

River for help. Fortunately, these men were able to attract the attention of persons at a cabin across the broad river near tide-water, and thus help was summoned by radio to Juneau. Subsequently, two airplane flights to Twin Glacier Lake brought in rescue personnel. Ayres was lowered bit by bit to the precipitous shore of the lake by use of climbing rope, and from there he was flown to a hospital in Juneau, where he remained for several weeks.

*Analysis.* This is not strictly a mountaineering accident, although it occurred in a rugged mountain area to an experienced mountaineering group. Although it is the type of accident which is within the realm of the legitimate risk on such a trip, it nevertheless points out the need for caution by experienced and inexperienced alike, and not only at high levels, but on lower and what would appear to be easy slopes as well. Since more and more expeditionary mountaineering is in the offing, the accident focuses timely attention on this recommendation: it is advisable for mountaineering parties in Alaska, just as at Yosemite or Rainier, to inform local authorities of their plans, and to make prior arrangements with other agencies which might by necessity be called upon in the event of accident. A system of emergency signals should also be prepared in advance. In this context, the headquarters office of the U.S. Forest Service in Juneau, which has jurisdiction over the Tongass National Forest in Southeastern Alaska, has requested that any future mountaineering parties in the Juneau, Petersburg or Ketchikan area make contact through official channels so that effective rescue procedures may be organized in advance. And finally, once an Alaskan mountaineering group gets into the field, it should, if possible, have some kind of communication with the outside world because, in Dr. Ayres' own words, "a party without airplanes or radio would have a tough time getting through a call for help."

*Washington: Northern Cascades, Mt. Pilchuck.* In August 1949 five high school boys from Renton were on a fishing trip to Lake 22, on the east shoulder of this peak. While they were traversing a steep snow field above the lake, the boys, all of whom were in tennis shoes, found the terrain too steep and, not knowing enough to turn around, took out their pocket knives to chip

hand- and footholds. One of them, Jerry Irwin (16: weight, 180 lbs.), slipped and fell about 35 feet into a bergschrund, where he suffered head and back injuries and a fractured arm. His two companions hiked out to Verlot Ranger Station for help. The other two, one an Eagle Scout, gave Irwin first aid. The accident occurred about 3 P.M., and the rescue patrol was able to get him to the hospital at 2 A.M. the next morning.

*Source of information:* Wolf Bauer of the rescue patrol of three who were called by the U.S. Forest Service.

*Analysis.* Obviously lack of experience was the main reason for this accident.

*Colorado: Red Rocks, near Denver.* On 26 May 1949 Jennie Akers, on a hiking trip with three companions, was climbing the east face of Creation Rock. She lost her head scarf and, upon reaching for it, fell. Examination disclosed a broken left arm and a possible fracture of the left hip and right leg. Rescuers made a human chain and, lashing themselves to the rock face with ropes, successfully brought her down 600 feet of the crumbling sandstone cliff.

*Source of information:* newspaper reports.

*Analysis.* No experience in climbing steep cliffs, and certainly no understanding of the dangers.

*Colorado: Devil's Head, near Deckers.* On 27 September 1949 James L. Naudack (18) was climbing over the rocky surface of this small mountain and attempted to jump a crevice. Failing to make it, he slid 15 feet down the face of the boulder formation until his left foot jammed securely between two rocks and held him. He could not free himself and could not be reached. He was finally rescued 12 hours later by members of the Denver Red Cross Disaster Squad and of the Lowry Field air search rescue team. They lowered a rope which Naudack attached to himself. Thus secured, he pulled his foot free from the shoe, which remained fast. After this he was lowered to the ground.

*Source of information:* newspaper reports.

*Analysis.* Another accident to an inexperienced youngster scrambling about over rugged mountain country. This accident could have happened to anyone, but it does show that, before attempting to jump across an abyss, one should give a good look.