



LUG SOLE 'N'

LITTER

Voice of the Alpine Rescue Team

Page 1, Volume III, Issue 2, April 1972, Alpine Rescue Team News

THE CIRCUS IS COMING by Hal Dunn

Set aside May 24th or 25th on your calender because we're going to have a circus. The Team will sponsor a traveling circus on those dates for two evening performances at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds in Littleton. We're doing it primarily as a fund raising event toward a Team vehicle, but if it is successful we will probably plan on it every year. Ticket sales will be carried on throughout the entire Denver area by the circus company and will receive a percentage of the sales which exceed expenses.

We will receive 90% of the gross ticket sales that we make in the Evergreen area. We will have exclusive sales here, and it will be here that we'll raise the most money. We're hopeful of real success in this, and we will expect the entire Team to get behind this project.

The circus is called the Clown Variety Circus. The acts are varied, and the Company and the show are highly recommended by other organizations that have sponsored the circus.

Performances will be in the evenings on Wednesday, May 24th, and Thursday, May 25th. The performances will be about two hours long. Adult tickets will be \$3.50, children's (16 and under) will be \$1.00, and a Family Ticket, admitting two adults and three children, or any combination, will sell for \$7.00.

The Arapahoe County Fairgrounds are located on Belleview Ave. between Santa Fe Drive and South Broadway.

Plan to attend, and talk it up among your friends and families.

LUG SOLE 'N' LITTER

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INTRODUCTION TO MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE

by Bill May

Rocky Mountain Rescue Group
from his book Mountain Search
and Rescue Techniques

The need for trained and skilled mountain rescuers has grown through the years, sometimes by leaps and bounds. Individuals considering taking up volunteer mountain rescue must recognize the need for great dedication and a somewhat masochistic, patient and a bit crazy personality. They should be prepared for sleepless nights, sizable loss of otherwise free time, hard tiring work, sometimes a large personal expense and often not even a thank-you from the rescued upon completion of a difficult mission. There is seldom any glory in mountain rescue, and publicity seekers should look elsewhere for their kicks. The author of this book, still in mountain rescue after several years of activity, has no tangible reasons or explanations why anyone would seem to enjoy the work.

The new Executive Board, provided for in the revised By-Laws which were adopted at the January 11 business meeting, is now officially appointed and in operation. The new Board consists of eight elected officers, which were elected at the January business meeting, and ten appointed officers. In addition to the regular appointed officers, an assistant and an alternate were also appointed. At the February 10 Executive Board Meeting the elected officers appointed the remainder of the Board.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Hal Dunn
Sec'y-Treas. Ted Lams
Past Presidents: Kirt Salisbury
Morris Thorson
Q. Rescue Rep. Dave Moore
Rescue Rep. Bob Watson
Support Rep. Jaimie Lee

Appointed Officers:

Training Dir. Harry Ledyard
Equipment Dir. Chuck Burdick
Communications Dir. Walt Hane
Assist. Gene Day
Medical Dir. Charles King, MD
Alternate Mike O'Leary, MD
Team Representatives:
Rich Weber
Craig Renkert
Jim Powell
Community Representatives:
Sheila Boone
Byron Angevine
Fred Buck

Also, Lindon Wood was named as Public Relations Chairman and Dave Moore was named as Fund Raising Chairman

•• NEWSY NEWS ••

ANYBODY FOR AN OLD NEWSLETTER?

The February newsletter, the first in our current series, was printed in a little larger quantity than is necessary for our present mailing list. This was done so that we would be able to share the Team's experiences with more people, especially those friends in the Evergreen area. We do have a few copies left, if there is somebody you would like to send a copy to please get in touch with Hal Dunn. We would encourage you to distribute as many of these as possible.

Ed.

A SERIES OF HOLDUPS KEEPS TEAM FROM GOING BEHIND BARS

by Dave Moore

Since the last newsletter some problems have come up postponing the training sessions at the Federal Correctional Institution on West Hampden and South Kipling.

It is hoped that the details can be worked out and the program can start by the 1st of May.

A.R.T. Expenses Deductible

by Hal Dunn

Members and parents of members are reminded to keep complete records of all expenditures involved with the Team. These expenses are deductible on itemized Federal Income Tax returns. Included are all expenses such as: Workmen's Comp. Insurance, donations or fund raising participation, Mountaineering equipment used in Team activities, and car expenses for Team missions and training.

