

Sierra Club party, including Al Baxter, who had himself been rescued in a serious Yosemite accident the year before. Severe skull fracture indicated instant death.

*Sources of information:* National Park Service, and Sierra Club.

*Analysis.* The route is protected by two heavy steel cables as handrails, waist-high for 800 feet on smooth 43-degree granite slabs. It is intended for use by totally inexperienced persons. This was the first such accident in thousands of ascents since the cables were installed in 1919; it could have been caused by mountain sickness brought on by dehydration and overexertion on the rapid climb of 5000 vertical feet.

*Sierra Nevada, California: (3) Mt. Humphrey.* A party of five, having climbed Mt. Humphrey and descended from the summit area, were taking off the rope at the top of a scree chimney. Harry Abraham (27), leader of the party, was coiling the rope; others were above. He had instructed the others not to move. Someone dislodged a rock which, in turn, dislodged another rock. Abraham was unable to dodge both rocks, and one of them struck him. Knocked off balance, he tumbled some 50 feet, sustaining moderately severe lacerations and contusions about the head. This accident occurred on 17 August 1948.

*Sources of information:* newspaper accounts, and personal account from Abraham.

*Analysis.* This mishap emphasizes again the need for caution when a party is on loose rock. Extreme care must be taken to prevent dislodgement of rocks.

*Near Tucson, Arizona.* On 9 August 1948 John D. Anderson, a sheriff's deputy, was assisting in the rescue of a 15-year-old boy who had become isolated on a cliff face the day before. Anderson had been lowered 500 feet down the 1000-foot cliff to the place where the boy was trapped. He then tied the rope around the boy; but, as the two were hoisted upward, he himself merely held onto the rope. About ten feet from the top, Anderson lost his grip and fell 1000 feet. He was instantly killed.

*Source of information:* newspaper account.

*Analysis.* This accident was the result of faulty rescue technique. Both persons should certainly have been tied to the rope, or else