

*A summary of Austin's own analysis follows:* The hold took a downward test but could not withstand an outward pull. It also points out that when a fall takes place in 4th class climbing, it can be serious. Other members of the party tried to calculate the striking force and have estimated it to be about 1000 pounds.

*California—Mt. Clarence King:* Philip Berry (20) and David Brower (30) roped attempted to ascend the east spur of Mt. Clarence King on August 2, 1952 during the Sierra Club high trip. They had completed the first pitch (class 4) with Berry leading. Brower followed with the pack and felt he had a difficult time negotiating the pitch. Following a rest Brower took over the lead. As he started the next pitch using a semi-lay-back, he dislodged a rock "so huge as not to arouse suspicion." It was estimated to be five feet by two feet by one and one half feet. The rock moved slowly enough to allow Brower to move in front of it and past Berry in his belay position. The rock slid down onto Berry, pinning him momentarily, and then slid past to a stop. Berry fully freed himself and the rope and Brower eased the rock off the ridge. Berry was in mild shock and had suffered a severe bruise of the outer surface of the left lower leg. A rappel was established and Berry belayed down this. Berry and Brower descended to the base camp where medical advice was available.

*Source:* David Brower.

*Analysis:* (Brower's) "The danger from loose rock is still of paramount importance, and the size of a rock alone must never encourage a climber to drop his guard. In addition the fatigue from climbing the previous pitch with pack and ice axes may have affected the judgement concerning the soundness of the rock. When one is fatigued one must make this first nature; that is, one must consciously check each hold, no matter what its size."

*California—two miles northwest of Ladder Lake in the Black Divide, Bishop Area:* Charles Bays Locker (21) took three younger boys, Gary (13) and Karl (15) Hufbauer and Donald Albright (17) on a high trip into the Bishop Area. Bays was a member of the Sierra Club and had done a fair amount of climbing and hiking in high country in the previous few years. The party had five days of preparatory climbing including the time required to walk into the area. On July 16, 1952 they climbed a previously unclimbed peak of 12,360 feet and had lunch on the summit. They then descended a ridge about an eighth of a mile when they came across a chute. Three of the party Gary, Karl and Bays descended into it and decided it was an impractical route because of a five foot drop between two ledges. Bays boosted Gary up onto the ridge and then started up himself. Karl was below on the second ledge and Don was above. Don wanted to throw Bays a rope to help him up but Bays thought a huge rock he planned to use for a hand hold would hold his weight. When Bays took hold of the rock, it came out of its socket and carried him down the chute.