ART DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROGRAMS

by Dave Moore

About nine programs to various organizations have been given since the first of the year. The number of people contacted in this way will vary from 500 to 800. Thanks to all the Team members that have helped in these endeavors.

In mid-April a church group from Denver is coming to the mountains for a cookout and an ART demonstration. Members will be contacted in the near future to help.

FORMER MEMBER WELCOMED BACK

Larry Carucci has recently completed his studies at CSU and hopes to stay in the Evergreen area so that he can resume his activities with the Team.

Larry became active with the Team back in 1966. He was very active in the struggling days of the Team. He played a prominent part in the magazine story "Mission: High Country Rescue," in Spectrum, a publication of Mountain States Telephone, Summer 1968 issue. A mission he will long remember is the Mt. Sherman Air Crash in the late 60's. Welcome back, Larry.

Ed.

REMEMBER ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! !

ART father-son banquet will be at Beaverbrook Restaurant Thursday, 27 April. Cost will be \$5.00 per person.



IN ART SPOTLIGHT
RESCUE MEMBERS

Hal
Dunn



Dan
Moore

Hal, age 41, joined the Team in the Spring of 1970, along with his two sons, Mike and Kevin. With three joining at one time it put quite a strain on the budget, but Hal's great sewing ability and a little ingenuity all three were constantly coming up with new equipment.

After support training Hal continued to be very active in training and Team affairs. Soon he was invited to take part in the Executive Board meetings. Hal's maturity and vast experience proved very valuable. In 1971 Kirt Salisbury appointed Hal as executive vice-president. This gave him the job of carrying out special projects that the president thought were very important but didn't have time for himself. Hal did a fine job. In January of 1972 Hal was elected president.

Working with Hal since he joined the Team, I have noticed one very strong and important quality which makes him an outstanding leader. When the Team is faced with a Team shaking problem Hal becomes very objective. He gathers the facts and examines each one carefully, in light of how it will affect ART and the cause of mountain rescue. He tries to then express his opinions in a clear and simple fashion. His hopes are that other members of the Team will use the same priorities, and then make a wise judgment. After the vote, he's dead set on making the decision work. A dedication of this type puts a lot of responsibility on each members shoulders.

Ed.

Dan, age 15, joined the Team in the Spring of 1970. He is a sophomore at E.H.S., and has a Rescue rating of 4, 3, 2, and 1. At the beginning of this year he was added to the Mission Leader Roster, a position given to those of his age having considerable leadership potential.

I knew he had lots of ability, but I had my doubts that he would ever remain in the Team long. I wondered if he could take the vigorous training program, and whether he had enough strength and endurance to perform the tasks required by the Team.

Dan caught on to things very rapidly, he took good notes and always had the answers. At Foxton he performed well, and helped on the simulated mission.

I was surprised and impressed on how well he did on the rock. Dan has the style and confidence that it takes to be a good leader. Since he was a good student in the support training program he has a great reservoir of knowledge which is so important for an effective leader.

Dan's first mission was the Martin 404 crash at Loveland Pass. He has participated in many missions, and indicated that the search for the lost ski tourers in Rocky Mountain National Park was one of the toughest he has been on.

Support members interested in becoming leaders could take a good lesson from Dan.

Ed.

COMMENTS FROM BILL MAY
Rocky Mountain Rescue Group
April 4, 1972

Bill was asked to comment on missions RMRG has had so far in 1972 and what he foresees the rest of the year.

"Terrifying! We're running way ahead of schedule for what we had last year, and the year before. We're on about mission 33 that occurred in June two years ago and in May last year. I don't know what summer is going to bring, but I expect it's going to be plenty active." Bill indicated that they have had all types of missions. Bill said that they have had a large number which have involved fatalities, more than usual.

When Bill was asked if the mild winter might have had an influence he commented that he felt that it was just an increasing influx of people in the mountains.

Bill was also asked to comment on problems that the MRA units in Colorado may have to face in the coming year. He indicated that since we are being called into many different counties in the State on a more regular basis that we were going to find it necessary to be able to work with the many different sheriffs. We sometimes find it easy to work with our local officials and learn the way they like to do things. We are going to find it necessary to be able to work closely with these officials in distant counties.

