

heavy rainfall. As they were travelling at about 5500 ft. through brush down Dry Creek which was no longer dry, Pfeiffer turned to see a rock-fall coming toward them. He shouted to Hefferlin who was in the rear. Hefferlin looked up to see a large boulder headed toward him. He tried to judge its direction. He stated that either the brush or his slow reaction fixed him in its path and all he could do was to fall flat towards it. The boulder struck both his ankles cushioned in the brush in heavy climbing boots. One ankle was broken. This his companions splinted and they descended another $\frac{1}{4}$ mile where a camp was set up with a fire. Two members of the party walked out to alert a rescue party while one man remained with Hefferlin. The rescue party returned at 2:00 a.m. and Hefferlin reached the hospital at 6:00 a.m.

Source: Frank Hefferlin.

Analysis: The party showed good judgment in turning back, and handled the emergency well. The accident itself was truly accidental but it does illustrate the danger of falling rocks.

California, Rock Quarry, La Mesa—On April 26, 1953 Dean Hallford (12), David Hobbs (12) and Bernie Strong (12) decided to climb a 170 ft. rock quarry. They had a 90 ft. length of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch Manilla line which they cut into three equal portions. Hobbs climbed about 145 ft. above ground when he was unable to proceed. Strong, who had remained behind, climbed up the cliff from the back, tied one end of his rope to a bush and dropped the other end to Hobbs. Hallford by this time had reached a point 15 ft. below Hobbs who was now tied onto Strong's rope and his own rope was out of reach. Hallford's rope had been left behind. Strong then went to get Hallford's rope. During this time Hallford attempted to climb higher when he either slipped or more likely his footing crumbled on the badly decomposed granite and he fell to the floor of the quarry. His back was broken, and he now lives but is paralyzed and has to use a wheel chair.

Source: James Bonner.

Analysis: Inexperienced persons exceeding their ability.

REVIEW OF REPORTED ACCIDENTS 1954

Maine, Mt. Katahdin—At 2:00 p.m. on April 5, 1954, while descending the Saddle Slide, unroped and without an ice ax, Ernest Oikelmus (21), a member of the Harvard Outing Club, lost a crampon. Apparently it was a failure of the strap which either broke or became untied. He was using Army surplus crampons. He fell and slid "several hundred feet." In attempting to arrest his fall by breaking with the other crampon and a ski pole, he broke his right leg above the ankle. He was evacuated by the Ranger Force on Katahdin with much difficulty.

Source: Jean Stephenson, *Appalachia* 30:105-106, 1954 (June); Craig Merrihue.

Analysis: This accident illustrates the dangers of climbing without ice ax and unroped on icy slopes.