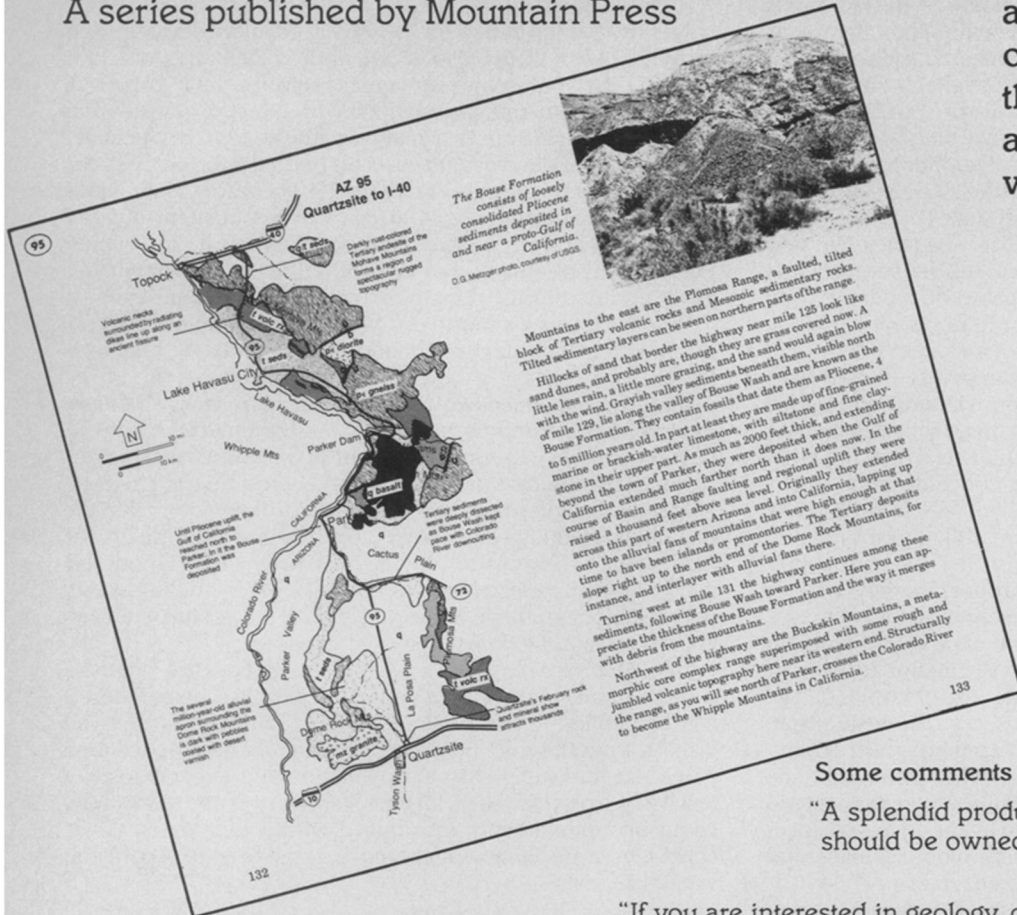


# Roadside Geology

A series published by Mountain Press

“... a marvelous concept, a whole series of books on geology in various states across this country based on a road-by-road study of the structure of the Earth as revealed from a car window.”

— Adirondack Magazine



The Bouse Formation consists of loosely consolidated Pliocene sediments deposited in and near a proto-Gulf of California.

Mountains to the east are the Plomosa Range, a faulted, tilted block of Tertiary volcanic rocks and Mesozoic sedimentary rocks. Tilted sedimentary layers can be seen on northern parts of the range. Hillocks of sand that border the highway near mile 125 look like sand dunes, and probably are, though they are grass covered now. A little more grazing, and the sand would again blow with the wind. Grayish valley sediments beneath them, visible north of mile 129, lie along the valley of Bouse Wash and are known as the Bouse Formation. They contain fossils that date them as Pliocene, 4 to 5 million years old. In part at least they are made up of fine-grained stone or brackish-water limestone, with allstone and fine clay-marine in their upper part. As much as 2000 feet thick, and extending beyond the town of Parker, they were deposited when the Gulf of California extended much farther north than it does now. In the course of Basin and Range faulting and regional uplift they extended a thousand feet above sea level. Originally they were raised a thousand feet above sea level. The Tertiary deposits across this part of western Arizona and into California, lapping onto the alluvial fans of mountains that were high enough at that time to have been islands or promontories. The Tertiary deposits, for instance, and interlayer with alluvial fans there.

Turning west at mile 131 the highway continues among these sediments, following Bouse Wash toward Parker. Here you can appreciate the thickness of the Bouse Formation and the way it merges with debris from the mountains.

Northwest of the highway are the Bockskin Mountains, a metamorphic core complex range superimposed with some rough and jumbled volcanic topography here near its western end. Structurally the range, as you will see north of Parker, crosses the Colorado River to become the Whipple Mountains in California.

Some comments about the series:

- “A splendid production in two colors, this book should be owned by every motorist in Colorado.” — Earth Science
- “If you are interested in geology, don't start a trip in Oregon without taking this book along.” — The Community Press
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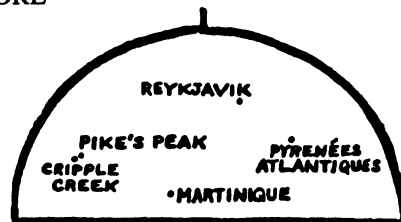
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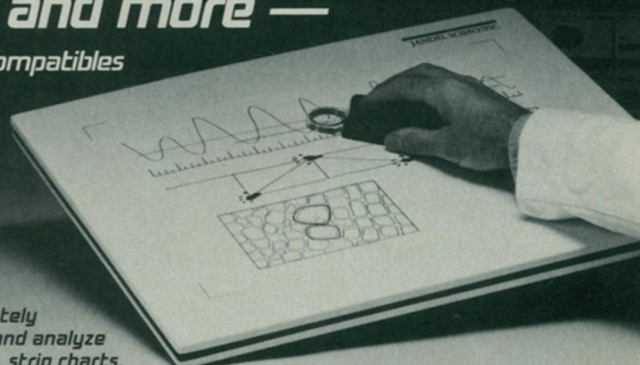
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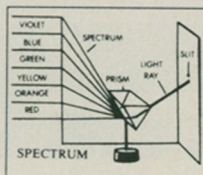
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