

experienced at this terrain among us. This plus the absence of a formal leader prevented any insistence on his use of the rope. In previous years there had been no leader because there was always agreement on the route after discussion. Jay and Harold had already negotiated one pitch (unroped) which was at least as difficult as the area of the accident. Dion and I had climbed around it.

Harold had attended climbing school in Switzerland two years earlier and since that time had become progressively more confident of his ability to surmount or control any dangers to himself in rock climbing. Hindsight now reveals this as overconfidence. The question remains: "Why this overconfidence?" Here we come to psychological factors which lie behind many accidents and are often unrecognized. Harold had become proud of his rock climbing skill. He was fond of referring to praise given him by his teacher John Harlin. He may have regarded a call for rope as an unfavorable reflection on his ability. It is possible that haste played some part in the accident, and the weather may have been a factor in haste since Harold was known to be quite fearful of mountain storms. While we were in clouds at the time of the accident, these dissipated soon afterward and were revealed to have been localized. No thunder or lightning was observed.

*Colorado, Amphitheater.* On 7 October Charles Joseph Brown (17) was leading and fell on a traverse on the inside of the northside of the Amphitheater. Three pitons were in. When he fell he pulled out two pitons and landed on the ground, 20 - 25 feet below the traverse. He had one companion. Brown suffered a skull fracture and cuts on the head, forehead and nose, as well as back and internal injuries of an unknown extent.

*Source:* H. Z. Lewis.

*Analysis:* No details of effectiveness of dynamic belay or of driving of pitons could be determined. Rescue group involved in another mission at the time of the accident and did not return to examine the scene.

*Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park.* On 26 July Charles Darling (37) and Vincent Larsen (38) were descending the Middle Teton Glacier near the end of the moraine. Mr. Darling started to glissade and then either slipped or stumbled in attempting to change direction and fell. He rolled several times and flipped twice in a 100 to 150 foot slide ending in some rocks. The weight and bulk of his pack probably kept him rolling and prevented a self-arrest.

*Source:* Pete Sinclair, Park Ranger.

*Analysis:* Mr. Darling is experienced and was not tired. The snow was not especially steep. The only probable cause could have been his misjudgement on the weight of the pack he was carrying which put him off balance.

*Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park.* On 28 July Conrad Fenwick (19) and Peter Pfeifer (19) were climbing up the first snowfield and couloir leading to the notch between the East Prong and Mt. Owen. Fenwick was leading up the rock along the snow. They came to a belay ledge