

and difficult terrain, is asking for trouble. If Wells had worn his belay rope while he was climbing down the last 12 feet, he could have been secured quite easily. All members of the party had taken the Mountaineers' climbing course. Darkness and fatigue from a long, severe day undoubtedly contributed to the fall. Certainly they were overzealous in trying to climb the three peaks in one day. Here was the place for the leader to say, "Let's try it tomorrow." Here also is an illustration that, while mountaineering clubs themselves cannot control the activities of members, certainly they can do much to indoctrinate them in the principles of safety.

*Northern Cascades, Washington: (2) Snoqualmie Pass District.* On 14 September 1947 a girl fell from Guye Peak while she was descending unroped, in the dark. She was seriously injured. She had done no previous climbing, and the two others in the party had only slight experience. Apparently they left the pass rather late, were caught on the summit after dark, and descended by night instead of waiting for daybreak. They were not members of the Mountaineers.

*Source of information:* The Mountaineers, Seattle, Washington.

*Analysis.* Such a late start violated one of the fundamentals of mountain safety, and to continue on over steep terrain unroped and in the dark was a doubly serious error in judgment. Whether or not accidents of this kind can be effectively minimized by a system of registration at Ranger Stations, or by the placing of signs on trails, is a matter to be considered carefully. (See later recommendations.)

*Northern Cascades, Washington: (3) Mount Index.* During the first week of October 1947, there occurred a tragic accident which has not yet been fully explained. Two young men named Franklin and Westphal, each 17 years of age and with a minimum of climbing experience, set out on the normal route up this difficult peak. They had no extra food, and they wore light jackets and lightweight cotton shirts. They carried only 25 feet of rope. They have not been seen since. Their jackets were found later at a camp beside a lake. The only other traces were a few scattered orange peels at the

bottom of a rock gully leading to some of the most difficult climbing on the established route. Here they must have stopped for lunch. No trace of them has been found elsewhere. Presumably they had not picked the best route. Thick weather blew in on the evening of the day they set out and continued for several days, covering the high country with several feet of snow. Search parties found as much as five feet of snow in a chimney above the orange peels, and the gully was being swept with avalanches. We may never know where they died, even though it is far too obvious why.

*Sources of information:* newspaper accounts and the Mountaineers search personnel.

*Analysis.* The previous climbing experience of these two boys was limited to an ascent of one of the easier peaks in the Olympic Mountains a few weeks before. Obviously their training was insufficient to justify such a difficult climb. The storm and attendant cold probably caused them to lose their way. It was very cold the following day. Possibly they fell to their deaths; perhaps, by spring, their bodies will be found huddled under some tree where they froze in their cotton shirts. Their failure to appreciate the gravity of mountain climbing was evident in their lack of equipment. Twenty-five feet of rope would be next to useless on an ascent of this type. These boys should have been encouraged to join an established mountaineering club in which they could have learned to climb with judgment and security.

*Coast Range, British Columbia.* On 22 July 1947, in the Mount Waddington-Tiedemann district of western British Columbia, Charles Shiverick, of the Harvard Mountaineering Club, lost his life in a snow avalanche on the highest peak of Mount Serra, at about 11,000 feet. A high camp party of four men had made an extended reconnaissance of this peak two days before. They had kicked steps to the top of a long 45-degree snow slope leading to a rock saddle on a ridge of the highest Serra peak. After the reconnaissance, they had descended the same slope to a steep névé basin. The last snow had fallen a week earlier. Snow on the descent was somewhat mushy. The 21st was a brilliant day. On the 22nd the party had again left camp, at 7.00 A.M., for an attempt on Mount