

no further attempts at a pendulum. After several unsuccessful throws, Lemoore discontinued their efforts. The NPS personnel on the rim repositioned the anchors used on August 13, so that a lowered rescuer would be in a better vertical line with the victim, and began a second attempt. This time, the rescuer successfully reached the victim, and both rescuer and victim were raised to the rim and flown to Yosemite Valley for medical attention. The victim's injuries included minor facial lacerations, chipped teeth and a fractured nose. (Source: Henry Maxwell and John Daley, Rangers, Yosemite National Park)

STRANDED, INEXPERIENCE

California, Yosemite Valley

On August 20, 1982, Al Rosemann (25) and Dave Briggs (25) were attempting to rappel the 5.8 pitch on Bishop's Terrace (50 meters), when they became stranded because one of them reached the end of his single, doubled climbing rope (25 meters) below an overhang and could not climb back up. One ranger and a Rescue Site Climber did the pitch, set ropes and helped the climbers to reach the ground.

Ranger Gary Colliver and Rescue Site climber John Barbella went to the area with the needed equipment. Colliver belayed Barbella up the 5.0 first pitch of Bishop's Terrace. Barbella then fixed a second rope which Colliver used to jumar up to the climber hanging from the end of his rappel rope. Colliver gave him a hard hat and assisted him in transferring his rappel setup to the fixed rope, which reached the ground. The first climber then rappelled to the ground and Colliver jumared to the top of the pitch to meet Barbella and the second climber to whom he also gave a hard hat. The ropes were set for a full double-rope rappel to the ground and the second climber, Colliver and Barbella all rappelled safely. (Source: Gary Colliver, Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

Analysis

Rosemann related that they had talked with some climbers who had done this route and had told them that it was one rappel to the ground from the end of the route. Colliver told him that the end of the route was a short distance above them and about 30 meters east of them and pointed out that, since they had just climbed the pitch, they should have realized that it was more than 25 meters. Rosemann said they hadn't thought of that, only that they had been told it was one rappel to the ground. When Colliver reached Rosemann, who was hanging from prusik knots on his doubled rope, he asked him why he hadn't prusiked back up the rope. Rosemann answered that he had been too shaken up by the event to consider this. (Source: Gary Colliver, Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

FALL ON ROCK, FAILURE OF NUT

California, Yosemite Valley

On September 14, 1982, around 1400, Jim Slichter (27) was leading Pitch 24 of Pancake Flake on The Nose on El Capitan when an aid nut he was standing on pulled and he fell three meters. He struck his left foot very hard on a ledge, causing

a possible fracture. His partner lowered him to the belay and led for the rest of the day, stopping at Camp 6, Pitch 25, for the night. The next day his partner led all the pitches while he jumared. They topped out around 1400. His partner then hiked to the valley and reported the incident to the Sunnyside fee collector. A helicopter evacuation was successfully completed on September 16. (Source: Robert Williams, Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

Analysis

The primary purpose in reporting this accident is to highlight the capability and appropriate actions of this climbing party. SAR Ranger John Dill sent several reports of accidents in which climbers rescued themselves or reported immediately to the rangers after returning late. Dill's recent interviews with many climbers in the valley reveal that an encouraging percentage have this positive attitude. Given the nature of the majority of the reports found herein, readers of *Accidents in North American Mountaineering* should consider this. (Source: J. Williamson)

FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE FOOD AND EQUIPMENT

California, Yosemite Valley

On September 29, 1982, two climbers (22 and 21) called for help from the Iron Hawk route on El Capitan. An assessment of the situation revealed that one of them had injured his neck in a leader fall and that they had been out of food for three days. They were about 260 meters from the top.

A rescue team was dispatched and, by 1300 on September 30, Ranger Dan Dallinges was lowered about 260 meters. Several directionals were clipped in to minimize the distance from the wall. The final distance from the rescue site was approximately 10 meters. Dallinges was able to throw a length of 9 mm rope from above. After several attempts, O'Connell caught the line and secured it. Dallinges was then pulled into the wall and secured at the anchor points there.

After a short breather, Dallinges contacted LMH with an update on the neck injury and placed a C-collar. After dumping all the unnecessary equipment, Dallinges and the climbers detached, swung away from the wall and were then raised to the top. The load weight was approximately 700 pounds and the raising operation took approximately 1½ hours. At the top, the climbers were given some food; the group then hiked to the summit where all but two persons (who were left to guard the rescue equipment) were flown to the valley floor.

At the hospital, the injured climber refused treatment when he discovered that he would be responsible for payment. (Source: Dan Dallinges, Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

Analysis

This represents the other end of the spectrum from the previous accident and analysis. Quoting from the Case Incident Report: "After much consultation and extensive critique of the circumstances leading to the rescue, it was decided to issue (the two climbers) citations of \$25 each for creating a hazardous condition by failing to properly equip and plan." (Source: J. Williamson and Yosemite National Park)