

pital and inside of 2 hours were applying "medicinal stimulates" while we listened to the music of frying eggs.

*Source:* Felix Hagerman.

*Analysis:* By Hagerman.

The accident was, of course, unnecessary. Most accidents are. It is hard to pinpoint any one thing which caused it. The climb was not beyond our ability since the Window is admittedly no harder than Stettner's and we had no difficulty with it. It was still early and the weather was fine. If I made a technical mistake it was probably snapping out of the piton before I had the sling rigged but the holds I had were the same I had used to drive it and should have sufficed for what I was trying to do. At no time did I feel particularly insecure or "about to fall." Fatigue probably contributed coupled with the false sense of well-being or exhilaration which sometimes comes after a tough pitch or route has been climbed (in this case the Ledges). Certainly it is very apt to lead to carelessness or relaxation of vigilance which is always dangerous. I cannot help but remember Bollinger's statement made the day of his fall that he had "never felt better in his life."

This may sound somewhat involved but I am convinced that mental attitude and watchfulness during a climb are quite as important as any technical aspects.

The accident does demonstrate, however, that good technique and adherence to standard safety procedure such as starting early, not attempting difficult routes in bad weather, etc. can turn what might have been a fatal slip into nothing more than a painful incident. Belay technique should be practiced until it is automatic. Rod said all his actions were unconscious as were mine in jumping away from the rock. When something does happen you don't have time to think. As for the rest, the Swiss sum it up well when they say, bluntly, "the leader will not fall!"

*Colorado—Rocky Mountain National Park, Long's Peak (2)*—On October 2, Sidney Cohen (27) of Boulder, Colorado, was climbing Long's Peak via the Cable route when he slipped on ice and fell down the 60-degree slab rock 150 feet, striking a ledge which catapulted him to a snow bank 150 feet below. This man was hiking alone and had ignored the posted warnings which told of the ice and snow conditions on this route and advised people without the proper equipment to take the Keyhole route. Mr. Cohen was wearing shoe pacs. He suffered a possible broken right lower leg and abrasions of legs and abdomen. This rescue required the service of all available rangers plus the services of four Colorado University students and the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group.

*Source:* James V. Lloyd, Superintendent, Rocky Mountain National Park.

*Colorado, Devil's Thumb*—On Sunday, August 7, 1955, John Auld (16), Jim Auld (19), and Sheldon Schiager (18) drove from Colorado Springs, Colorado, to the Boulder area intending to climb the Maiden, a popular rock formation famous for the spectacular free rappel from its summit. They evidently misunderstood instructions they had been given for finding the Maiden, and they hiked to the base of the Devil's Thumb. Devil's Thumb is in the same area as the Maiden; it is similar in appearance to the Maiden, and is often mistaken for the Maiden. The two rock formations