

a 25 meter wall. He is thought to have died instantly from head injuries. (Source: *Bergtrage*, Seattle Mountain Rescue Council, 84-16, September 1984).

### **Analysis**

Apparently, Gylys wandered off the not well marked trail in darkness. (Source: Rick Murphy, MRA Mission Report #84-481).

## **FALL ON ROCK**

### **Washington, Magic Mountain**

On September 16, 1984, Alex Deak (50) fell while descending the east side of Magic Mountain. His ten meter fall resulted in a broken ankle, and a helicopter evacuation was made. A month earlier, the same individual was climbing alone on McMillan Spire, and when he did not return on schedule, Whatcom County SAR was activated. When he was located, he was flown out. He had sustained an sprained ankle. (Source: Lyman Dayton, MRA Mission Report #s 84-514 and 84-378).

## **FALL ON SNOW, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, CLIMBING ALONE AND UNROPE**

### **Washington, Whitehorse Mountain**

On September 18, 1984, Jim Scott (52) fell while descending from the summit of Whitehorse Mountain (2135 meters). Scott, who had moved from Seattle to Los Angeles in 1973, was in the region on a business trip and took a free day at the end of it to revisit the North Cascades. The *Seattle Times* gave this account:

It was to be a one-day trip to the peak of White Horse Mountain in Snohomish County and back. But instead of being a simple climb, the experience nearly killed the University of Washington graduate and taught him reams about man's "survival instinct."

Scott fell while on a glacier, injuring himself seriously, and had to spend the night on the mountain in wet clothing and without food or shelter. There was a good possibility that he might die from the cold, the shock, the internal bleeding.

"I lay there a few seconds. I was dazed," he said. "My main concern was to get off the glacier," because of the cold and the wind.

Scott started to drag himself down the mountain, inch by painful inch, using makeshift crutches. He calculated that it took him nearly three and a half hours to cover the same ground he had traversed in less than an hour going up.

Finally, the pain caught up with him. "All of a sudden, I felt faint and fell to my knees." He got up but fell again, unable to continue. He had traveled four kilometers with another five or six to go.

Scott said that he learned a lot about himself on the mountain top. "You really get to know yourself and how much you can stand," he said yesterday from his bed at Everett General Hospital.

"I suppose I could have given up. But the instinct for survival is so enormous that you will do almost anything," Scott said.

He had lost his backpack and supplies. His boots and clothing were wet. He was

suffering from exhaustion and shock and he knew hypothermia was a strong possibility. "You just have to force yourself to deal with the real possibility that you might die," he said.

It was about 1700 Scott said that he crawled under a log and tried to pull the bark around him to keep warm. He estimated that the temperature overnight was just above freezing. To stay awake, he set his watch to buzz every five minutes, and each time the buzzer went off he would exercise to keep the blood flowing and shout for help, although he realized that no one would hear him. He stayed there until 0800 Wednesday morning, when he dragged himself about five meters to a spot where he could lie in the sun and at least let his clothes dry.

It was there about noon that Casey Bardue, a 29-year-old Seattle hiker, appeared. Bardue, who was the "only one who came up the trail that day," hiked out and notified authorities. Scott eventually was lifted out by the Snohomish County Sheriff's helicopter.

Scott, who says, "It's very questionable I could have gone through another night," probably won't be climbing again soon. If he does get the urge again, "It'll be hikes, not climbs," he said.

The ordeal on the mountain left Scott with several hairline fractures of his pelvis, three cracked ribs and internal bleeding that caused two quarts of his blood to drain into his abdomen. Several internal organs were bruised, and he suffered multiple cuts and bruises. (Source: Dave Birkland, *Seattle Times*, September 22, 1984)

### **Analysis**

Sgt. John Taylor, with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, had additional phone conversations with Scott after he had returned to Los Angeles. Taylor described Scott as being very experienced, and fully aware that a prudent climber would have had companions, rope, an ice ax, and probably crampons for the peak. He told Taylor that he had allowed his desire to sway his judgment. (Source: George Sainsbury, Seattle MRC)

## **RAPPEL FAILURE, INADEQUATE PROTECTION Wisconsin, Devil's Lake State Park**

On October 20, 1984, a climber (F - 22) fell seven to eight meters to the ground when her rappel anchor—consisting of nylon webbing secured to a tree and a rock—failed. (Source: Visitor Accident Report Form, Devil's Lake State Park)

### **Analysis**

Though there are not enough details for us to know what part of the anchor system failed, the accident is presented as one of the few rappelling mishaps this year, and an illustrative one in terms of common cause. (Source: J. Williamson)

*(Editor's Note: The above is one of seven accidents reported from Devil's Lake last year. Five involved falls, only one of which seems to have been protected. There were not enough details on these to present helpful descriptions. The other accident was unusual: A woman (21) dislocated her shoulder while reaching for a hold on a climb called Weisner's Wall, on the West Bluff.)*