

# **A Guide to Climbs at Chickies**

**By**  
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## Note of Thanks

George Scherer for photographing all of Chickies Rock, supplying me with reams of paper; but most of all, for inspiring and supporting me through it all.

Eric Horst, for permission to use his descriptions of some of the climbs, without which I'd still be working on this. Also, for his time and effort in organizing the grading system.

Mary Temple, for her typing skills, long hours, and uncomplaining help.

## Introduction

Chickies Rock is located on Route 441, two miles north of Columbia, Pennsylvania overlooking the Susquehanna River.

The Rock is metamorphosed sandstone. The Cave is actually the center of a great geological uprising. The ripples to the left and at the base of Solution Crack were at one time the river bed.

Chickies is one of the most popular climbing areas in South Central Pennsylvania. It has climbs suited to the novice, as well as the climbing fiend. There are new routes, hopefully named and rated correctly. Some revisions to Eric Horst's ratings have also occurred.

The entrance to the Riverview Ledge is at the top of the ramp, running left of Paul's Pop Off, and about 5 feet right of the top of Train Wreck.

I apologize for any misrepresented routes.

"Regrets, I've had a few, I did what I had to do; yes, there were times when I bit off more than I could chew; and more, much more than this, I did it my way."

So, if it doesn't seem right, do it your way!

## An Apology

This guide is not a substitute for competent, professional climbing instruction. If unfamiliar with the techniques of technical climbing, seek out a qualified instructor prior to attempting the routes described in this guide.

**CLIMB SAFELY!**


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**Symbols**

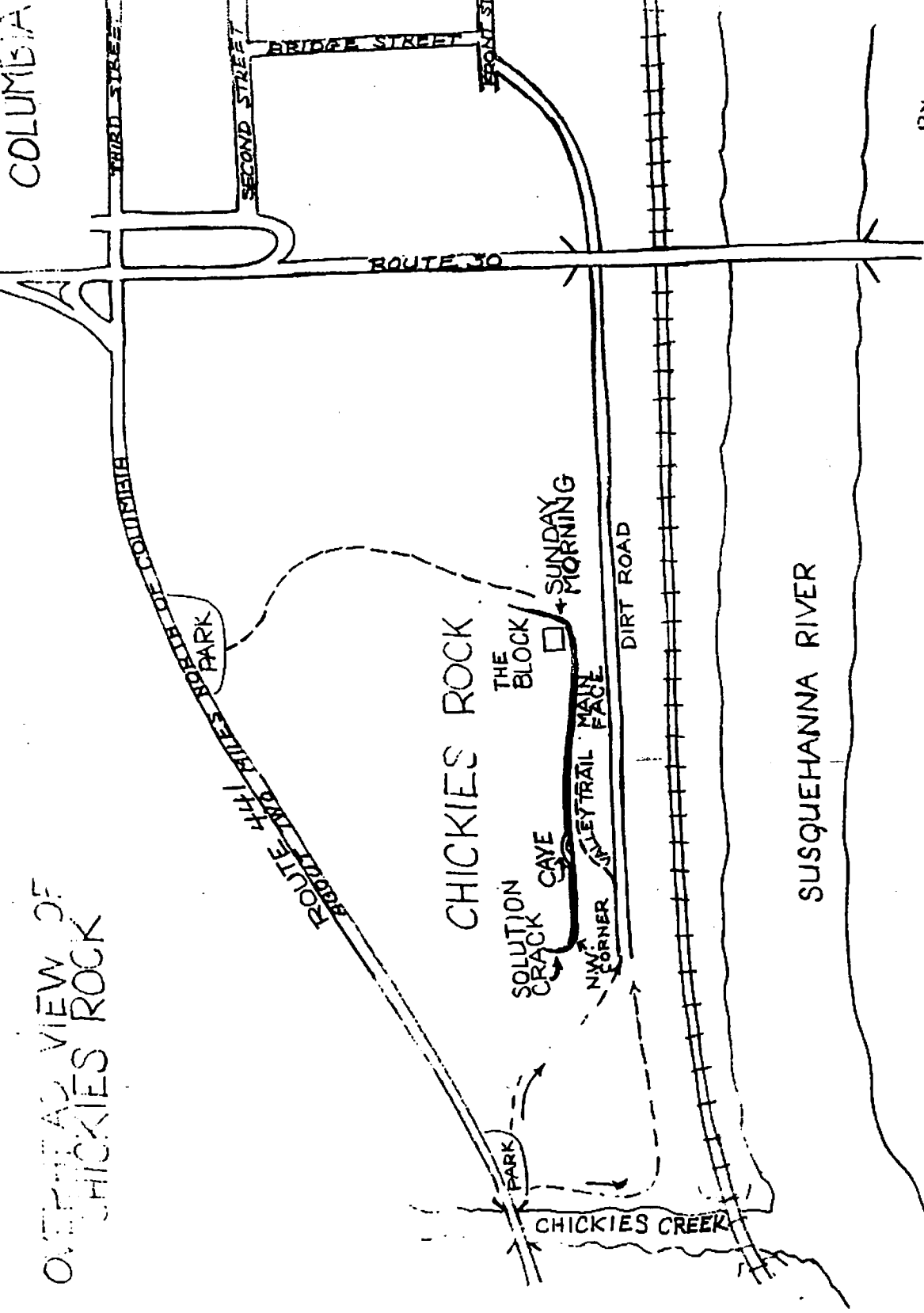
 = Drawing of route provided in guide.

 = Top-roped climb.

 = Route start measured from center of Cave, in feet, from either left (L) or right (R).  
Example: 25 feet left of Cave entrance depicted as:

25L 

OVERHEAD VIEW OF CHICKIES ROCK



BY GEORGE SCHERE

MAP NOT TO SCALE

## Protection Grading

G = Good every five (5) feet if needed.

PG = Good protection at hard moves, sometimes run out.

R = Very run out.

X = Good luck, don't fall.

## Difficulty Ratings

Class 1 = Walking on flat ground.

Class 2 = Walking uphill.

Class 3 = Scrambling up boulders, hands used for balance.

Class 4 = Difficult enough to require a rope.

Class 5 = Free climbing, protection and rope used.

Class 6 = Aid climbing.

## Fifth Class Gradings

5.0 - 5.1 = Very easy.

5.2 - 5.3 = Easy.

5.4 - 5.5 = Moderate.

5.6 - 5.7 = Difficult.

5.8 - 5.9 = Very difficult.

5.10 - 5.11 = Extremely difficult.

5.12 - 5.14 = Downright amazing.

All climbs are rated at the crux move or moves. The climbs are usually not sustained.

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**Section 6  
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Riverview  
Ledge**

## Section 1 Climbs

### #1 5.3 ↓ Frosted Flake

Start: 20 feet left of the Northwest Corner at a flake and a crack.