In closing, Bill mentioned that he felt that the interactions between ART and RMRG were outstanding. "I feel very happy that I can call on you like I did a week ago when we were strapped for people, and to have confidence that you are able to come up with very capable people."

Ed.

TEAMS DISCUSS NEW EQUIPMENT
IDEAS

Members of the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group and ART gathered in Boulder for RMRG's yearly meeting to discuss new equipment ideas.

Various items were discussed by each team. Bill May (RMRG) discussed their bash kit. He indicated that having the pack on the upper portion of a frame for hardware and ropes secured on the lower portion worked well, allowing you to use either without taking off the other.

A long discussion was carried on by Bill regarding thoughts they have given to the modification of the stokes litter, and the possibility of building an entirely new litter which could be used on the rock and in the snow.

Changes in the stokes might be removing the center division in the foot end. In fact, they are considering the use of 2 upper halves. This would give a wider litter and eliminate the idea of a head or foot.

A new litter would have a solid bottom, half sides, and a rail on top for carrying. Some problems would be weight, strength, and durability.

Churk Burdick (ART) discussed the first aid chest pack to be used on rock rescues and missions where only the essentials can be taken.

The plastic skid plate for the stokes litter was discussed as an emergency technique for converting the stokes to an over snow vehicle. This is not suggested as a substitute for an akja, rather a makeshift technique for unusual circumstances.

Chuck also demonstrated the jungle litter. This is like a reinforced blanket with carrying loops around the outer edge. It will be used to move a victim into a litter or other transporting vehicle

NEW EQUIPMENT (continued)

with a minimum of hassle to the victim.

The purple monster is a rigging used to pick up a victim in a very difficult situation after a rock accident. It is made of many strands of webbing. If you can imagine an octopus reaching down with its tentacles, grasping the victim in the exact position he has fallen and lifting him out very gently, you have the idea of how the purple monster works. The operation of this equipment will take many hours of field practice, and certainly will not be used by all.

Members of ART attending were: Chuck Burdick, Jim Johnson, Hal Dunn, Harry Ledyard, Jim Powell, John Baroch, Gerald Rhoades, and Lindon Wood.

Ed.



Mike Dunn at Longs Peak Ranger Station
Mission 7203 Stone and Jardine

Famous quote from high on Longs Peak,

"Who the devil's blasting up here?"

J. B.

HAVE A CHUCKLE

We have a lot of funny people in the Team. They are continually coming up with funny statements. Here's a chance to get that wise comment in print. Take a good hard look at this drawing. What do you think would make a good caption? Give your suggestions to Hal or to ye old editor. We will print the cream of the crop.



TRAINING

EMERGENCY MEDICINE FOR MOUNTAINEERS by Hal Dunn

Several Team members are attending a series of lecture-seminars on the treatment of medical emergencies likely to be encountered by mountain search and rescue personnel. The participants include members of ART and the RMRG of Boulder. The series consists of six Saturday sessions at Colorado General Hospital. The series was initiated by Gene McCullough of RMRG, who has arranged lectures by eight doctors. ART participants are: Dave Moore, Harry Ledyard, Chuck King, John Baroch, Bob Watson, Frank Kucler and Hal Dunn.

AVALANCHE COURSE by Frank Kucler

In January three of our members took a course in snow avalanches: Hal Dunn, Chuck Burdick, and Frank Kucler.

The course was put on by the National Ski Patrol, as training for their avalanche patch. The objective of the course was to train us to recognize avalanche hazards to the extent that we can determine high and low hazard conditions, and to become leaders in rescue operations.

The course consisted of five Thursday night sessions and three all day field trips to Loveland Basin ski area, the Urad Mine and the Berthoud Pass ski area.

Harry Ledyard assisted in the field instruction part of the course.

(Ed. note: This article was scheduled for the last newsletter but I ran out of space.)

F A L L I N G-----! by Harry Ledyard

(Ed. note: Would you believe that I lost Harry's article 30 seconds after it was given to me? I didn't have the nerve to ask him to re-write it, so here is what I think he said.)

