

were contacted by Mr. Carne around 9 a.m. (Source: Mark Forbes, Yosemite National Park.)

*Analysis:* Suzanne Carne was far from the route she and her husband had initially wanted to climb. Both had previous experience in climbing. She had led out and placed two and three points of protection, which pulled once she fell. Her fall was between 150 and 200 vertical feet. Better protection and being on route in an area with less loose rock could have prevented this accident. (Source: Tim Setnicka, Yosemite National Park.)

**EXPOSURE, BAD WEATHER, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, DARKNESS, INEXPERIENCE**—*California, Yosemite Valley.* The following report was given by Larry Day (26) and Donald Evans (23) following their rescue, during which Jack Dorn (30)—a member of the Yosemite Rescue Team—lost his life.

Day and Evans left their tent at 5:30 a.m. on May 22 to start the approach of the climb of Yosemite Buttress. Both stated that they had discussed taking rain gear. Evans did throw in a rain jacket, two oranges, and a bag of gorp. Day was wearing a cotton T-shirt with a long-sleeved cotton shirt over it, cotton pants and tennis shoes as well as “EB” climbing shoes. Evans was wearing a cotton turtleneck and cotton pants with a wool cap. Evans also had tennis shoes as well as “EBs.” Each carried one glove for belaying. Climbing equipment: two 11mm 165-foot climbing ropes, a rack of hex’s and stoppers, 12 slings and two prussiks.

Day’s climbing experience included four to five years of climbing in Boulder, Colorado, Rocky Mountains; Granite Mountain, Arizona; Seneca Rock, West Virginia; and Red River Gorge, Kentucky. Although Day was a steady 5.9 climber and leader, he had done only short routes with the longest being Royal Arches in Yosemite (13 pitches). Other leads included the first pitch of the Gripper and Reeds Direct. Day had no experience with direct aid.

Evans had been in Yosemite for approximately six weeks and started climbing upon his arrival. Although Evans had done several 5.8 leads (including Sunnyside jam crack and Bishops Terrace) he had done no long climbs and was also unfamiliar with direct aid. The longest climb he had followed was eight pitches. Evans had never jumarred.

Day stated that the approach to the climb was hard on both of them and they had been delayed by another party who climbed past them. Although the weather looked threatening when they finished the tenth pitch of the Yosemite Point Buttress putting them atop the “pedestal,” they decided to try for the top rather than rap down and descend through the boulders in the dark. Neither subject had a flashlight. Evans stated he was cold and tired upon reaching the top of the pedestal.

Day led the first pitch above the pedestal. Half way up it began to rain. Day had on the rain jacket leaving Evans with no protection from the rain and

spring weather. However, both were unprepared for an overnight bivouac and bad weather as well.

Once the weather turned bad, the two were almost immediately in trouble and became hypothermic, and when their rope was jammed they could not free it and called for help.

A rescue team was sent at 3:30 a.m. on an established trail up Yosemite Falls. All were experienced personnel and had been over the trail on many previous occasions. For unknown reasons, rescuer Jack Dorn stepped off the trail and slid 400 feet down a slab to his death.

The rescue of Day and Evans proceeded at daylight and a second recovery party was organized to retrieve Dorn's body. Day and Evans were rescued and were able to walk down the trail after warming themselves and having some nourishment. Day's and Evans' situation was preventable and Jack Dorn's death was an unbelievable tragedy. (Source: Tim Setnicka, Yosemite National Park.)

*FALLING ROCK—California, Yosemite Valley.* Michael Cannon (23) and Mark Richey (19) had just come off the Steck-Salathe route on Sentinel Peak. Richey had tied himself to the wall and Cannon was behind a large flake on a sizeable ledge. The next thing that Richey knew, the ledge gave way from under Cannon, resulting in a 600-foot fall.

Richey felt that the ledge was very adequate, and had appeared to have a number of other climbers do the same thing that Cannon had done. Richey was able to Class 3 the descent route to report the accident, arriving at the ranger station at 11 p.m. (Source: Charles Farabee, Yosemite National Park.)

*Analysis:* Cannon's death occurred when a huge block he was standing on decided to break off. There was no way to predict when the block would break off and it would be unrealistic to say Cannon should have been clipped in because the block was large enough that most climbers could have felt secure enough to walk around on it unroped or not clipped in. (Source: Tim Setnicka, Yosemite National Park.)

*RAPPEL FAILURE, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, INEXPERIENCE—California, Yosemite Valley.* On July 17, while rappelling off the Glacier Point apron, Mike Ireland (27) and his four climbing partners used what was later identified to be a bicycle security cable for a rappel anchor. The cable was an attempt to keep climbers from girdling a large tree which is the rappel anchor. Unfortunately, there are no tight controls on the cable swedging which forms the "eyes" of the bicycle cable. The "eyes" were held together by a chain repair link.

Three climbers rappelled down before Ireland without any problems. Ireland began his rappel and was about 10 feet down from the anchor when the short ends of the "eyes" pulled out from the swedge. Ireland slid down 150-