

and fell. He pulled off his two companions and all three fell to the bottom of the cliff. Burton did not lose consciousness and called for help. Others in the area came to their aid. Ybarguen and Jorgenson died of injuries sustained, and Burton was seriously injured.

*Source:* Harold Goodro; newspaper clippings.

*Analysis:* (Goodro) The carabiner in the upper piton was pulled out straight, and the gate broken, which would indicate that the piton was fairly well driven and the falling weight of the two climbers was just too much for the equipment to bear. It would seem that Miss Ybarguen should have been belaying Mr. Jorgenson while he retrieved the pitons, but we can't be sure that she wasn't.

*Wyoming, Tetons, Mt. Wister.* On August 19, David Walton and Paul Zeiger were making an ascent of the north face of Mt. Wister. Walton was leading, and the party had gone up several easy leads to a small ledge in the couloir at the base of the north face. From this point Walton led a considerably more difficult pitch of about 50 feet and set up a belay for Zeiger, who made several attempts to follow Walton but after considerable struggle, Zeiger's arms gave out, and he had to return to the ledge. Walton decided that it was useless to continue up this route and came down. He attempted to get the rope down to Zeiger to belay him out of the way of Walton's descent, but Zeiger was unable to get the rope. After a short delay, Walton told Zeiger he had found a rappel point and began setting up the rappel. Zeiger could not see the rappel anchor but saw Walton get into the rappel and take two steps when his rappel rope came loose. Walton fell about 300 feet to the base of the face and slid about 200 feet over snow and rock before stopping; his entire rappel rope and rappel anchor came down with him. Zeiger worked his way down to Walton and found that he had been killed. Zeiger then returned to the Jenny Lake Ranger Station to report the accident.

*Source:* F. Douglas McLaren, District Ranger, and H. Paul Zeiger.

*Analysis:* The cause of the accident was probably due to the misjudging the anchor point for the rappel, as the rope used to anchor the rappel rope was still intact. Either the rope slipped off the anchor point or the rock came loose.

*Wyoming, Tetons, Middle Teton.* On July 10 Allan Summers (47) and Buford Brauninger were making an ascent of the Middle Teton via the Middle Teton Glacier. They had completed the climb up the Glacier and were just going from the snow to the rock, when Brauninger slipped or lost his footing and fell down the snow covered glacier. He attempted to effect an ice ax self-arrest but was unable to control his slide. When he came to the end of his rope, he pulled Summers out of an insecure ice ax belay. Both men continued to slide down the glacier and through a rock outcropping, and ended up just below a crevasse where their rope hung up on a snow nubbin on the lower rim of the crevasse. They had slid and tumbled over 1,000 feet down the glacier.

Mr. Brauninger, in a dazed condition, cut himself from the rope and went to see if he could be of assistance to Summers. Summers died shortly after Brauninger reached him. Brauninger called for help and remained near Summers. Another party nearby heard the calls and went to their aid. When the condition of the party was known, one member of the second party returned to the valley and reported the accident to the Ranger Station at Jenny Lake. A park rescue team was dispatched, and Brauninger was hand carried out during the night. A helicopter was called in, and Summers' body was removed the following morning.

*Source:* F. Douglas McLaren, District Ranger.

*Analysis:* Neither man had had snow- and ice-climbing experience for the conditions they faced on this climb. The snow had become soft on the surface, and when they set up their ice ax belay, they did not realize the danger of utilizing only the surface snow for the belay.

*Wyoming, Tetons, Symmetry Spire (1).* On June 23, a party of five was making an ascent of Storm Point. They ascended the Symmetry Spire Couloir. As Mrs. Slansky (44) was traversing the upper end of the snowfield, she slipped and fell and slid down the snow for about 30 feet, then across about 10 feet of bare rock and over the edge of a 6 foot drop into the snow. She attained a self-arrest position immediately upon slipping but was not able to stop because she was partially on her side. She was not belayed. The injuries were minor lacerations and abrasions. The party was able to continue their ascent. A snow-school of sorts had been conducted earlier in the day, and it was thought the individuals had developed sufficient ability.

*Source:* Leon R. Sinclair, Park Ranger; Bill Echo.

*Analysis:* The leader probably should have sensed the insecurity of the inexperienced climbers on snow and required the precaution of at least roping the members of the party across the snowfield.

*Wyoming, Tetons, Symmetry Spire (2).* On July 15 John Biehn and Albert Sickler (31) had completed a successful ascent of Symmetry Spire and were descending via the Symmetry Spire Couloir. They were glissading down the snowfield when Sickler slipped and fell. Sickler dislocated his shoulder during his attempt to control his slide. Biehn immobilized the injured arm. They were able to complete the descent without additional assistance.

*Source:* George J. Kelly, Park Ranger.

*Analysis:* Party members were not fully aware of the dangers of glissading without the protection of a rope.

*Wyoming, Tetons, Symmetry Spire (3).* On August 20 Thomas Morgan (16) and Robert Rosch had completed an ascent of Storm Point and were descending via the Symmetry Spire Couloir. Morgan decided he would try glissading down the snow field even though he had no ice ax. Rosch advised against it and continued down the trail alongside the snow field. Morgan started down the snow, then changed his mind and started