

The climbing experience of the party was widely varied. Davis is Chairman of the Colorado Mountain Club Technical Climbing Committee and has had several years mountaineering experience including snow and ice work. Walsmith and Alpha had both attended the CMC Technical School and were regarded as having good natural climbing ability, although limited experience. Bruvold had little climbing experience although acquainted with the basic rope handling technique.

*Source:* H. F. Walton; W. E. Davis.

*Analysis:* (W. E. Davis). As leader, Davis seems to have committed three errors. First, not enough concern was shown for the inexperience of the party. This was seen at the start of the climb with failure to rope up prior to beginning the gully. It is easy for a long-time climber to forget that the steepness or exposure which seems commonplace to him may be severe to the novice. Second, the leader failed to appreciate the psychological effect of the two minor falls prior to the accident. These slips were unnerving and the confidence of the party was shaken. Third, the leader failed to caution Walsmith even though it was obvious he was in difficulty. A word of warning probably would have prevented Walsmith from attempting the delicate pitch a second time; however, Davis failed to say anything that might deter him. A more important question is whether or not Walsmith should have been allowed to lead the pitch following the earlier slip. It was natural for him to lead since he was in the right position to move first up the slab but whether or not it was wise for him to do so remains unanswered.

The fact that Walsmith was able to brake his fall by sliding down the slab and the preparedness of Alpha undoubtedly prevented more serious injury. Dynamic belaying is much easier if the belayer is prepared to let the rope run rather than being caught by surprise.

*Colorado, Pikes Peak*—On 12 August, Mrs. Inestine B. Roberts (88), had made her 14th climb of Pikes Peak. She started the descent but night fell and she bivouaced which had been her custom on previous climbs. She was seen on the 13th and reported all was well. Some time after that she apparently suffered a heart attack and died.

*Source:* Newspaper clipping; Trail and Timberline No. 466, p. 159, Oct. 1957.

*Colorado, Cussing Crack, Castle Rock, near Boulder*—On 9 August, Jeff Wheeler (14), Jerry Roach (14) and Ed Anderson (20) were climbing on Castle Rock. Wheeler was leading on a vertical wall near the top of Castle Rock, in Boulder Canyon. He was probably about 10 feet above his last piton. Apparently a handhold pulled out and Wheeler fell. Roach held the fall with a dynamic belay, letting several feet of rope run. Wheeler fell to a point about 10 feet below a two foot wide ledge. Anderson and Roach hoisted Wheeler to the ledge. Anderson remained with the injured climber while Roach rappelled for help. The fall occurred at 10:30 A.M. The Rescue Group received the call at 11:15 and reached the rock with 8 people at 12:30. A standard Stokes litter evacuation was performed, lowering Wheeler about 200 feet to the ground. He suffered innumerable cuts, punctures, abrasions and bruises, but no serious injuries.