

exposure may impel injured climbers to attempt to further their own rescue. Delay in getting rescue personnel into the field may therefore mean disaster.

*Sierra Nevada, California: (1) Twin Peaks (8924 ft.), above Lake Tahoe.* On 14 August 1947 a young man from Massachusetts, Emmett Pettit, 23 years old, previously acquainted with a few climbs in the Canadian Rockies, was killed by a fall from a rock face. He was one of a party of six which had started from Tahoe with Hans Reiss as guide. The party had climbed the basin north of Twin Peaks on easy slopes and was following a trail which led to the summit. Pettit insisted on breaking away from the party, against the objection of the guide, in order to take a shortcut. He stated that he would either return to the trail and catch up with the party, or else join it on the summit. Apparently he attempted to climb solo an almost vertical rock face of disintegrating lava. Members of the party thought they heard a rock fall on the face and, after waiting for some time on the summit, became alarmed. Having descended to the basin, Pettit's fiancée found his broken body at the base of the cliff. Presumably he had fallen about 800 feet.

*Sources of information:* newspaper accounts; statements by the guide, by friends of the victim, from the official report of U.S. Forest Service and from the report of the Tahoe City constable's office.

*Analysis.* Here is a tragic consequence of climbing alone. It is understood that this was not Pettit's first solo climb. Evidently he was unwilling to take advice. Whether the climber's failure to recognize his limitations, or loose rock on the face he was attempting to climb caused the fatality, cannot be known.

*Sierra Nevada, California: (2) Yosemite Valley.* On 31 May 1947 Donald Boyd, a 14-year-old boy, was killed by a fall from Sunnyside Bench beneath upper Yosemite Falls. Another boy of the same age was with him. It was evening and getting dark. They had taken a seldom-used shortcut above fairly steep cliffs. They had no rope. Boyd slipped and slid to the edge of the Bench; but his fall was stopped by an oak tree and some wild grape vines, from which his