For many years the Team has been going to set up a belay tower, and there has always been 100 reasons that it didn't get done. Finally Harry L. came along and now we have one.

For those of you that don't understand, here it is in layman talk. Whenever a person is climbing in a situation where he might fall (snow or rock), he protects himself by attaching a rope to himself - the other end being held by a fellow climber. We call this "being Belayed", and the person holding the rope the "belayer".

With the system we use, a 100 lb. boy can protect a 180 lb. man, at least for a short time. The belayer usually has his end of the rope around his waist to produce friction, thus holding the climber. You can imagine the sensation on a 100 lb. boy's waist when a 180 lb. man falls.

In order to give members a chance to experience this feeling and see how well they can hold a falling climber, we use a dead weight falling a given distance, depending upon how brave the belayer is. When the dead weight falls one foot, the feeling is not bad. When it falls 10 to 15 feet -- watch out.

Take a look at the drawing. The belayer is on the left. He is anchored to the rock by a piton. The rope around his waist goes up the rock and

FALLING (continued)

through another piton, and then to the weight, which represents a climber. On the right hand ledge is the person controlling the training exercise. The heavy rope is the haul line. It is connected to the weight by an auto seat belt buckle. Attached to the buckle is a trip line. When the weight has been raised to a position that would represent a climber, the trip line is pulled, the weight released and the belayer gets a good feel for a falling climber. In a real situation the man who does the hauling and tripping is out of sight of the belayer, so that the fall is a surprise to him. The amount of slack in the rope from the belayer is an important factor. The more slack, the greater the force the belayer must absorb.

Most of the people that go through this training will admit that it is hard on one's body, but it is good to know your limitations and those of a person that might some day be your belayer on a difficult climb.

WINTER SURVIVAL SCHOOL by Dr. Chuck King

Three members of the Team recently participated in a winter survival school in Rocky Mountain National Park. The school was conducted jointly by the National Park Service and the Colorado Division of Game, Fish, and Parks. Team members attending were: Dave Moore, Chuck Burdick and Chuck King.

The meeting stressed living and moving in the winter environment, as well as winter shelter, first aid, sanitation and aircraft signaling. Two days of class room work were followed by two days in the field, in which participants built winter shelters and made a ski-and-snowshoe trek. ART's Dr. Chuck



WINTER SURVIVAL (continued)

King delivered the talks on the psychology of survival, winter first aid, field sanitation, hypothermia and frost bite.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION FOR A
PERSON TO BE IN THE ART SPOTLIGHT?
give the name to the editor

A.R.T. MISSIONS

ART Mission 7204 February 20
Mission Leader Harry Ledyard

At 1645 on Feb. 20, the Team received a call on radio 652 from Evergreen Base (656) that Allen Burrows, age 16, was stranded in Red Rocks Park. Mission Leader Harry Ledyard was not immediately available so in his absence Dave Plume and Randy Bangert began to organize the mission and notified Al Petrick. At 1650 Evergreen base contacted Harry. At 1710 radio 652 received a call from Harry that he was proceeding to the South entrance of Red Rocks with the Team trailer. The Team left the shack at 1725 for the South entrance of Red Rocks. At 1800 the Team arrived at the scene. Mountain Parks officer Harris pointed out the victims position. By 1825 rappel lines were set up and rescue members Bangert and Petrick arrived at the victims side by 1830. Dr. Chuck King arrived at Base at 1835 and was advised the victim suffered only cuts and abrasions. Litter bearers Smith and Pritekel had the victim off the rock and down at base by 1935.

Team members participating were: Harry Ledyard (mission leader), Randy Bangert, Gary Hessling, Dave Plume, Al Petrick, John Baroch, Doug and Dwight Smith, Dave Pritekel, and Dr. Chuck King.

Denver Mountain Parks officers Ed Gruniger and LeRoy Harris assisted in the mission.

Mission 7205 continued

Team members participating: Hal Dunn (M. Ldr.), Bob Watson, Craig Renkert, Randy Bangert, Gary Hessling, Dan Moore, Doug and Dwight Smith and Dave Plume.

ART Mission 7205 February 27
Mission Leader Hal Dunn

At midnight a call came from the Colorado Search and Rescue Board to supply leadership personnel to aid in the search for a lost 7 year old Littleton boy in Great Sand Dunes National Monument.

