

Analysis: Gibbon was, like many tourists in this area, inexperienced in mountaineering skills. Many have been tempted into "climbing" and scrambling in this area, with predictable results. (Source: Henry Ledyard, Alpine Rescue Team)

FALL ON ROCK, EXCEEDED ABILITIES—*Colorado, Mt. Evans.* Brian Driscoll (29) and Jeff Feet (23) were "scrambling" on extremely loose rock below Crest House. Fell, slid some 600 feet down snow/rock couloir. Dead on arrival from massive internal and cervical trauma. (Source: Henry Ledyard, Alpine Rescue Team)

Analysis: Paved highway leads to Crest House Restaurant on Mt. Evans, a popular tourist attraction. This is only one of four incidents (3 fatal) this summer from the rocks immediately below. Loose rock, steep 60–70° snow couloirs, 1200–1500 feet make a very impressive north face between Crest House (top) and Summit Lake Flats. High order of mountaineering skills is necessary to survive this very nasty piece of ground. (Source: Henry Ledyard, Alpine rescue Team)

CHOCK FAILURE—*Colorado, Rocky Mountain National Park, Deer Mountain Buttress.* On August 15, John Purvis (22) and Dennis Laird (24) were climbing a vertical technical route on the Deer Mountain Buttress. The route was mixed free and aid. Purvis was approximately 100 feet above his belayer at 10 a.m. when the anchor (#3 wired stopper) he was standing on popped out and Purvis fell 30 feet before his belayer checked his fall. Purvis sustained a fractured left tibia and a deep laceration over the break. Laird was able to lower Purvis to a ledge, applied first aid and went for help. On receiving the report Rangers Logan and Anderson were dispatched to the scene with Mr. Laird, the med pack, evac bag and climbing equipment. Evacuation was completed successfully by 5 p.m. (Source: Larry Van Slyke, Rocky Mountain National Park)

Analysis: This kind of accident is becoming more common as the craft of chock and nut placement is still, for many, in the developmental stage. (Source: J. Williamson)

IMPROPER FOOTWEAR—*Colorado, Rocky Mountain National Park, Hallett's Peak.* Elizabeth Wilson (23) and Gary Neptune had completed a technical climb of Hallett Peak (Jackson-Johnson route) and had successfully descended back to the base of the route for lunch. After lunch they began their descent to Emerald Lake, via a snowfield. At 3 p.m. Neptune was below Wilson 50 feet, when Wilson slipped and slid down to Neptune where she attempted to grab him. This threw him off balance and they both slid down the snow field out of control for about 200 feet and into a large boulder. Wilson sustained