

## CANADA

*British Columbia, Mount Assiniboine.* On July 25th Andrew Killick (age 25) had successfully soloed Mt. Assiniboine and was descending the long snow chute at the base of the north face. The weather was overcast with temperatures in the 50's. Killick was kicking heel-steps when his feet slid out from under him. An ice axe arrest was unsuccessful because of the steepness of the chute and the very soft snow. He slid about 700 feet, struck a rock outcrop, slid another 350 feet, struck another outcrop, slid an additional 150 feet, and came to rest on a snowfield. Christy Clark, a friend of Killick's, and a group of climbers witnessed the fall from their camp at Lake Magog. When they arrived they found Killick suffering from a severe compound fracture of the lower right leg. He had already tied a small tourniquet to slow the blood flow. One person was sent to summon a helicopter, and two others arrived with first aid gear and a stove. Fortunately, a helicopter had just brought two campers to Lake Magog. It did not have a litter or splint, but it flew to a nearby ranger station to fetch them. Lew Krimen, a first aid instructor, splinted the leg, after which Killick was evacuated by the helicopter. (Sources: Krimen, Craig Sutter.)

*Analysis:* Killick was a climber of ten years' experience and he felt confident of his technique. The snow was too soft for crampons. The same chute was descended by three ropes of climbers without incident, but two days before a rope of two slipped in similar fashion. They walked away with minor scratches because they did not hit the rocks. Although Killick was in great pain, the presence of his friend Christy and continuous conversation helped prevent shock. Killick had earlier said that his boots were new and painful, especially on descent. This might have been the cause of momentary difficulty that permitted his steps to break out. A slower but safer method would have been to descend facing the slope.

*British Columbia, Northern Selkirks.* On August 12th Phil Koch and Christopher Winship, both of the Dartmouth Mountaineering Club, were attempting the west face of Mount Adamant. This was Winship's second attempt on the route. A week earlier he and Peter Gilbert had climbed two-thirds of the face before being stormed off. At noontime Koch and Winship were just below the high point of the previous attempt. Winship led a long, easy, unprotectable traverse, followed by a difficult inside corner (about 5.8). He took a fall of about six feet in the corner. After regaining the rock he climbed above his previous highest protection, a nut. While attempting to place a higher nut, he slipped. The nut below him failed, and he fell about seventy feet. He stopped forty feet above his belayer. After resting for half an hour, they set up a rappel and descended about 100 feet. Winship was unable to continue down because of pain in his leg. They called for help from their D.M.C. friends Brinkman, Davis, and Gierke, who appeared on the Adamant Glacier below at that time. Koch left Winship on a ledge and fixed ropes for the rescuers. Sleeping bags, clothes, food, and medication were brought up that afternoon. The leg was splinted and immobilized with tent poles. The next morning Brinkman and Koch went for help. They found a party led by William Putnam camped at Fairy Meadow, four hours and 5,000 vertical feet away. Meanwhile, Davis and Gierke started the evacuation. Winship sat in a diaper-chest harness on one man's back; they descended on rappel while belayed from above. That afternoon, as the rescuers neared the bottom of the face, they were joined by members of the Putnam party. A helicopter summoned from the Bow company arrived, and Winship was flown to Golden hospital. Pelvis and leg injuries kept