Nine members were mobilized. Seven headed toward the Park about 0230 a.m. via highway 285 and South Park. Due to strong ground blizzards in South Park, the State Patrol would not allow the group to proceed. They sat in their cars for a considerable time, and returned to Evergreen in the early morning hours. Bob Watson and Craig Renkert took Interstate 25 down and cut over to the Park. They arrived at the scene about the same time the boy was sighted from the air.

About 7 a.m. Sunday the boy was spotted from the air. Ground parties and a MAST helicopter soon arrived on the scene. The boy was taken to an Alamosa hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Bob said that the boy was clad in only a sweatshirt and jeans. Temperatures in the area dropped to about 20° during the night. Hypothermia was probably the cause of death. It has been surmised that the boy probably exhausted himself trying to find his way back to camp, and this coupled with the temperature, caused his death. It doesn't seem likely that temperature alone was sufficient to have caused his death.

Missions of this kind bring out the importance of more work on our part in the area of education of the general public. (cont. preceeding column)

(Missions cont.)

ART Mission 7207 March 14
Mission Leader Al Petrick

Four members of the Team traveled to Royal Gorge, near Canyon City to aid in the search for a Colorado man.

The car of the victim was found near the canyon, and bloodhounds had indicated that the victim had gone to the edge. Park officials had searched the areas accessible to them and found no trace of the man. Rocky Mountain Rescue Group was asked to bring their cable equipment into the area so that an inaccessible ledge and crevice area could be searched. Members of the Team went along mainly to get some experience in the use of cable gear.

When the group arrived it was found that the areas could be reached by rope. The cable gear was never used. ART members then aided in a re-search of some high probability areas, while RMRG searched some of the canyon wall and along the river. The victim was not found and the search was discontinued.

Team members participating were: Al Petrick (M. Ldr.), John Baroch, Jim Powell, and Bob Watson.

ART Mission 7206 March 2
Mission Leader Chuck Burdick

Silverton - Lost Climber - Standby only

ART Mission 7208 March 27
Mission Leader Hal Dunn

Seven Team members were called to carry out an injured climber on Longs Peak. March 26 Hal Dunn received a call from Bill May of RMRG for assistance in a carry out.

The facts were as follows: A young

(7208 cont.)

man just below Lamb's Slide with a broken fibula. He and a friend were climbing Longs and were forced down by bad weather. While glissading down Lamb's Slide the victim caught his crampons and broke his leg. The other member of the party set up a tent at the base of Lamb's Slide and made the injured party comfortable, then came down for help.

Seven members of the Team arrived at the Longs Peak Ranger Station about 0625 hrs. The weather was expected to be bad, so it looked like a long hard carry out. The trip up started about 0645, arriving at the scene at 1100 hrs. The victim was in good shape with no real pain. An air splint was applied to the fibula of the left leg.

The weather was stormy on the way up, but as soon as they arrived at the victim, the storm broke, and a waiting helicopter was dispatched to within 40 feet of the victim's tent. This was the first time that a helicopter had landed at this site. Shortly after the helicopter left, another storm came in. Hal commented that somebody did some very excellent planning to make the proper connections.

On the way down an hour or so was spent searching in the area N. E. of Peacock Pool for Fred Stone. On the way up some members of the party thought they could detect putrid odors rising from the area where Stone was thought to be.

Team members participating: Hal Dunn (M. Ldr.), Chuck Burdick, Al Petrick, Bob Watson, Harry Ledyard, John Baroch and Jim Powell.

ART Mission 7209 March 30
Mission Leader Chuck King
San Isabel Forest Two overdue campers.
Standby only

EDUCATION: A Team Obligation

Many people, when they hear the name Alpine Rescue Team, think of men hanging from ropes performing some valiant rescue on the side of a 400 foot rock face. Those of us in the business, so to speak, know that this is far from reality. In fact, most of our rescue work deals with searching for lost persons.

Another facet of the rescue game has to be education. We must prepare people to be able to cope with the mountains that they are so easily lured to.

As we were watching the search for Joan Jardine, and Fred Stone in Rocky Mountain National Park and the story that was unfurling, it was apparent that something had to be done.

