

Rock Gardens



Hans Schwarz on an early ascent of *"The Roof"*
From the cover of the 1980 Rock Gardens Guidebook

ROCK GARDENS 1968 - 1998

A thirty year retrospective and climbers guide

by Cyril Shokoples

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Second Edition - Revised ©1992 / 1998 Cyril Shokoples

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This book has been published as an interim mini guidebook to supplement "*Jasper Sport Climbs*" published by David Robinson until David's new Jasper Rock guidebook is printed in 1999. This mini guide is being distributed for free, almost exclusively via the Internet. No topo has been included as one is in the Jasper Sport Climbs guidebook or can be purchased for a pittance at Gravity Gear in Jasper. Support the Jasper climbing community and the tremendous effort it required to compile the information for the new guide. Contribute to the bolt fund at Gravity Gear in Jasper and... **BUY THE NEW GUIDEBOOK WHEN IT COMES OUT.**

WARNING !

Rock climbing is a dangerous activity. In participating in this sport it is possible to suffer injuries or even death. Each climber must be familiar with the risks involved and be willing to accept those risks. Even spectators are at risk in natural areas such as this. The author accepts no responsibility for accidents, injury or death to persons using the information contained in this guide. Engaging in climbing simply because a guidebook exists is a serious mistake. Use caution in all your climbing activities. Inexperienced climbers should seek additional training from a qualified mountain guide. Training in first aid is also valuable whenever you are any distance from medical aid and is recommended for all climbers.

A BRIEF COPYRIGHT STORY

Once upon a time, three climbers thought the effort of producing a guidebook didn't justify the several bucks it cost to purchase. In their turn, they each made bogus copies of the climber's guide. They then departed for their favorite rock. The first climber was attempting a triple jingus flingus dyno move and madly grabbed an old bolt to rest on. The bolt popped and he thundered heavily into the ground. The second climber left some gear in the back of her car while she went climbing. Upon returning to her vehicle later that day, she noticed that a group of roving vandals had reduced her car to pulp and stolen all her shiny and colorful climbing toys. The third climber retired to the pub after a good day of climbing. A local Lycra - clad lass enticed him into an evening of earthly delights. He later discovered that he had contracted an unspeakable social disease. The story has four morals:

1. Don't trust fixed protection before testing it.
2. Don't leave gear sitting around in the open in your vehicle.
3. Always use appropriate protection.
4. Bad things happen to people who ignore copyright notices.

PROLOGUE

When this booklet was originally compiled in 1979 and 1980, the first printing was limited to 50 copies distributed among members of the now defunct North West Mountaineering Club (NWMC). The limitation was an attempt to reduce damage to the area. Hopefully, those climbers familiar with the Rock Gardens will help to educate others in the preservation of this unique environment as climber traffic increases beyond the year 2000.

Thanks go out to: Rick Pors, who showed me the Rock Gardens in the early Seventies. Hans Schwarz, who contributed some names and dates for the first edition. Bill Tinge, with whom I climbed most of the original routes in search of information. All of the former members of the NWMC, who completed the Gardens questionnaire from which the old ratings were derived. Peter Amann, for information on many of the routes.

Special thanks go to: Fabian Jennings, who provided constructive criticism for the second edition in 1992. My wife, Sandra, who often provides my belay and supports my crazy projects.

Additional copies of this mini guidebook plus other articles and route descriptions can be downloaded from the Rescue Dynamics website. A new article of interest to the climbing community is placed on the site every month. *Even if you have this mini guide, please support the efforts that have brought forth a new guidebook for Jasper. Buy the Jasper Rock climbing guide.*

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY

Although nobody quite remembers who first found the Rock Gardens, the date of the first real technical climb here is documented. On October 20, 1968, Willi Pfisterer, Hans Schwarz and D. Kronstedt climbed *PSK Traverse*. The climb is steep and was difficult to protect. Ropes and hardware were quite poor and sticky rubber had not been invented. It was a fitting bold start to climbing in this area. In fact, up until the recent advent of sport climbing, *PSK* was considered a classic novice test piece in Vibram® soled mountain boots. From 1969 to 1971 was a very productive period for new routes here. Hans Schwarz together with Joe Lang, Don Vockeroth, and one or two others were responsible for all of the activity at that time. This was when most of the old classics were done. *Fallen Tree*, *The Roof*, *Broken Bolt*, *Green Piton*, *Tight Rope Ledges*, *Quarter Inch Overhang*, *The Chimney* and *Layback W* were all climbed in this period. A few of these routes began as mixed aid and free climbs but most were done free a short time thereafter and became instant classics. If you want to experience why these routes were such classics, try them in the original style with Vibram® soles or old EB®s and don't clip any modern bolts that have since cropped up. They were steep and bold for the time. Even with sticky rubber, these are still great climbs, although thirty years of traffic has polished a few holds. It was not uncommon for hard core climbers of the day to try to do ALL of the traditional classics in a day, akin to a hard multi-pitch gear climb.

