

One of the rescuers spent the night with Damp before the final operation could be performed.

*Source:* Appalachia 34, 175-192, Dec. 1968; Bruce Sloat.

*Analyses:* (Jeff Damp): The weather was so bad we should have turned back.

*Colorado, Third Flatiron.* On 5 June the first member of a party of two rappelled from the "Sugar Bowl" on the west side of the Third Flatiron to "Friday's Folly Ledge." The anchor used was a large stable boulder about 6 feet in diameter. It has been used many times by many climbers. There is a groove around it about a third of the way from the top. When the first man reached the ledge and was off rappel, the other asked that he try pulling on one of the two rope ends to see if they would be able to retrieve the rappel rope after the second man reached the ledge. The rope would not pull around the rock. The victim called down that he would relocate the rope so that it would slide better. A second test proved successful and the victim, John Ames (25), got on rappel. Immediately, he was seen flying past the ledge—rope and all in a 200 foot vertical fall. Apparently, he had moved the rope higher on the rock, to permit it to be pulled down later, but in the process of beginning the rappel, the angle of pull must have slipped the rope off the rock.

*Source:* Charles Demarest.

*Analysis:* Knowledge of the 3rd Flatiron would have made this rappel unnecessary. They planned three rappels to get off, and the first two can be done in one with the rope they had.

*Colorado, Long's Peak.* On 27 January James Disney (28), Ken Paine (29), Ken Landis (40), and Richard Kezlan (32) were making a winter ascent of Kiener's Route on the east face of Long's Peak (for the purpose of making special interest news broadcasts over radio station KLOV in Loveland, Colorado, and on the NBC network). They had problems with mountain sickness and equipment all day, and were progressing very slowly. The party had planned to bivouac on Broadway, a ledge half-way up the route, and continue the climb the following day. At 8:30 p.m., Disney and Kezlan were nearing Broadway, with Landis and Paine several hundred feet below on Lamb Slide (a 45° snow slope extending up from Mills Glacier at the base of the face). At this point Landis collapsed from exhaustion. Disney and Kezlan immediately started descending, unroped, to the other climbers. During the descent, Kezlan slipped and fell 200+ feet into the rocks at the base of the Glacier. During the fall he lost his ice axe and was unable to self-arrest. Later inspection of equipment showed that one of his crampons had broken. Landis eventually recovered sufficiently to descend to Chasm Lake Shelter on his own. Kezlan suffered a skull fracture and scalp lacerations.

*Source:* Thomas W. Griffiths, Rocky Mountain.

*Analysis:* Several errors of judgment seem to have been made by the party. First of all, the leader should have kept the party together. Next, when Landis showed signs of extreme fatigue, the party should have

returned to the Chasm Lake shelter for the night (1 mile distant). Perhaps the fact that the climb was being broadcast on radio caused the party to push the climb farther than they might have otherwise. No hard hats were worn. Kezlan's G.I. crampons were broken at the rivets. This type of crampon is not adequate for mountaineers.

*Utah, Mt. Olympus.* On 3 August Malcolm Wills (24) and Carol Clawson (20) were climbing a technical route on Mt. Olympus. Neither climber had suitable boots or other climbing gear. They were tied together by approximately 50 feet of ¼ inch nylon parachute shroud line. A granny knot had been used to secure rope to Wills. The knot at Clawson's waist was a nondescript type of slip knot that was quite loose and slid back and forth on the line easily. It is not clear which fell first, although the evidence indicates Malcolm Wills was probably leading and fell pulling Clawson off the cliff. Both fell about 250 feet and died instantly from their severe injuries.

*Source:* James A. Wilkerson (Deputy Medical Examiner), and Lamont Heaps Salt Lake Region ARG.

*Wyoming, Wind River Range. Gannet Glacier, between Dinwoody and Woodrow Wilson Peaks.* Indications were that on or about 19 July Albert Scibetta (28) was climbing alone and totally unequipped when he fell approximately 300 feet over snow, rock, and glacier to his death. The body was not located for almost two weeks. Footprints traversing the top of the snow couloir were easily seen, as well as a slide path. It was estimated that Scibetta had slid about 100 feet on the snow, and then hit the rocks, bouncing approximately another 100 feet onto the glacier. The body then slid about 100 feet on the glacier. There was evidence that the body slid about 20 feet since the accident had occurred. Rescue members waited with the body while the copter returned to base camp for a body bag in which to remove Scibetta.

*Source:* Barbara Long.

*Analysis:* Perhaps a more accurate knowledge of the type of country to be found in the Wind River Range would have prevented Scibetta from attempting any ascent, rock or glacier, as a solo. Proper equipment, i.e., ice axe (he may have had one, though none was found), crampons, and a companion to enable him to use proper climbing techniques (rope) may have prevented the accident.

*Wyoming, Grand Teton.* On 6 July at 2130 hours, Gregory Sharp (23) and George Macheel reached the Owen rappel point after climbing the Grand Teton. According to Sharp, he had made the rappel after a previous ascent of the Grand and thought a 150 foot rope doubled (75 feet) was sufficient to reach the landing point. Sharp rappelled over the overhang and found the rope to be 50 feet short. He was now literally at the end of his rope with no way of reascending. The situation was further complicated in that he was hanging free with no access to a ledge. As time passed, Sharp became more uncomfortable and wound the rope around his body to relieve the strain. Things became worse, however,