Pitch 1: Climb the crack and small corner to the top. 50 feet.

### #2 5.8 PG ↓ Solution Crack

Start: At the crack Mid-wall, 12 feet left of the Northwest Corner.

Pitch 1: Climb the crack, then the face, to the top. 55 feet.

### #3 5.11 X ↓ Great Expectations

Start: Two feet right of the block at the base of Solution Crack, 10 feet left of the Northwest Corner.

Pitch 1: Climb the face up and slightly right to the small overhang. Climb through the center of the overhang and straight up the face. Do not use the block to start for any part of Solution Crack. 60 feet.

### #4 5.10 X ↓ 3y Pass

Start: Same as Great Expectations.

Pitch 1: Climb the face up to the small overhang. Traverse right 4 feet and climb the corner to the top. Do not use Solution Crack. 60 feet.

### #5 5.6 G ↓ Lit and Run

Start: At a crack 5 feet left of the Northwest Corner.

Pitch 1: Climb the crack then face up through an overhang to the top. 65 feet.

### #6 5.4 G ↓ Northwest Corner

Start: At the corner.

Pitch 1: Climb the corner to the top.



#7 5.8 X ↓  
Northwest  
Buttress

Start: Two feet right of the Northwest Corner.

Pitch 1: Climb the face up and right slanting over the top of the Ivy League crack. 65 feet.

#8 5.6 G ↓  
Ivy League

Start: Twelve feet right of the corner in the chimney.

Pitch 1: Climb the chimney crack to the top. 65 feet.

#9 5.5 G ↓  
Drop Out

Start: Same as Ivy League.

Pitch 1: Climb the crack 30 feet to a flake running right. Traverse out this flake and climb the corner to the top. 65 feet.

## Section 2 Climbs

#10 5.3 80L Δ  
Quad-F

Start: 30 feet left of the corner at Thorny Thicket, 80 feet left of the Cave.

Pitch 1: Climb the sloping loose face to a third class gully leading to a rock corner. 80 feet.

Pitch 2: Climb the easy face and corners to the top. 140 feet.

#11 5.0  
50L Δ  
Thorny Thicket

Start: In a corner about 50 feet left of the Cave.

Pitches 2, 3: Climb the large corner and face to a grown-over gully. Continue to climb and scramble up to the top. 225 feet.

#12 5.10+ PG  
20 R Δ  
Hard Times

Start: 20 feet right of the Cave at two trees, 10 feet right of a large corner topped off by a large roof.

Pitch 1: Climb up the face to several buckets under the roof, and about 3 feet right of a small corner, and continue up and left to another small corner. Belay here; there are two questionable fixed pins.

**#13 5.8+ PG**  
**30 R A**  
**Waitin' for a Train**

Start: 30 feet right of the Cave, below a large corner topped by a big roof. Look for the white rock.

Pitch 1: Climb the face and then corner up to the overhang. Traverse left out under the overhang, and up another corner to another overhang. Traverse right 5 feet to a flake connected to the lip of the roof. Climb through the roof here. Climb up and left to a tree. 170 feet.

Pitch 2: Climb up and left, heading toward a tree at the base of a corner. Climb up the corner to another tree. Continue up the easy but loose face towards the right of a crack that splits the overhang. Belay here. 130 feet.

Pitch 3: Climb up to and through the overhang, and then up the green face to the top. 40 feet.

**#14 5.9 R**  
**Milt's Roof**

Start: 15 feet left of the right end of the overhang system, and 20 feet right of the third tree on the right.

Pitch 1: Climb the face up and left to a small corner going out over the roof. Climb out over the roof here and up to a second roof. Traverse right 6 feet and climb up and right to a ledge. 80 feet.

**#15 5.9 PG**  
**Hugh's Roof**

Start: Same as Milt's Roof.

Pitch 1: Climb the face up to the roof, 10 feet from the end of the overhang system. Climb through the roof at the V-notch in the lip on the left, and continue up to the ledge. 70 feet; rappel down.

**Section 3**  
**Climbs**

**#16 5.3 G**  
**Yo-Yo**

Start: 20 feet right of the overhang system in a large corner.

Pitch 1: Climb the corner up to a ledge on the left. 70 feet.

**Pitch 2:** Continue up the corner and pass by a second overhang on the left side. Climb to the top. 100 feet.

**Start:** Same as Yo-Yo.

**Pitch 1:** Same as Yo-Yo.

**Pitch 2:** Climb the corner up and just past the overhang. Traverse right 10' over the overhang, then continue up to the face and corner to the top. 120 feet.

**Start:** Same as Yo-Yo.

**Pitch 1:** Climb the corner up to a ledge on the left. 70 feet total.

**Pitch 2:** Climb up, then traverse right into a large dihedral topped off by an overhang. Climb the crack and face up to the roof. Go out the roof and climb the corner to the ledge.

**Pitch 3:** Continue up the face and corner to the top. 70 feet.

**Start:** Same as Orangutan and Yo-Yo.

**Pitch 1:** Climb the corner up to a ledge on the left. 70 feet.

**Pitch 2:** Climb midway to the Orangutan roof, and traverse right out to a slightly overhanging wall. Climb around the corner of the face and to the top.

**Start:** 6 feet right of a large corner (Yo-Yo).

**Pitch 1:** Climb up and right on an easy face. Continue up easy rock to a good belay spot. 100 feet.

**Pitch 2:** Continue easy climbing to the top. 100 feet.

**#17 5.4 PG**  
**Steppin' Out**

**#18 5.9 PG**  
**Orangutan**

**#19 5.10 PG**  
**Wild**  
**Orangutan**

**#20 5.2 G**  
**Easy Street**

**#21 5.6 PG  
Frigid Face/  
Direct Start**

Start: 15 feet right of large corner (Yo-Yo) at a tree.

Pitch 1: Climb the small corner to an overhang. Climb through the overhang on right and continue up and left to a ledge. Traverse right 10 feet to a small tree. Belay here. 40 feet.

Pitch 2: Climb straight up the face above and through a small overhang. Go up and slightly right to a grassy face. Climb this face up and left towards a large tree. Belay on ledge behind this tree.

Pitch 3: Climb the corner to the top. 30 feet.

**#22 5.9 PG  
Frigid Face**

Start: 9 feet right of Frigid Face/Direct Start at a small vertical crack. Look for a black area left of a white strip.

Pitch 1: Climb the crack and face up to a small ledge. From here, continue up and slightly left for 15 feet to another small ledge. 30 feet.

Pitches 2, 3: Same as Frigid Face/Direct Start.

**#23 5.10 R  
The Plaque**

Start: In an overhang just left of a greenish block.

Pitch 1: Climb through the overhang and continue up and right to the overhanging face. Climb the center of this face and belay on a small ledge. 60 feet.