Following this initial growth spurt, there was a definite slow down in new route activity until another generation tried free climbing a few problems in the mid to late Seventies. Lost Arrow was put up by Pat Paul as an aid climb but when freed it added a new steeper dimension to the routes here. Joe Lang managed to do Tight Rope Ledges with only a single point of aid on the first ascent and it was done free shortly after. When Rob Kelly's Yo-Yo and Alain Henault's Puff-Puff were freed in 1977 and 1978 respectively, the 5.9 grade was finally consolidated and 5.10 was being infringed upon. The funny thing was that the routes were thought to be hard, but "probably not really 5.9". Tight Rope Ledges was graded 5.7 and Lost Arrow was graded as 5.7/5.8 in the 1980 guidebook. 5.9 was reserved for things that the best climbers fell off of! This was part of the Jasper climbers inferiority complex in which only climbers from farther south were thought to be climbing at the higher grades. Thus the

under-grading of Jasper routes began and with it came an entire history of sandbag ratings.

The end of the decade saw 5.10 routes creeping into the Rock Gardens without much fanfare as they were still being called 5.9 / 5.10 at best until a recognized quantum leap occurred. When *Band Aid Can* was led free on gear, Jasper was really on the scene and didn't even know it. At 5.11a, Bruce Bundy and Tom Wells rocketed the standard skyward with this ground breaking test piece. No-one was sure how hard it really was, but it WAS NOT 5.9. For the first time 5.10 / 5.11 was spoken of in whispered tones. In fact this route was as hard as anything in Alberta at the time.

Another quiet period ensued until sport climbing burst onto the Jasper scene. 1987 saw the creation of Will Gadd's *Guidekiller* (5.11d) and Brian Webster's *Tricks With Mirrors* (5.11c). These routes were not created in the traditional ground up style common to all the older routes, but were created from the top down in sport - climbing style with bolted protection. The era of Vibram® soles and bold runouts on gear was rapidly drawing to a close as young climbers in lycra®, and sticky shoes with a loaded chalk bag were throwing themselves at the new hard climbs in valiant but often futile attempts at elusive redpoints on these and other NEW classics.

The decade of the Nineties saw the next jump in energy levels. In 1991, 5.10 and 5.11 were legitimately consolidated when Stephane Cameron created *Devils Weed* (5.11c) and Grant Diduck put his money where his chalk was with *All Chalk, No Action* (5.10c/d). In 1992, Eric Hoogstraten ripped the place apart with *Necrophilia and Fatboy* along with *Pandora's Breast* both at 5.12b. These two years saw nearly a dozen new sport routes or variations. By the time David Robinson's *Jasper Sport Climbs* guidebook was published in 1994, the transition from a traditional crag to a sport climbing venue was all but complete. Gone were the heavy leather boots and wool knickers. Here to stay were the chalkbags, sticky rubber, stainless steel bolts and quickdraws. Route development has been slow in the last half dozen years but the Rock Gardens are waiting for the next inevitable acceleration in standards as future generations take the Rock Gardens to the limits.

GETTING THERE

To reach the Rock Gardens, travel East from Jasper along highway 16 to the intersection with the Maligne Lake Road, 2.8km from Jasper. The signs read Maligne Canyon / Maligne Lake. Follow the Maligne Lake Road past the turnoff for the Warden's Office (sixth bridge), remaining on the main road. Take the next turnoff on the left, marked by a sign, "FIFTH BRIDGE" at 5.9km. This road is half paved and leads to a paved parking lot at the fifth bridge, a suspension footbridge. It takes about 10 - 15 minutes to drive here from Jasper.

Many people get lost the first time they try to find the cliff, only 20 minute away. Cross the footbridge and follow the trail which branches almost immediately. Take the left (north) fork. (The right branch goes to Maligne Canyon.) Follow the trail for just less than 100 meters. Watch for a smaller trail going uphill at the point where the main trail begins to descend. This small trail branches right at a blaze mark on a tree and a sign marked "7H". The winding path now progresses uphill and north for several hundred meters. Keep to the left forks. It eventually levels off somewhat as you approach the Rock Gardens. Keep a wary eye, as you may miss the lower section of the trail which leads to the base of the cliff. If you find the lower half of the trail and are suddenly dwarfed by vertical and overhanging cliffs, you have arrived. If you find no cliffs but arrive at a prominence from which you can see the Warden's Office and the Maligne River, you are likely standing just above the cliffs. If you find yourself in a boulder garden or at the riverside, you have gone too far.

The Rock Gardens are north facing and tend to be cool on most days. As a result, it takes time for some routes to dry off after a rainfall. Large trees grow beside the base of the cliffs, keeping them constantly in shade. On overcast days, it can be difficult to get good photographs, unless you have a relatively fast film (i.e. 200 ASA) and a good deal of patience. There is no drinking water at the Rock Gardens, so bring your own and don't forget your lunch.

The climbing at the Gardens is steep to overhanging, unlike the slab climbing areas in the Rockies. The rock here is limestone and occasionally prone to come off in your hand. Much of the rock on popular routes is quite firm, due to the climbing traffic. There is still a significant quantity of loose rock to warrant testing handholds and wearing a helmet on all routes and while at the base of the cliff. Many routes can be top roped, with the exception of the traversing lines like PSK and Tight Rope Ledges, where top - ropes allow giant swinging falls. A grain of salt is required.

