkward offwidth crack in a right-facing corner to gain the large ledge.
2. 55 ft. Move to the right and ascend a vertical crack that later begins to angle to the left. A finger-wasting traverse underneath the overhang near the top leads to a large unsteady block that is essential for upward movement.

Anil Shukla, Peter Aitchison, Robert France, 1983 June 9

## Lake 259

Cliffs at 433052 on the northwest side of Lake 259, which is 2 miles southwest of the south tip of Winnange Lake, have excellent short routes. An unmarked logging road, which leaves the ELA 314 Road at 413050 leads in 1.3 miles to a campsite at the washout in the road. A portage to the right (south) beyond the washout leads to the lake. Cross the lake to a granite shelf at lake level below the cliff and scramble up the boulders to the face. Access time 0.7 hour.

### NEW BEGINNING, 5.2, 50 FT

A fine introduction to rock climbing. It starts at the left end of the cliff and follows a staircase up to a big flake on the right. Continue straight up the thin crack above the flake to the top.

Everett Fee, Douglas Leonard. 1982 Sept 13

### SECOND COMING, 5.9, 60 FT \*\*

A spectacular and sustained crack route. It follows a vertical crack located about 100 ft from the left end of the cliff. The bottom of the crack is directly behind a huge detached flake. Climb the crack, using bridging, jamming and unexpected face holds to overcome the imposing overhang.

Douglas Leonard, Everett Fee, Casey Shaw. 1982 Sept 13

### MYSTERY TOUR, 5.9, 70 FT \*

A well appointed and exacting climb. It follows an obscure inside corner system located just left of the bald face at the tallest part of the cliff. It starts to the left of an alcove under a prominent low roof.

1. 40 ft. Finger traverse off a narrow ledge to a short right trending dihedral. Break out onto the face above the dihedral and follow cracks to a stance below a large block. Move past the block on the left and belay on a broad ledge.
2. 30 ft. Move right up a short bench to a notch and finish up the narrow crack.

Douglas Leonard, Dan Price. 1982 Sept 26

### CAVE CORNER, 5.4, 70 FT \*\*\*

This grand route follows the inside corner which leads to the caves at the top of the tallest part of the cliff. The caves are clearly visible from the lake. Climb the corner using bridging and jamming and enter the chimney on the left. Exit from the top of this chimney by stepping across the void to holds on the right.

Everett Fee, Peter Whiteford. 1977

### LOW OVERHEAD, 5.6, 70 FT \*

An interesting route with varied problems. It follows the vertical cleft which starts 10 ft right of Cave Corner. Jam and chimney to a ledge halfway up the cliff. Go up and left under the first overhang to an alcove. Finish to the right under the second and third overhangs.

Everett Fee. 1981 July 18

### ATHLETE'S DELIGHT, 5.8, 65 FT \*\*

A fine climb 40 ft to the right of Cave Corner where the cliff turns to the west. The thin crack at the right of a steep slab is the start. Layback the overhanging edge until footholds appear on the slab. Continue on to a good ledge. The moves up to another good ledge are the crux. The final section is a steep face climb.

Everett Fee. 1981 May 17





Lake 262. 1 *The Chief*, 2 *Loon*, 3 *Camino al Templo*, 4 *Aurora Borealis*, 5 *Super Crack*, 6 *Thunderbird*, 7 *Juniper Jungle*, 8 *Prelude*

## Lake 262

There are two cliffs on the west side of this lake. The one on the southwest shore (495064) is extensively fractured and has many untried lines up to 80 ft long. There are also some primitive indian "rock paintings" on a steep lichen-free granite face near the right end of this cliff. The other cliff is on the northwest shore of the lake and runs for over a mile. All of the routes described below are on this cliff. Unlike the south cliff, the north cliff is sparsely fractured and only a small section of it - the 130 foot high wall at 498068 - has extensive climbing possibilities. This wall is remarkable, however, having seven line routes at moderate levels of difficulty (Prelude, Super Crack, Aurora Borealis and The Chief are especially good) as well as one sensational hard line (Thunderbird). There is a prominent square theater located two-thirds of the way up on the left side of the north cliff's lakeside wall. This striking granite niche (The Temple of the Sun) is protected from wind and rain and commands an impressive view over the lake toward the rising sun.

