

*Analysis:* It seems that loss of concentration while moving from a climbing position to a belaying position was the primary cause of this accident. Van Horn described the move as not too difficult. It was that moment between, when one feels the climbing is over. (Source: John L. Chew, Sequoia and King's Canyon Park.)

*EXPOSURE, FROSTBITE, BAD WEATHER, INEXPERIENCE, PANIC—California, Piute Pass.* Steve Sheppard (22) and Jeri Ann Grassmeuch (22) were trying to complete a trip from North Lake to South Lake on January 3 when bad weather caused them to turn back. They were camped at Piute Lake on their return, and during the night drifting snow pushed in the sides of the tent. They left the site and their gear and tried to make it to their car at North Lake. They left packs, sleeping bags, mittens, gaitors, down sweaters, matches, stove, and snow shoes. Sheppard died twenty-four hours later under extremely bad weather conditions which included two feet of snow and four foot drifts. A helicopter flight the next morning located the tracks of the two. (No information as to how rescue was completed.) (Source: Bob McCoy, Inyo County Sheriff's Posse.)

*Analysis:* Severe weather apparently panicked the inexperienced couple. (Source: J. Williamson.)

*CLIMBING ALONE, IMPROPER EQUIPMENT—California, Mt. Shasta.* Some time on the 15th of September, John Saulsberry (55) attempted a climb of Mt. Shasta from the ski bowl. On the evening of the 15th and 16th an early storm hit the area, dropping large amounts of snow down to the 7000- and 8000-foot levels.

When he was reported missing by his wife, after Saulsberry failed to return home on Saturday, Siskiyou County Sheriff Search and Rescue began to search. The Sheriff's Department first became aware of a missing person when a caretaker at the bowl notified a friend, who notified the Sheriff's Department. They sent a deputy to the ski bowl to check out the reported incident. The deputy followed a snow plow all the way into the ski bowl. There was some question as to what had happened since Saulsberry had not notified local authorities about his climb of the mountain. Because of continued extremely poor weather, a good search was not begun until the 20th. The Sheriff's Department used helicopter and foot searches but could find no trace of Saulsberry.

Other climbers had seen Saulsberry on the mountain and stated he wore a green down vest and a slicker. Saulsberry had written his wife stating that he was going to climb Mt. Hood in Oregon but realized he did not have the proper equipment so he returned to Mt. Shasta. Saulsberry stayed at a motel in the city of Mt. Shasta and told the manager he was going to "climb around

the mountain." His body had not been found as of January 14, 1978. (Source: Don Bryant, Punto Alto Mountaineering School.)

*Analysis:* Saulsberry did not adhere to four of the basic rules of mountaineering: (1) he failed to notify local authorities of his climb; (2) he climbed alone with little mountain experience; (3) he was dressed improperly and carried no mountain or climbing gear, which would include survival gear; and (4) though the weather had been clear, there were current weather reports which clearly indicated a fast approaching storm. (Source: Don Bryant, and Sgt. Jourden of Siskiyou County Search and Rescue.)

*FALL, CLIMBING UNROPED, FAILURE TO TEST HOLDS—Colorado, Quandry Mountain.* Donald Gordon (21), Michael Bearzi (24), and William Trull (22) were climbing on the north face of Quandry Mountain on May 29. They started from McCullough Gulch at 8:30 a.m. Bearzi and Gordon said that at 11 a.m. Trull grabbed a rock about two feet in diameter and that it came loose. Trull fell 30 feet and then slid 150 feet down a snow field. They were unroped at the time. Trull suffered a concussion, knee injury, and several lacerations. He was given first aid by his partners. He was evacuated by stretcher and helicopter to Breckenridge Medical Clinic. (Source: Paul Johnson, Summit County Rescue Group.)

*FALL, INEXPERIENCE—Colorado, Mt. Royal.* Mark Baines (16) was attempting a climb of Mt. Royal with a friend when he fell to his death. (Source: Paul Johnson, Summit County Rescue Group.)

*Analysis:* In this geographic area, as well as Mt. Evans, the writer has noticed a number of accidents involving young people attempting climbing or "scrambling" without the aid of equipment and without any technical climbing experience. This one is typical of that category and while not a climbing accident in the sense that the individuals involved were not climbers, it is reported in the hope that readers who have no climbing experience will note that situations which appear to be "simply" scrambling can quickly turn into disasters. (Source: J. Williamson.)

*AVALANCHE—Colorado, Mt. Ypsilon.* Two climbers were injured in an avalanche in the "Y" Couloir on July 4. No other details available, but reported here because of an avalanche in the same place at the same time in 1976. (Source: Alpine Rescue Team 1977 Summary and J. Williamson.)

*FALL ON ROCK, FAILURE TO FOLLOW ROUTE, FAILURE TO TEST HOLD, INADEQUATE PROTECTION—New York, Adirondacks,*