

reported that the weather had deteriorated since the previous day. Knowing that Magnuson's only chance for survival lay in getting below treeline, Mohling and the group concentrated their search from treeline down. They found nothing.

Rocky Mountain National Park rangers received the report from Dortignac and party at 1:22 p.m. on March 9. At that time, extreme winds were buffeting the eastern slopes of the Rockies, precluding the use of helicopters anywhere near the Continental Divide, on which Boulder-Grand Pass and Mt. Alice lie. Wind chill factors were known to be -50°F and below on the Divide. Ranger personnel, along with members of the Colorado Search and Rescue Board, skied to Thunder Lake, which lies just east of Boulder-Grand Pass, that night in anticipation of a search beginning the next morning.

On March 10, Rangers Bob Seibert and Tom Watters climbed Boulder-Grand Pass from the Thunder Lake or east side. There they were met by Ranger Bob Haines, Tuckey and Cheney, who had been airlifted to the pass from Grand Lake when the wind subsided somewhat. The five searchers then began a sweep from the pass toward the summit of Mt. Alice. Knowing that Magnuson had a Pieps avalanche beacon on her person, in the transmit mode, the searchers all carried beacons in the receive mode. At 2:15 p.m., Magnuson's boyfriend, Tuckey, heard her beacon and discovered her body. She was about 400 yards from the summit. Her body was airlifted from the mountain. (Source: Larry Van Slyke, Rocky Mountain National Park)

Analysis

All members of the group involved were experienced in winter mountaineering. All were well equipped for foul weather. Tuckey was surprised, upon returning to the snow caves on March 8, to find Magnuson's down parka in the cave. For some reason she failed to take the parka, which left her with just a down vest in her pack for extra clothing. When she was found, she had the vest on, unzipped, over her mountain parka, which afforded little protection. Mohling stated that because the group members were so experienced, it led one not to think about something being amiss until it was too late.

Magnuson died of hypothermia, about seven hours after last being seen. Whether she was first hypothermic, then became separated from the group or vice versa, it seems to be a classic case of how insidious and speedy hypothermia can be, even with experienced mountaineers. (Source: Larry Van Slyke, Rocky Mountain National Park)

FALL ON ROCK, EXCEEDING ABILITIES, FAILURE TO FOLLOW ROUTE, PARTY SEPARATED, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT

Colorado, Longs Peak

Gary Quinn, an employee of the Tahoma Boy Scout Camp, was the designated "guide" of a group of scouts who were involved in a climb of Longs Peak via the Keyhole route. At the Keyhole, about 13,600 feet, four members decided not to continue to the summit (about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the Keyhole). At the bottom of Homestretch, two other scouts decided not to continue after seeing the difficulty that Robert Silver (16) was having on Homestretch just below the summit of Longs Peak. Due to the amount of snow on the normal route, Silver moved to the north of the normal route to get on dry rock. The rock that he moved onto, however, was at a much higher angle than the snow. After moving a short distance on the rock, Silver told Greene, who was at his level but horizontal to his position, that he (Silver) was stuck and could not continue. Quinn, who had made the summit with four scouts, was

looking down on the situation and giving Silver instructions as to where to place his hands and feet. Silver was able to move a bit but got stuck again. Quinn then started to descend to assist Silver. Greene stated that Silver just got "antsy" and began to move before Quinn arrived. Silver slipped from the rock and fell about 300 feet. Jim Bast, one of the scouts who stopped at the base of Homestretch, was the first to reach Silver. He tried to find a pulse on Silver but found none. Quinn immediately descended to Silver's location and also felt for a pulse but found none.

Quinn, Bast, and Greene stayed with the body while the rest of the group descended to the Longs Peak Ranger Station to report the accident. The body was airlifted from the scene. (Source: Larry Van Slyke, Rocky Mountain National Park)

Analysis

The Keyhole route is the normal summer hiking route to the summit of Longs Peak. When the route is dry, it is literally a walk-up. When snow and/or ice is still on the route, it can be something that will make an experienced, equipped mountaineer "stay on his toes." After a winter of very heavy snowfall, the Keyhole route still had sufficient snow on it so that it was considered a technical climb by Ranger personnel. Numerous warnings as to the hazards of the route were posted at the Longs Peak Ranger Station where the scouts began their hike to the summit. Had they read and then given credence to the posted information concerning conditions on the peak, they surely would not have continued their trip.

People seem to have difficulty comprehending that conditions at 14,000 feet in June can be and often are much, much different than at lower elevations, including those found at the Longs Peak Ranger Station at 9,500 feet. Many people take a chance on those conditions and survive. Some people do not. (Source: Larry Van Slyke, Rocky Mountain National Park)

(Ed. Note: For the past several years, these non-mountaineering accidents have been included for illustrative purposes.)

FALL ON ROCK, RUNNING ALONE

Colorado, Continental Divide

On August 4, 1980, John Link (43) and seasonal Park Rangers Chris Reveley and Robert Guthrie ran from the Wild Basin Ranger Station to Thunder Lake, 11 miles. (All three individuals were training for the upcoming Pikes Peak Marathon.) At Thunder Lake, Reveley and Guthrie returned to the Ranger Station, as they had to go to work. Link was going to continue from Thunder Lake, west to the Continental Divide via Boulder-Grand Pass, then south along the Divide to Isolation Peak before returning to the Wild Basin Ranger Station.

On August 5, just as rangers were completing an 1,800-foot scree evacuation of a seriously injured hiker from Mt. Meeker, notification was made by Steve Pomerance (area climber and friend of Link) that Link had not returned from his run the previous day. A check was made of the parking area at the Wild Basin Ranger Station where Link's car was found. A helicopter was dispatched and picked up Reveley and Ranger Bob Seibert from the Mt. Meeker rescue. They then flew over Link's intended route. At 3:15 p.m., Seibert reported that Link has been sighted about 400 feet below the north end of the rock formation known as the Cleaver. At 5:50 p.m., Rangers Seibert and Jim Bredar reached Link after being dropped off by helicopter some distance away and climbing up to him. They confirmed a fatality. Link's body was airlifted from the scene. (Source: Larry Van Slyke, Rocky Mountain National Park)