Presently we are reaching a lot of people through our lecture program. Dave Moore and numerous other individuals spend many hours and evenings talking to groups, but this reaches only a handful of the people that are likely to go into the mountains.

The mass media is the only way to go, if we are to reach a large portion of the populace. After discussing the problem and some avenues of attack with Team members, a format was developed for a series of articles dealing with survival in the mountains. I talked with Owen Ball, Editor of the Canyon Courier, and he agreed to run a series for us. Our column is titled "A.R.T. in Action." The topics to be covered were: Being Prepared is Staying Alive; Hypothermia: Death by Exposure; 10 Essentials: Key to Survival; Clothing: For Comfort and Safety; and Books for Mountaineering.

Considerable interest in the articles has developed in Evergreen. We have made a lot of people aware of the problems, and given them some suggestions for solving and preparing for these problems that they might face in the mountains.

(Education Cont.)

Where do we go from here? Well, a lot depends on us and the media. We would like to keep some form of educational material in front of the Evergreen community every week. The Courier is not interested in just filler material. They want material that is interesting as well as informative. One idea is a series on use of the map and compass. Sort of a programmed learning approach. We need authors with ideas. Your age is not important. What is important is that you have something important to say, and can get it down on paper. There are members that will be glad to help you with the English, form and style if you have the desire to do the writing.

If the Team is going to meet its obligations, every member must consider education an important obligation to the Team effort.

Ed.



Mission 7203

Longs Peak

Stone and Jardine
Bob Watson showing us how hard
it really was !!!!!

ART Mission 7203 January 25-30
Mission Leader Chuck Burdick

On Friday, January 21, at 2:30 PM, Joan Jardine, 21, of St. Paul, and Fred Stone, 20, of Minneapolis, both students at CSU in Fort Collins, checked through the Long's Peak Ranger Station in Rocky Mountain National Park. The station is unmanned in the winter time. They indicated on the register that they planned to ski and hike into the Chasm Lake shelter cabin, at the base of the east face of Long's Peak. They planned to spend the night at the cabin and return to the ranger station, where they had parked their car, the next day at about 3:30 PM. They never returned.

They were not really missed until Sunday, when friends who knew of their plans began to worry about them and check. Rick Perkins, a fellow student at CSU, and an ex-ART member was contacted by friends of the couple because Rick was known to be involved in mountain rescue through his efforts to build a S. and R. unit at CSU. Rick called Dave Moore, who advised him to contact the Park officials. After some preliminary searching Monday morning, the Park notified the Colorado Search and Rescue Board and requested that the Alpine Rescue Team and the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group be put on standby. By late Monday afternoon it was clear to them that they had a full-scale search on their hands and they asked that the two teams be activated and be ready to take to the field Tuesday morning.

At 6:30 Tuesday morning, the following 21 ART members reported at the mission base, the Long's Peak Ranger Station: Al Petrick, Chuck Burdick, Walt Hane, Bob Watson, Harry Ledyard, John Baroch, Jim Powell, Dan Moore, Casey Boone, Randy Bangert, Dave Pritekel, Dwight Smith, Wayne Potter, Brian Kehe, Rich Weber, Mark Bondurant, Craig Renkert, Doug Smith, Kevin Dunn, Mike Wood and Kevin O'Hanlon. On a lengthy mission such as this one, personnel have to be rotated. Some of the above returned home later in the mission and were replaced as other members, Mike Dunn, Mark Brideau, Jaimie Lee, Mark Davidson, Bob Abbott, Dave Noblett, Dean Randle, Larry Carucci, John Jensen, Frank Kucler and Hal Dunn joined the search.

Along with the ART searchers were teams from the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group and eight to ten Park rangers, including Steve Hickman and Walt Fricke, who acted as Mission Coordinators for the search. The mountain searchers were supported by numerous personnel from the Club 100 of Fort Collins, Snowmobile Rescue Units, the Sheriff's Department, a helicopter chartered by the Park, two avalanche search dogs flown from Seattle, and numerous Park personnel.

Tuesday's search consisted of wide-ranging teams looking in several possible directions and areas, looking for clues and checking out several hypotheses. All that was found on this day were some very indistinct tracks in the valley below, and to the east, of Chasm Lake. There had been almost continual snow and wind since the couple first started their hike, so the tracks were rated only "possible."

