

Analysis: Although limited in experience and equipment, the party was composed of a minimum safe number and they did show good judgment in turning back when they did.

Washington, Near Lake Wenatchee—On July 10, Bob Anderson (27), Ralph Kelso, and Darwin Clark were climbing a steep slope near Lake Wenatchee. Anderson reached a ledge from which he could not climb up or down. The party was apparently without a rope and had inadequate experience for this climb. His companion climbed down and notified the authorities. It was too late to effect a rescue so Anderson spent a night on the ledge.

Source: Newspaper clippings.

Washington, Mt. Si—On July 31, Stephen Steiner (15) and his brother Geoffrey (16) were climbing up the west flank of Mount Si. They became separated and Stephen reached a point where he could not climb up or down. His brother in the meantime had returned to their family who were picnicking in the vicinity. Rescue operations were alerted by an observer who noted Stephen's plight. His rescue was accomplished about six hours after he became trapped. During the descent after the rescue, Max Eckenburg received a minor injury from a falling rock.

Source: Newspaper clipping.

Analysis: Inexperienced and inadequately equipped climbers climbing beyond their capabilities, resulting in jeopardy to rescuers.

Washintgon, Northern Cascades, Red Face Mountain—On August 29, 25 persons, members of the Whatcom Pass Outing sponsored by the Sierra Club, were climbing Red Face Mountain. Some of the group were experienced climbers, others were not, but all were experienced hikers and campers. The group was led by Phillip Berry and Robin Linnett, both experienced leaders and climbers.

Red Face Mountain (7500 feet) via East Ridge (Route 1) from Whatcom Pass (5282 feet), the camp site, is considered second class climbing, with a 100 foot traverse of third class. All the climbing was on loose rock. A rope was carried and offered by the leaders but was not needed.

On reaching the third class traverse, Berry reconnoitered the route to the summit, a short distance above, then returned to the party and proceeded with 12 persons who expressed an interest in going on to the summit. Leader Linnett remained in charge of the group that stayed behind. On crossing the traverse with the first group, Berry called back to Linnett not to proceed until the route above was clear of his group but the message was not understood because of the distance. When Berry's party attained the ridge, one of the group dislodged a small rock (baseball size) which dislodged larger rocks. At that moment four or five persons were traversing below, including Mrs. Owen, who was struck on the back of the head by a 15 pound rock and was killed instantly.

Source: Will Siri.

Analysis: It should be recorded that the leaders, during the course of the climb, took every possible precaution to insure the safety of the group. They were properly equipped, they repeatedly cautioned against dislodging rocks, and in general, conducted an exemplary climb by most standards. A dislodged rock is probably one of the objective hazards of climbing with a large group of people, some of whom are inexperienced. As in many such cases, this accident seems to have resulted from a sequence of highly improbable events that occurred in spite of the conscientious precautions taken by the leaders. This is another instance when a hard hat might have saved a life.

Washington, Mt. Thompson—On September 2, Dave Bushley (19) and Robert Neiman (18) were approaching the summit on the N.E. shoulder of Mt. Thompson, and following the regular route. The terrain did not require skill, and they were unroped. Bushley, who was in the lead, dislodged a large slab, which struck Neiman a glancing blow on the head, after which he fell and rolled some distance down the slope. After ascertaining that Bob was still breathing, though unconscious, Dave rendered what first aid was possible. He padded him with all available clothing for warmth, and secured him to nearby bushes with sling and rope. He then proceeded to Snoqualmie Pass as rapidly as possible for help.

The Seattle Unit of the Mountain Rescue Council received the call in the late afternoon, and dispatched Bushley and Dr. Otto Trott to nearby Ed's Lake by Marine helicopter, where they arrived after dark. A second helicopter, with James Kurtz and Ome Daiber, was unable to land until dawn, because it was not equipped with landing lights. Meanwhile, a ground party of 19 started the long approach from Snoqualmie Pass under the leadership of Paul Williams. Upon arriving at the scene of the accident, Dr. Trott ascertained that Neiman had died shortly after the fall. Evacuation of the body was accomplished to Ed's Lake by the ground party, where the helicopter completed the recovery. The autopsy revealed that the right side of the skull had been completely crushed.

Source: Seattle Mountain Rescue Council report.

Analysis: This moderately experienced team had completed the Seattle Mountaineer's Basic Climbing Course. While a minimum party of four and the use of hard hats are both indicated, it is doubtful that the outcome would have been changed in this instance. The need for extreme care in traveling over even the simplest unstable terrain is again emphasized by this fatality. Each climber should, if possible, select a separate route. **DON'T CLIMB DIRECTLY IN THE FALL LINE OVER LOOSE ROCK.**

Washington, Mt. Baker—On September 18, Helmut Krutz (26) climbed Mt. Baker with the Vancouver Outdoor Club and the University of British Columbia Climbing Club. As the party returned from the climb, the members were unroped and straggling. Krutz wandered off to one side to see if a snow-bridge was still intact since a previous climb. Not wearing crampons and not prepared to use axe for self-arrest, he lost