

A week later the Alpenbock Climbing Club of which Mark was a member reclimbed the route in order to determine cause of the rope breaking. We found blue nylon from the outer sheath on the rough crystals of the two inch diameter edge of the ramp. The rope had apparently been pulled directly down the edge with very little sliding and the sharp crystals had acted like a saw. Although there was very little rope friction, the belayer felt a pull of no more than two or three pounds.

The rope used was an 8 1/2 mm, 3,800 pound test strength Jannu perlon rope which I had bought in Sangard Sports in Chamorix, France, at the beginning of the summer. It had been used only two or three times and had never been fallen on.

*Source:* George Lowe.

*Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park.* On 7 July Edwin W. Speth (26) and Tomm Peterson were climbing the second pitch on the Jensen Ridge on Symmetry Spire. Speth was leading. He had gone slightly off route and was about 75 feet above the belay position when he fell. He had placed two pitons, the first about 50 feet up, and the second at his waist. Both pulled easily in the fall. Speth fell past Peterson, the rope broke and Speth landed in the snow at the base of the ridge, then slid down the snow and dropped into the moat at the side of the gully. The total fall was a little over 200 feet to the snow and another 75 feet down the snow. Peterson felt no tug on the rope nor does he know how the rope broke. Speth was killed.

*Source:* Pete Sinclair, Park Ranger.

*Analysis:* Possibly better knowledge of the placement of pitons, and better rope would have prevented this accident. It was learned afterward that the perlon rope that was being used had been used before when it had received a certain amount of strain from another leader fall, but had not been thoroughly examined for damage.

*Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park.* On 24 June John Freitag (25), Mike Petrilak, Steffie Petrilak, and Joan Oosterwyk were descending Cloudveil Dome by the east ridge following a successful ascent by the same route. It was early afternoon and the weather, which had been threatening all day, began to deteriorate, with mists and a slight drizzle. Though exposed, the climbing was quite easy so the party was descending unroped. Freitag, leading, came to a short face with a ledge below it. He began to lower himself down a slab, using the top for handholds. He had tested the block and it seemed to be secure. As the rock was damp, he did not trust the small footholds on the slab and supported most of his weight by his arms. When his full weight was committed to the slab, Freitag felt it loosen and come out. He fell about four feet and landed on the ledge; the block fell on top of his leg, but caused no more than a few scratches. He was not injured and was able to finish the climb with no difficulty and to take part in other climbs immediately.

*Source:* Rubin and Freitag.

*Analysis:* (Rubin and Freitag) While the accident turned out to be