Friends of the missing couple were interviewed Tuesday night by Craig Renkert and Rick Perkins, and much valuable information was gathered concerning the couple's plans, clothing, equipment, experience, physical condition, behavior patterns, etc. For instance, it was learned that he was considered an experienced outdoorsman; that they both owned lug-soled boots; that they had rented touring skis and boots for this trip, and while neither was a experienced ski-tourer, she was considered a strong

(Mission 7203 cont.)

downhill skier. It was also learned that the couple had the misconception that the shelter cabin contained a stove and firewood, and so had planned their trip accordingly. Also it was learned that Fred had hiked into the area a week or two before, and while he had not gone clear to the cabin, he had gone far enough to see it in the distance, and so knew where it was.

Wednesday was spent searching in a more concentrated fashion around the most likely areas on the route to Chasm Lake and in the careful dissection, brushing and study of the faint tracks found the day before. This study indicated that the tracks were made by lug-soled boots of the approximate size of the girl's.

An important discovery was made on the following day, Thursday. The couple's skis were found cached at timberline in the Jim's Grove area, and weighted with rocks as protection against the wind. The Jim's Grove area is well-known; the trails split there, one going to Chasm Lake and the East Face, the other heading around to the north and west routes up the peak. The skis provided information with which to plan the next day's search. The possibility that they had decided to ski out some other route than the one that they took in, such as the Roaring Fork or Beaver Brook, was ruled out. It now seemed much more likely that they had gotten into trouble somewhere between their skis and Chasm Lake and couldn't get back to the skis, or, alternately, had been unable to find the skis on their return. Most of the ground above timberline was bare and windswept, easily searched both from the air and from the ground. Everything pointed to the grim conclusion that the couple had gone into the deep, soft snow below timberline on foot.

Friday's search concentrated on Jim's Grove, the area around the shelter cabin, and the Roaring Fork valley, below Chasm Lake. In the middle of the afternoon, Miss Jardine's body was found near the bottom of the valley, not quite halfway between Chasm Lake and the highway down to the east. She was found by the team carefully following the faint tracks. Other searchers had passed within fifty yards of her on earlier days. She was mostly covered with snow but had erected a small marker flag on a stick.

The following day, Saturday, Fred Stone's pack was found under a light snow cover near a large boulder at the base of large, steep snowfield a short distance from the shelter cabin. The trail to the cabin crosses the upper part of this snowfield, and in the winter time it is considered a dangerous traverse. He had evidently lost his purchase on the trail above and had gone down the steep slope; his pack was damaged, one strap was torn loose, indicating some pretty rough treatment. His pack was lying on his sleeping bag, which was unrolled. Her pack was still attached to the pack. His sleeping bag was frozen solid, indicating that he had spent some time in it. The pack contained quite a volume and assortment of food, but no stove. No drinking liquids or container were found. His hat and glove were found beside the pack. There was no blood or evidence of injury other than the damaged pack.

A concerted effort was focused the next day, Sunday, on searching the areas between the pack and the shelter cabin, and between the pack and where the girl's body was found. Because there had been considerable snow and wind since the couple's disappearance, much time was spent probing and digging in the deep snow near where

(Mission 7203 cont.)

the pack was found. Specially trained avalanche and search dogs had been flown in from Seattle for Sunday's search, but neither they nor the other searchers were successful. Park officials suspended the full scale operation Sunday evening. They did not feel that they could justify exposing so many people to hazardous terrain and severe weather any longer, since it was virtually certain that Fred Stone could not have survived. Park rangers would continue to search on days when weather and changes in the snow cover improved the chances of finding something. The high winds of the Long's Peak area cause considerable change in the snow pack from day to day.

Reconstruction:

Many of the facts concerning the couple's fate on that weekend will probably never be known, but a great deal of attention was focused upon attempting to reconstruct what may have happened to them, and how they may have reacted, in order to better direct the search. In addition to the speculation as to what happened, there were certain obvious observations that could be made.

