

The 28th had been warm and clear with no evidence of a change. That evening the wind freshened and Ranger Heath became concerned about the weather and set off at about 11 P.M. with food, extra clothing, 80 feet of rope, a sleeping bag, and a piton. He returned to chimney pond at 4 A.M. on the 29th having made voice contact with Mrs. Ivusic and locating her position. He was not able to reach her because of insufficient rope. He left chimney pond at 6:10 A.M. after requesting more aid from Park Headquarters. The weather at this time was an icy rain and wind. It became progressively worse during the day and persisted for the next three days or so (Hurricane Ginny).

Neither Mrs. Ivusic's or Ranger Heath's bodies have been recovered. It is presumed that either they fell and were injured and died of exposure or that exposure without any injury caused their death. An extensive search was unsuccessful because of the weather and newly fallen snow.

*Source:* Report of Proceedings; Mt. Katahdin: Tragedy Board of Review; William L. Putnam. (See Rescue Report.)

*New York, Shawangunks.* On 10 November Sandra Satterthwaite and her leader had finished their climb and were returning to the Uber Fall via the foot path unroped as is usually done. As she climbed down a short face she stepped past the ledge that was to be her foot-hold. She states that it was her error in not making sure of her foot-hold as she climbed down. She lost her footing and fell approximately 30 feet and landed on the carriage road. She was carrying the climbing rope coiled over her shoulder and she landed on her left front side. The coil of rope apparently protected her head from serious injury. She was knocked unconscious and suffered multiple contusion, lacerations, and fractures of her limbs. Fortunately other climbers in the area notably Cornie and Dee Miller administered excellent first aid and organized the evacuation.

*Source:* Cornie Miller, Sandra Satterthwaite, James R. McCarthy, and Boyd N. Everett, Jr.

*New Hampshire, White Mountains, Mt. Adams.* On 30 December Charles Button and Owen Ferrini and 8 others climbed Mt. Adams in -25 to -30°F weather and 30-70 mph winds. On their return as they faced into the wind Button and Ferrini suffered severe frosts bite of their feet due to inadequate foot gear. Other members of the party suffered minor frost bite of the face even though they wore face masks. Button and Ferrini had to be evacuated.

*Source:* George Hamilton.

*Colorado, Long's Peak.* On August 4 with a clear and sunny sky, Ben Crouse, Gib Gilbert, and Ted Gutmann left Chasm Lake at 8 A.M. to climb the East Face of Long's Peak by the Alexander's Chimney route and on to the summit. Return to Chasm Lake was planned by descent of the North Face (Cable) Route. To reach the base of the Chimney it is necessary to cross a short snow field at the foot of Lamb's Slide but, as it is frequently used steps are cut across here. On the advice of experienced climbers from the area, no ice axes or crampons were taken. After climb-

ing the Chimney and traversing to the right (Alexander's Traverse), two other parties were encountered coming off Stetner's Ledge (due to the deteriorating weather) and both proceeded up Hornsby's Direct. Hugh Shepard and Chuck Delbridge, both of Denver, constituted one rope while Kenyon King and Clarence Gusthurst, both of Fort Collins, Colorado, were on another rope. Heavy fog settled on the face and a misty rain began; thunder rumbled although there was as yet no lightning. The rock was too wet and the weather too threatening to continue the climb. Crouse, Gilbert, and Gutmann accepted the offer of a rope up to Broadway Ledge (about halfway up the East Face) where all seven men decided to descend at once, unroped, and walked along Broadway to its intersection with Lamb's Slide.