Descent from all routes is by rappel. It is recommended that the leader take along a second rope suitable for rappelling since a single rope won't reach the bottom when doubled. If you only have one rope don't head south and rappel by the waterfall unless you are prepared to swim back to the base of the climbs. A possible exit route may exist on the north side of the cliff, which has not been explored.

Access is from the Trans Canada Highway. Put in to the West Arm of Eagle Lake at 613173 and paddle down to a short portage at 528098 into Winnange Lake. Another portage at 503073 leads to Lake 262. There are good campsites among the red pines on the peninsula at 503071. Access time 4 hours.

The routes are described from right to left.

**PRELUDE, 5.4, 130 FT \***

A good place to begin. Start above some big jumbled boulders on the southwest side of the terrace with the large red pines at lake level on the northwest side of the lake.

1. 70 ft. Climb the dihedral and follow the right-trending cracks and roofs to a belay stance by the juniper bushes.
2. 40 ft. Trend to the left finishing with a short steep section.

Everett Fee, Douglas Leonard, Peter Whiteford. 1978 Sept 17

**JUNIPER JUNGLE, 5.6, 90 FT**

A terrific looking inside corner in the center of the lakeside wall and just to the left of the blank face with the huge overhang. It has a good short crux but it lacks sustained interest and is altogether too vegetated to be enjoyable.

Everett Fee, Lucille Doucette. 1982 July 11

**THUNDERBIRD, 5.8, 110 FT \*\*\***

The stuff that dreams are made of. It begins at a left trending ramp a few steps left of Juniper Jungle. Thirty feet of moderately difficult but unprotected face moves lead to a welcome ledge. Follow varied cracks up to a prominent horizontal crack and traverse left to the crux - a long jam crack that leans to the right.

Everett Fee, Casey Shaw. 1982 July 28

**SUPER CRACK, 5.6, 110 FT \***

The route for stoics, with a long, exciting crux. Start on the outside corner of the buttress to the right of The Temple of the Sun. Move up easily to a horn and turn an herbaceous corner to the right. At this point the crack is wide enough for hands, over the next 60 ft it narrows to finger width.

Everett Fee, Lucille Doucette. 1982 July 11

**AURORA BOREALIS, 5.6, 90 FT \***

Unusually varied and memorable. Follow the inside corner on the right side of the alcove beneath The Temple up to a comfortable ledge above the clump of birch trees. The overhang in the corner is the last serious obstacle.

Everett Fee, Casey Shaw. 1982 July 28

**CAMINO AL TEMPLO, 5.6, 60 FT**

Delicate and interesting. Start below an outside corner on the right side of the square alcove beneath The Temple. Thin cracks lead to a sloping ledge halfway up. Jam, undercling and stem along the left sides of downsloping flakes to the temple.

Everett Fee, Lucille Doucette. 1982 July 2

**LOON, 5.6, 90 FT**

A worthwhile route on the left side of the alcove beneath The Temple. Follow the inside corner to The Temple. Traverse left on the sheer wall and go over an impressive but easy overhang to the top.

Casey Shaw, Everett Fee. 1982 July 28

**THE CHIEF, 5.5, 120 FT \*\***

A big inside corner with excellent positions and sustained difficulties. Scramble up to a short chimney on the left side of the buttress to the left of The Temple. The overhang above the chimney is easily solved and cracks lead to a prominent guano covered spike. Alternatively, the overhang can be avoided to the left (a grade easier). Traverse right above the spike and then go up into the slot behind a huge flake. Move up the slot and go left to the crack on the face. Nery face climbing leads to the top.

