High winds and heavy snow hit the party, and the group split in two. Hixon tried to make his way down the mountain with three others—Kent Nichols (19), Keith Fickenwirth (15), and Ken Parkes (18).

All but Hixon came off the mountain yesterday afternoon. Nichols was suffering from severe hypothermia.

The party began a descent from 10,000-foot Camp Muir to Paradise Saturday morning.

Hixon lost his boots Saturday, according to fellow climbers. They had become waterlogged. "Hixon was conscious but hypothermic when fellow climbers wrapped him in a sleeping bag and a torn tent," Henderson said. "Frankly, the odds on finding him alive were not very good."

A snowstorm on Saturday and Sunday dumped six to eight inches of new snow and drifts of up to three feet at Paradise, Henderson said. (Source: *The Seattle Times*, July 3, 1979)

Analysis

Hixon had no climbing experience. (Source: Larry Henderson, Mt. Rainier National Park—from a newspaper article)

FALLING ICE
Washington, Mt. Rainier

Dr. John DonLou (34), anesthesiologist from Palos Verdes, California, said today he is still "shell-shocked" over the loss of his right arm in a climbing accident on Mt. Rainier and doesn't know what the future holds.

The arm was amputated above the elbow Sunday at Tacoma's St. Joseph Hospital, after what DonLou called "a freak accident" on Liberty Ridge, about 1,000 feet from the summit, at 9:30 a.m. on June 22.

"I have complete amnesia about the accident myself," DonLou said in a telephone interview from his Palos Verdes home. "I know only what my two climbing companions have told me."

Those companions—Jari Secher-Jensen of Tacoma and Bob Cedergreen, a Palos Verdes physician—said DonLou was struck by a falling piece of ice, weighing from 200 to 300 pounds.

"I was conscious for about ten minutes," DonLou said. "When I awoke, I was hanging, suspended upside down, and my right arm was useless. My friends, who were not hit by the ice but were tumbled a ways down the mountain, came back to me and moved me to a ledge about 50 feet above where the accident occurred. They wrapped me in sleeping bags and went for help. It arrived about eight hours later."

The arm, DonLou said, was so badly crushed that "there was no hope of saving it."

"I had come to your state for the express purpose of climbing Mt. Rainier," DonLou said. "It was a wonderful experience—until the freak accident."

DonLou said he had been climbing for about two years, mostly on rock. One of his biggest regrets, he said, "is that I probably will never climb again."

It is still much too early to talk about his future as an anesthesiologist, DonLou said.

"I certainly cannot practice at this time. Fitted with a proper prosthesis, I might, in time, be able to work again. Two arms are vital in my work.

"But, because of my experience, it is quite possible that I could enter the teaching field."

DonLou said he is married and the father of a six month old daughter. (Source: *The Seattle Times*, June 27, 1979)

FALL ON ROCK
Washington, Ingalls Peak

The body of a young Sumner man who died—despite a female companion's courageous efforts—after falling while mountain climbing in the Wenatchee National Forest was recovered by a rescue team on July 5.

Kittitas County officials said Jeff Carlson (20) survived the fall but died before rescue teams reached him in the rugged terrain of Ingalls Peak north of Cle Elum and southwest of Leavenworth.

His climbing companion, Kathy LeClair (20) was rescued from the area Saturday and reportedly suffered only from exposure after spending two nights on the mountain in inclement weather. She was not hospitalized.

Bob Say, Kittitas County Search and Rescue Coordinator, credited LeClair with courage and presence of mind in giving Carlson all possible aid and in effecting the rescue.

Carlson apparently died of trauma and exposure, according to Kittitas County Deputy Coroner Earl Cox. The young man's injuries included head wounds and bone fractures and were severe enough to cause death, Cox said.

Coordinator Say said Carlson and LeClair had been on the mountain all day when crumbling rock gave way, causing Carlson to fall.

The pair were climbing a chimney when the accident occurred, causing Carlson to fall about 130 feet to the end of his climbing rope and to strike both sides of the rock face as he fell, Say said. The fall ended with Carlson hanging from his climbing ropes, suspended over the edge of a cliff and with a broken arm and leg. The only way LeClair could reach him was to cut him down, which resulted in a broken back when he hit a ledge below.

LeClair left her boyfriend on a ledge at 8,000 feet Thursday night and began to climb out for help. However, she got stuck on a small peak and could climb no further. She remained there from Thursday night until 4 p.m. July 7, when the chopper brought up the rescue party. (Source: *The News Tribune*, July 9, 1979)

FALL ON ROCK, PLACED NO PROTECTION, ROPE SEVERED
Washington, Mt. Index

A Bellingham man was killed about 10 a.m. on July 6 in a fall about 300 feet down the northern rock face of Mt. Index.

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office said the victim, identified as Mike F. Jackson (30), died after the rope to which he was tied broke on sharp rocks. His climbing partner, Tim Murphy (26), was not injured.

The two climbers were around the 5,200-foot level of the mountain when Murphy