

more than did the bolts themselves. It is a reflection of the changing times in our sport and deep ethical divisions among climbers that even a wonderful backwater like the "Daks" cannot be spared the negative fallout.

AL RUBIN

Front Range Bouldering. Bob Horan. Chockstone Press, Denver, 1989. 196 pages, numerous maps, diagrams and black and white photos. \$11.95.

Most good climbers are good boulderers, but there are a few exceptions. Tobin Sorenson, the best climber of the Seventies, claimed he could not boulder, but he never really applied himself to it. He lacked the patience to spend weeks on a problem. Also, perhaps it just was not exciting enough to climb so close to the ground: Tobin was at his best when in mortal danger.

For me, nothing compares to the satisfaction of completing an intricate route on a boulder after working through the usual progression. At first, there is the questionable conception of the route, followed by tentative pulls on the initial holds. Then comes the training of the muscles to adapt body to the rock and the laborious assembling of individual moves into a smooth sequence. Finally, there is the supreme moment. The mental and physical practicing pays off and the body finally is able to realize what the mind had long before foreseen.

In light of the important part that bouldering plays in most climber's regimens, one would think that there would be more guides devoted to bouldering areas. Often, there is a short mention of adjacent bouldering in the back of a climbing guide, but nothing more. Pat Ament did a comprehensive bouldering guide to Flagstaff Mountain a few years back, but bouldering has never been taken seriously by writers of guides.

Perhaps this new guide by Bob Horan seriously signals a trend to better guidebook coverage of bouldering. The guide describes a number of fine areas near Denver and Boulder, Colorado, including Horsetooth, Morrison, Eldorado Canyon and Flagstaff, as well as a few lesser known areas. Horsetooth reservoir, near Fort Collins, is the best. Its Dakota sandstone is ideal—like fine-grained sandpaper for maximum adhesion, yet smooth enough so that it does not rip the fingertips on dynamic moves. And what dynamics there are! Gill established the standard here 25 years ago and the frequent flyer could not ask for a better variety of aerial moves.

Morrison, near Denver and just off Interstate 70, has similar rock and is almost as good. The prettiest setting is Flagstaff Mountain, which overlooks Boulder. Its red sandstone boulders are strewn among a pine forest with a view ranging from Boulder in the foreground, across the plains toward Kansas. On a clear day, this makes for an idyllic setting. Unfortunately, the rock does not have the quality of Horsetooth—it's too rough and holds occasionally break here.

The guide uses a birds-eye view format which makes for ease in locating the boulders, but it could use a few more photos or drawings of the rocks from a side view. Sometimes, many different routes are close together and regular topo format would be an improvement. The guide is a valuable addition to any

boulderer's library and any climber's trip to climb in Colorado should reserve some time to visit these areas.

ERIC ACCOMAZZO

Boulder Climbs South. Richard Rossiter. Chockstone Press, Denver, 1989. 411 pages, numerous maps, diagrams and black and white illustrations. \$25.00.

Two new guidebooks to Boulder, Colorado by Richard Rossiter have recorded the new route bonanza caused by the fall of traditional ethics under the assault of retrobolting. *Boulder Climbs North* covers the granite crags of Boulder Canyon and one half of the Flatirons, the tilted sandstone slabs that form the backdrop for the city of Boulder. The other half of the Flatirons and Eldorado Canyon are the subject of *Boulder Climbs South*.

Whatever your feelings on current climbing style (or the lack of it), it must be admitted that the new bolted routes make accessible some marvelous areas of rock and thousands of feet of great climbing that otherwise would be available only to top-roping. The holds are rough sandstone and generally very sound. Most of the new routes are well protected at a difficulty of 5.11 and harder, but the guide is conscientious in pointing out the exceptions where the bolts have been more widely spaced and the lead is "sporting" in the current argot, that is, scary. An incidental benefit of the flurry of new routes is that some of the pressure on El Dorado has been eased as climbers have flocked to the Flatirons, where there are vertical acres of crackless, but featured, sandstone faces and the setting, overlooking Boulder, is gorgeous.

Unfortunately, there is trouble in this paradise. The land managers have recently announced bans on bolts in both El Dorado (a state park) and the Flatirons (a Boulder city park). You may recall that one of the arguments against retrobolting was that it would make new routes too easy: anyone with a power drill and a vacant stretch of rock could achieve the status of route pioneer and get his or her name in print. This prediction has now come true and the sheer numbers of routes have caused the rangers to take notice. They do not like what they see. The bolting ban in the Flatirons arose after climbers bolted faces right next to a popular trail and hikers complained about the drilling and the little metal things left in the rock. Had a little discretion been shown and climbers stayed away from trails, the issue might have lain dormant for years.

The outcome of the controversy is still in doubt. The Flatirons Rangers state simply that bolting is defacement of the park resources and refuse to consider any compromise, such as zoning areas of permitted bolting, requiring a set distance between routes, or trying to camouflage the bolts to minimize the visual impact. The El Dorado Rangers have at least formed an advisory committee of climbers and are listening to suggestions, but the days of new sport climbs may be over in Boulder.

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