Everett Fee, Lucille Doucette. 1982 July 10

## Manomin Cliff

This interesting cliff is located on the east side of Manomin Lake (469130). To get there go about 5 miles south on a gravel road that meets the Trans-Canada Highway 18 miles east of the junction of the Trans-Canada with Highway 71 (446206). Leave your car at the start of the portage into the SW corner of Geejay Lake (423122). Canoe the length of Geejay Lake to the Manomin portage which starts at the cabin beside the outflow from Geejay (447138). There is an excellent campsite (complete with two 16 ft aluminum boats) on the island at 454117. Access time 1.5 hr.

The cliff has an unusually uniform structure - it is a series of "open-books" - and there are few landmarks. Consequently, it may be difficult to differentiate individual routes. There is an obscure exit route on the north end of the cliff that ends at two large boulders.

### THE TENANT, 5.10, 40 FT \*

At the north end of the cliff are two large boulders. The climb starts behind the southernmost boulder. Face climb for 12 ft to a ledge and continue up the obvious hand/finger crack to the top. A fine short testpiece that is surprisingly sustained.

Casey Shaw, 1984 July 2

### MR. CLEAN, 5.9, 90 FT \*\*\*

Fifty feet to the south of the two large boulders are two obvious corners. The route follows the southernmost of these two corners. Start by making a few "boulder moves" up onto a triangular ledge. From here your fingers lead you 80 ft to the top. A superb direct line.

Casey Shaw, Tibor Bodi, 1984 July 1

### WELCOME HOME CASEY, 5.7, 110 FT

Near the middle of the cliff is a massive piece of granite that has big chimneys on either side of it. The route follows the obvious chimney on the south side of this formation. Move around the outside of the giant chockstone at the bottom of the chimney (crux). Beyond the chockstone varied climbing leads up through the chimney to the top.

Casey Shaw, Tibor Bodi, 1984 July 1

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA, 5.4, 100 FT

The route goes up the broken corner 50 ft to the south of Welcome Home Casey. The bottom of the route is loose and dirty but the top 60 ft are sustained and very worthwhile.

Everett Fee, Lucille Doucette, 1984 July 1

### AFTERTHOUGHT, 5.5, 90 FT

The climb lies around the corner to the south of Happy Birthday Canada. A hand crack leads through a small roof to the broken part of the cliff above. Traverse right and climb a chimney to the top.

Tibor Bodi, Casey Shaw, 1984 July 2

### ALL TOGETHER NOW, 5.7, 90 FT \*\*

A superb corner route that starts 30 ft south of Aftersight. A hard mantleshelf move near the bottom leads to a ramp. Follow the ramp to an overhanging block and negotiate the tight corner above.

Casey Shaw, Everett Fee, Tibor Bodi, 1984 July 2

### AT IT AGAIN, 5.6, 90 FT \*\*

There is a big overhang a short distance north of the place where the cliff turns to the east. The route follows the inside corner just to the left of this overhang. The steep cracks in the corner are just the right size for feet.

Casey Shaw, Everett Fee, 1984 July 1

### DISLIKE TO LICHEN, 5.5, 80 FT

Just past the place where the cliff turns to the east is an 8 ft tall detached flake. The route follows the irregular cracks above the flake.

Tibor Bodi, Lucille Doucette, 1984 July 1



Lake 310. 2 *Wildest Dreams*, 3 *Thruway*, 4 *Stormy Sky*, 5 *Friends and Rocks*, 6 *Dukes of Hazard*, 7 *Farewell to Arms*, 8 *Double Indemnity*

## Lake 310

This remote site is located off the southeast corner of Teggau Lake. There are a few worthy routes here (*Wildest Dreams*, *Dukes of Hazard*, *Farewell to Arms*) but the rock is strange on the left side of the face and the cliff as a whole is not as consistently interesting as those previously described. It is located at 541009 on the southeast shore of a big bay and is only a small part of a promontory on the south shore of Lake 310. The east face of this formation is an ominous wall much higher and steeper than the one described below but with little climbing potential.

