

*Source:* David Lewis, Rocky Mountain Rescue Group.

*Analysis:* More cautious climbing and careful checking of handholds could have prevented the fall. The rock on the climb is generally excellent and the climbers were on the last pitch of the climb; this might have led to a lack of caution. A sound piton and a good belay minimized the injuries in a fall that could easily have been disastrous to the whole party.

*Colorado, Jefferson County—Coal Creek Canyon—*On 2 Sept., H. T. Carlson (17), Bill Steele (19) and Jerry Kahler (17) were climbing a steep cliff near the highway in leather soled shoes. They had no equipment and no experience in technical climbing, but had climbed the cliff before. Carlson slipped and fell about fifty feet over mixed 45 degree slopes and vertical slabs. His companions climbed down and called authorities. The Coal Creek Fire Department and the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group responded. Carlson was lowered in a Stokes Litter over steep talus to the highway. He suffered a compound fracture of the elbow and a fractured wrist.

*Source:* David Lewis.

*Analysis:* This was an inexperienced and inadequately equipped group.

*Utah, Needle Point Peak—*On April 3, Glen Albert Frazier (29) was killed when he fell while climbing Needle Point Peak. He apparently lost his footing and fell more than 100 feet down the face of the peak and then rolled an additional 150 feet. He was climbing alone.

*Source:* Newspaper clipping.

*Analysis:* This accident demonstrates the dangers of climbing alone and unroped in difficult terrain.

*Wyoming, Wind Rivers—Koven—*On 20 July, Bob and Gail Bates, Fred Truslow and John Oberlin (43) were about 125 feet below the summit of Koven during the ascent, where they were forced to stop on a comfortable ledge when the blue sky was suddenly obscured by the low dark storm clouds. A heavy storm followed with much sleet but no rain. Most of the lightning seemed to strike at a reasonable distance and finally only the trailing edge of the storm was passing overhead. The bolt was unexpected. Oberlin came to only partially at first with a confused sense of tumbling down the mountain, a violent tingling in the arms and hands, difficulty in breathing and a feeling of having been slugged in the back of the neck. He called out "Hold me!" but actually he had slipped down only a foot or two and was quite safe. Very quickly he regained his senses and soon was completely recovered except for his left leg and foot. The latter remained entirely numb for nearly one-half hour. Two small holes had been burned (or drilled) in the back of his hat and a strong odor of ozone persisted for some time. He suffered no burns but at first supposed he had received a burn in the center of the chest as this region was very sensitive for some time—possibly due to proximity to his parka zipper.

The other members of the party all received relatively light shocks and none was stunned.

*Source:* John Oberlin.

*Analysis:* (Oberlin). Except for the fact that the weather had been gener-

ally unstable, we had no warning of the approaching storm. There was no other really good ledge for quite a long way below us. On the other hand, as it turned out, the slabs behind our ledge rose almost vertically to the summit. Although I had warned Fred not to lean back against these slabs, I must have permitted my head to come close to them when it seemed the storm was practically past.

*Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, South Fork of Cascade Canyon*—Fred A. Shire, Jr. (23), of Long Beach, Cal., had told his parents that he was going to hike to Lake Solitude via Cascade Canyon and left at 5 A.M. on July 2 to do so. He had planned to be back at the String Lake parking area at 11:30 A.M. that morning. Instead he went up the south fork of Cascade Canyon with the idea of making the entire Skyline Trail. In upper Dartmouth Basin, near the north end of the Wall, he slipped while crossing a steep snowfield and fell into the rocks at the foot of the snowfield breaking his left ankle. He managed to crawl between four and five miles before he was found by a rescue party at 10:50 A.M. on July 3. His injury was aggravated by the long crawl and additional damage was done to his right leg and foot in the process.

Mr. Shire's parents reported him missing to the Grand Teton National Park officials about 7 P.M. the evening of July 2, and a search party was organized to search the area in which he was supposed to have gone. After an unsuccessful all night search of the Lake Solitude area, the search was then shifted to the south fork of the Cascade Canyon thinking he might have gone that way. This indicates that because of not following pre-planned routes the search was unnecessarily prolonged some 15 hours, in which the hiker further aggravated the injury received in the slide down the snowfield.

*Source:* Frank R. Oberhansley, superintendent and Park Ranger Doug McLaren, G.T.N.P.

*Analysis:* Accidents of this type indicate that hikers not familiar with the area they plan to hike through should consult local authorities as to trail conditions particularly during the early part of the season when it is possible that snow may be encountered along their planned trip, and they should let someone know where they are going.

*Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, near summit of Mount Teewinot*—On 27 July, James B. Rast (20) and Richard P. Holleman (20) had just completed an ascent of Mount Teewinot and were starting to descend when Holleman tried to use a rock projection as a handhold. As he shifted his weight the rock projection came loose causing Holleman to lose his footing and fall into his climbing partner Rast. Both of them fell some fifty feet over sloping rock onto a snowfield. Both were momentarily halted in their fall when Rast was hit in the back by a falling rock which caused Rast to fall an additional 200 feet down the snowfield where he plunged head-first into the rock outcropping at the bottom. Rast died as a result of considerable injury done about the head and shoulders, which included a broken neck, fractures of the head, and a shattered shoulder. Rast's back was shattered by the falling rock.

Holleman's injuries in his fall over the rocks consisted of a fractured tibia of the right leg and a deep laceration of the muscle of the left calf, which bled profusely.