

slope, Barnes, Turner and Voorhees moved faster and approached the buttress first. While they were awaiting the others a portion of the cliff, not on the climbing route, fell off. The upper party raced out of the path of the stone fall but Barnes tripped, and was struck by a boulder from the fall. He suffered a compound fracture of both bones of the right lower leg. The lower party was able to avoid the fall. A traction splint was improvised as was a crude but effective litter. Evacuation was started by members of the party and completed with the assistance of Tramway personnel who had been notified of the accident.

*Source:* Irwin Davis, *Appalachia* XXIX 265 Dec. 1952

*Analysis:* Davis has neatly presented an analysis of the accident in his report: "It should be emphasized that the accident in question was not a rock climbing accident in any sense. It was not caused, nor contributed to in any way, by climbers or climbing. The climbing route does not proceed over the place from which the rocks fell, and other than the tremendous talus slope made up of rock which in past centuries has fallen from the cliff, there was nothing to indicate that the rock was about to fall."

*New York—Tongue Mountain Cliff, Lake George:* On October 12, 1952 two members of the Dartmouth Mountaineering Club Michael Marx and Peter Robinson, invited two Holyoke girls, Mary Frymoyer and Edith Swanson, to do some climbing on Tongue Mountain. All were attending an IOCA meeting. Marx and Robinson were experienced climbers and the girls had had previous climbing experience on Katahdin. On their way to the cliff they met Dave Bunker (Rensselaer Outing Club) who joined the party. The ascent was accomplished in two ropes and the girls showed themselves to be confident climbers.

The route of the descent was down a wooded, talus filled gully. Below the talus lay a V-shaped rock pitch of 35-40 feet with a five foot platform at its base. On the platform there was a sturdy maple tree which is used as a rappel point to rappel down a 25 foot overhanging chimney to the talus at the base of the cliff. At the end of the climb Marx, Bunker and Miss Frymoyer unroped so that Bunker might rappel down the final pitch. Robinson and Miss Swanson remained roped, and Robinson warned the others to re rope as soon as possible as he had been down the gully the previous afternoon. Bunker completed his rappel and hurried down the gully to set up a rappel for the V-shaped pitch. In helping Miss Frymoyer past a tree Marx allowed her to get ahead of him and she started a short traverse out on the left wall toward the top of the rappel, which Bunker was just starting down. She stepped on a large projecting foothold which immediately broke away and she began slipping down a steep slab facing inwards. She clutched vainly at the rappel rope and Bunker grabbed her but was unable to hold her. She bounded off the five foot platform barely missing the maple tree, executed several somersaults in mid-air, and finally rolled down 60 feet of dirt and talus before coming to rest. A cry from her told the party that she had not been killed. Marx and Bunker rushed to

her and found her conscious but bruised. Assistance was obtained promptly and she was evacuated by stretcher. She suffered cuts and bruises of her face and arms. An x-ray taken later showed a chipped vertebra from which she recovered after three weeks in bed.

*Source:* Michael Marx and Peter Robinson.

*Analysis:* In their report Marx and Robinson raise the pertinent points:

1. "Perhaps the danger of this particular gully has been greatly under-rated both in regard to falling rock and difficulty in climbing."
2. "It seems possible that climbers in general lay too little emphasis on climbing unroped and in unison over rocks, which are very easy, but exposed to fall."
3. "The dangers in carrying out rappeling have not always been fully recognized. They point out that not only is there danger in the rappel *per se* but also in the fact that the establishment of the rappel is frequently done unroped."

*Georgia—Stone Mountain:* On August 13, 1952 L. J. Williams (35) and a friend walked to the top of Stone Mountain, arriving at the summit late in the day. They inquired if there was a short route down and were told, "A set of steps leads directly to the base, right over there." Williams walked over to the designated area looking for the steps and apparently walked off the sheer side of the mountain. As he slipped he lunged for and caught with both hands one of the iron pegs which had supported part of the scaffold used by the sculptor John Gutzon de la Mothe Borglum while working on the Stone Mountain Memorial. Williams hung there first by one hand and then the other for 3½ hours 400 feet above the ground. Someone in the crowd which gathered below finally realized this was not a stunt. Elias Nour who had had previous experience was notified and effected the rescue by a rope from above. Williams was unhurt.

*Source:* Mr. Don Hubbard who interviewed Mr. Williams.

*Analysis:* Failure to exercise due caution in exposed areas.

*Colorado—Rocky Mountain National Park:* (1) On July 10, 1952 John H. Tallmadge (21) said he was going to climb Hallet Peak and Flat Top Mountain the same day. Employees at Bear Lake Lodge advised against this because of the length of the climb, and the lateness of the hour of his planned departure. He reached the summit of Hallet Peak where he talked with a party whom he had followed to the summit. He did not return with them by the easy route of ascent as he preferred to take what he called "a short cut." It was not until four months later that his body was found 1000 feet below the summit of Hallet Peak on the south side. He had apparently fallen 200 feet and had been killed instantly. Tallmadge had probably started his descent over the many steep cliffs on the south side. One of these probably led him