Pitch 2: Climb the corner to the top up to a small tree, and traverse left 5 feet to the center of the overhanging face. Climb this face to a small belay ledge. 50 feet.

Pitch 3: Climb the corner to the summit.

#23A 5.10 PG  
Sufferny Suchatash



**#24 5.6 PG  
Chalk Circle**

Start: 2 feet right of the greenish block in a broken crack.

Pitch 1: Climb the crack up to an overhanging face. Climb the center of this face to a small belay ledge. 55 feet.

Pitches 2, 3: Climb the corner to the summit.

\* Climb small corner up to ledge straight up  
through black face w/ edges to horizontal crack by  
pull hang. up to belay (2 bolts) climb face straight  
up to summit.

**#25 5.7 PG**  
**Chickies Direct**

**Start:** In the corner at the base of the hill, on the Valley Trail coming down from Witch's Brew, 10 feet right of the Chalk Circle.

**Pitch 1:** Climb the corner up to a small tree and traverse left 5 feet to the center of the overhanging face. Climb the face to a small belay ledge. 50 feet.

**Pitches 2, 3:** Same as the Plaque.

**Section 4**  
**Climbs**

**#26 5.4 G**  
**Too Easy**

**Start:** In a blocky area at several trees, 10 feet left of a large crack (Witch's Brew).

**Pitch 1:** Climb the face up to the smooth rock in the center (horizontal). Continue straight up to below the chimney. Belay here.

**Pitch 2:** Climb up the chimney to the top. Climb around left and up to the summit.

**#27 5.3 G**  
**Witch's Brew**

**Start:** 10 feet right of the blocky area at several trees below a large crack.

**Pitch 1:** Climb up the face and crack straight up to tree. 100 feet.

**Pitch 2:** Climb up and left to the chimney. Climb up the chimney to its top, and climb left and up to the summit. 60 feet.

**#28 5.5 PG ↓**  
**Kissing Wall**

Start: Same as Witch's Brew.

Pitch 1: Climb the face then crack up to a tree. Climb to the bottom of the chimney.

Pitch 2: Traverse right under a large roof, 15 feet. Climb up into the right-facing corner. Step up into the base of the corner. Traverse left on to the arete and climb to the top.

**#29 5.5 PG ↓**  
**Main Street**

Start: At the face below a small broken crack, 20 feet right of Witch's Brew.

Pitch 1: Climb the face, then small crack up 100 feet. Continue up the crack until about 8 feet below Riverview Ledge. Traverse right 12 feet to the Riverview Ledge. 115 feet.

**#30 5.8 X ↓**  
**Lester Molester**

Start: At the graffiti Patty Lester.

Pitch 1: Climb this face straight up to the Riverview Ledge. 105 feet.

**#31 5.7 R ↓**  
**For Madmen Only**

Start: On the face at a small dihedral, look for the orange-black rock. 6 feet right of Lester Molester.

Pitch 1: Climb the small corner to its top. Step left and climb the small crack up, and slightly left, to the base of the second book of the Library. Traverse right 5 feet to the crack in the center of the face, and climb to the Riverview Ledge. 105 feet.

**#32 5.9 R ↓**  
**Touch and Go**

Start: At the book between the Library and Snowflake.

Pitch 1: Climb up the arete edge, staying on the edge as you go through the overhang, which is orange underneath. Climb up the edge to finish at the Madmen crack at the top.

**#33 5.5 PG ↓**  
**The Library**

Start: At the tree below the open book, just right of Madmen.

Pitch 1: Climb the face, then the large open book, to a small ledge at its top. Traverse left 6 feet to a second book, and climb its inside corner to a roof. Traverse left and up to Riverview Ledge. 115 feet.

**#34 5.4 PG ↓**  
**Snow Flake**

Start: At the tree below the open book of the Library.

Pitch 1: Climb the face to the large corner facing right. Climb the corner to its top and traverse right 6 feet to a ledge. Climb the face to the top. 100 feet.

**#35 5.9 PG ↓**  
**The Notch**

Start: Between Snowflake and Sunday Morning.

Pitch 1: Climb up to the obvious long narrow notch. Climb through the notch and on up to the top.

**#36 5.4 G ↓**  
**Sunday Morning**

Start: At a tree at a broken crack, 5 feet left of graffiti "Bob 1986."

Pitch 1: Climb the large broken crack up to and through the overhang using the flake on the left. Continue to climb the corner at right to the Riverview Ledge. 100 feet.

**#37 5.6 G ↓**  
**The Undercling**

Start: Same as Sunday Morning.

Pitch 1: Climb the crack up and through the overhang to a flake running left. Traverse this flake to the corner and climb to the top. 120 feet.

**#38 5.8 G ↓**  
**The Lower Undercling**

Start: Same as Sunday Morning.

Pitch 1: Climb the crack to the overhang. Traverse the thin flake running left under the overhang, and climb the small black corner and face to the Riverview Ledge. 120 feet.

**#39 5.7 PG ↘  
Hollywood**

**Start:** At the base of a small black face, below a smooth white face, 5 feet right of the graffiti "Bob 1986."

**Pitch 1:** Climb the face, then the small crack, using no holds on the right side of the crack. Climb to the overhang and through the V-notch at the lip, and up the face to a small ledge. Climb the center of the face on the left to the Riverview Ledge. 110 feet.

**Pitch 2:** From the entrance of the Riverview Ledge, traverse right 7 feet. Climb the face to the right. Climb to the top. 50 feet.

**#40 5.7 PG ↓ ↘  
Train Wreck**

**Start:** Same as Sunday Morning.

**Pitch 1:** Climb the broken crack up to and through the overhang at a flake on the left. Climb up the center of the face to a small vertical crack to the Riverview Ledge. Do not climb into the right corner.

**#41 5.5 G ↘  
Shrimp  
Scampered**

**Start:** 15 feet right of Hollywood at a rough black face. The rock curves down somewhat.

**Pitch 1:** Climb the face to a curving ledge. Traverse left to a small narrow overhang with a V-notch. Climb through the overhang, and up the face to the corner. Climb the corner to Riverview Ledge.

**Pitch 2:** From the entrance of Riverview Ledge, climb the small corner to the top.

**#42 5.1 ↓  
Train Station**

**Start:** In a small broken corner 25 feet left of the southwest corner.

**Pitch 1:** Climb the small corner 15 feet to a small ledge. Traverse left 5 feet to a crack, and climb it to the top. 30 feet.



## Section 5 Climbs

### #43 5.4 PG Nuts

Start: 3 feet right of the southwest corner, at the base of a sloping slab. The southwest corner is the far right end of Chickies Rock.

Pitch 1: Climb the slab to a ledge. Continue straight up by scrambling up easy slopes to the base of a 25 foot face with many cracks in it. Climb this face to the tree. 120 feet.

