

(16), left around mid-morning to climb some of the couloirs of snow that still existed on the east side of the mountain above his family's house. He carried a small pack, a lunch, flashlight, and an ice-axe fashioned from a miner's pick. As near as can be determined he reached the 10,500 foot level that afternoon and while crossing a rock ridge (very loose rock) slipped and fell approximately 30 feet and struck his head on a rock causing it to flip and break his neck and fracture his skull. Medical examiner and investigating highway patrolman determined he was killed instantly. He was reported missing that night, and a search was organized the next morning. His body was found five days later.

*Source:* Lamont E. Heaps.

*Analysis:* According to his parents and fellow associates, the victim was well acquainted with survival in the outdoors. He was a hiker and had recently become interested in mountaineering, snow climbing and glissading. His interest led him to fashion an ice-axe from a miner's pick for use on the snow patches above the family cabin. His equipment was working boots with crepe soles, canvas pack, and pick.

*Washington, Mt. Shuksan.* On 19 August James Sinclair (30), and Heather McPherson (26), were ascending the summit pyramid by the usual route. At this point they were overtaken and passed by a large party of climbers. One of these dislodged a large rock that crushed Heather's hand. Despite extent of injury she did not go into shock. Sinclair administered first aid and they descended without any further incident.

*Source:* R. Culbert.

*Analysis:* (ed) Whenever parties pass or overtake each other, care must be exercised to prevent dislodging rocks on other climbers.

*Washington, Mt. Baker.* On 25 May John Dallmeyer (27), Mario Strim (30), Margaret Secrett (28), and Judy Small (26), had been skiing on Mt. Baker and decided to climb to the summit. The party was last seen on the summit of Mt. Baker in a rising storm. They had ascended in ski boots and using ski poles. They were roped together and apparently fell during the descent. They slid about 75-100 feet and then over a 20-25 foot drop. Dallmeyer was probably killed in this fall by landing on his back. Judy was injured and placed in a bare snow-hole that the other two must have dug out with their hands. Judging by the thickness of the ice on the walls, she probably survived that night. The bodies of the other two were found together near by. It appeared that Margaret collapsed trying to get out of the cirque and Mario either stayed with her to protect her from the wind or collapsed trying to revive her.

*Source:* R. Culbert, Hal Foss.

*Analysis:* The rescue party was working under very poor conditions, and it is difficult to piece together a complete story. Only one pack was examined and it was found to contain wine and beer and no jacket. The bodies were dressed in sweaters and anaracks or wind shells, but no really warm jackets.

All were competent skiers, but only John appears to have had much

experience at mountaineering. The route they were doing was not difficult and under normal conditions it is not uncommon for spring ski tour parties to go up with ski boots and ski poles; nor was the route above their experience. The weather, however, was by no means normal on that day, and was obviously deteriorating. It was their failure to turn back when they met conditions for which they were neither clothed nor equipped which proved the primary mistake.

The party likely suffered from panic and shock after the accident. Digging a snow-cave for Judy Small, bleak and uninsulated though it was, must be considered a tribute to Margaret and Mario who were apparently at the very limit of their endurance.

*Washington, Chimney Rock.* On 27 July Frank Fickeisen (42), Bob Booher (39), Tom Halstaff (40), and Dave McBrayer (42), all experienced mountaineers, were on the second day of a scouting climb for an Intermediate Climbing Course Climb for the Seattle Mountaineers. Descending from the steep ridge south of the peak, the party decided that the "loose rock gully" to the right of the stream was the best choice from alternates in Route 1 of the "Climbers Guide to the Cascade and Olympic Mountains of Washington."

The 80 foot gully in the rock buttress was approached and did not appear overly steep or rotten from the bottom, but for maximum safety Fickeisen, Booher, Halstaff and McBrayer ascended singly in the order listed. At the top of the gully lay a 30 by 30 foot, 30° sloping field of man-sized and sharply broken boulders bordered by an ice fall above and also on the right of the buttress. Fickeisen was on the ice above with Halstaff and Booher waiting on the upper boulders to the right and below the ice. McBrayer proceeded cautiously upward and upon stepping on a 1½ foot flat rock, released a boulder-fall for 15 feet above and 10 feet below his position. McBrayer was immediately engulfed up to the waist in the avalanche of boulders.

The victim instantaneously began fighting to stay on top of the grinding boulders and after riding the boulders for about 10 feet, got a purchase on the top of one boulder and jumped 7 to 10 feet out of the boulder fall, landing up-hill and to the side of the fall. Injuries sustained consisted of a crushed ankle and numerous deep bruises and lacerations. The victim was able to walk out.

*Source:* McBrayer, Fickeisen, Booher, and Halstaff.

*Analysis:* Failure to get free from the rockfall could easily have been fatal. Only instantaneous reaction and continued fighting to get free saved McBrayer. A very tired climber, one who was not alert, or one who gave up would have had little chance to escape. This accident also points up the advisability of scouting training climbs where larger numbers of less experienced climbers are involved as there was no apparent way that the rockfall could have been anticipated and avoided on this route.

*Washington, Mt. Rainier.* On 15 June Gary Fredrickson (27), George T. Dockery (37), Peter T. Sandstedt (21), Carl Moore (34), and Glen Fredrickson (20), were climbing the Curtis Ridge. The first three were