

**FALL ON ROCK, NO HARD HAT****Colorado, Flatirons**

On May 19, 1986, a male climber fell while doing a roped ascent of the second Flatiron in Boulder. He suffered a head injury, which caused him to be argumentative, profane, and combative during his evacuation by the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group in a litter in a vertical evacuation mode. (Source: Tom Mullen, Rocky Mountain Rescue Group)

*(Editor's Note: Our medical sources tell us that the head injury per se is not likely to have been the primary cause of the victim's behavior. Our best speculation suggests that pride may have been a factor as well....)*

**FALL ON ROCK, NUT PULLED OUT****Colorado, Boulder Canyon**

On June 1, 1986, at the end of five days' climbing in the Boulder area, Michael Stone (22) decided to try a lead harder than he had previously done, choosing Finger Crack (5.9+) on Elephant Butte. Michael climbed up approximately six meters and established a second belay spot to allow Ian Wedmore (21) to watch him on the crux moves. Michael put in a #5 "Wedgefast" just off the belay, and a #5 "Rp" three meters above that. Mike began the crux moves and was about two meters above the "Rp" when he fell 12 meters, pulling both the Rp and Wedgefast, and fracturing his arm. (Source: Ian Wedmore, Skidmore College Outing Club)

**Analysis**

When using small wired nuts, especially on a climb at the edge of one's leading ability, place them often, especially when using Rps. Michael's two meter run out was not enough to easily sheer out the Rp without breaking it.

A first aid note: strapping Mike's arm and hand to his chest with a number of sewn slings and carabiners adequately established the fracture site for the walk down. Never overlook one's gear when improvising splints. (Source: Ian Wedmore, Skidmore College Outing Club)

**FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING UNROPED****Colorado, Longs Peak**

On June 16, 1986, at 1630, Ranger Jim Detterline at the Longs Peak Ranger Station received a report of a climbing accident which had occurred earlier in the day on Longs Peak. According to Joe Hollowell, his party of seven male climbers from Indianapolis, Indiana, was attempting to climb the Keyhole Route. Conditions on the route were mixed ice, snow, and bare rock, and the Park Service signing at the Longs Peak trailhead advised that the route was technical in nature. At 1130, Scott Fangman (30) slipped on iced, loose rock near the base of the Trough, and fell about 150 meters before coming to a stop. Fangman was using his ice ax, but was not using crampons and was not roped up.

Hollowell, who identified himself as a "multi-media first aider," surveyed Fangman for injuries and wrapped Fangman's injured ankle. The group abandoned their ascent and walked Fangman to the trailhead. Fangman declined to have his injuries examined

by Ranger Detterline. Detterline advised him to visit the Estes Park Medical Center.

Estes Park Medical Center reported that he had sustained a tibial fracture posteriorly on the medial malleolus. (Source: Jim Detterline, Ranger, Rocky Mountain National Park)

## **FALLING ROCK, POOR POSITION**

### **Colorado, Eldorado Springs**

On June 21, 1986, a Japanese climber was hit by a rock while sitting at the base of a climb on the Redgarden Wall in Eldorado Springs State Park. No other climbers were visible above him when this occurred. He had an open fracture of his tibia and fibula on one leg, and was evacuated by members of the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group. (Source: Tom Mullen, Rocky Mountain Rescue Group)

## **FALL ON SNOW, UNABLE TO SELF-ARREST, LOST ICE AX**

### **Colorado, Maroon Bells**

On July 26, 1986, Greg Mace (42) and three other Mountain Rescue-Aspen members departed on a scheduled training exercise to scout alternative evacuation routes and to locate helicopter landing zones, and generally to get acquainted with the Maroon Bells. They followed the standard route to the summit of North Maroon Bell, then over to the summit of South Maroon Bell. At the top of the long south couloir they sorted the gear and put on crampons. Greg, with the strap of his ice ax on his wrist, stepped out onto the snow to test it. Somehow he lost his footing and fell, either on his side or on his back. He rolled over to self-arrest, although he may not have been able to get his hand on top of the ice ax. While trying to arrest, Greg lost his ice ax and his wrist somehow came out of the strap.

Greg then slid approximately 225 meters down the snow and ice to a point where the couloir takes a turn, and went feet first into the rocks. His companions reached him quickly, but there was little they could do. One of them went for help, glissading the entire remaining length of the couloir and running out to the trailhead. The response from MRA was smooth, and a helicopter took off from Montrose almost immediately, but Greg succumbed to his injuries before outside help could arrive. He had dislocated his left shoulder, broken virtually all the ribs on his left side and punctured his left lung. (Source: *Colorado Search and Rescue Board*, Volume 20, Number 2, July 30, 1986)

*(Editor's Note: The victim was President of the Rocky Mountain Region of the MRA at the time of his death, and had been with the Mountain Rescue-Aspen for 15 years.)*

## **FALL ON ROCK, PARTY SEPARATED, CLIMBING ALONE**

### **Colorado, Sangre de Cristo Range**

On July 28, 1986, a Colorado Mountain Club party of 12 approached the east side of Ellingwood Peak (4307 meters) in the Sangre de Cristo Range in southern Colorado. The leader and party were strong hikers, but not experienced climbers and none of the 12 had seen or done the route before. The east face is a continuous wall that rises from 3680 meters up to the narrow summit ridge. The wall is broken in one area by a steep