

Flypaper Pass, to approach Mt. Anderson. Observing the time, the party decided that it would be unwise to attempt the ascent and therefore returned over Flypaper Pass, at about 3.00 P.M. Nece and McMillan descended by the snow finger, while the other three descended by the rocks. Nece had gone down only about ten feet when he realized that he was in a dangerous spot. Attempting to retrace his steps, he lost his footing and slid about 100 feet down the snow and off into the 20-foot crevasse between the snow finger and the rocks. He suffered severe lacerations and a broken kneecap. Two of the party remained with him, and the other two set out for help. A rescue party was formed, and the rescue was safely effected on the 6th.

*Source of information:* newspaper accounts.

*Analysis.* This accident appears to have been the result of a temporary lapse in the judgment of one man's capacity, and of inability to correct the error soon enough. The party as a whole certainly had shown good judgment in postponing their climb.

*Olympics, Washington: (2) South Brother.* On 2 October 1948 a party of Bremerton High School students went into the Brothers Peaks. On the 3rd some of them attempted the South Peak, but most turned back a short distance from the summit because of rain and fatigue. Two decided to go on to the top, which they believed to be not far distant. These were Robert Thorson (17) and Jerry Heacock. Heavy fog and rain made visibility poor, and the two lost their way, but the survivor thought they reached the summit. Having failed to regain contact with the others, they spent the night on the mountain. At daybreak they started down, still off the regular route; and about 500 feet below the summit Thorson slipped and fell headfirst some 50 feet or more. He was instantly killed. A large rescue party reached the body 24 hours after the accident and, 20 hours later, returned it to the road.

*Sources of information:* newspaper accounts, and reports from members of the rescue party.

*Analysis.* A case that emphasizes the need for proper education and some supervised training of prospective enthusiastic climbers. The youths were unroped and poorly equipped—Thorson's boots had only two or three Tricounis and a few loose hobs. The area in which the accident occurred is described by one of the

rescuers as a series of cliffs and ledges joined by chimneys or gullies. The party separated below the summit, in rain and fog. Certainly, in deciding to wait for daybreak before descending, Thorson and Heacock did show good judgment.

*Southern Cascades, Oregon: Applegate Peak (Crater Lake National Park).* On 6 August 1948 George M. Roest (18), a concessioner's employee, off duty, fell to his death while climbing alone on Applegate Peak. Apparently he planned to skirt the peak, but either misunderstood or disregarded instructions.

*Source of information:* National Park Service.

*Analysis.* From the meager data, only the most general conclusions can be drawn: here was a lone climber of (apparently) little experience—not enough, anyhow, to know how to make use of instructions.

*Sierra Nevada, California: (1) Half Dome (Yosemite National Park).* On 19 June 1948 Chalmer J. Groff (19) and a friend, both National Park Service employees, off duty, were descending below the face of Half Dome, in sneakers. Groff slipped on a mossy rock and fell, almost striking his companion. He continued to fall—70 feet over rough boulder terrain—and was instantly killed. The party was inexperienced and without a rope. The climb was classified by the Sierra Club as Class 3.

*Source of information:* National Park Service.

*Analysis.* Again, heavy payment for inexperience—and it might have been even heavier, since Groff's companion narrowly missed being knocked off the cliff by Groff's fall. But it should be pointed out that such an accident might happen even to the most experienced, and emphasized that one must always be on the alert to danger, even on the easiest and simplest climbs—especially descents.

*Sierra Nevada, California: (2) Half Dome (Yosemite National Park).* On 15 September 1948 Paul H. Garinger (30-35) was seen descending the cable on Half Dome. He stopped and appeared to be ill. Seconds later, he disappeared. It is thought that he fainted and then fell to his death.

The most severe forest fire in the history of the Park drew experienced personnel away, and thus hampered rescue operations. Recovery of the body was accomplished several days later by a small