

difficulty due to the ruggedness of the terrain and the desert heat. It was found that Bingham had fractured a bone in his foot.

*Source:* Peter Gardner; *Appalachia* 20:277, 1954.

*California, Mount Whitney*—On September 5, 1954, Henry Mandolf (55) with two sixteen-year-old boys, climbed Mt. Whitney by the trail and were descending the north slope toward the Whitney-Russell col. They were carrying packs. On the descent to the col Mandolf slipped on an ice-covered rock. He rolled and slid approximately 100 ft. on the rocks. He was bruised and battered and semi-conscious. His companions immediately set up camp and one of them made a difficult climb that night to get help. A rescue party reached him the next day and he was evacuated. He received severe bruises and sprains.

*Source:* Charles Wilts, a member of the rescue team; James Bonner.

*Analysis:* Insufficient care on the part of the climber on difficult terrain (Class 3) at the end of a long hard day. Undoubtedly fatigue contributed to this accident. His companions deserve credit for their handling of the emergency.

*San Jacinto Mountains, Taquitz Rock*—On June 19, 1954, Joe Fitscher (16) and a companion, Kodis, visited Taquitz Rock on a scheduled Sierra Club climb. They first climbed the horn route using *one* piton. This is a difficult rock climb and more conservative climbers agree four pitons should be used for minimum protection. After completing the climb, Fitscher and his companion walked around the side of the rock to get onto the friction route, the usual route of descent. Rather than climb up a short distance and reach this friction route by walking, Fitscher traversed around the edge of the rock and came across difficulties with steep, short, exposed faces. He said, "this looks like a run across." He ran but did not make it, and slipped, bounced, and fell approximately 200 ft. down steep slabs and short steep pitches. He received extensive cuts and bruises and a blood clot in the optic nerve which later cleared.

*Source:* Charles Wilts present at the time of the accident; James Bonner.

*Yosemite Valley, Cathedral Spires*—On April 10, 1954, Larry Lackey (19) in company with Dick Long and Jim Wilson were trying a new route on the higher Cathedral Spire. All three are experienced mountaineers and climbers. They turned back from their climb, roped off, and started to descend unroped down a step chimney. Lackey was last man. In descending, Lackey pulled off a large rock (estimated weight 200 lbs.) and fell about 8-10 ft. The rock landed on his legs and crushed them severely. One of his legs was fractured in seven places. First aid was given and he was removed the next morning in a Stokes litter.

*Source:* Gil Roberts, Sierra Club, and Stanford Alpine Club present at the scene; report of N. B. Evans, Supervising Ranger, Yosemite National Park; statement of climbing party signed by James Wilson and Richard Long; James Bonner.

*Analysis:* All rocks, even big ones, must be treated with caution. It is doubtful that a rope would have been any help here.