

Bad weather at this point took a hand. Those at Grand Lake were told the Trail Ridge road was blocked by snow, and that they could not rejoin the Bear Lake group over it. They had to return to Fort Collins via Berthoud Pass.

They reached the campus at 2 a.m. Monday morning, four hours after the Bear Lake party had returned. The first returnees were already abed -- hence the leaders of various groups and sub-groups did not get together to make their final check till after classes had started that morning.

Because of class schedules, it was not till noon that it was discovered that Devitt was missing. A more thorough check was made, and Gerling's absence was discovered.

By this time it was late Monday afternoon, with but a few hours of light remaining. Thus the search was not mounted till Tuesday morning -- 40 hours after the two students became lost, and possibly the difference between life and death.

(b) OTHER ACCIDENTS

Arizona: Catalina Mountains. On 30 October 1949 Wally Lundbohm (20), of Tuscon, was rescued from a tiny ledge 1000 feet above the head of Pima Canyon. He had been stranded on the six-foot-wide, 20-foot-long ledge overnight and had to be hauled 800 feet up the precipice after a volunteer mountain climber succeeded in getting a rope to him. Sheriff's deputies, aided by floodlights and a public address system, from near-by Davis-Monthan Air Base, worked all night to reach Lundbohm.

Source of information: newspaper accounts.

Analysis. From the meager data available it appears that this is another case of an inexperienced climber, climbing alone, and beyond his abilities.

Colorado: Hagerman Peak, Snowmass Peak District. During the last week of August 1949, Robert Hostetter became marooned overnight on Hagerman Peak. He later told a search party that, after progressing ahead of his companions, he decided to climb the peak, and that darkness eventually stopped him while he descended the mountain. Although he was not injured, he suffered somewhat from exposure.

Source of information: newspaper reports.

Analysis. This is evidently the familiar story of a person who separated himself from his party by going ahead too eagerly