

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 Stettners 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

are visible from each other, but not easily recognized. Unaware of their error, the three climbed the Thumb, reaching the top at about 1:00 p.m. Here they had some suspicion that they were not on the right rock, because the summit did not look quite as it had been described to them. There is a register on the Thumb, but the title page was missing.

At about 1:30 the party prepared to rappel from the rock. John started to rappel first, using a single strand $\frac{7}{16}$ inch nylon rope and a French type of rappelling device which takes all rope friction away from the body. He rappelled to the edge of the overhanging face and saw that the rope did not reach to the bottom. He estimated that it would stretch to a small ledge from which he could climb down, and so he continued with the free part of the rappel. Up to this point he was belayed, but the combination of the single strand rope and the rappel device made him twist in circles, tangling the belay rope with the rappel rope. The belay rope was untied and thrown down. John then rappelled to the end of his rope and found himself several feet above the ledge to which he had planned to jump. He swung in towards the ledge and jumped for it. He either missed the ledge or fell from it. He fell a distance of about 80 feet down the 45- to 60-degree face, landing on a ledge still far above the ground. Jim and Sheldon saw where he had fallen and began rappelling and climbing down the way they had come up. When they got down they found that John had fallen some 40 or 50 feet more from where they had first seen him. He had landed on a narrow ledge just a few feet above the ground. He was semi-conscious and appeared badly injured. Jim stayed with John while Sheldon went for help.

Sheldon drove to Boulder, called an ambulance, and returned with the ambulance driver to the scene of the fall. Realizing that he could do nothing, the driver told Sheldon to return to Boulder and notify the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group. Sheldon called the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group at about 5:30 p.m., telling them that the climber had fallen from the rappel on the Maiden, and had landed at the base of the rock on the south side. Actually, the injured body was at the base of the north side of Devil's Thumb, a mile away from the Maiden.

Ten Rocky Mountain Rescue members reached the south side of the Maiden at 7:00 p.m. Sheldon had remained in Boulder. Finding no sign of the accident, the group went around the rock to the north side. The group then prepared to search the three rocks in the area which might have been confused with the Maiden. One party returned to the cars to get in touch with Sheldon before going on to search the Matrom. Another party set out immediately to scout the unnamed rock immediately south of the Maiden. This party heard shouts from an adjacent valley. The shouts were from the ambulance driver, who was descending to find what was keeping the rescuers. The Rocky Mountain Rescue Group reached the accident scene at 10:00 p.m. A physician diagnosed the injuries as a broken leg and a possible broken back. John was given morphine, then placed in a Stokes litter. The evacuation began at 11:00. The litter was belayed as six men carried it down a half mile of steep, loose talus. Twelve more Rocky Mountain Rescue members joined the party at 1:30 a.m. The evacuation continued through a mile of rocky, densely timbered valley, reaching the cars at 4:00 a.m.

It turned out that John's only serious injury was a broken back-compression fractures of three vertebrae. His leg was not broken. The injury caused no damage to the spinal cord and John enjoyed a complete recovery.

Source: L. D. Lewis.

Analysis: L. D. Lewis.

Conversation with John Auld after the accident seems to show that the mistake of climbing the wrong rock was not a factor of the cause of the fall. Apparently the accident resulted entirely from John's failure to judge the rappel properly. The erroneous report of the scene of the fall probably delayed the rescue another two hours. The accident shows the deceptive nature of vertical distances and points up the need for climbers to familiarize themselves with both the location of the rocks and the local agencies of rescue before making climbs in unfamiliar areas.

Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park (1)—On June 6, 1955, Victor Milligan (23), a student from Belfast, Ireland, and his companion had been hiking up the Glacier Trail when they came to a point where the trail was still completely covered by snow. They left the trail at this point to travel about 300 yards to a stream in Glacier Gulch for a drink of water. In descending into the gulch, Milligan came to a rock outcropping and in climbing down this face a rock handhold gave way causing him to fall about 30 ft. into a snowfield and slide headfirst into a large boulder.

His companion descended by a safer route and administered what first aid he could and made the semi-conscious Milligan as comfortable as possible. He then hurried to the Jenny Lake Store, a distance of about 2 miles, for help.

The Park Rescue Team, with all necessary equipment, reached the scene of the accident within one hour and forty-five minutes after the initial report was made. Milligan was evacuated to the Jackson Hospital where, after an emergency operation, he made a complete recovery in a month's time. He had received a compound skull fracture and multiple lacerations and bruises over his entire body.

Source: Ernest K. Field, Acting Superintendent, Grant Teton National Park.

Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park (2)—Fred Ford (25), John Austin (26) and Robert Bartholomew (20) spent the night of June 27 in high camp in the lower saddle between the Grand and Middle Teton. In the morning of the 28th day they set out to climb the Grand, via the seldom climbed Petzoldt Ridge. Ford, as the professional guide, was authorized to choose the route in terms of the strength of his party and the condition of the weather. All three were strong climbers, varying in mountaineering experience. Only Ford was familiar with the mountain, and he had not climbed the ridge before. The weather on the day of the climb was splendid, his party physically strong, and Ford elected to use the Petzoldt ridge for these reasons.

The ridge starts at the black dike at about 11,000 feet. It lies between the Exum and Underhill ridges on the south side of the mountain. Class 4 and 5 rock climbing is involved for about 1,000 feet. Here the ridge ends in a couloir which continues to the summit mass. There are three general route