

dent. However, it is included in this review to emphasize the common unawareness on the part of youths, hikers and inexperienced climbers, of the dangers inherent in *any* mountain area. Realizing this, mountaineering clubs and authorities *must* assume the responsibility for advising interested young people, and warning those seen to be on treacherous terrain, of the dangers involved. No one should climb around such places as Landscape Arch alone and without rope.

*Colorado: (1) near Morrison.* On 22 April 1950 Jack Scudder, Walter Wilkinson and E. D. Woodring, all of Denver, were climbing among the Turkey Creek rocks, 12 miles southwest of Morrison. Scudder and Wilkinson were demonstrating rock climbing techniques which Woodring was photographing for instructional purposes. At one point Scudder was demonstrating an overhang rappel, using a figure 8 rope seat sling and karabiner, through which 7/16-inch nylon rappel rope passed. On the way down, his shirt front and collar were pulled by the rappel rope into the karabiner, making further descent impossible for the moment. In an effort to free the shirt from the karabiner, by cutting the cloth with a knife, Scudder severed the rappel rope and fell to a pile of rocks 100 feet below, breaking nearly every bone in his body. He was quickly taken to the Denver General Hospital, where he died 14 hours later. His death was the result of a series of obscurely motivated events in which *carelessness apparently played the dominant role.*

*Source of information:* Colorado Mountain Club.

*Analysis.* From the technical standpoint, the lesson to be learned is the insidious danger of the so-called karabiner-rappel -- namely, that anything loose around the climber's waist, such as the tail of a shirt, sweater or jacket, can easily become entangled in the karabiner by the running of the rope, which tends to drag such loose material along. Many of us have seen climbers get caught this way on low practice cliffs, and it is easy to imagine how Scudder could have become excited over his predicament and cut through his shirt and into the rope.

The following might be added: (a) Any use of mechanical

methods in climbing may lead to unexpected difficulties in various ways. The climber should study the possibilities carefully and pay close attention while using these methods. (b) If one gets into a difficult situation, it is most important to keep calm and to plan the next move with full consideration of the situation. Scudder could have rescued himself easily enough from this situation.

*Colorado: (2) near Golden.* During the summer of 1950 two young children, ages 10 and 7, were on a picnic in Clear Creek Canyon with their parents. The two boys could hardly wait to climb the mountainside. The seven-year-old slipped and his brother grabbed him, getting him back on his feet. Then the ten-year-old slipped and fell 100 feet to a rocky ledge. He was rescued by firemen and carried to an ambulance.

*Source of information:* newspaper accounts.

*Analysis.* This is also *not* a mountaineering accident, but it is noted here because this is the age when youngsters should begin to be properly instructed if they show inclinations to scramble around on mountain slopes. Beyond this statement the conclusion is obvious: until children reach sufficient maturity, parents must be ever alert to such potential dangers.

*Colorado: (3) Rocky Mountain National Park.* On 9 July 1950 a party of three inexperienced youths, names unknown, was climbing a small rocky face, unroped. One of them pulled loose a large rock. He fell 10 or 15 feet, and rolled several hundred feet down a snow slope. He suffered from shock and received injuries on his head, back and arm. Two other parties nearby, one from the Colorado Mountain Club, with ropes, helped carry him across boulders and steep ledges, getting him off the difficult part just at dark. Here they were met by a rescue team organized by the Park Service; one of the original party had got word of the accident to them. With a stretcher, the injured man was taken out before midnight.

*Source of information:* a member of the rescue party.

*Analysis:* The party had a rope and new ice-axes. The boys apparently did a little rock climbing for the fun of it, without realization of the real possibilities of accident. This is the usual case of overconfidence with inexperience and the result of lack of appreciation of the use to which mountain climbing safety equipment must be put.