

was alone. The actual cause of his fall is unknown. Two of the four accidents reported from this park in 1988 were fatalities.)

FALLING ROCK, NO HARD HAT

Colorado, Eldorado Canyon State Park

On October 8, 1988, Bob Drumheller (31) and his partner were at the top of "Touch-N-Go" preparing to rappel when rock fall came down. Drumheller sustained a laceration requiring four stitches. (Source: Eldorado Canyon State Park)

Analysis

This area receives heavy climbing use, and for that reason helmets are advised. Or maybe not climbing in heavy use area. (Source: Eldorado Canyon State Park)

(Editor's Note: Of the 12 accidents reported from Eldorado Canyon State Park, three were due to inadequate protection and two were caused by spontaneous shoulder dislocation. There was one fatality—a solo climber, who had no equipment other than climbing shoes and a chalk bag.

Our thanks to the rangers for forwarding the information to us.

The other climbing/hiking accident of note in Colorado was the fatal fall of well-known physicist Dr. Heinz Pagels (49) from Pyramid Peak in July. We have no more than newspaper reports on this.)

RAPPEL FAILURE and FALL FROM BUILDING, JILTED

Illinois, Chicago

Dale Moll (33) fell 16 stories while attempting to use television cables on the roof of a highrise to rappel down to the window of his girlfriend's fifteenth floor apartment. Less than a half hour later, Robert Harris (25) fell from an eighth story ledge of a public housing complex while trying to get into his apartment after his girlfriend locked him out.

Both men died in these endeavors. (Source: From an Associated Press report.)

Analysis

Moll stopped at a sixteenth floor apartment, but swung away when a woman inside screamed. Then the cable snapped. We don't know the kind of line Moll was attached to, so we can't comment on what the strength of antennae wire versus cable wire, etc., might be like. We should mention two things. One, this is not in the data; two, a Patrolman from the Chicago Police Department said, "I don't think any girl is worth it to climb that high."

FALL ON ROCK

Iowa, Maquoketa Caves State Park

In late August 1988, Val Svetich (24) fell while rock climbing at Maquoketa Caves State Park and reportedly lost her leg. She was climbing with a friend near a cave called Fatman's Misery according to a park ranger. (Source: A brief clipping sent in by Glen Gierke, Jr.)

(Editor's Note: We know that there is a lot of climbing activity in the mid-West, and finding sources for accidents continues. All contributions welcomed!)

FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING UNROPED, PANIC, INEXPERIENCE

Mississippi, Tishomingo State Park

On March 26, 1988, around 1600, Robert L. Breland (c. 20) sprained his left ankle as the result of a ten meter unroped fall on rock at Tishomingo State Park, Mississippi. Breland was scrambling unroped on the upper section of a technical rock climb of moderate difficulty ("Muscle City Direct" 5.7). He said he panicked on the final section of the route while stepping off the ledge into a corner pockmarked with solution pockets. His discomfort was caused by looking down and realizing the consequences of a ten meter fall. Breland began screaming as he attempted the move, and then fell to the ground. His two partners helped to break Breland's fall by attempting to spot him. Breland landed primarily on his left ankle and slid about eight meters down the slope below the base of the climb. Members of the Memphis Mountaineers, Inc., responded and carried Breland out via litter to the trailhead. He was transported by private car to the hospital. (Source: Jim Detterline—AAC member)

Analysis

Breland told me that he had been "scrambling" for several years without incident. He said that he was aware of the existence of technical climbing techniques and knew of a competent instructor in his home area (Jackson, MS) but he had not availed himself of any training or practice. Tishomingo State Park is one of a handful of sites in the mid-South where accidents by non-climbers in a climbing situation may adversely influence climbing policies by legislators and landowners. It is important that these limited resources remain available to climbers. Public awareness of climbing's safe aspects will help. (Source: Jim Detterline—AAC member)

AVALANCHE, WEATHER

New Hampshire, Willy Slide

On February 10, 1988, a fresh snowfall of 30 centimeters was followed by 90 kph winds and -35 degree C temperatures the next day. Paul Nicinski (26) and I (29) soloed the first hundred meters. When we started to rope up, the wind was too strong so we decided to descend. We did not rope up. We downclimbed to the left toward the trees. The snow there felt good and we decided to go up. Paul was about ten meters above me and to the left. Paul heard a muffled sound and an avalanche started. He was trying not to hit me. I was not looking up. The snow grabbed me and my crampon snagged—so I was going down head first. I hit a small rock band with my chest, flipped over again, then ended up in the trees sitting up. Paul had an enjoyable ride down. I had a terrible headache and spit up a little blood. I was short of breath. We walked out. I believe I cracked my sternum. Never went to hospital. We estimated that we fell between 125-150 meters. (Source: Michael Binder)

Analysis

We should not have climbed at all in this weather. It was definite avalanche condi-