

*Colorado: (4) Rocky Mountain National Park, McHenry Peak (13,300 ft.)* On 9 July 1950 a Y.M.C.A. camp counselor, George Cowles, 23, was struck by a falling rock and as a result experienced a 200-foot fall on jagged rocks near the summit of this peak. A rescue team from the Colorado Mountain Club reached him after other members of the climbing party had gone for aid. Two of the rescue team, Eliot Johnson and David Fonscea, both of Denver, carried Cowles for four hours over very precipitous terrain. Other members of the rescue squad acted as human weights in sliding "belays" as Cowles was lowered down the steeper slopes. He was treated at Estes Park for severe lacerations and bruises and then transferred to a hospital at Longmont, where it was found he had suffered a brain concussion and fractured vertebra as well as the cuts.

*Source of information:* newspaper accounts and Rocky Mountain National Park headquarters.

*Analysis.* Insufficient details to warrant more comment than reiteration of the ever-present danger a climber faces when he traverses below cliffs or slopes from which rocks or avalanches come. This comes under the heading of "unforeseeable" and can be avoided only by most careful selection of routes and by the eternal vigilance which every climber should maintain at all times on a mountain.

*Colorado: (5) Rocky Mountain National Park.* During the summer of 1950 three other accidents attributable to mountain climbing occurred in this area. A man received a broken clavicle and bruises when he slid down a snow bank in upper Chaos Canyon on August 9th; and, on August 20th, a boy received a lacerated leg and bruises when he tumbled 200 feet down a rocky slope on Mount Baker. He lost his balance while attempting to retrieve his hat which had blown off in a strong gust of wind. Since the snow bank near the Rock Cabins figured so prominently in accidents, two warning signs were prepared and placed at this location by the National Park Service immediately after the June 28th accident.

*Source of information:* report of Ernest K. Field, Acting Chief Ranger of the Park.