

and Sharp stated that at one point the rappel line slipped and his life was possibly saved by a knot tied at the end of the rope. Macheel lowered prusik slings, but Sharp did not use them to reascend the rope. Sharp spent the rest of the night hanging on the rope. At 0830 7 July, Sharp was rescued by a rope lowered from above by Park Ranger, Ted Wilson. Wilson was on routine Mountain Patrol at the time.

*Source:* Ted Wilson Park Ranger GTNP.

*Analysis:* Sharp displayed poor judgment by rappelling without safety precautions when he was not absolutely sure of where he was going. Perhaps, in this case, a little bit of knowledge was worse than none at all since he thought the short rope would work. Rappel slings should always be carried in case one must reascend the rope. This incident also stresses the wisdom of tying a knot at the end of the rope. The knot that was tied is probably the reason Sharp is still alive.

*California, North Palisades.* During the middle part of March Alan Leeds (21), Wayne Inman (20), and a third man spent several days camping and hiking in the area of Glacier Lodge. On March 20th the third man left to go skiing, and on Thursday the 21st Leeds and Inman started up the trail towards the Palisades. At this time, daytime temperatures were in the twenties at the Lodge (8000 feet) and there was considerable snow on the ground.

On the afternoon of Saturday the 23rd, Leeds was noticed by several people on the road leading from Glacier Lodge to the town of Big Pine. Leeds had not stopped in at the Lodge, nor did he attempt to stop any of the cars that passed him. About 4:30 in the afternoon, he was offered a ride into town, which he accepted. Upon reaching Big Pine, Leeds notified the sheriff that Inman had been injured by a fall and that he was on North Palisades. Within an hour the first of the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group arrived in Big Pine by helicopter followed closely by others in cars. They found from Leeds the location of the injured climber on the mountain and continued by helicopter to the Palisade Glacier. The pilot was unable to make a full landing, but dropped the group from a hover into the snow on the glacier. Air temperature at this time (as reported by the pilot) was minus ten degrees F. at the elevation of the glacier, something over 12,000 feet. By continuing to climb until ten or eleven that night, the rescue party was able to reach the U Notch (13,900+ feet) at the top of the snow approach.

Leeds had described the accident as occurring on the second rock pitch of the climb. Inman, leading, had used a piton for protection after about twenty feet, continued for another twenty feet, and then fell when a block pulled out. Leeds cut the climbing rope (he had been anchored to a piton) in order to be able to reach the injured man by climbing down a short distance. Although suffering from obvious facial injuries and bleeding from the ear (he had not been wearing a helmet), Inman was able to sit up and help put on a down jacket. He was also able to talk, at least to the extent of asking not to be left alone. Of course this description of the fall and the location and condition of the climber immediately afterwards are based solely upon what Leeds said.

When the rescue group found the body on Sunday, it was located some distance beneath the place described by Leeds. The rope had been cut, the body was not tied in, but Inman was not wearing a jacket. Instead, the jacket was spread over the body. It is difficult to understand why anyone would have removed a jacket under such conditions and spread it over himself.

On Sunday afternoon, Leeds was informed that his partner was dead. Only at this time did Leeds make it known to anyone that the fall had occurred on Friday, not Saturday, and that the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group had not been alerted until over twenty-four hours had elapsed. When asked why he hadn't come directly down to the road after the fall occurred (2:30 p.m. Friday), Leeds said that he had been exhausted. Upon his return to the climbing camp on the moraine, he had eaten dinner and then slept until morning. This was despite the fact that there was their own snowshoe trail to follow, and that even if it had become dark there was a good moon. This seems puzzling as well as the fact that Leeds did not make for the first available help (Glacier Lodge) when he did descend, continuing on foot some four miles down the road without attempting to flag cars. If the climber did, indeed, live for some time after the fall it might be expected that food and water would be left for his use. Leeds explained that he was unable to do this because he was shaken by the accident. If Inman died in the fall or was near death from it, the considerable effort and risk made by the rescue team might have been lessened by accurate reporting . . . at least to the extent of making known that over a day had passed.

*Source:* Hugh Lantz.

*California, Mt. Whitney area.* On 1 September David Slaton (17), Richard Bisson, David Smith and two adults, Jack Richer and Larry Stidam started up from Whitney Portals. Soon thereafter, Slaton showed signs of being affected by the altitude. Richer decided the others should go on while he remained behind with Slaton. Richer and Slaton spent the night at Outpost Camp. The next morning Slaton seemed better, but Richer thought he had not recovered sufficiently to follow the others. He left Slaton at the Camp while he went on to locate the others. During his absence Slaton attempted to do some solo rock climbing, slipped, and fell some 40 feet to his death.

*Source:* Newspaper clippings and Dennis Burgh.

*California, Sierra Nevada, Mt. McAdie.* On 15 June Anita Ossofsky (27), Seymour Ossofsky, and Barbara Lilley were ascending Mt. McAdie from Arc Pass. They traversed from the East face of Middle Peak to Gulley which divides Middle and North Peaks. At the top of the Gulley, apparently a hand-hold of Mrs. Ossofsky's gave way and she fell about 10 feet to a ledge, rolled off ledge, and rolled and fell about 150 feet more coming to rest in the Gulley. Death was immediate.

*Source:* Ray W. Van Aken.

*Analysis:* (Aken) Party was well qualified and adequately equipped.