

Nate Sanders  
November 7, 2000  
Orem, Utah

Lead Falls  
Personal Narrative

### Informant Data:

**Name:** Nate Sanders

**Place of Birth:** Weiser, Idaho

**Home Region:** Mesa, Arizona

**Religion:** LDS

**Ethnicity:**

**Occupation:** Student

**Relationship to Collector:** Friend

**Other:** Nate is a junior at Brigham Young University. He is majoring in English. He plans on attending medical school. Nate served an LDS mission in Hungary. His hobbies are rock climbing, mountain biking, skiing and backpacking.

**Social:** Nate works with me at Out-n-Back, a camping store in Orem, UT. He was clocking in as I was on my way out the door and I asked if I could interview him really fast. He has taken English 391 and done a project on rock climbing so he knew what I was looking for and was a very easy person to interview. I was the only person listening to the story. I thought the story was sad because lead falls hurt very badly.

**Cultural:** In rock climbing, the difficulty of a climb is measured on a numeric scale. A 5.9 is an advanced intermediate climb. A 5.11 is an advanced climb. A person who is belaying a climber is wearing a harness and, using a friction device is able to pull the slack that comes as the climber ascends. The more slack that is left, the longer the fall.

### Item:

**How collected:** The story was tape recorded and later transcribed. Ums and uhs were edited out.

**Text:** It was in Telluride in Colorado which is three hours east of Moab. There were ten of us. We went out there to go climbing. And it was conglomerate rock, and we climb, I mean hiked up, it's called Water Fall Wall. It's just east and up the road from Telluride and there is this huge water fall, it's called Bridal Veil. It's got really good ice climbing and whatever, but we were climbing. There were a couple of kids who had climbed a little bit, but not a lot. They had never led climbed. Meaning that they are the ones who put the protection in as they go. Anyway, this kid starts climbing up and I'm climbing at the same time on another one probably about 30 feet over from where he is climbing. He is climbing an, I think, it's a 5.9. I'm climbing a 5.11, I think. Yeah, I didn't make it up it, so don't bow. So, I'm going up it and I am on an overhang and I'm trying to get to the last bolt and I look over and I see that the last bolt he is clipped into is one that was pretty run out. It was another ten feet to the next bolt. And so he's now ten feet off and he is going to hook into the [next] bolt and missed. Right at that time he slipped and fell backwards and the kid who was belaying him was paying attention, but he couldn't pull his slack in time. And fell about twenty feet and bounced another 4 feet. But, his head was probably 3 or 6, 3 inches from the rock. And, I was up doing this overhang right at this time and my cousin David was belaying me and right when that kid was falling I was about to fall and I fell, too. Not right at the same time. But just a couple of seconds after. And my cousin was pulling his slack out right when I fell and so he didn't break anything [the fall] and so I fell about three bolts, so about, even after the overhand, and so I fell

probably about 20 feet, 30 feet. And he [David] burned his hand real bad because his hand, you know, he had to pull it [the rope] back real fast and catch me before I hit the ground. So that's what happened.

Dianna Bell

Age: 19

Gender: F

Date Submitted: November 29, 2000

Semester: Fall 2000

Course: English 391

Professor: Jill Terry Rudy