MANDATORY CHAT ON ETHICS, STYLE AND GRADING

The Rock Gardens was originally a practice climbing area and has now developed into a sport climbing venue. Do not be surprised to find fixed pitons or bolts on the routes or at belays. They have been placed to facilitate safe leading and to allow leading without pitons in most cases. If you find pitons or bolts in place, do not pound on them or remove them. Please leave bolt hangers on the bolts. It is disconcerting to be looking at the prospect of a serious ground fall because some ignorant person stole the protection or, even worse, chopped the bolts entirely. As some bolts in place on the older routes may now be up to thirty years old, it is prudent to back them up. You may wish to consider the use of fall arresters (such as Air Voyagers, Screamers, etc.) on pitons and some of the older protection bolts, especially those of the 1/4" variety. If one of the fixed pitons is in sad shape, feel free to replace it with a new one. If you find a new route or climb an old one in which protection is missing, leave any pitons or bolts you use in place. This will reduce the amount of damage that occurs as a result of repeated placement and removal. If the fixed protection remains, almost all of the routes can be led with a selection of quickdraws and / or chocks. Those who abhor fixed pitons and bolts may not find the Rock Gardens to their liking.

The majority of the older routes here were first climbed from the ground up in traditional style and most often with lug soled boots. A few of the harder routes were first top-roped before being led free. Given that the newer lines tend to be on steeper rock, which may require extensive cleaning, gardening and bolting, it seems to make sense that the sport climbing style of establishing routes from the top would take hold for creation of further difficult routes. If you are establishing a bolted route or fixed anchors, please take the time to carefully plan your placements. Use proper rappel bolts at the top. Do not leave regular bolts at the top which require climbers to leave slings or tat behind to get off. Most of the sport routes now have two Petzl® glue-ins at the top and all are under 25m in length. Almost all of the regularly climbed sport routes have now been retrofitted with Hilti® expansion or Petzl® glue-in bolts. Several of the old sport routes suffered from inaccessible anchors or poor placements. This should not be necessary. Please note that local custom does not condone manufacturing or modifying routes by alteration or creation of handholds (chipping). In this and other ways our impact should be minimized when possible.

In the past, this area has suffered a certain degree of indiscriminate bolting and destruction of trees and other features. We would all do well to remember that the Rock Gardens is within a National Park and our use of the terrain is subject to scrutiny by various persons, both climbers and non - climbers alike. Please do not jeopardize the continued access to this climbing area by thoughtless actions. Witness the closure of many areas south of the border and decide if we can afford to be reckless any longer.

For the sake of clarity, Hexcentrics™, Stoppers™, Rocks™ or other artificial chockstones are referred to as chocks in the text. Where the word "nuts" appears, it is reference to machine nuts to be placed on the expansion bolts on some of the old routes. Some bolts on the very old climbs may require 1/4" or 3/8" coarse thread nuts and 1/4" or 3/8" bolt hangers or "cap-screws" or machine bolts in order to be used. Where possible, I have tried to indicate the few routes for which they may be required. This information is subject to change.

The climbs are rated or graded, using what is commonly called the Yosemite Decimal System. The ratings in the original guidebook were a consensus of NWMC members and the author. This edition

sees most of the ratings revised. An "(r)" added behind a grading denotes a long runout or ground fall potential, where this is known to be a problem. A "?" following a route grade means that the grading or other details may be tentative. Many of the routes in the 1980 guidebook were under-graded in comparison to other areas and this could spell "sandbag" for many unsuspecting leaders. There were several reasons for the under-grading in the old guidebook. First is the fact that many of the NWMC members were likely climbing at a higher standard in the late 1970s than they realized and they were loath to over-grade and risk being pretentious. Secondly, some key holds on several routes are either gone or polished because of high use. Third, many persons whose opinions were used in setting the grades, myself included, had much of the Rock Gardens 'wired' and objectivity was difficult. Finally, all ratings are subjective.

Even with the recent revisions, caution should be used if you have not climbed at the Gardens before. If you can lead a given grade of climb elsewhere, it does not guarantee that you can lead the same grade here. The grades here feel hard compared to other areas but are consistent within the Rock Gardens. If you are unsure of how the grading of routes here relates with other locations, start off with the easier routes and work your way up.

Most of the aid routes are on fixed protection and are no harder than A2. The routes are described in order from right to left (west to east) as you face the cliff from below. Route descriptions are also given facing the cliff. Features such as pitons, register cans and even bolts are not entirely permanent. They may have changed or disappeared since the revisions to the guide was made.

Above all, strive to respect the area and keep it clean. We must all be careful to preserve its character as a great place to climb and practice.

ADDITIONAL ROUTES

There were a few very obscure routes at the Rock Gardens that were not included in this guide. Some are variations of the original climbs, while others are distinct lines on their own. Scope for a number of new routes still exists, but much of the remaining terrain has loose rock and extensive gardening will likely be required. Little fixed protection exists on any of the more obscure routes. They usually have more loose rock, dirt and vegetation than the popular routes. As all but an obscure few of the original aid lines are now climbed free, there may be room for a few new aid routes for those interested in practicing aid climbing.