A retreat across the glacier was now required. This had not been anticipated and no one had any ice equipment. The party did not rope up. The starting point was about 300 feet above the morning's crossing at Alexander's Chimney. Shepard and Delbridge went first, then after an interval, Crouse, Gilbert, and Gutmann, and finally King and Gusthurst. The snow surface was soft near the edge but the center of the glacier was ice. All seven men, unroped, tried to descend directly to the steps at Alexander's crossing. About 100 feet below Broadway Crouse slipped and slid a few feet arresting himself with the chisel point of a piton hammer. Gutmann also caught him by the pack. Gilbert, cutting steps with a piton hammer tried to approach to help hold Crouse. As Crouse tried to kick a toehold he started sliding again. Gutmann's small toeholds would not allow him to hold on. Crouse then slid out of sight into the fog and all the way to the bottom of the glacier, estimated to be a total of 600 feet. It took 45 minutes to reach the victim who was in a 4-foot glacial gully of rushing ice water about 20 yards from the bottom of the glacier. He was conscious with an obvious broken right thigh. Shepard immediately went for help. Crouse was hauled up out of the crevasse by an improvised carabiner pulley system anchored by rock piton and carefully slid onto the rocks below the glacier. Gusthurst then went for Crouse's sleeping bag. He returned in 3 hours. About 2 A.M. a rescue party of Park personnel and a litter arrived. Twenty hours after the accident Crouse was in a hospital. His right femur was shattered and an operation was required to piece it together.

*Source:* Crouse.

*Analysis:* (Crouse) The following would have been helpful in avoiding the accident:

(a) Appointment of a party leader when the three parties joined on the Broadway ledge. Since no leader had been appointed each man went off by himself when the glacier was reached.

(b) Proper choice of equipment for all alternate routes in case the climb could not be completed as originally planned. The Gilbert Party had planned to reach the summit via Alexander's Chimney, Alexander's Traverse, Notch Chimney, and the Open Brook formation, and return via the cables on the North Face. Weather called a halt to our advance and we retreated via South Broadway and Lamb's Slide. We were unprepared for this undertaking, having no ice gear at all. Neither of the other two parties were equipped either.

It should be noted that Crouse was wearing a fiberglass hardhat which probably saved his life when he struck the side of the crevasse and numerous times during the terminal (tumbling) stage of his fall when his head struck rocks imbedded in the surface of the glacier. This same hardhat had successfully resisted a rock of about 5 lbs. which struck Crouse earlier in the day after it had fallen 800 feet down the East Face from Broadway to the base of Alexander's Chimney.

*Colorado, Twin Owls.* On 11 August Tom Fender and Stan Shepard were attempting a new climb on the South wall to the left of the chimney. On Twin Owls Shepard had nailed up a system of overhanging rotten cracks to a crumbly groove when he decided to retreat until the following weekend. They had done only two-thirds of the first lead and rain threatened. He writes:

"Backing down my aid pitons without protection seemed a poor idea; they were horrible. Therefore, I placed a small bong as well as I could in the groove, used my hauling line as a top rope, and started down the pitch.

"In retrospect, it seems incredible that I failed to place a bolt instead of that accursed bong. I recall feeling relaxed, disinterested, and annoyed that weather conditions had prevented us from doing a long climb on the high peaks.

"I started down, removing my pitons without effort. About three pins down I took aid from the top rope. The bong pulled out and I fell. The next two pitons also came out without resistance. The third held. I don't know why; it shouldn't have.

"I went about 50 feet until stopped by Tom's belay.

"Since the angle of the pitch was about 110° the piton that did all of the work was inside my line of fall and caused me to swing in toward the wall. This, plus the elasticity of the rope, slammed me hard into the rock. The impact broke my neck.

"I swung out from the wall and hung about 10 feet from the ground. Since I wasn't saying much, Tom eased me down, tied me in, and went for help."

*Source:* Stan Shepard and Kathryn Nielsen.

*Analysis:* (Shepard) Tom had done a beautiful job of belaying. There is not much else to be said about an accident of this nature except that I should have been wearing an impact absorbing crash helmet. Unfortunately they are at present too heavy.

The one thing that cannot be justified — the cause of the accident — was my failure to place that bolt. It is as simple as that.

*Colorado, Grand Giraffe.* On 29 September, Warren Bleser (26) was leading the last chimney of the Grand Giraffe, a difficult 5.8 class climb in Eldorado Springs Canyon. He was belayed by Quinn and had reached the last difficult move, inside a chimney. He was standing on rounded holds and attempting to place a piton for protection. Either through fatigue or slipping, he came off his holds and fell about 40 feet, stripping out three pitons below him. He fell free and as he came in contact with