Pitch 2: Starting just left of the tree, climb up the face through a broken overhang to the top. 60 feet.

### #44 3rd Class Southern Summit Trail

Start: Scramble up the loose, rocky trail on the south end of the rock. This route is usually taken to set up anchors for top-ropes on the Riverview Ledge, as well as climbs on the Block.

## Section 6 Climbs

### #45 5.4 PG ↓ Riverview

Start: At a small corner and overhang at the far left end of the Riverview Ledge.

Pitch 1: Climb up and left over the overhang, and continue climbing the broken face in the corner to the summit. 60 feet.

### #46 5.10+ PG ↓ Inverted V-Overhang

Start: Same as Riverview.

Pitch 1: Climb up and around the left side of the overhang and continue climbing up and left towards the large overhang. Climb through the overhang at its peak, and climb the face to the top.

### #47 5.10+ PG ↓ Space Ace

Start: In a small corner and overhang at the far left end of the Riverview Ledge.

Pitch 1: Climb the right edge of the Inverted V-Overhang.

**#48 5.8 PG ↓**  
**Ape Call**

Start: At the large block at the right end of Riverview Ledge, 5 feet left of Mike's Roof.

Pitch 1: Climb the overhanging blocks straight up and around to the right on the face. Climb to the top.

**#49 5.10 PG ↓**  
**Mike's Roof**

Start: At the far right end of the Riverview Ledge under a large pointed overhang.

Pitch 1: Climb up and over the roof, where a small crack and notch split the lip. Continue up the face above to the top. 50 feet.

**#50 5.9 PG ↓**  
**Mike Jr.**

Start: Just right of Mike's Roof under an overhang, at a white rock.

Pitch 1: Climb up to a horizontal crack in the face of the overhang, and on to the overhang to the top.

**#51 5.7 PG ↓**  
**The Corner**

Start: In a small corner right of Mike Jr.

Pitch 1: Step up in the corner and traverse left 5 feet to a horizontal crack, just above the right lip of Mike's Roof. Climb up and over the roof, and continue up the face to the top. 50 feet.

**#52 5.5 G ↓**  
**Bellyflop**

Start: Scramble up the loose, rocky trail on the south end of the rock, to the base of the south face, at a dirt ledge. Begin the climb in a large broken corner on the left.

Pitch 1: Climb up the corner and step left around the overhang. Continue up the corner to the top. 80 feet.

**#53 5.9 PG ↓**  
**Paul's Pop Off**

Start: Same as Bellyflop.

Pitch 1: Climb the corner to beneath the overhang. Climb through the overhang. Do not use the face on the left or the block on the right. Continue to the top. 50 feet.

#54 5.4 G ↓

Zig-Zag

Start: 6 feet right of Bellyflop at the sloping steps.

Pitch 1: Climb straight up the step-face to the broken part of the overhang, and traverse right 5 feet to a vertical crack. Climb the crack to the top. 60 feet.

#55 5.4 PG ↓

Zig

Start: Same as Zig-Zag.

Pitch 1: Climb up the step-face through the broken overhang, then straight up to the top. 55 feet.

#56 5.5 PG ↓

Zag

Start: At a tree 5 feet right of Zig-Zag.

Pitch 1: Climb up the face and through the overhang above. This will be just below Zig-Zag crack. Climb the crack to the top. 50 feet.

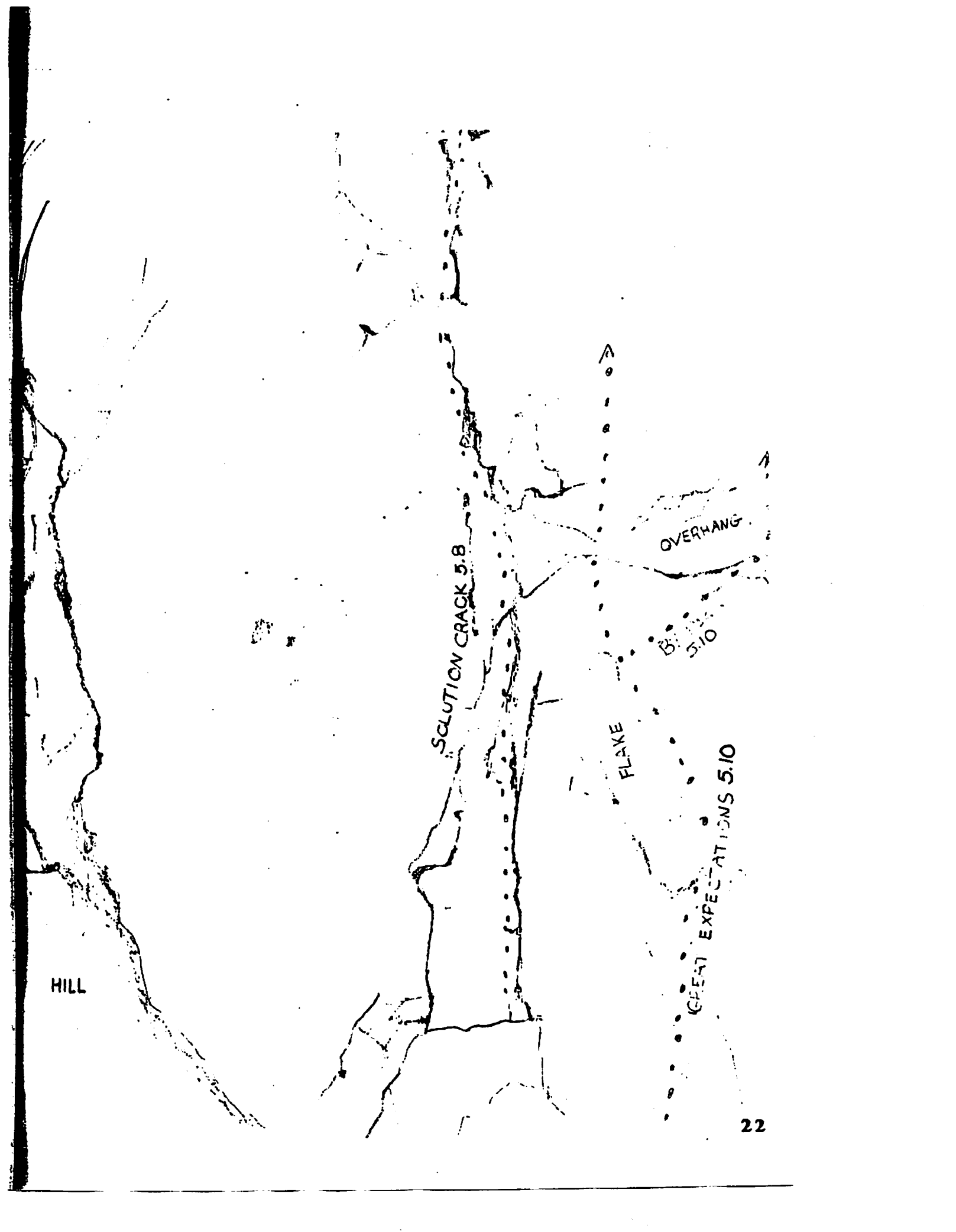
#57 5.2 ↓

Southeast  
Corner

Start: In the far corner, 7 feet right of Zag.