If you have information on any new routes or have first ascent data or corrections for existing routes listed within, no matter how obscure, I would love to hear from you. Corrections or additions for future editions of this guidebook can be addressed to Cyril Shokoples and they will also be passed on to David Robinson:

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To view the Jasper Rocks website on the Internet for updates to the **Jasper Rock Guidebook** soon to be published by David Robinson, type in this URL:

<http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/resqdyn/Jasper.Rocks/>

Take care and enjoy!

PINK DREAMS AREA

EXTREME RIGHT 5.10a (r)

possibly C. Shokoples 1979/80

This is the first line, located on the first wall encountered at the Gardens. It is a curving crack / corner up an otherwise smooth slab. No fixed protection is in place and it is usually top-roped, either from trees or from the *Pink Dreams* belay bolts. Good, short and thin.

PINK DREAMS 5.10c

4 bolts

Peter Amann (T.R.) 1979/80

Scramble to the ledge and follow the bolts. The original route followed the large layback crack to the left (large cam) before finishing on the upper face. Technical, short and hard.

FAR RIGHT 5.7

gear

The route begins as a crack on the right side of a huge block and is located at the far right side of the Gardens. For some reason, it receives little traffic. There are two easy starts to this relatively simple route. Either traverse right, near the beginning of PSK, at a ledge just a short distance above the ground, or start right of the corner and climb left to start. The difficulty is confined to the crack/corner and no protection is currently in place. From the top of the crack, you can proceed easily to the left or go on to *Pink Dreams* on the right.

CAPPED CORNER 5.5/5.6

gear

Just left of the *Far Right* route is a second, short inside corner, which closes off at the top. There are currently two fixed pitons in place. The route joins Far Right at the broken area at mid height. Easily top roped and a good warm-up, it sees little traffic. This may be the same route as the *Open Book* in the Robinson guide.

P.S.K. AREA

FALLEN TREE ROUTE 5.7(r)

5 bolts / gear

Hans Schwarz, Solo, Self Belay (T.R.) 1969

Another of the little known routes, this one should be climbed more frequently. Start as for *PSK Traverse*. Instead of traversing left, you proceed directly up and into an inside corner with several bolts and fixed pitons in place. The initial difficulty is getting into the corner itself. Once beneath the roof, there was an old 1/4" bolt, which was used for protection but it may have been replaced by now. Traverse to the right by stepping around the corner. Then head up past fixed protection to a belay, just past the fallen tree. The start of the route was occasionally done as a practice aid climb.

THE ROOF 5.4 A2 aka INTO SPACE 5.10b

7 bolts

Hans Schwarz, Solo, Self Belay (T.R.) 1969

The route begins as for the *Fallen Tree Route* and deviates left at the roof. Instead of going around the corner to the right, a direct ascent is made through the roof primarily on bolts. The roof was originally a mixed aid and free climb but goes free at 5.10b and as such is called *Into Space*.

P.S.K. TRAVERSE 5.6

gear and old fixed pitons

W. Pfisterer, H. Schwarz, D. Kronstedt October 20, 1968

One of the original classics, this climb was once one of the most popular in the Gardens and has seen line-ups which seemed out of place in the Rockies. Hans Schwarz made the second ascent of *PSK* on October 21 - solo. The NWMC club had a record thirteen persons at the ledge / old belay stance at the end of the first pitch on one occasion. It no longer enjoys this popularity with the many much harder sport climbs available. Best left for a day when the Rock Gardens are devoid of other climbers as it also crosses four sport routes on the way to the exit above *Broken Bolt*.

The difficulties occur on the first part of the first pitch, and "exposed traversing" are the key words. Some holds are now polished from the constant traffic. Fixed protection abounds, but one should be cautious. Some pitons have been removed, others are very old and loose and screamers are advised. Rope drag may become a problem if protection is not extended with slings at appropriate spots. Some of the older pitons were bent as a testament to the activity on the route.

The climb begins at a slab on the right side of a prominent overhanging face. Begin up a slabby section and begin traversing up and left on steep terrain, with generally good holds. Two old bolts in the initial section of the climb can be used if the hangers are still there. Follow the fixed pitons up a steep traverse until a roomy, exposed ledge is reached. This is the old belay station where the register box was located. The route continues around the corner to the left and ends just to the left of a smooth slab at a corner.

"Oink, Oink, Love my new EBs"

K. McLeod in the Old PSK Register

P.S.K. "CEILING" FINISH 5.7 (r)

From the belay station at the middle of *PSK*, climb up to a bolt beneath a roof, rather than continuing the leftward traverse. Climb out to the left of the roof, belaying from a clump of trees directly behind the exit. Recommended if you like exposure and more pleasant than crawling around the corner.

P.S.K. CORNER START 5.6

gear

Instead of climbing the slab at the start of *PSK*, begin at the inside corner to the left. Climb straight up to join the route at the traverse.

ECONOCLIMB 5.11a

4 bolts

Stephane Cameron and Dave Robinson 1992

Begins easily a few meters right of the *Fallen Tree* / *PSK* start and stops at anchors midway up the cliff.

BUTT CHEESE 5.11a

4 bolts

Continue above anchor on *Econoclimb*. The crux is trying to gain the awkward corner below the upper anchor.

