

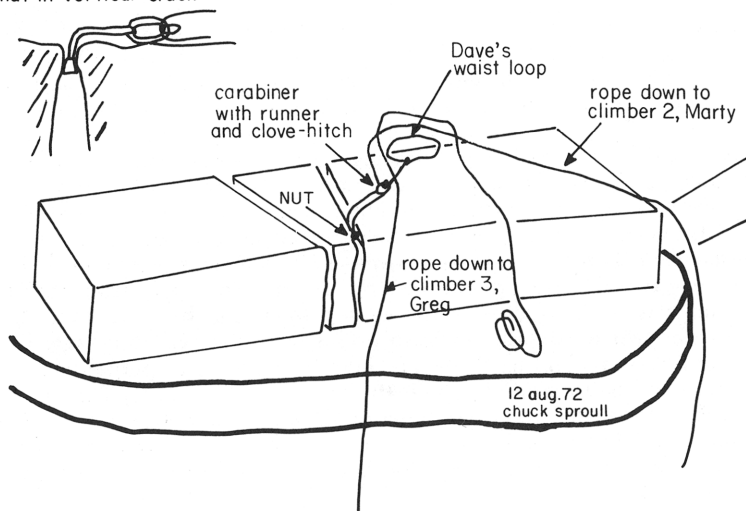
Lane who were at the top a few feet away when tension was requested, Dave shifted his position slightly to the left and was pulled quietly over the edge.

When Sproull arrived at the bottom two minutes later Dave was lying motionless on his stomach. No pulse was detected. John had run down to the camp ground one-and-a-half miles away to notify the ranger. At about 1800 three National Park Rangers arrived and one-half hour later four members of the Woodstock Rescue Squad came up from a road and trails to the east of Big Schloss. By 2000 they had transported Dave's body to an ambulance at the campground.

*Source:* Charles B. Sproull II, other members of the party, and Arnold Wexler.

*Analysis:* The tightness of the clove hitch and the curved grooves in the beveled sides of the nut suggest that the nut failed at several hundred pounds of force. Also, upon inspecting the belay area while waiting for the rescue parties, it was found that Dave could have provided adequate protection for both climbers by tying a long sling or rope completely around a section of the large rectangular block. This also indicates the need to check the placement of nuts regularly, and, as recommended by Chouinard, more than one should be used.

nut in vertical crack



*Colorado, El Dorado Springs Canyon.* On 3 March about 30 feet above the beginning of the second lead of "Calypso", Steve Kliever (16), placed a sling around a rock and began a somewhat difficult traverse. After 10 feet moving to the right and slightly down, he placed a nut for protection and continued traversing about 80 feet on a broad ledge to a belay point which he protected (by a nut). He then brought up Dave King (16) who climbed readily to the first point of protection and began the traverse but slightly high. Dave began to have difficulty, so Steve, noting that Dave's move was protected by the nut, tied off the belay rope at the anchor, and clipped himself onto the climbing rope with a carabiner and walked back

along the ledge to the nut protecting the difficult part of the traverse in order to coach Dave, who was then above the nut that protected the traverse. Dave then put in a piton to protect his next move, and Steve removed the nut because Dave would have difficulty getting to it. Steve then started back along the ledge and heard Dave say "It won't hold me". Dave fell about 75 feet to the top of a large flake near the base of the climb, landing on his head and fracturing his hard hat. In the process Steve was pulled off the ledge. Steve landed on another ledge and sprained his ankle. Both climbers were conscious at first, but Dave had a broken back and massive head injuries and succumbed within an hour of the arrival of the rescue team in spite of CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) at the scene. Kliever was assisted to the road by climbers in the area, and the evacuation of King included a routine two bearer high-angle litter lowering.

*Source:* W. G. May, Rocky Mountain Rescue Group.

*Analysis:* As is typical of many rock-climbing accidents that have occurred recently, the climbers were climbing beyond their overall capabilities, including not only ability at climbing and placing protection but also judgment as to when and where to place protection and the consequences of related actions. King was somewhat off route on a moderate 5th class climb. Steve was unable to recognize that King would have difficulty getting to a point of protection and thus removed this nut but did not put in additional accessible protection, which is for the benefit of the *second*, not so much the leader, near the start of a long traverse.

*Colorado, Mt. Thorodin.* On 10 June Joseph Willoughby (20) and Garris Flebbe, both moderately experienced climbers, saw a storm approaching while on a technical climb of the West Face of Mt. Thorodin and began their retreat. Willoughby was rappelling while Flebbe was near the top end of the rope half way up the face waiting his turn when lightning struck. Willoughby, perhaps 50 feet below Flebbe on the nearly vertical face, was immediately struck unconscious, and Flebbe had a temporarily paralyzed arm. Flebbe managed to lower Willoughby to a ledge and administered CPR to no avail. With no signs of life in Willoughby, he rappeled off the rest of the way and called RMRG, which performed the evacuation after a delay caused by another severe lightning storm. The victim's hands appeared to be burned. The litter evacuation of the body from the face was straightforward, using a self-equalizing piton anchor.

*Source:* W. G. May, Rocky Mountain Rescue Group.

*Analysis:* The climbers, both experienced, recognized that a lightning storm was coming and were descending, but Colorado lightning storms can move in or develop very rapidly.

The climber lower down was killed — it was he who was on the rope. Although the rope (Perlon) did not appear damaged, some current must have flowed along it. Both climbers were exposed to ground currents.

*Colorado, Sierra Blanca.* On 28 May George Bell, Larry Campbell (30), Ross Harder, Bill Hendry, Karl Horak, and David Michael, while descending a snow face on the north side of the east ridge of Sierra Blanca, set off a wet snow avalanche. The slide carried Campbell about fifty feet over rocky ledges and a further hundred feet on snow before he was able to ex-