Pitch 1: Climb the corner to the top. 25 feet.

Only the rocks live forever...



HILL

SOLUTION CRACK 5.8

OVERHANG

FLAKE

GREAT EXPECTATIONS 5.10

5.10

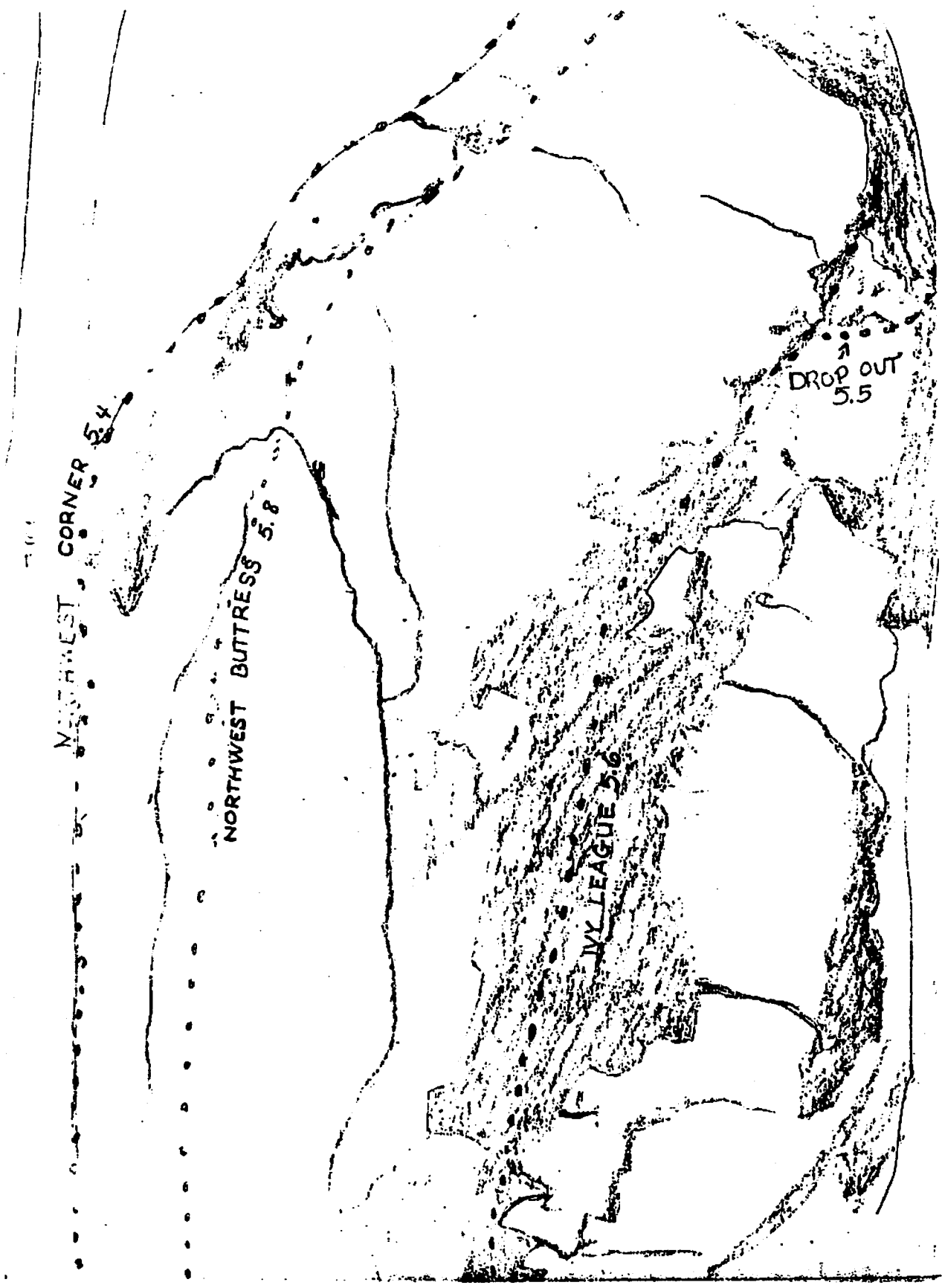
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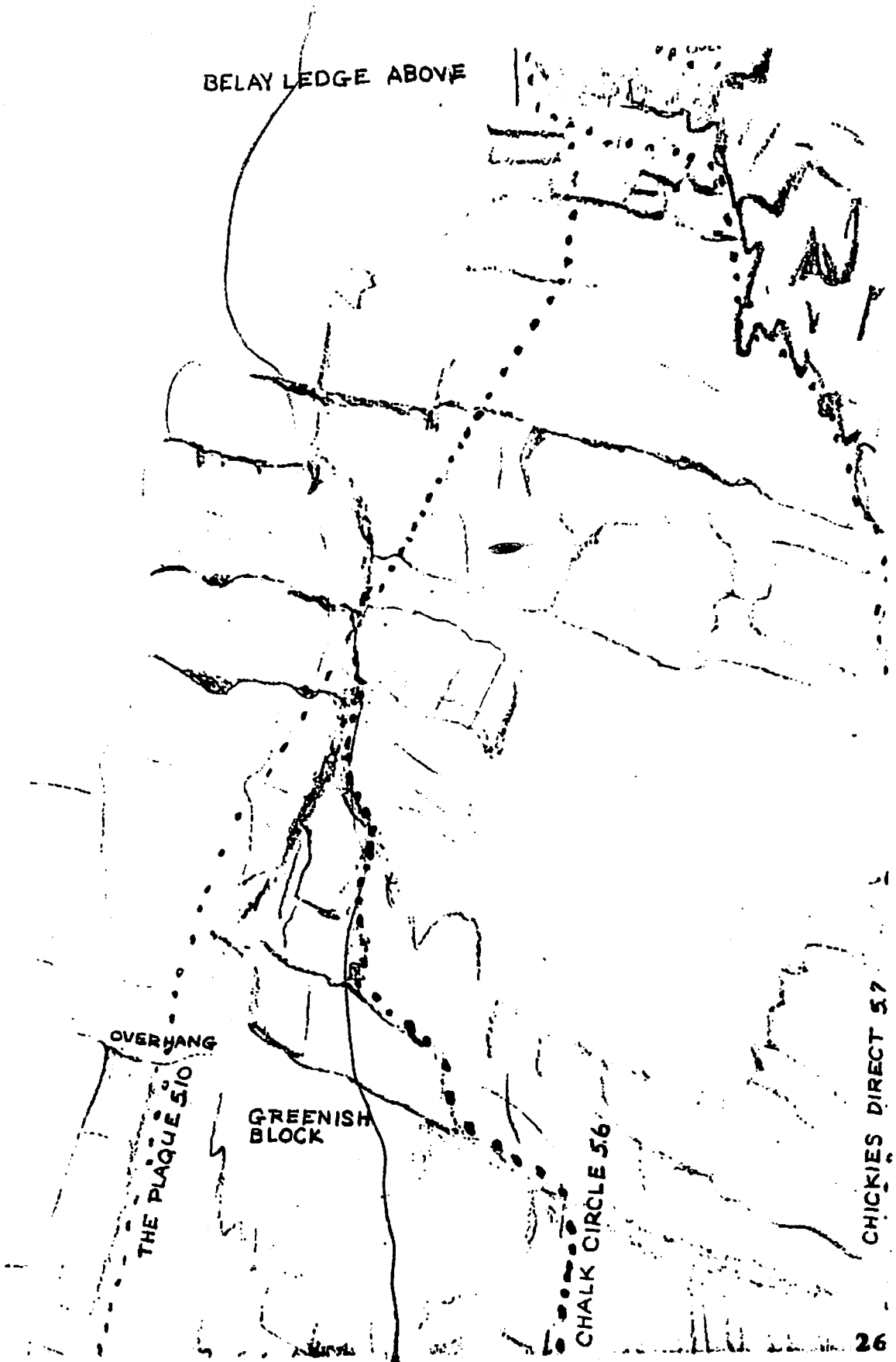
GREENISH BLOCK

