tinue the climb. Before we left the Terraces, a carabiner, apparently dropped by the same party above, missed us by only 20 feet. We yelled considerably less than nice comments up the wall. Conversation was difficult because of the distance, but they did yell down an apology.

The pain remained mild for the rest of the climb and, with no heroic effort on my part, we reached the summit on June 23. We hiked down to the Valley, enjoyed a celebratory dinner, and I drove home to southern California that night.

Early the following morning I was awakened by severe pain in my abdomen and left shoulder and arm. I was light-headed, weak, and lost consciousness if I tried to walk. When the ambulance got me to the hospital, my systolic blood pressure was down to 80 and the CT scan showed a ruptured spleen. I was wheeled straight to the operating room, where my spleen was removed. By that time I had lost three liters of blood into my abdomen. The surgeon felt that a delay of another 20 minutes would have been fatal.

Had I begun bleeding seriously while on the wall, I would probably be dead today, even with a fast rescue. We can only guess that the wound to my spleen had a chance to clot as I lay quietly in my bag that first night, and that the clot somehow survived the rigors of the next few days. (Source: Richard Oliver)

Analysis

Several climbers have lost their lives, and one is permanently disabled, from rocks knocked off by climbers above. This may be the first really serious injury caused by falling equipment, but the lesson is the same. It's incredible that Oliver is around to tell the tale. (Source: John Dill, NPS Ranger)

FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING ALONE AND UNROPED

California, Yosemite Valley, Sunnyside Bench

On August 7, 1994, James Howell (21) free-soloed Lazy Bum, a 5.10d route on Sunnyside Bench. To get back to the ground he traversed several yards left and down to a large flake that required underclinging. As he was downclimbing around the flake, his feet slipped and he fell 20-25 feet to the ground.

When rescuers reached the scene, they found Howell sitting on the ground, alert but complaining of pain in his left wrist and forehead, which sported a three-inch laceration. The team immobilized him in a full-body vacuum splint, administered oxygen and an IV and carried him several hundred yards to the ambulance.

At the clinic he was diagnosed as suffering a fractured talus in one foot and a Colles fracture of one wrist in addition to the forehead cut. He also had an old (healed) L-5 fracture from a previous free-solo attempt. (Source: Rick Foulks & Chris Pergiel, NPS Rangers)

PROTECTION PULLED OUT, FALL ON ROCK, "EGO IN AN UPROAR"

California, Yosemite National Park, Tuolumne Meadows—Daff Dome

On August 12, 1994, at 1010, the NPS received a report of a climber injured in an 60-80 foot fall to the ground at Daff Dome in Tuolumne Meadows. Ranger Kris Bardsley, the first ranger at the scene, arrived at 1040. The victim, Dan Acland (25) had struck his back and side in a sliding fall and landed hard on his left side. He was conscious but