

and joined his son in a seated body-belay position on top of the ridge which offered a possible though difficult access to the summit. Hilliard called up that there was a knot in the rope which he would try to untie before he or Ann Fowler came up. At that point in setting his feet for the seated belay, Rodney Aller, Sr. moved a rock about the size of a flat iron and shouted "rock" as it rolled toward the lip of the couloir. Before it hit the lip it struck a larger loose rock about 15 inches long and he again shouted "rock" as both went over the edge. There was no cry or other sound than that of falling rock heard from below. There was no pull on the rope. Looking from the top of the couloir there was no sign of Ed or Ann. The two Allers, roped, descended the Couloir for about half an hour to find the body of Ann Fowler approximately 200 yards below the start of her fall where Ed Hilliard's ice ax had been recovered. Her eyes were open and glazed, her mouth and nose were blood filled. There was no respiration and no pulse could be determined by either of the Allers. The body showed signs of obvious fracture and numerous severe injuries. They placed her bright orange parka over her, and placed her in a more secure position and removed her pack.

They descended during a snow shower approximately 300 yards further to Ed's body which lay face down near the edge of a drop. There was no discernible respiration or pulse and the temperature of wrist and hand was already noticeably cold. There were clear indications of numerous severe injuries.

The Allers were agreed that assistance from the Aspen Mountain Rescue Unit was essential to recover the bodies. They descended through rain to their camp by a higher traverse than that used on ascent and found several cairns indicating the usual route to the summit. They carried out the four packs to Maroon camp site, arriving there around 5:00 p.m.

On arrival in Aspen, Fred Braun of Aspen Mountain Rescue, and Sheriff Whitmore's office were contacted and a recovery party of a dozen volunteer members of that organization was flown in by Jeff Pease of Pease-Hamilton Flying Service on the following morning by helicopter.

*Source:* Rodney Aller.

*Analysis:* 1. Wherever excessive amounts of loose, unstable, or rotten rock is found, climbing should be avoided.

2. Where rock of this type is climbed, extreme care must be exercised. Hard hats are essential, as is close vertical spacing of the climbers to eliminate dangerous acceleration of falling rock. In steep sections the party should remain continuously roped with only one member at a time assuming the risk of exposure to falling rock.

3. Specific knowledge of the route to be climbed is essential.

4. If a car used for access is to be left locked, the key should be left at the car and all members of the party should be made aware of its location.

*Colorado, St. Mary's Glacier.* On 6 September Bill Weiss (16), James McCoy (17), and Craig Nichols (17) started a care-free day of glissading and climbing. The party roped in and began practicing ice-ax arrests and glissading.

At 11:30 a.m. the bottom man on the rope fell swiftly, yelling "falling." McCoy, the second man up the rope was jerked out of his arrest position by the sudden jerk and began a fast descent. Then Nichols, the lead man, was also jerked out of his arrest by such force that he was airborne on the steep slope for several feet. Stunned by the shock, he was unable to get into arrest and hurled past both McCoy and Weiss at an increasing speed.

His fall was stopped when he slammed into the rocks about 70 feet below Weiss. He was conscious but complained of pain in his right ankle. He was carried down by some skiers close to the scene. He was then driven to Colorado General Hospital in Denver where his broken right ankle was put in a walking cast for 6 weeks.

*Source:* Bill Weiss.

*Analysis:* The climbers were careless in choosing a route where no runout existed. A little more caution could have prevented an unluckily broken ankle and a possible fatal accident. None of the climbers was wearing headgear.

*New Mexico, Shiprock.* On 26 March two climbing parties started up Shiprock in northwestern New Mexico. The first party was composed of Jim Smith (46) and Bill Bull (40) of Boulder, Colorado, and George Andrews (52) of Menlo Park, California. They proceeded up the normal route, intending to climb the main summit on Thursday, bivouac below the summit at the "Horn", and climb the South Summit on Friday, before returning to their car. The second party included Larry Davelsberg and Don Liska of Los Alamos, New Mexico, Bill Hackett of Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Dave Beckstead of Colorado Springs, Colorado, who were scouting a new route up the west face of Shiprock. The weather Thursday was overcast and cool, though the forecast was for clearing.

The Smith party did not climb the summit on Thursday, but got only as far as the chockstones below the "Prussik Pitch" at the base of the north summit ("Fin") before they bivouacked. At this point they were about 600 feet above the start of the climb. About 1:00 a.m. Friday morning, a fast-moving cold front out of the northwest caught both parties high on the peak in their respective bivouacs. It began to snow and continued all night and most of the next day. The Los Alamos party of four rappelled off the face as soon as daylight allowed and reached the base of the west wall at about 10:30 a.m. By this time the desert was drifted over with about 6-12 inches of snow and it was near freezing. Fortunately a third climbing party, acquaintances of the Los Alamos group, had arrived the afternoon before and had camped near their VW. These were Reed Cundiff and another climber from Las Cruces. All six climbers pooled efforts in pushing Cundiff's VW through the drifts to the Red Rock "highway" some 5 miles to the south. Once there they piled into and on top of the tiny car and headed for the town of Shiprock, about 14 miles away, freezing cold and mud-spattered. They were soon stopped by Highway Police who thought they had a clear case of Hippie invasion. Once the emergency was understood, however, the police gave all possible assistance. In Shiprock, the climbers called Los Alamos and alerted other climbers to possible trouble. This was about 12:00 noon,