Two access routes are available: 1) From the Trans-Canada Highway put into the West Arm of Eagle Lake at 613173, Canoe down to 538087 and portage into Teggau Lake. Short portages at 532012 and 534013 lead to Lake 310. This route has easier portaging and route finding than the other but it is longer and because it crosses Teggau Lake, it can be difficult in high winds. Access time 1 day. 2) From the end of the unmarked logging road at 433056 (described in the access directions for the Lake 259 cliff) put in to Lake 259. Portage into Roddy Lake (incorrectly marked Teggau Creek on 52F/12) at 438037. A long (2/3 mile) portage that starts on a rock shelf at 504023 ends at 515022 on Teggau Lake. Short portages at 532012 and 534013 lead to Lake 310. This route is shorter than the other and promises easier travel by avoiding the open waters of Teggau Lake. The price, of course, is driving more than 20 miles of confusing logging roads and making the longest portage in the region. Access time 0.5 day. There is a good exit route on the right (south) end of the cliff. The best nearby campsite is the island at 531026 on Teggau Lake.

### TIPICANOE, 5.5, 90 FT

Located in a prominent gully on the fractured left side of the cliff, this unsatisfying route starts by stepping from the canoe onto steep rock. Go up and right along a ledge. The subsequent move into the gully is the only real problem.

Casey Shaw, Dorland Brown, 1982 Sept 27

### WILDEST DREAMS, 5.4, 90 FT \*\*

A estimable lead on unusual granite. It follows a crack and chimney system located between the place where the cliff leaves the lake shore and a huge overhang to the right.

1. 50 ft. Start behind the lone spruce tree growing next to the face and move up a steep section and follow irregular cracks that trend to the left. Belay in a big alcove behind the bizarre flake.
2. 40 ft. Move left into the corner, then go up over a flake and squeeze through the narrow slot at the top of the overhang.

Tibor Bodi, Everett Fee, 1982 Sept 27

### THROWAWAY, 5.5, 80 FT

A scrappy line with one hard move. Start a few steps left of the dark inside corner to the left of the bulgy wall at the tallest part of the cliff. Climb a short steep face to an alcove. Continue up and left easily to a birch tree. Go back right and up, finishing with a strenuous mantleshelf.

Tibor Bodi, Everett Fee, 1982 Sept 27

### STORMY SKY, 5.6, 90 FT

A good route hidden on the left side of the bulgy wall at the tallest part of the cliff.

1. 45 ft. Move up the dark inside corner to a small overhang. Go left and up over an awkward flake (crux) and traverse back to the right to belay.
2. 45 ft. Follow cracks in the right inside corner to a small overhang at the top. Finish up and to the right.

Casey Shaw, Dorland Brown, 1982 Sept 27

### FRIENDS AND ROCKS, 5.6, 40 FT

A short but sustained inside corner. It ends abruptly under a prominent overhang on the right side of the bulgy wall at the tallest part of the cliff. There is a daunting section halfway up.

Everett Fee, Tibor Bodi, Casey Shaw, 1982 Sept 27

### DUKES OF HAZARD, 5.8, 80 FT \*\*

An obviously hard and fortunately well protected jam crack that cleaves the middle of the steep compact face to the right of the tallest part of the cliff. The crack leans slightly to the left and requires properly sequenced moves.

Casey Shaw, Everett Fee, 1982 Sept 26

### FAREWELL TO ARMS, 5.7, 90 FT \*\*\*

Superb climbing: varied and unexpectedly challenging. Start on a ledge that cuts across the bottom of the steep compact face to the right of the tallest part of the cliff. Traverse across the face to easy cracks. Go up and right to the left leaning roof and follow corners to the top.