PUFF - PUFF 5.9 (r)

10 bolts

Alain Henault & Peter Amann 1978

Puff - Puff is a direct line from below the old belay platform mid way across *PSK traverse*. The route also finishes via the *PSK Ceiling Variant*. The protection originally consisted of four bolts and two fixed pitons and was very bold for the grade. Surmount the first overhang and then the bulge. This is the original HARD line at the Rock Gardens.

DEVIL'S WEED 5.11c

9 bolts

Stephane Cameron 1991

A thin face route, the crux of which is pulling through the overhang at the first bolt.

RAPID HAND MOVEMENT 5.12a

8 bolts

Stephane Cameron 1992

A very thin, very technical line with several cruxes leading to a difficult roof finish.

SWITCHBACK AREA

BROKEN BOLT 5.8

6 bolts

Don Vockeroth, Joe Lang June 15, 1969

Another of the early classic routes. The name comes from the fact that, on the second ascent, a 1/4" bolt broke out and had to be replaced with a 3/8" bolt. Occasionally done as an 5.6 A1 aid climb in years past, the route is an excellent free climb and worth doing. The register can appear to have perished years ago. There may still be an aluminum name plate at the base of the climb. Proceed to the top of a pinnacle and follow your nose and the bolts. The finish is a mantle up a steep wall, just right of the last bolt. The *PSK* route is then joined before the final short slab. Traverse left to the corner and the top.

"There is no way that route is a 5.6."

Fabian Jennings (a comment on the original rock gardens guidebook).

SCIENCE BOOK 5.10b

Possibly Ian Mackenzie 1984/85

Just left of *Broken Bolt* is a beautiful inside corner heading up to *Switchback*. It has two old rusty 1/4" bolts holes right at the start and two right at the finish. These bolts holes are not usable. The route increases in difficulty as you ascend. A new set of 3/8" bolts now goes up the book, as what was once *Science Book* continues to the top and is now *Physics Book* if done completely.

PHYSICS BOOK 5.10b/c

7 bolts

Eric Hoogstraten and Bruno Tassone, 1992

Start up the corner described above. Cross the *Switchback* and continue up over the overlaps.

A VERY SHORT BOOK 5.8-

Left of "Science Book" is a smaller corner, topped by a small tree heading up to *Switchback*. It has no protection in place.

SWITCHBACK 5.3

gear

An easy route for beginners, which begins fifty feet left of *Broken Bolt*. It follows a ramp up and right to join *Broken Bolt* near the top. Head up to the corner to finish. The only fixed protection on the route is a bolt on top of *Science Book*. Best not to do this route on a busy day as it ties up several other sport routes.

"Got our haul bag stuck a few times, this is a good bivvy ledge!"

T. Schumm from old PSK register

GREEN PITON 5.7

6 bolts

Joe Lang (Belayed By Don Mcleod) August 2, 1970

Yet another of the early classic routes. Begin beneath a green piton in an inside corner, left of *Switchback*. Ascend the corner and traverse right where more fixed protection will be visible. Climb up past a slab (where the old register can once was) to where a small overlap blocks the way. Climb over this steep section on generally juggy holds. Pass a tree on a ledge and finish on top. Screamers may be useful on the pitons and old bolt. One or two chocks may be used for additional protection on the initial crack.

"When I say up rope, I mean up rope. When I say tension, I mean TENSION!"

A discussion of terms between two climbers.

LOST ARROW ROOF AREA

ALAIN'S ROUTE 5.10a (r)

gear

Alain Henault, Peter Amann, 1978 or 1979

A seldom climbed route. Instead of traversing left at the small corner as described in *Lost Arrow*, clip the first few bolts then a direct assault on the overhangs above is made on poor gear. There is no fixed protection past this point and you must bring your own chocks and belay from trees.

THE LOST ARROW 5.9 (or A2)

6 bolts

Pat Paul, Solo May 4, 1973

"The route was named THE LOST ARROW because that was the brand name of the first piton I ever drove and the first of this route." This is the comment made by Pat Paul in the register that once adorned the Lost Arrow route. It is interesting to note that the first five ascents of the route were done solo by Pat Paul, before being done by anyone else. An early entry reads, "Why doesn't anyone want to climb my route?" The early ascents were done as aid climbs until Art Higbee did the first free ascent and returned to climb the route free again a short time later. The route is now usually done free and is a fine, airy climb. A good introduction to Rock Gardens steepness.

Begin twenty-five feet left of the *Green Piton* route at a rock ledge. Climb up and right on steep terrain, with good holds and fixed pitons, until you reach a small corner which once held the register can. Traverse left (thin) to gain the final inside corner. The corner is ascended straight up and is strenuous, although easily protected with chocks. At the top, one may use a crack on the left rather than ascending the corner directly. Belay from trees at the top.

LOST ARROW DIRECT 5.10d

6 bolts

Eric Hoogstraten and Bruno Tassone, 1992

The definition of steep; follow an obvious weakness in the steep wall directly into the large corner.

LIMESTONE COWBOY 5.10c

8 bolts

Bruno Tassone, 1989

This sport route is about 4 metres left of *Lost Arrow Direct* and 2 metres right of *Tight Rope Ledges*. Head up steep terrain into the grey corner above.

