

rappelling into the upper saddle something happened so that the rappel point failed and she fell about 35 feet into the upper saddle. She suffered severe bruises and an impacted fracture of a lumbar vertebra. The Park service and volunteers did an excellent job of evacuation. Later examination of the site of the accident failed to show any recent rock fracture from the rappel. The nylon sling was later recovered and the knot had apparently become untied. There was no evidence of its having been torn or worn through.

*Source:* Report of Grand Teton National Park.

*Analysis:* Failure of the nylon rappel sling. N. B. An excellent evaluation of the type of sling used is reported in *Appalachia* 19: 598-601, December, 1953.

There were two other accidents in this area which involved hikers slipping on snow fields.

*Colorado—Rocky Mountain National Park (1):* On July 8, 1953, Paul Conrad (17) slipped while climbing a steep snowbank in the Black Lake area. He slid down and hit some rocks, suffering numerous bruises, contusions, and a broken bone in his left wrist.

*Source:* Rocky Mountain National Park Report.

*Analysis:* Inexperienced climber failing to appreciate the true dangers of steep snow slopes.

*Colorado—Rocky Mountain National Park (2)—Little Matterhorn:* On 31 July 1953, a party of nine girls was ascending the Little Matterhorn. This organized group had almost reached the summit when Miss Kathryn Rees (15) became startled at the movement of a rock she had grasped for support. She lost her balance and fell approximately 150 ft. to her death. Two of the hiking counselors, Miss Gretchen DeGroot and Sandra Miller (17) went to get assistance. As they descended they became separated. Miss DeGroot reached the Fern Lake Lodge where she telegraphed for help. The body of Miss Miller was found as a rescue party was en route to the location of the Rees girl's body. It is believed that Miss Miller slipped on a steep slope while hurrying to get help. There is no great exposure on this route up the Little Matterhorn and it is not considered a difficult or hazardous climb. Carelessness seems to be the main factor in these two fatalities.

*Source:* Rocky Mountain National Park Report.

There were four other minor accidents in this area which were not true mountaineering accidents and have not been included. Most of these accidents seem to have resulted from inexperienced persons not appreciating the dangers of snow and ice.

*Colorado—North face of ridge between Twin Thumbs and Peak 11, Needle Mountains:* On 26 July 1953, Barry Bishop (21), Walt Bailey (35), and Phyllis Anderson (25) were returning from a successful ascent of the