Everett Fee, Tibor Bodi, Dorland Brown, Casey Shaw, 1982 Sept 26

### DOUBLE INDEMNITY, 5.5, 70 FT

A gorgeous inside corner hidden from view near the right end of the cliff. The crux overhang at the top is easier than it seems at first.

Everett Fee, Casey Shaw, 1982 Sept 13

## Teggau Lake

Seeing this magnificent lake is a highlight of any long canoe trip in the ELA area. A granite wall runs along the northwest side of the lake into the narrow arm extending northwards towards Eagle Lake. Located here are some Indian rock paintings. Although there are several cliffs on or near the lakeshore, the only one that has been systematically climbed is located in a gully off the northeast corner of the lake (558075). Getting to the cliff requires about 10 minutes of bushwhacking. The cliff is very extensive, running for over 0.25 mile and dozens of routes remain undone. Access can be from either Eagle Lake or Roddy Lake (see previous directions to Lake 310).

### EXIT ROUTE, 5.1, 60 FT

This is the large chimney/fissure located behind the immense flake at the western end of the cliff.

### SPLIT CRACK, 5.6, 90 FT

Located in the centre of the first major face of the cliff, 90 ft right of the exit route. It can be recognized by the sloping ledge and crack which angles up to 30 ft and then splits into two branches.

right branch: Richard Tilley, Peter Aitchison, 1979 Aug

left branch: Peter Gough, Robert France, Janet Gough, 1979 Aug

### QUASIMODO, 5.8, 80 FT \*

An exacting face and crack climb demanding both finesse and finger strength. It is located near the right end of the first major face of the cliff, before the long blank overhanging wall. Start at the base of a shallow dihedral and climb into the obvious notch. From here trend left up to and over (crux) a ledge with two obvious trees.

Douglas Leonard, 1982 Sept 12

### BLACK CORNER, 5.6, 70 FT

A juggy inside corner route 10 ft right of Quasimodo. It is identified by being covered with dark lichens. Because it is slightly overhanging for the entire length, it has a high intimidation factor.

Casey Shaw, Everett Fee, 1982 Sept 12

### STYGIAN FISSURE, 5.6, 80 FT \*

An excellent route offering varying climbing techniques. Located at the front of the prominent nose halfway along the cliff. It begins at an obvious dark crack that is perpetually shaded by close growing trees. Jam up the crack until it widens into a chimney. Continue up staying at outside edge of chimney, then move out onto the face of the flake (tricky), and climb the face to finish.

Peter Gough, Robert France, 1979 Aug

### GOUGH'S GLORY, 5.9, 100 FT \*

A challenging and sustained route found on the right face-section of the cliff just around the corner from Stygian Fissure. Climb bottom section and sloping ledge using bridging techniques until the first overhang. Go around the right side and then continue up to the crux just below the top of route.

Peter Gough, Robert France, 1979 Aug

## Lake 691

This attractive wilderness site 2 miles north of Teggau Lake is accessible by canoe from the Trans Canada Highway. The cliff is short (60 ft to 80 ft) and the rock is unusual for the ELA region in having pockets of biotite (black mica). This mineral bonds only in two dimensions and consequently the rock is occasionally unreliable and the climber must be more than normally alert for loose holds. On the other hand, the cliff is extensively fractured and there are dozens of good routes. Three lines (Granite Byway, Vulture's Shadow and Casey's Way) will be attractive to beginning leaders because they are of sustained moderate difficulty on very sound rock. From the lake only one line is easily recognizable - a severely overhanging inside corner at the center of the cliff. Other routes must be found by traversing the awkward boulder field at the base of the cliff and looking for local features. Routes are described from right to left.

Access starts at 613173 on the West Arm of Eagle Lake. Canoe down to the bay at the southwest extremity of this lake and enter the stream coming from Lake 691 at 551098. This stream meanders through a beautiful marsh and can be negotiated without portaging. Getting to the cliff from the lake is a bit of a thrash. Start at the smooth granite slab at 565106 and bushwhack up to a broad terrace. Follow the boulder field up and to the right looking for the overhanging corner. Both sides of the cliff have exit routes the one on the right is the easiest to negotiate. There is a fine campsite on the small island opposite the cliff. Access time 3 hours.

