

steps cut in the ice in a 100-foot space. If these six climbers had stayed together and helped each other the rescue effort would not have been necessary.

*Washington, Glacier Peak—Chocolate Glacier*—On the Mountaineer Summer Outing, July 30, during the descent of Chocolate Glacier, Julie Balinski (33), while traversing between two crevasses, stepped backward and fell into the lower one. Her fall was arrested by the rope at about 25 feet. A number of climbers who had practised crevasse rescue methods were present and the victim was out of the crevasse in 10 minutes unhurt. The Bilgeri technique was used with ropes from both the upper and lower lip of the crevasse.

*Source:* H. L. Slauson; *The Mountaineer* 50: 10, Nov. 1957.

*Analysis:* This is another demonstration of the value of the rope on a crevassed glacier, and the advantages of a well trained party.

*Washington, Redstone Peak*—A party of four mountaineers from Tacoma climbed Redstone Peak northeast of Mt. Rainier on Aug. 3. Redstone was 6.5 miles from where they left the car. Rain set in part way in, but they decided to go on. They attacked the peak from the N.W. side, up steep gullies. Their rope was not used, as it was not felt necessary. George Coleman led the last pitch up a steep, narrow gully and found himself on the summit. Olive Otterson (40) was part way up a similar gully when a fall of rock came down. It is believed that Coleman inadvertently dislodged them. Mrs. Otterson was hit in a number of places but managed to hang on to her position. All the party finished the climb and signed the register. The accident occurred in mid-afternoon. Due to the extent of Mrs. Otterson's injuries the party returned by a different route, arriving at the cars at day-break. Thirty-one stitches in the scalp and 17 in the arm were required to close Mrs. Otterson's wounds. The recovery has been complete.

*Source:* Gene Faure; *the Mountaineer* 50: 10, Nov. 1957.

*Analysis:* Rockfall, dislodged by another climber.

*Washington—Cascades—Forbidden Peak*—On 25 August, Stan Johnson (31), Barry White and three others set out to climb Forbidden Peak by the conventional route. They reached the summit ridge by the way of a steep ice couloir at 1:00 P.M. The other three decided to turn back while White and Johnson went on to the summit. They left their ice axes and crampons at the top of the couloir. Johnson had not had crampons but he borrowed a pair from one of the others who was returning. The climb was more difficult than expected and they did not reach the summit until 5:00 P.M. They stayed only a brief time on the summit. Mist closed in and visibility was reduced to about 30 yards. They roped down the difficult sections but lost about 20 minutes at one point when the rope snagged on a rock belay. The col was reached at 7:00 P.M. and they moved together to the couloir, where they put on crampons. The borrowed pair for Johnson did not fit well and one was quite loose. Also Johnson had not used crampons for a long time. They moved together down the couloir, but after 40 feet of descent Johnson suggested glissading the rest of the way. His loose crampon was bothering him so he removed it. White then glissaded on a tight rope to a convenient belay spot 50 feet lower. As he jammed in his ice axe the ferrule broke off and he shouted to Johnson to

wait until he could establish a proper belay. Almost immediately he heard Johnson cry out as he slipped on the 50 degree slope. Things happened fast. Johnson slid past White who was pulling in the rope as fast as he could. White established a belay and waited for the tug as the rope was snubbed. There was no strain, just a dull thud. He shouted out but received no reply. White then cut steps down to a wide bergschrund into which Johnson had fallen. Johnson was in a sitting position with blood pouring from a head wound. White knew little first aid but did try to stop the bleeding, using a first aid kit in the pack. He realized there was little he could do. He laid out the contents of the pack and then started down the couloir calling for help. He finally met one person. It was pitch dark. They started back up but the flashlights were weak. Part way back near the crevassed section a sudden snow storm occurred which reduced visibility to 5 yards. This made them decide to turn back. They reached camp at 2:00 A.M. the next morning exhausted.

A rescue party was organized by other members of the group and members of another group nearby. When they finally reached Johnson he was dead. Death was attributed to a fractured cervical vertebra and massive hemorrhage from scalp lacerations.

*Source:* Leon Blumer and Barry White.

*Analysis:* This again presents the difficulty of small parties that suffer an injury. It is doubtful whether an earlier rescue would have saved Johnson. Certainly a night out under such conditions is not safe. In retrospect it would have been better if Johnson had descended with a belay since his crampons did not fit properly. Incidentally, the loose crampon was found imbedded in his back—the other was on his foot. Then White who had good crampons could have descended with a belay from below. It is easy to point out what might have been done and in White's account he mentions the general care with which Johnson climbed and also that Johnson had ascended the couloir without crampons. Johnson's limited previous experience with crampons, however, should have dictated his descending first. This two-man party lacked effective support from the other climbers. The party also lacked proper equipment, sufficient experience for this peak, and knowledge of first aid.

*Washington, Mt. Rainier—Success Glacier—*George Sainsbury (32), Ray Barker and Arnold Bloomer, all experienced climbers, two of them members of the Mountaineers, planned to climb Mt. Rainier by the then unclimbed ridge between the Success and Kautz Glaciers. On Aug. 24, after turning back at 8000 feet the previous day due to bad weather, the climbers were again seeking an approach to the ridge. They crossed the Kautz Glacier and climbed in fog up steep ice into a maze of an active ice fall which appeared to be the pressure ridge separating the Kautz and Success Glaciers. Because visibility remained limited, the party decided to retreat to the base of the ice slopes and then find simpler terrain. They descended, crossing a narrow corridor between two crevasses. The first two men on the rope passed through, and the middleman, Arnold Bloomer, was belaying the last man, George Sainsbury, by means of a natural belay. As he was descending a three or four foot high steep ice pitch just at the upper end of the corridor, Sainsbury slipped suddenly and unexpectedly. Steps cut in the ice may have given way, but the victim thinks the prime reason for his fall was due to his leaning into the slope. The belay rope was taut when the fall occurred. Sainsbury pendulumed down