

picked up. Thomas was flown directly to Calgary and has recovered from the accident. (Source: T. Auger)

Analysis

As one of the climbers said, "Undeniably, a rope and a close watch on Steve, who was the least experienced, could have prevented the accident." Another said, "In our haste, neither of us can remember whether or not Steve was wearing a helmet, but it would not have helped his face." Thomas was fortunate that he did not hit the top of his head. (Source: T. Auger)

FAILURE OF SLING

Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Yamnuska

Thomas Peiffer (22) was being lowered from Yamnuska on a rope by his belayer, who was below him, on 1 August 1978. The climbing rope had been passed through a nylon sling attached to the supporting peg, and the friction melted the sling. Peiffer fell and slightly injured himself. (Source: T. Peiffer, D. deMontigny)

(Ed. Note: The climbers provided no analysis. This narrative is included to stress once again the hazards of using nylon over nylon where friction is involved.)

FALL ON ROCK, PITON AND NUT FAILURE

Alberta, Rocky Mountains, Yamnuska

Alan Fielding (34) was leading the second pitch of the Grillmair Chimney on Yamnuska at 1330 hours on 19 August 1978. He pulled off a loose block and fell. First a poorly placed angle and then a poorly placed chock pulled out. He fell 20 feet and was slightly injured. (Source: Lynn Michaud)

Analysis

Placing chocks and pegs should be thoroughly practiced and tested in safe situations before using them for real protection. (Source: Lynn Michaud)

HEAT EXHAUSTION

British Columbia, Coast Range, White Mountain

A group of young men and women were taking a four-day Introductory Mountain Walk Course of the Canadian Outward Bound School, Kermos, British Columbia. They left the school at 1030 hours on 3 June 1978 bound for a campsite 3000 feet above and four miles from the school. The temperature was 34°C. Scott Atkinson was going slowly and he was relieved of most of his load after lunch. At 1730 hours he collapsed and was treated for heat exhaustion. His condition deteriorated and he was carried down the hill on a rope stretcher. At 1935 hours he stopped breathing. A helicopter retrieved him at 2115 hours and he