

Richard Calvin Groesbeck (18) with three companions was on the peak for a scramble on April 12, 1952. When they heard of the accident, they allegedly joined the search. None of this group had had any climbing experience, although one of them said he knew the area and had scrambled about the peak before. They were unroped and climbing in an area where experience would have dictated the need for a rope and proper precautions. The group had separated on the steep quartzite cliffs shortly before the fall so no one saw the fall or what caused it. Groesbeck fell about 70 feet onto a wide ledge sustaining fractures of both wrists, concussion, and internal injuries. Groesbeck was evacuated amid much confusion and difficulty due to the inexperience of the rescuing party. He unfortunately died a week later from his injuries.

*Source:* Newspapers and Alfred Bush.

*Analysis:* Unroped climbing in difficult rock; inexperience.

*Montana—Glacier National Park:* Robert Dion, Bill Koch and Don Flynn started climbing Little Chief Mountain at 10 A. M. on July 29, 1952. They had not registered nor notified the rangers of their plan. The three boys proceeded up the face (it is not clear from the report whether this was the regular route which is class 2-3). About halfway up Dion became exhausted and it was decided he should remain while the other two climbed on up. Koch and Flynn reached the summit and returned to the spot where they had left Dion. They found his canteen and coat at the approximate place where they had left him. About 100 feet further down the mountain side they found his hat and some 100 feet below this they found Dion's body. This was about 8 P. M. and the body was stiff indicating that Dion may have been dead some time. They could not move the body so climbed down and notified the rangers who removed it the next day. Examination of the area at the time the body was recovered revealed that Dion had probably fallen and rolled some 150 feet, about 50 feet of this being a vertical fall; superficial observation of the body disclosed that his head was badly battered and that he had a compound fracture of the left leg above the knee.

*Source:* Report Glacier National Park.

*Analysis:* The exact cause of this accident is not apparent, however, one cardinal rule was broken when the party split up leaving the weaker member alone and in a fatigued state.

*Washington—Lundin Peak:* A Washington Alpine Club party of about 15 members, led by William Danielson (29) were finishing a day of climbing practice on September 18, 1952. The final maneuver was that of rappelling. Danielson belayed each as they went down over the 90 foot cliff. The rappel rope was secured at the top with four turns of a light cord tied with a single knot. This cord was actually an upholsterer's cord, the whole strength of which was a light shell of loosely woven cotton threads around a core