The plan for evacuation was the following: Starr and another companion returned to the cars while one more person was to go to the Alpine Club Hut (about one mile away) for sleeping bags, stove, and the light-weight litter. Only this person was to return. Three more were to stay with the patient. The rest of the party returned to the cabin. Four remained with the patient, attended to him and carried him to a place where the helicopter could land (about 200 feet vertical below the site of the accident).

The accident occurred about 5,000 feet above the nearest road and about 7 miles from it. That distance was covered in about 1 1/2 hours. There was also a 300-foot-wide river to cross by boat. The accident occurred at 10:00 a.m. They were in the Squamish RCMP office by 12:30 p.m.

There was some delay in obtaining a helicopter because Air-Sea Rescue was unavailable. A private helicopter was chartered by the RCMP and the patient was evacuated by 3:00 p.m. He was operated on within an hour of arriving at the hospital. He spent approximately three weeks in the hospital and was almost completely recovered by December.

Source: Paul J. Starr.

Analysis: One should gradually develop competence in the various ice-ax-arrest techniques, e.g., learn to walk before one runs.

British Columbia, Selkirks, Swiss Peaks. On 17 July Donald David Wallbridge (35) apparently climbed at least one other peak in the vicinity of Rogers Peak Hermit area since he had signed the Cairn register on Sifton (9,563 feet) and had apparently also climbed Rogers Peak (10,546 feet). This was the plan he had registered at the Warden's office. Extensive searching after he was reported overdue on 19 July failed to find any trace except tracks leading to a broken cornice on Swiss Peaks. Bad weather halted the search on the fourth day. Subsequent searches on the glacier below the broken cornice revealed nothing.

Source: A. D. Clayton.

Analysis: It should be noted that the missing person apparently fell through the cornice of a peak he had not indicated he was going to climb. It was not until the third or fourth day that the search expanded to this peak. Correct registration would have led to this discovery earlier. Other mistakes are obvious.

Vancouver Island, Mt. Bensen. On 28 November Frank Tolen (16) and five companions climbed through snow to a cabin at about 3,000 feet on Mt. Bensen. Frank stopped to change socks and shortly thereafter said he could not go any farther. The group was close to the cabin and so they went ahead. They got a fire going, and they returned for Frank. They found him collapsed. They dragged him to the cabin where he was wrapped in a sleeping bag and rubbed. He soon died, however.

Source: R. Culbert.

Analysis: Just why Tolen succumbed to exposure on this occasion appears to be a mystery. The others obviously did not recognize the symptoms nor know how to treat him. Their major mistake of leaving him alone in the snow and not applying heat, when he was beyond self-recovery, must be attributed to inexperience.