### ACCORD, 5.2, 60 FT

A lackluster route that starts about 200 ft from the exit route on the right side of the cliff. Climb the prominent right leaning inside corner to the small terrace with a pine tree halfway up the cliff. Continue up to the left.

Everett Fee, Lucille Doucette. 1982 May 23

### WISH YOU WERE HERE, 5.8, 80 FT

A bizarre route that starts below a thin right-trending face crack about 50 ft right of the overhanging corner in the center of the cliff.

1. 10 ft. Climb the crack to an obvious ledge.
2. 70 ft. Move up and right onto a shelf, then around into the inside corner (possibly part of another route) and up the corner to the top.

Terry Makos, Casey Shaw. 1982 July 2

### GRANITE BYWAY, 5.3, 60 FT \*

A surprisingly good route up a series of cracks and flakes. It starts on the right side of a prominent outside corner about 100 ft to the left of the overhanging corner at the center of the cliff and about 50 ft right of a granite bulge that makes the traverse along the base of the cliff dicey. It features solid hand jamming and fine positions.

Everett Fee, Lucille Doucette. 1982 May 24

### VULTURE'S SHADOW, 5.5, 60 FT \*

An exciting climb following an obvious crack-chimney-crack system about 10 ft left of the prominent outside corner to the left of Granite Byway.

Everett Fee, Lucille Doucette. 1982 May 23

### CASEY'S WAY, 5.5, 65 FT

A fine sustained line that starts in an inside corner about 100 ft right of a wide chimney that runs parallel to the main face on the far left side of the cliff. Move up the juggy inside corner to the side of a huge terrace. Jam and bridge up the narrow chimney to the top.

Casey Shaw, Everett Fee, Peter Aitchison. 1982 July 1

## Point Lake

This is clearly a secondary site: The rock is more broken than at other ELA cliffs and cracks are populated with unusual amounts of lichen, dirt and bushes. Further, the region around Point Lake was severely burned a few years ago and the setting is not picturesque. Nevertheless, rock hungry locals may enjoy the few good routes that this remote cliff offers.

Access starts at the end of a logging road on Dryberry Lake (464929). The cliff is at 506951 on the north shore of Point Lake about 1 km from the east end of the lake and faces southeast. Paddle north 2 km to Point Lake and then east 3.5 km. Access time 1 hr.

### TANGLED UP IN BLUE, 5.10, 90 FT

A full-on roof problem for hard men. It follows a crack system that is found near the left end of the cliff. Move up the easy inside corner to the obvious crux - an overhanging jam crack two-thirds of the way up the cliff face.

Casey Shaw. 1984 Aug 24

### AMONG FRIENDS, 5.6, 70 FT

A fun route with one hard section. It follows an inside corner/chimney that is located to the left of the center of the cliff. Scramble up the bottom part to the crux - an offwidth section that can be largely avoided by stemming.

Everett Fee, Casey Shaw. 1984 Aug 25

### JUST LIKE SIR DONALD, 5.2, 70 FT \*\*

A good sustained route that ascends an inside corner/chimney system that is located near the center of the cliff. A big pine tree arches gracefully from the chimney at the top of the route.

Everett Fee. 1984 Aug 24

### AVOID THE VOID, 5.8, 90 FT \*\*\*

The finest route on the cliff. It is located near the right end of the cliff near the place where the cliff leaves the lake shore. It follows a series of flakes, cracks and chimneys.