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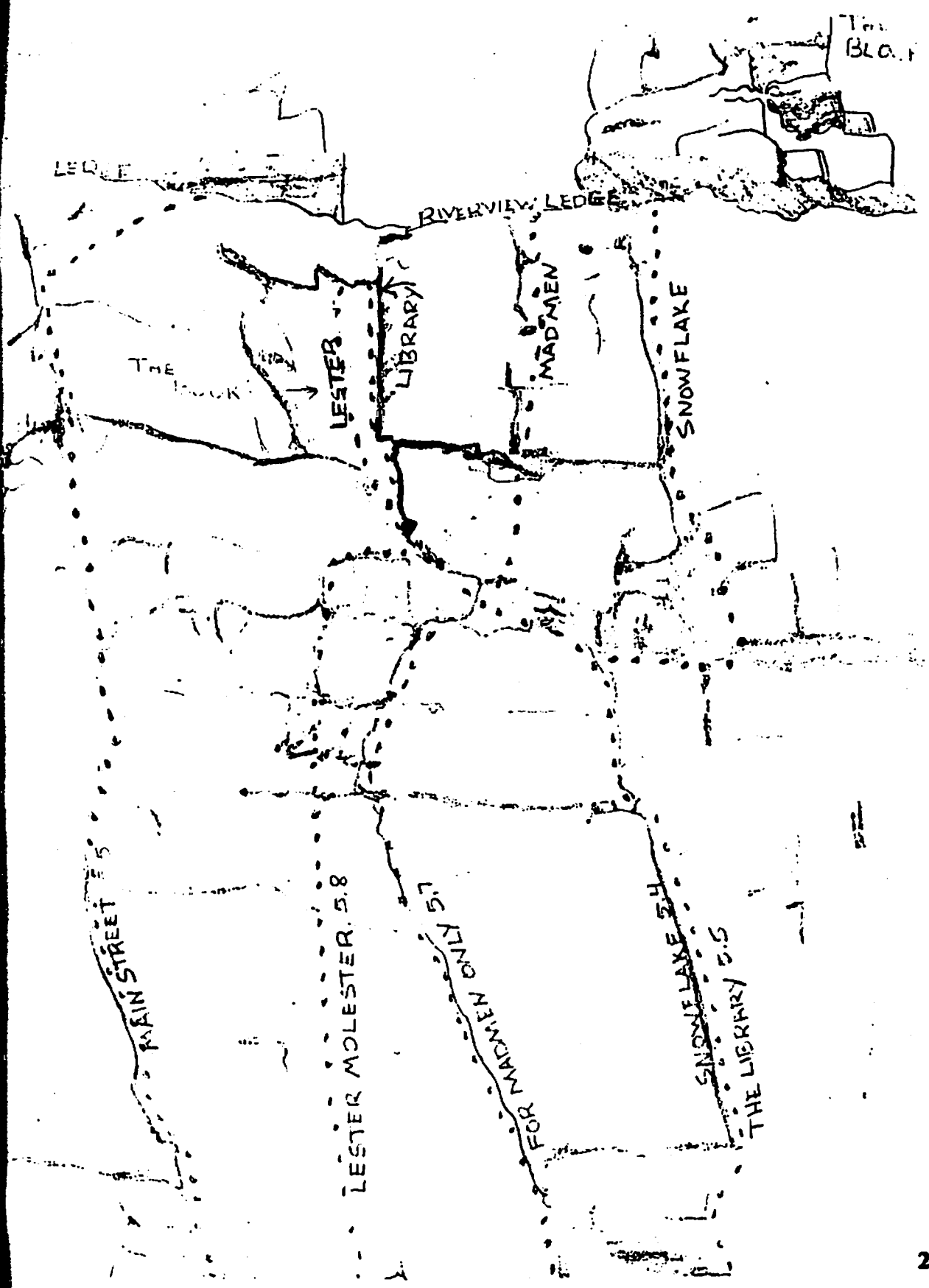
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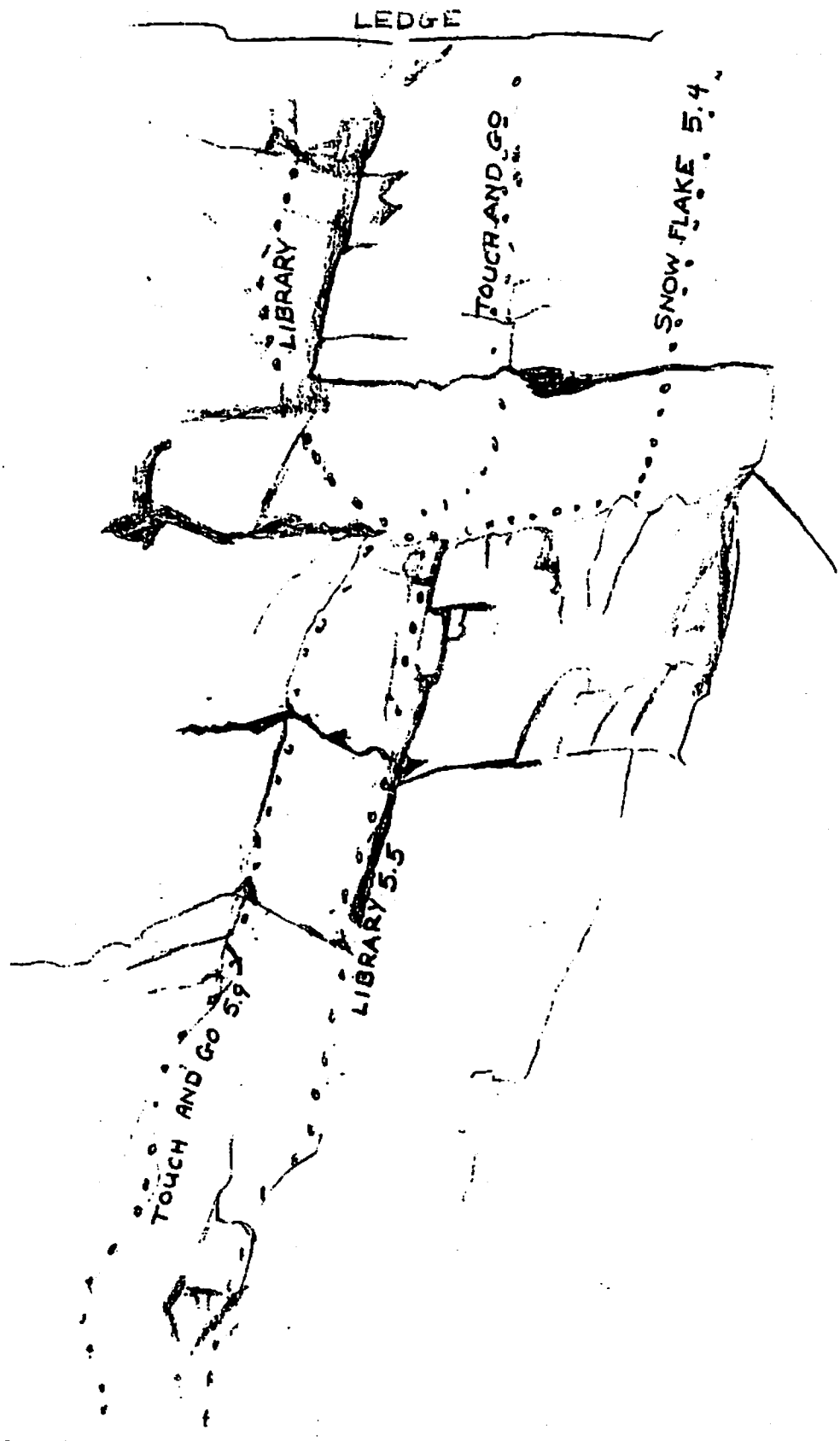
Siffong  
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5.10 A R