PROJECT 11+

Overhangs left of *Lost Arrow Direct*.

TIGHT ROPE LEDGES 5.9

gear

Joe Lang & another, circa early 1970s

Once an old hard classic, now rarely climbed. Beginning at the same platform as for Lost Arrow, the route climbs left to two fixed pitons high in a corner (if they still exist). Many people have trouble getting around the initial corner and rotten yellow bulge. (Joe Lang used a point of aid the first time he rounded the corner.) From this point, you must gain a crucial handhold, high and to the left, and swing around the outside corner to a sloping ledge. Once the initial difficult moves are made, the route is more straightforward, but still steep and exposed. Traverse left, past minimal old fixed protection and across several sport routes. The leader should be careful to protect the second on the climb to avoid the possibility of a wild pendulum. Rope drag is a problem.

TIGHT ROPE LEDGES DIRECT FINISH 5.10 / 5.11 ? **gear**

Little is known about this route, other than that it ascends directly above the prow after the first corner and heads through the overhangs above. May be the same as current 11+ Project.

QUARTER INCH OVERHANG AREA

BAND-AID CAN 5.11a

8 bolts

Bruce Bundy & Tom Wells, Prior To 1980

Just right of *Quarter Inch Overhang* and left of the *Tight Rope Ledges* start, is a fierce line, which ascends an overhanging wall to eventually cross *Tight Rope Ledges*, just left of the sloping ledge. This strenuous jug-haul was originally done on gear until a line of protection bolts and chain anchors appeared in the 1990s.

PANDORA'S BREAST 5.12b

6 bolts

Eric Hoogstraten and Bruno Tassone, 1992

Start by climbing on jugs past the first two bolts, then things become thin. Two alternate finishes have been done. Traverse left to finish on *Guide-killer* or go for a major burn by finishing on *Band Aid Can*.

NECROPHILIA AND FATBOY 5.12b/c

7 bolts

Eric Hoogstraten and Bruno Tassone, 1992

Goes up the right side of the *Quarter Inch Overhang* roof, an imposing obvious feature. Start at a layback crack, move onto the roof and go. The climbing above is easier just right of the bolts.

QUARTER INCH OVERHANG 5.6 A2

gear

Don Vockeroth, Joe Lang, 1969

This is one of the only routes which still requires aid. It has not been climbed free, although everything around it is now a sport route. The route is located between *Tight Rope Ledges* and *The Chimney* and begins at a small roof, above which are several MANKY 1/4" bolts. Free climb a crack to a green and rusty fixed piton at the edge of the roof (if it is still there). Reach around the edge of the overhang to attach a hanger and 1/4" nut to the first bolt. The bolts are rusty and/or loose. Aid screamers are useful. Move on to the bolts (aid) and continue on bolts until you reach a crack. Continue on aid or begin to free climb here. The crack will eventually lead you to the top. If you wish to climb the entire route on aid, you need gear, as the route is not fixed. Even if you climb the second half of the route free, you will need a hand full of 1/4" hangers and nuts (at least four) for the initial section of the route and assorted gear for the second half. Belay from trees.

QUARTER INCH OVERHANG VARIANT 5.6 A2

gear

Hans Schwarz 1970

Rather than following the crack to the top, you can traverse left at 3/4 height and follow fixed protection and bolts to finish.

GUIDE KILLER 5.11d

7 bolts

Will Gadd, 1987

Climbs over the left side of the *Quarter Inch Overhang* roof, an imposing obvious feature. A slippery start brings you to the roof and two bolts beside each other. The upper portion is sustained face climbing.

TRICKS WITH MIRRORS aka BEATS ME UP 5.11c

7 bolts

Brian Webster, 1987

The route is a steep, sustained, bolted line between *All Chalk, No Action* and *Guide-killer*. After a weird start follow the protection straight up.

ALL CHALK, NO ACTION DIRECT 5.10d/11a

bolts

Eric Hoogstraten, 1992

Follow the beginning of *Tricks With Mirrors*; clipping the two bolts slightly left. Then move back onto the normal line.

CHIMNEY AREA

ALL CHALK, NO ACTION 5.10c/d

7 bolts

Grant Diduck, 1991

Begin on *Footloose* then make a short traverse right after turning the roof. Follow the bolts.

FOOTLOOSE 5.10b or A1

7 bolts

Peter Amann 1985 F.F.A. Ken Wallator

Just to the right of *The Chimney* can be seen a line of bolts, snaking up the wall. This fine aid route was named after the air time gathered when a stopper popped out of a crack on the first ascent. Nine bolts and one piton are in place and some medium size nuts (i.e. medium Stoppers® / Rocks®) should be taken for the upper section. When climbed free, the lower section, going from the chimney to the outside wall, constitutes the crux. The remainder is steep and airy.

THE CHIMNEY 5.7 (r)

gear

Hans Schwarz, Solo, Self Belay 1969

The bane of many beginners, the route has gained notoriety as a 'grunt'. It is fun and can be simply top roped. Its reputation should not deter visitors from giving it a go. For those who choose to lead the route, one piton and a bolt are in place high on the upper section. One of the *Footloose* bolts can be clipped low down on the route and perhaps a bolt or two can be clipped from *Flesh Eater*, otherwise some consider the route a bit runout. Large (huge) chocks or friends can be used to supplement the fixed protection. This is probably the easiest route to locate as it is the only chimney in the Gardens.

