

packed by one man. The victim's skis and poles can be lashed to it to serve as forward handles and a rope to a following skier gives excellent control.

*Utah—Pete's Rock, Salt Lake County:* In the early part of September, 1953, John R. Bendall (25) was rappelling 90 feet on the Wasatch Mountain Club practice rock. The rope used was a half-inch army nylon (not war surplus) 5 to 6 years old which seemed to be in good condition. The rope was passed unpadding around a quartzite rock. Bendall, using a figure 8 sling with Karabiner made a long jump of about 20 feet at the start of his rappel as was his custom; the rope broke at the rappel point and he fell 70 feet, struck two protuberances of the cliff, and landed on a steeply sloping dirt slope. He suffered numerous abrasions and lacerations, a dislocated elbow and a fracture of a bone in his hand.

*Source:* Harold Goodeo, Director, Mountain Climbing Wasatch Mountaineering Club, and Dr. W. R. Halliday.

*Analysis:* The site of the rappel was examined and no sharp rock was noted that could have cut the rope. It, therefore, seems likely that there was an intrinsic point of weakness in the rope which could not withstand the sudden strain of Bendall's initial long jump out to clear the rock.

*New Mexico—Devil's Thumb, West Face of Sandia Mountains:* On 8 August 1953, Hugh DeWitt (23) and three companions were climbing on the Devil's Thumb the last 1000 ft. of which required the use of ropes. At about 300 ft. from the summit they decided to work in two ropes of two. DeWitt was leading the first rope and had left his belayer in a secure position. Because of inadequate belaying points 35 ft. above the belayer, DeWitt felt he had to go on. The cause of his fall was not clear since it happened so suddenly. DeWitt states that the rock here was sound although most of the rock in the Sandia Mountain is rotting and that the climbing was easy. He fell a full 70 ft. to a shelf 35 ft. below his belayer striking the cliff once. He hit the shelf just as his nylon rope tightened which presumably cushioned his fall. He suffered two broken bones in his left foot, a sprained right foot, and a compound dislocation of his right arm. Evacuation was accomplished the next day.

*Source:* Report of Hugh DeWitt.

*Analysis:* DeWitt feels that he should have protected himself with a piton and states that in the future under similar circumstances he would.

*California—Mt. Shasta:* On 28th November 1953 a party which included Edgar Werner Hopf (30) and eight companions left Horse Camp intending to climb Mt. Shasta. They left the cabin at about 4:20 a.m. in 10-minute intervals and agreed to meet at Lake St. Helens. At Lake St. Helens two persons carrying skis decided it was too icy so left theirs while Hopf, the only other skier, kept his, since he was an experienced and competent skier. Hopf put on his skis and went on ahead alone and the others roped up about 1000 ft. from the lake. The snow was crusted and hard. Hopf was using ski crampons and skins and was 300-400 ft. ahead.