

The plan for evacuation was the following: Starr and another companion returned to the cars while one more person was to go to the Alpine Club Hut (about one mile away) for sleeping bags, stove, and the light-weight litter. Only this person was to return. Three more were to stay with the patient. The rest of the party returned to the cabin. Four remained with the patient, attended to him and carried him to a place where the helicopter could land (about 200 feet vertical below the site of the accident).

The accident occurred about 5,000 feet above the nearest road and about 7 miles from it. That distance was covered in about 1½ hours. There was also a 300-foot-wide river to cross by boat. The accident occurred at 10:00 a.m. They were in the Squamish RCMP office by 12:30 p.m.

There was some delay in obtaining a helicopter because Air-Sea Rescue was unavailable. A private helicopter was chartered by the RCMP and the patient was evacuated by 3:00 p.m. He was operated on within an hour of arriving at the hospital. He spent approximately three weeks in the hospital and was almost completely recovered by December.

Source: Paul J. Starr.

Analysis: One should gradually develop competence in the various ice-ax-arrest techniques, e.g., learn to walk before one runs.

British Columbia, Selkirks, Swiss Peaks. On 17 July Donald David Wallbridge (35) apparently climbed at least one other peak in the vicinity of Rogers Peak Hermit area since he had signed the Cairn register on Sifton (9,563 feet) and had apparently also climbed Rogers Peak (10,546 feet). This was the plan he had registered at the Warden's office. Extensive searching after he was reported overdue on 19 July failed to find any trace except tracks leading to a broken cornice on Swiss Peaks. Bad weather halted the search on the fourth day. Subsequent searches on the glacier below the broken cornice revealed nothing.

Source: A. D. Clayton.

Analysis: It should be noted that the missing person apparently fell through the cornice of a peak he had not indicated he was going to climb. It was not until the third or fourth day that the search expanded to this peak. Correct registration would have led to this discovery earlier. Other mistakes are obvious.

Vancouver Island, Mt. Bensen. On 28 November Frank Tolen (16) and five companions climbed through snow to a cabin at about 3,000 feet on Mt. Bensen. Frank stopped to change socks and shortly thereafter said he could not go any farther. The group was close to the cabin and so they went ahead. They got a fire going, and they returned for Frank. They found him collapsed. They dragged him to the cabin where he was wrapped in a sleeping bag and rubbed. He soon died, however.

Source: R. Culbert.

Analysis: Just why Tolen succumbed to exposure on this occasion appears to be a mystery. The others obviously did not recognize the symptoms nor know how to treat him. Their major mistake of leaving him alone in the snow and not applying heat, when he was beyond self-recovery, must be attributed to inexperience.

UNITED STATES

Colorado, Wellington Lake, The Castle. On 1 August George Long (15) and Larry Davis (15), members of Scout Troop 204 of Denver, had climbed the Castle. At about 15:50 they started down the rocks on the north side by the "pinnacle". They each took slightly separate routes. Davis slipped and fell 60 feet to a ledge about 150 feet above the base of the Castle. Long went to Davis, realized help was needed, left a canteen with him and then climbed down the rocks to get help from another Scout Troop that had its camp close by. The South Suburban Christian Church had been holding a retreat in the vicinity. Several of their group were on the summit of the Castle when the accident occurred. They worked their way down toward Davis. They did not have a rope of sufficient length. They lowered individuals by means of a cotton clothesline. Three boys had been lowered. As David Roth (15) was lowered the "rope" broke and he fell suffering severe head injuries and landed on the same ledge within 50 feet of Davis.

The rescue problem was extremely difficult. Both victims had suffered severe head injuries and were near death with Cheyne-Stokes breathing. The terrain was technical (Class 5). It was night and the rescue group was not familiar with the terrain. There was a shortage of rescue personnel. David Roth was evacuated first via Stokes litter, the first 150 feet nearly vertical. He was given mannitol solution intravenously during the evacuation. He reached an ambulance at 03:00 on the 2nd. He survived. Davis was evacuated an hour after Roth but died on the way down despite artificial respiration and external cardiac massage.

Source: Charles Demarest.

Colorado, North Maroon. On 15 August Edward H. Hilliard (47), and Ann Noyes Fowler (39), Rodney Aller (53), and Rodney Aller, Jr. (21) started at 7:00 a.m. from the bench at timber line below the dam on the northeast side of the North Maroon.

There was doubt in the mind of Hilliard as to how far the party should traverse across the south face of the mountain to find the usual summit route, and the party apparently traversed too far to the south while searching, without success, for cairns to indicate the route.

The party finally ascended the couloir above and immediately to the north of the main snow basin on the east face. The danger from loose rock had been apparent to the party from the beginning. All wore hard hats. Loose rock was encountered throughout the climb and the members kept closely together to prevent falling rocks from gaining speed. Exercising utmost care, numerous rocks were nevertheless set loose during the climb.

Near the top of the couloir the party roped up using slings and carabiners. Hilliard led the first two roped pitches belaying the other members as they climbed separately.

At the last pitch before the top of the couloir Hilliard suggested that because of some weakness in one of his arms the younger Aller could effect a stronger belay and asked him to lead the final pitch, which was nearly vertical. Rodney Aller, Sr. was then belayed on the final pitch