

*Mt. Jefferson (2)*—On September 6, 1954, George Watts (20), Ron Coon (18) and Ed Keech (18) with little previous experience, climbed Mt. Jefferson up to the pinnacle by a rather round about route. Keech had gone ahead and scaled the pinnacle and returned via the Pamela Lake route to the car. When Watts and Coon reached the base of the pinnacle, they felt that it was getting late, so they descended. On the way back down, they were descending a steep snow slope leading to the White Water Glacier on the east face of the mountain. George Watts, with only an Alpenstock, could not hold with his crampons and slipped and fell about 250 feet striking a rock en route. Coon carefully climbed down the slope, administered first aid, and together they walked to Jefferson Park where they met a party of Seattle Mountaineers, one of whom stitched the wounds and two others escorted the men out on foot to Bretenbush Lake.

*Source:* John Biewener from newspaper article by George Watts and an interview with Al Randall, leader of the Seattle Mountaineers party.

*Analysis:* Watts and Coon deserve credit for realizing they should turn back. The party, however, should not have split up and should have been properly equipped (there was no rope in the party). They were too inexperienced for the climb, and if they had registered for the climb, they would have been given good directions which might have prevented the accident.

*Mt. Jefferson (3)*—On September 6, 1954, William Morley (24) and Sam Morley (20) ascended Mt. Jefferson from Pamela Lake despite the comments of bad weather from three other parties, who were descending. They reached the red saddle (10,000 ft.) at the base of the summit pinnacle. Because of disagreement as to which horn was the higher, Sam started up the south horn and William, with the rope, went up the north horn. On the way up the south horn, Sam slipped but his boot wedged in a crack and arrested his fall, which left him upsidedown. Using his ice axe and with great effort, he freed himself and completed the ascent. Since the other horn was higher, he continued on to it where he joined his brother. The brothers were close together near the summit. Sam, who had his back to William, heard a muffled sound and turned to see that his brother had disappeared. William had been standing on a rock and apparently the strong wind had thrown him off balance and he fell to his death. Sam descended and located the body. He attempted to move the body but abandoned this and returned to report the accident. The body lay in a couloir bombarded by frequent rock falls which made the evacuation dangerous. It involved approximately 60 men and required three days.

*Source:* John Biewener who talked with members of the rescue team and with Mrs. Morley.

*Analysis:* A rope would probably have prevented Sam's near fatal fall. If the climbers had realized the danger of the strong wind and had tied themselves to a firm belay, the second fall might have been prevented. William should not have exposed himself unnecessarily to the strong winds.