"Awwww, shit FALLING"

ANON. (overheard on the chimney route)

FLESH EATER 5.11b

10 bolts

Eric Hoogstraten and Bruno Tassone, 1992

This route follows the first line of bolts left of *The Chimney* route. Sustained climbing on thin edges. An alternate (harder) finish is to move left after the 6th bolt and follow another three bolts and a hard move to the anchor.

THIN FACE 5.12b

9 bolts

Very thin face climbing left of *Flesh eater*.

KEN'S ROUTE 5.10b (r)

3 bolts / gear

Ken Wallator. 1989

Just left of *Flesh Eater*, this route is sparsely protected at the present, with only three bolts in place. The start is a bit tricky to get past two bolts onto a large, grassy ledge. Head up a small corner and past the final bolt to a small ledge and finally the anchor.

THE LAYBACK "W" 5.6

gear

Joe Lang, Peter Froeber May 22, 1971

Another old classic, the route is normally done in two pitches, although it is possible to complete it in one. The crux is midway up the first pitch with the layback appearing on the second pitch. Begin beside a fallen log (belay) and ascend a crack with some loose rock to a good ledge. Traverse left from the ledge, past a fixed piton and a 3/8" bolt (sometimes requires a hanger and nut). Head toward the grassy ledge and tree, the normal first belay stance. The second pitch follows the obvious corner/layback, past the old register location. Only one piton is in place at the top of pitch two, but otherwise chocks or friends can be used to protect this section. Once on top, belay from trees or use the 3/8" bolt on the small slab. It should be backed up. A recommended route.

"Why do people shake so much when they sign this book?"
H. Schwarz (from an old Rock Gardens register)

LAYBACK "W" VARIANTS 5.6

gear

Climb the first half of the route to the tree belay. Two ugly looking, dirty chimneys on either side of a large block, to the left of the layback crack, have been climbed. They are very loose and not recommended.

RAVENS LAUGH 5.12a

5 bolts

Past *Layback W*. Stick clip (2nd bolt). Tiny holds.

SHONE 5.12b/c

7 bolts

Stick clip (2nd or 3rd bolt). Difficult and strenuous climbing to a blank slab.

MONSTER 5.12c

8 bolts

Stick clip (2nd bolt). Difficult and strenuous climbing to a blank slab.

DESPERATION WALL AREA

To locate this area, walk past "The Layback 'W'" and head down beside a big detached block. Turning the corner, you will notice a large mossy wall which, on first inspection, has little to warrant a second look. The rock is more of a slab and is home to some old runout routes marked only by a few rusting pitons. Indeed, this part of the rock gardens has the most moss, the largest concentration of loose rock and, therefore, the least activity. Extensive gardening in this area might still yield some climbing, but caution is the key word. These routes are included more to be somewhat complete rather than as a recommendation to climb them! All routes are runout on gear and existing bolts are often old and 1/4"....

DESPERATELY SEEKING SANDRA 5.10 (r)

loose / gear

Cyril & Sandra Shokoples, July 19, 1987

This is the first of the old climbs encountered in this area, after coming around the corner from *Layback W*. It begins on a smooth slab and heads for the first break in the bulge, just right of the *Bad Angle* route.

This indistinct, outside corner is surmounted on a good jug. The next piece of climbing is characterized by some of the worst loose rock in the Gardens. First, move up and right on junky ledges, then traverse left, when the area to the left becomes solid enough to risk moving across. When things get better, join the *Bad Angle* route and head directly for the small tree, located on the large ledge above. The last section above the ledge is up a nice, right curving crack in an overhanging wall, with only some loose rock. Do not relax until you are off the wall. There is no fixed protection left on this route and subsequent ascents should be left until after a lot of additional gardening has been done.

BAD ANGLE 5.10 (r) A1

gear

Just above a right curving corner / crack, can be seen a poorly placed clog piton and an angle piton, placed in the wrong direction (sideways). This is the only fixed protection left on the route (if they still exist). The climb is supposedly an old aid climb.

Climb the crack to the bulge containing the angle piton and attack the bulge directly (some loose rock). Then climb up to gain the broken section and, eventually, head slightly left, then back right, to make your way to the small tree on the large ledge above. Finish as for *Desperately Seeking Sandra*. A lot of loose rock and moss adorn this route.

GOOD INTENTIONS 5.10 (r) A2**old bolts and gear**

This line was originally intended to be Yo-Yo, but the bulge got in the way of the good intentions of those involved.

Start at a flake or pillar, above which two old bolts are visible. This is the same start as for *Yo-Yo* and *Oval Intentions*. Climb up to the second bolt and then make several hook moves (aid) to get past the bulge and, eventually, be greeted by two more old bolts. Climb up past these bolts to easier ground on the right, which is followed to the large ledge above. If you wish to top-rope this line, you would do well to rappel down and clip your belay rope through the protection to avoid the mad swinging which otherwise occurs if you fall.

