

## **Day's Fork, Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah**

*3 ski tourers caught, 2 buried, 1 injured*

### **Weather Conditions**

Winter in the Wasatch began in earnest on November 23 with 5 inches of new snow. Ten more inches fell the next day, and 21 additional inches accumulated by the end of the month. Temperatures were mild, mostly in the twenties and thirties. Winds averaged 30 mph, mostly from the west, from the 23rd through the 30th.

Alta reported 7 inches of fresh snow on the morning of December 2. The temperature was in the upper twenties and a west wind of 30-35 mph was blowing at 11,000 feet elevation. Skies were overcast with a threat of more snow.

### **Accident Summary**

Three Salt Lake City skiers left Alta at 1230 on December 2 for a tour up and over Flagstaff Ridge to Big Cottonwood Canyon. Larry Daum, 26; Joe Holland, 25; and Allan Murphy, 24, were expert skiers, knew the terrain well, and were "thinking avalanche." All carried collapsible shovels in their