Fred Stone was considered an experienced outdoorsman, but his experience was in the Minnesota woods, not in hazardous terrain, near timber line, in severe weather. While the couple attempted to adequately prepare themselves, they were simply not knowledgeable enough about winter mountaineering to achieve this. The misconception that the shelter cabin contained a stove and firewood was a strongly contributing factor in their problem. However, the single, most glaringly responsible factor was the late hour at which they started on Friday afternoon, and the fact that they chose to ignore clearly posted instructions at the ranger station that no one is to set off on a overnight hike without first calling Park Headquarters.

The trail to the Chasm Lake shelter cabin is a long, uphill grind. The first half is in timber, and in the winter is mostly in deep snow. The upper half is above timberline; windswept and cold, and near the cabin has a bad traverse across a 60 degree slope which can be very hazardous in the winter. The trail is about 7 miles long. Leaving the ranger station at 2:30, it is doubtful that they reached Jim's Grove at timberline, before 5:30. Thus, at the time that they cached their skis and started the last three or four miles to the cabin, it was rapidly getting dark, and it was known to have been storming Friday night. The fact that they weighted their skis with rocks indicates that the usual high winds were blowing above timberline. By the time that they reached the hazardous traverse across the steep slope above Peacock Pool they were undoubtedly cold, tired, and frightened about traveling bad terrain in the dark in the middle of a blizzard. If they had not had the misconception that the shelter cabin contained a stove and firewood, they probably would have bivouaced at Jim's Grove or in the shelter of boulders on Mills Moraine. However, they were really not prepared for a comfortable bivouac and forced themselves on to the imagined warmth and comfort of the cabin.

All evidence indicates that Fred Stone slipped down the long, steep snowfield below the difficult traverse on the way in to the cabin, Friday evening. His pack contained a great deal of food, apparently untouched. Indicative of their planning regarding the cabin, his pack contained no stove; and if they carried drinking water or any other

(Mission 7203 cont.)

liquids, nothing was found with Joan's body or the pack to indicate it. He was likely injured in the fall, the damage to the pack indicated a pretty rough trip down. He may have been able to yell up to Joan, on the trail, but it is doubtful that there was enough light remaining for them to see each other. The frozen, unrolled sleeping bag suggested that he tried to remain there for some length of time, and probably left when he could no longer tolerate the cold bag. No signs of blood were found, but two areas of frozen urine were found near the pack and bag. He was surely in bad shape when he left the pack and bag - injured, and after a bad time in a cold, wet sleeping bag. He evidently left without a hat and missing a glove, and without taking much of anything in the way of food. He either felt he could no longer stay there waiting for help, or simply wandered away in the final, disoriented stage of hypothermia.

It is doubtful that Joan ever reached Fred after he slipped down the snowfield. In the dark storm she was probably quite frightened after his fall. She may have gone down the ridge to the east thinking to find a way down into the valley so that she could get back up to help him, after finding that it was a very long way before she could get down, and after what must have been an extremely frightening and exhausting trip down, she probably decided that it would be faster just to keep going down the valley to the highway to get help. She covered a surprising distance considering the conditions, part of it floundering through deep snow. She must have been totally exhausted and approaching the final stages of hypothermia when she finally spread the few contents of her small pack on the ground and laid down on them and died. She was not curled up in the shivering posture but instead stretched straight out, on her back. There were indications that she had attempted to start a fire; a small bundle of sticks and twigs was near her, and her lighter was found nearby in the snow. She also had one glove removed.

One rather surprising thing, considering her final, desperate condition, was a marker flag she had constructed by erecting a stick and tying some orange underwear on the top of it. Since she was mostly covered with snow, the rescuers may not have found her without the stick. She was actually located however, by the very careful tracking of the faint tracks. The tracks were windfilled and so faint that they could only be followed by sighting low along the surface and detecting very faint shadows. The occasional dissecting and brushing of the tracks down to the original compacted depth allowed the searchers to follow the right shadows. It was estimated, and later partly confirmed by the coroner, that she probably died on Friday night or Saturday morning.

Inexperience was the one factor which precipitated all the conditions leading to the tragedy. Ski touring and winter mountaineering are not necessarily the same thing. Inexperience in high altitude winter mountaineering is what led to the inadequate preparation, the very poor timing of the start of the trip, and the lack of knowledge of how to handle the situation. With each tragedy of this sort, the need for mountain safety education is given stronger emphasis.