OVAL INTENTIONS 5.10(r) A2**old bolts and gear**

Cyril and Sandra Shokoples, July 18, 1987

Start at a flake or pillar, above which two bolts are visible. This is the same start as for *Yo-Yo* and "Good Intentions". Climb up to the second bolt and then make several hook moves (aid) to get past the bulge and eventually be greeted by two more bolts. These bolts were originally placed from above, with the intention of having the *Yo-Yo* route eventually push that way. Climb up above these and ignore the easier exit to the right ("Good Intentions"). Head left for the smooth, thin face, climbing on the steep slab heading for the large tree above. No protection is on this upper mossy wall, but this last bit of climbing is hard, solid and excellent. If this section and the initial bulge ever get protection and some more gardening, this route could prove worthy of a second look.

YO-YO 5.10(r) or 5.9 A1**old bolts and gear**

F.F.A. Rob Kelly April 30, 1977

After hearing of *Yo-Yo* for ten years, I stumbled onto it by accident one day while exploring around the corner from the regular routes in 1987. I had seen the bolts years before, but this time, I saw the register can and the tantalizing sling hanging from the second bolt. Upon reaching the register, the location of *Yo-Yo* was no longer a mystery. Rob Kelly described the early history of the route in a note in the register as follows:

"Yo-Yo was first tried in 1974 but no one could get past the bulge; The same result in 1975. The bolts were put in in 1975 so it could be done without a top-rope, or aided if necessary. Still no one could do it. Finally, in 1976, we decided it was too much for us to free, so we passed the blank move below the bulge with an etrier on the bolt. One bolt is off the final route chosen, as we found it easier to move left from the bulge. Perhaps someone will do an alternate that direction." The route was led free in 1977.

In actual fact, two bolts were off the route and the alternates which Rob predicted are *Good Intentions* and *Oval Intentions*, both of which still require aid to complete. The bolts on this route are 1/4" and old. Either bring your own protection, use screamers, or don't fall hard.

The route begins beside a flake or pillar and moves up past a chopped bolt, to the top of the pillar. Then move up the steepening wall, past the two bolts and onto the crux bulge. From here, move up to the register and resting ledge. This is the last of the fixed protection. Wander up on small holds and eventually head for a flake. Then go up and right past an area of firm, yellow, broken rock to the large tree and ledge above.

There are no further established routes past this point.

LISTING OF ROUTES FROM WEST TO EAST (RIGHT TO LEFT FROM BELOW)

| Route Name | Rating | 1980 Rating |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Extreme Right | 5.10c(r) | |
| Pink Dreams | 5.10c | |
| Far Right | 5.7- | 5.4 |
| Capped Corner | 5.6- | |
| Fallen Tree | 5.7(r) | 5.5 |
| The Roof | 5.4 A2 | |
| Into Space | 5.10b | |
| P.S.K. | 5.6 | 5.5 |
| P.S.K. Corner Start | 5.6 | 5.5 |
| P.S.K. 'Ceiling' Finish | 5.7 | 5.6 |
| Econoclimb | 5.11a | |
| Butt Cheese | 5.11a | |
| Puff-Puff | 5.9 | 5.8/5.9 |
| Devils Weed | 5.11c | |
| Rapid Hand Movement | 5.12a | |
| Broken Bolt | 5.8 | 5.6 |
| Science Book | 5.10b | |
| Physics Book | 5.10b/c | |
| A Very Short Book | 5.8- | |
| Switchback | 5.3 | 5.2 |
| Green Piton | 5.7 (r) | 5.6 |
| Alain's Route | 5.10a | |
| Lost Arrow | 5.9(r) | 5.7/5.8 |
| Lost Arrow Direct | 5.10d | |
| Limestone Cowboy | 5.10c | |
| Tight Rope Ledges | 5.9 | 5.7 |
| Tight Rope Ledges Direct Finish | 5.10/11 ? | |
| Band-Aid Can | 5.11a | |
| Pandora's Breast | 5.12b | |
| Necrophilia and Fatboy | 5.12b/c | |
| Quarter Inch Overhang | 5.6 A2 | |
| Quarter Inch Overhang variant | 5.6 A2 | |
| Guide Killer | 5.11d | |
| Tricks With Mirrors/ Beats Me Up | 5.11c | |
| All Chalk No Action | 5.10c/d | |
| Footloose | 5.10b | |
| Chimney | 5.7(r) | 5.4 |
| Flesh Eater | 5.11b | |
| Thin Face | 5.12b | |
| Ken's Route (1) | 5.10b(r) | |
| Layback "W" | 5.6 | 5.5 |
| Layback "W" variants | 5.6 | 5.5 |
| Ravens Laugh | 5.12a | |
| Shone | 5.12b/c | |
| Monster | 5.12c | |
| Desperately Seeking Sandra | 5.10c | |
| Bad Angle | 5.10(r) A1 | |
| Good Intentions | 5.10(r) A2 | |
| Oval Intentions | 5.10(r) A2 | |
| Yo-Yo | 5.10 (r) | |

***NOTE:** Ratings and equipment requirements are subjective comments. Use caution and your own discretion when interpreting this information.