

was lost and a search party was organized. His body was found the next day. Apparently he had fallen about 100 ft. and then rolled 200 ft. into a small ravine. The exact cause of the accident is not known. The experience of the group is not known.

Source: Newspaper reports.

Analysis: This group violated one of the elementary rules: Do not climb alone. It should also be pointed out that one of the rescue party members had a fall and was bruised. Thus, climbing alone jeopardized not only the group but also the rescue party.

Alaska—Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes: (The U.S.G.S. has requested that the person's name involved in the following accident be omitted out of consideration for the family.) W. J. (24) left the U.S.G.S. Camp on the south bank of Knife Creek just north of Broken Mountain at 9 a.m. on 31 August 1953 on one of his customary solo geology field trips. When he failed to return as expected a week later, search parties were organized and an extensive and well-organized search was undertaken. His pack was found by the bank of a river and from the amount of mildew on the food and the quantity of food still in the pack it was estimated that the accident had occurred on the 1st or 2nd of September. The position of the pack implied that it had been placed and not thrown. The river was carefully searched below the site where the pack was found but no body was recovered. It is presumed that W. J. slipped while attempting to cross this river or while investigating the geology of the area. The river below the spot where the pack was found ran quickly into a short but steep canyon with turbulent angry waters.

Source: Report of Robert S. Luntley to Director National Park Service, U. S. Dept. Interior.

Analysis: The person involved in this accident was accustomed to make extensive field investigation alone in pursuit of his specialty, geology. He was in excellent physical condition and was a "strong" person in the field. His tremendous energy and endurance permitted him to visit large areas and because companions were unable to maintain his pace he preferred to travel alone, often through extremely rugged and mountainous territory. Occasionally he carried a rope and ice axe and he frequently used crampons on steep snow and ice slopes while alone, since this allowed him to take short cuts and to visit areas otherwise closed to him. He travelled along big braided glacial streams and forded anything he could stand up in without hesitation. In view of his ability his extreme self-confidence did not seem unfounded.

This accident demonstrates the dangers of travelling alone and especially the dangers of glacier stream crossings which are best done with a companion and a rope being used. The best technique is to use a long pole and face upstream. The force of the water helps to hold the pole in place and the pole then gives support to the individual crossing the stream. As one moves across the stream the pole is moved into a new position. In this manner some of the larger streams can be crossed. It must be emphasized

that solo trips of this sort are extremely hazardous and it would seem proper that the U.S.G.S. should require a minimum of two persons in each field party.

REGIONAL SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Chicago Mountaineering Club held a safety and training program this past spring which is the second one since 1949. It consisted of the following:

1. Rope technique
2. Rock climbing
3. Snow and ice technique
4. Trail and cross-country techniques—carrying—food—bivouacs.
5. Orientation—map reading, party management
6. First aid

This series of lectures was followed by a practical session in the local cliffs in the late spring. In addition they plan to institute a leader training program.

The *Mazamas* annually run a spring climbing school during which they stress *safe* climbing techniques.

The *Mountaineers* have had an annual spring climbing course since 1935. This has become very popular with 300 persons enrolling each year. They try to educate all types from the starry-eyed violet picker to the starry-eyed grabber.

Their theme song: "He who climbs and comes away
Will live to climb another day,
But he who is in climbing slain
Will never ever climb again."

The club also supplies information on its programs, local climbs, etc., to other organizations, and was active in the founding of the Mountain Rescue Council. They plan to distribute throughout the club members a card to be carried in the first-aid kit containing the following information:

1. Check list of procedure in summoning outside help to the scene of an alpine accident, including phone numbers of Rescue Call Committee, and information the Mountain Rescue Council must have to institute an efficient rescue;
2. CAA ground-air Emergency Code;
3. Check list of symptoms and what they mean in injuries to head, neck, and spine. (Should also include serious chest injuries.)

Erratum: In 1953 report of Accidents in American Mountaineering page 6, Tongue Mountain Cliff, Lake George accident analysis, section 2 read *roped* for *unroped*.