Casey Shaw, Everett Fee. 1984 Aug 25

## Dryberry Lake Boulders

Enormous rectangular blocks of flawless granite are located on the top of a peninsula at 343965 on the north-west corner of Upper Dryberry Lake. Quickest access to Upper Dryberry is by an old logging road suitable only for 4 wheel drive vehicles which starts at 389986. A safer route is via Maddog Lake (Lake 465). A good portage is on the right just as you reach the outflow stream at 392948. Do not portage down the creek. The best route to the boulders starts below the north-west facing cliff at 341965. An extensive boulder field rises from lake level to a steep face. There is an easy path between the overhangs on the brow of this cliff to the boulders on top. These boulders have very steep sides and flat tops. The largest is about 40 by 30 by 30 ft and is unclimbed. A rare spot worth visiting. Access time 2 hours.

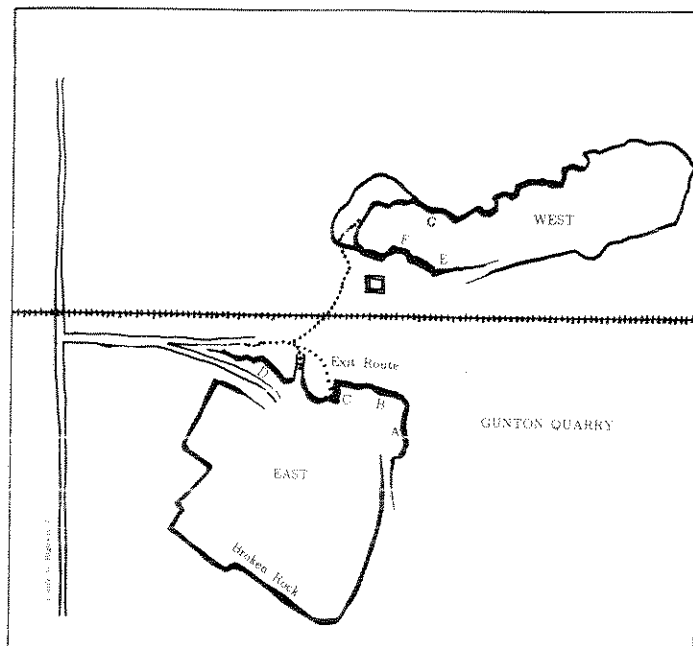
## Lakes 739 and 750

Several cliffs are located on these very remote lakes. They are noted here for the information of those who might like a long canoe trip and a little easy climbing. The cliff on Lake 739 which is so prominent on the topographic map (632079) is an amazingly smooth lump of granite 100 ft high and 400 ft long with very little climbing potential. It has, however, one very unusual feature: The entire exterior face is a single flake and a huge chimney has been formed which is 10 ft wide at the top and 100 ft deep. Like the exterior face, the walls of this chimney are unfractured and no access route to the bottom could be found. It would be interesting to rappel into it. From the top of this cliff several interesting cliffs were seen on Lake 750. Cliffs with unclimbed routes exist at 599037, 618048 and 606043. The route that was climbed is on the latter cliff. Access is from Eagle Lake. Put in at 613176 and take portages at 617132, 648125, 634108, 625076, and 625065. Access time 1 day.

### SOLO FLIGHT, 5.3, 100 FT \*

A good route with sustained interest. It follows the obvious left trending line located at the center of the cliff.

Everett Fee, 1981 Sept 2



## Gunton Quarry

Two limestone quarries 33 miles north of Winnipeg and 1 mile southeast of Gunton provide excellent practice climbing. The rock is ordovician dolomite - a sedimentary rock - and much of it is loose and best avoided. However, very good quality rock is found on the west side of the eastern quarry and the east side of the western quarry (see photos for further details). Routes are short (15 - 20 ft), sustained, and varied. This is a practice area: most climbing is topoped and routes are unnamed.

To get to the quarries from Winnipeg proceed north toward Stonewall on Provincial Hwy 7. Go left at the junction of 413 (a gravel road 1 mile before the Gunton turnoff) and turn right onto a rutted lane just before crossing the railroad tracks.