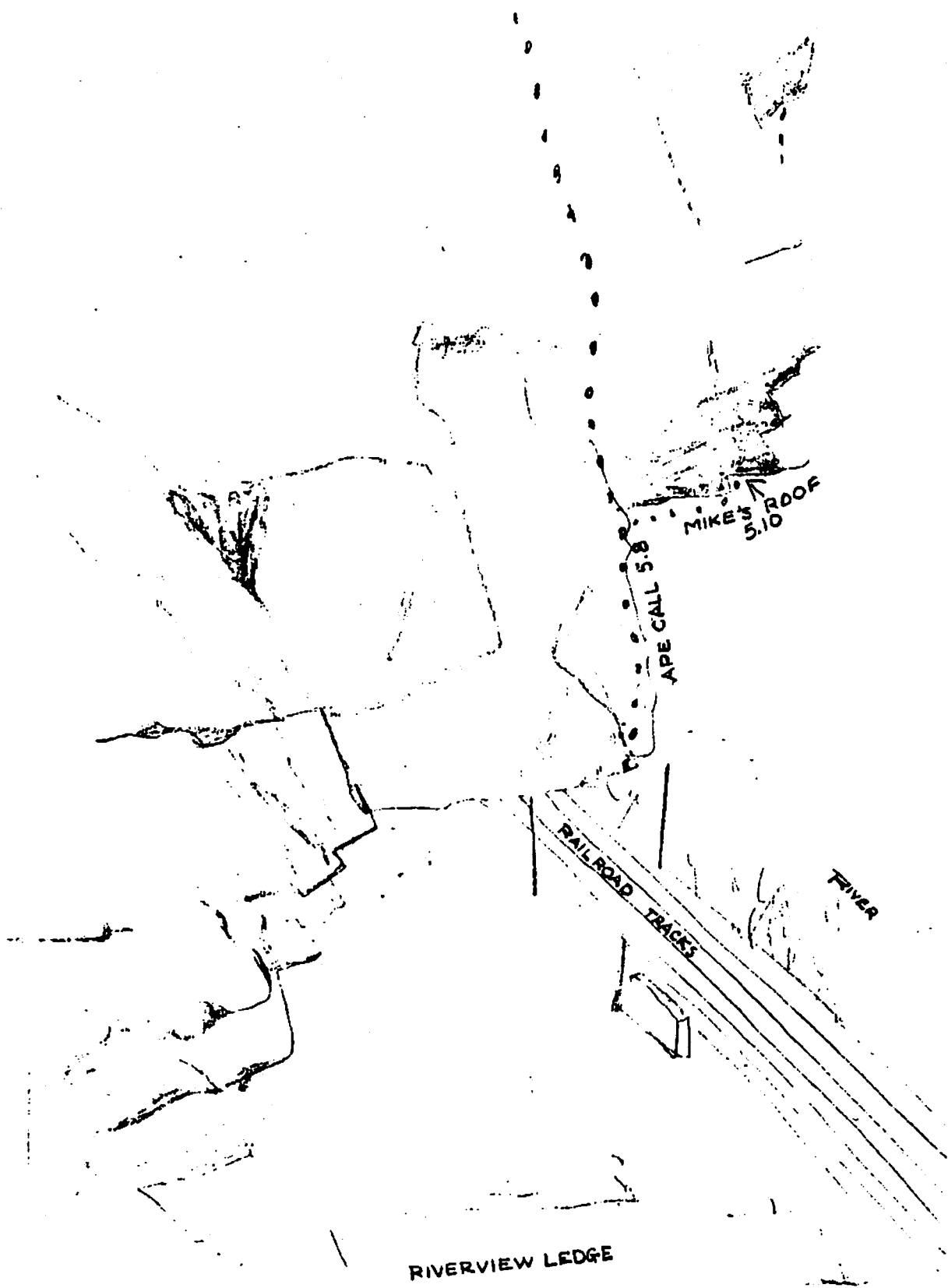


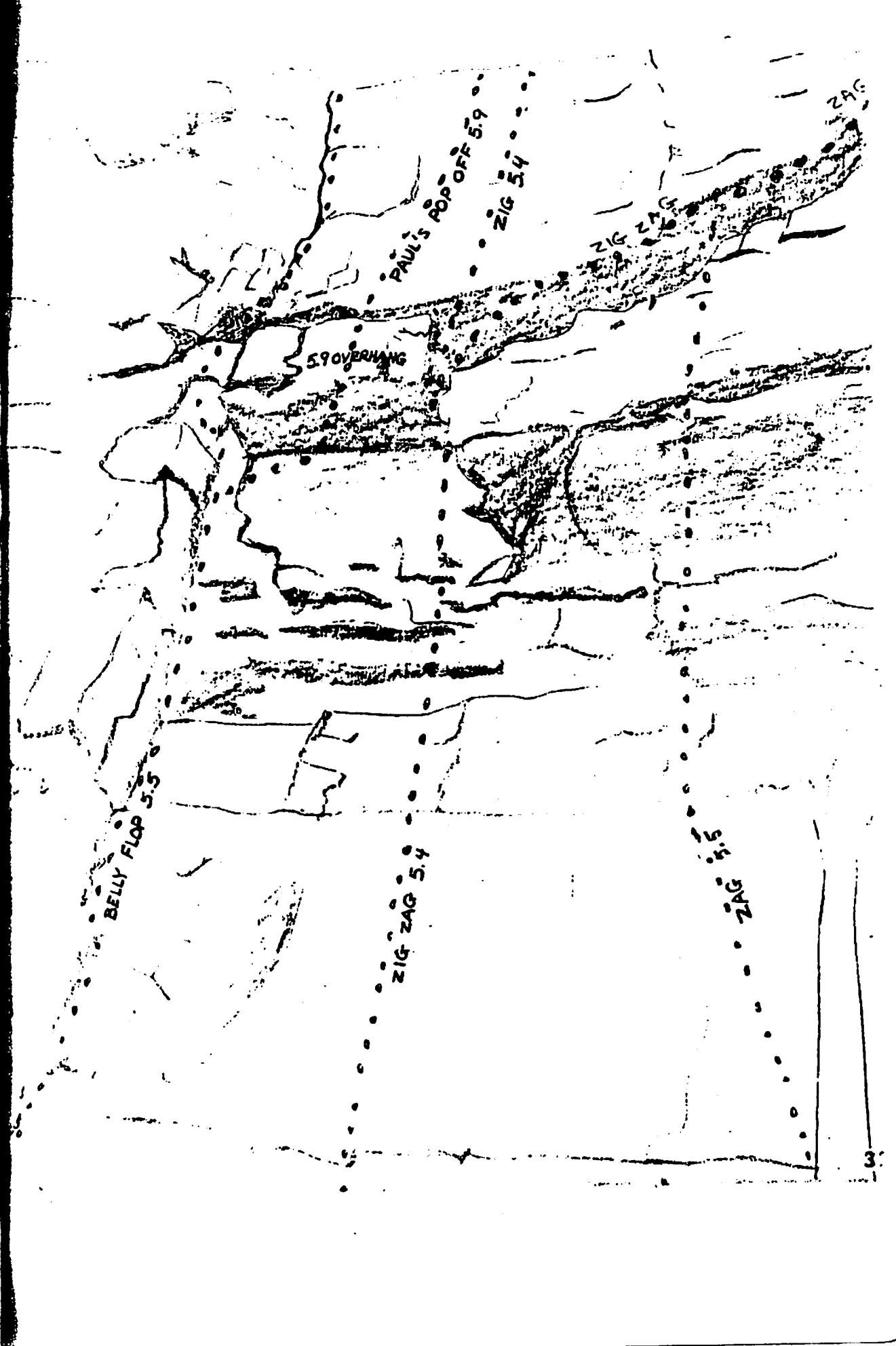












BUILDING  
PROBLEMS

THE CAVE



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26. Too Easy  
34. Snow Flake  
36. Sunday Morning  
43. Nuts  
45. Riverview  
54. Zig-Zag  
55. Zig

**5.5**

9. Drop Out  
28. Kissing Wall  
29. Main Street  
33. The Library  
41. Shrimp Scampered  
52. Bellyflop  
56. Zag



5.6

- 5. Hit and Run
- 8. Ivy League
- 21. Frigid Face/Direct Start
- 24. Chalk Circle
- 37. The Undercling

5.7

- 25. Chickies Direct
- 31. For Madmen Only
- 39. Hollywood
- 40. Train Wreck
- 51. The Corner

5.8

- 2. Solution Crack
- 7. Northwest Buttress
- 13. Waitin' for a Train
- 30. Lester Molester
- 38. The Lower Undercling
- 48. Ape Call

5.9

- 14. Milt's Roof
- 15. Hugh's Roof
- 18. Orangutan
- 22. Frigid Face
- 32. Touch and Go
- 35. The Notch
- 50. Mike Jr.
- 53. Paul's Pop Off

5.10

- 4. By Pass
- 12. Hard Times
- 19. Wild Orangutan
- 23. The Plaque
- 46. Inverted V-Overhang
- 47. Space Ace
- 49. Mike's Roof

- 3. Great Expectations

## Author's Words

Chickies Rock has a lot to offer climbers and non-climbers alike. It is not without problems though. Chickies has, in the past, been in danger of being closed to climbers. The thought has been that a climber could injure someone or be injured, with a resulting lawsuit.

The real danger lies with the local non-climbing population that throws rocks and bottles from the top. Another group at risk are those who carelessly hike and climb around the top without a rope or protection. The bottle smashing is not only a serious hazard, but makes the rock a trash pit.

Let's make Chickies a clean rock! It would be nice to pick up any trash or glass that offends us. And please: pack out all that you bring in.

We usually climb to the accompaniment of trains rumbling down the tracks, and macho dirt bikers spewing dirt and being annoying in general.

All in all though, Chickies is a great place to climb, and the climbers are generally friendly, easy-going people.

A few dedicated people are coming together to clean, trim, chop, and sweep glass at Chickies. Once the initial cleanup is done, it should be easy to maintain.

This guidebook is the result of an idea to have pictures of the routes. George and I wanted the drawings on which to mark different routes and protection placements. Before we knew it, everyone we talked to wanted one too.

I don't claim to be an expert on Chickies Rock, or rock climbing, though I do have a passion for the sport.

Anyway, this is an imperfect guide, a homemade book; but I hope it is of use to the many climbers at Chickies. So many of you encouraged me in this, thought it was a great idea, and I thank you!

Without too much plagiarism, this book's for you, for all that you do...

## Closing Comments