

*Mount Rainier National Park*—On September 4, 1954, Mr. Rongvald Kvilstad (47) took a party up to climb Mt. Rainier. A short distance above Camp Muir, his two companions became ill and decided to abandon the climb. Kvilstad continued on alone. He met two other parties near Camp Misery underneath Gibraltar Rock. He was requested to rope in, but refused, saying he would do so after they made the 15-20 foot vertical descent onto the Gibraltar ledge. He descended last on the guide's rope ladder, and when about half-way down, slipped and fell. He landed on his back, after which he rolled over twice and came to a stop just short of the 400 ft. drop to the Nisqually Glacier. He was unhurt but lost his camera.

Kvilstad still refused to rope up. He climbed up the "chute" which leads from the ledge between Gibraltar Rock and the Nisqually ice fall to Camp Comfort, where he was finally prevailed upon to rope in. Needless to say upon return to Paradise, legal action was taken because of his violation of park regulations; in addition, he was issued a warning from the Safety Committee of the Seattle Mountaineers.

*Source:* Report of Preston P. Macy, Superintendent, Mt. Rainier National Park.

*Mt. Rainier National Park (4) Echo Peak*—On August 8, 1954, on a Tacoma Mountaineer scheduled climb of Echo Peak in Mt. Rainier National Park, a guest was struck on the head by a falling rock. He was climbing in a narrow gully fifteen feet from the summit. A climber already on top leaned over to tell him not to come that way, and in so doing loosened a 60-pound rock, which grazed the oncoming climber's head. The bleeding was stopped with sterile-pad pressure compresses. Five stitches were required to close the wound and recovery has been complete.

*Source:* The Mountaineer 47:4, 1954 (Dec.).

*Mount Snoqualmie*—On April 18, 1954, William A. Degenhardt (45) and two women Mountaineers were climbing Mt. Snoqualmie, 6300 feet on skis. The party members were experienced ski mountaineers and in good physical condition.

Snow and weather conditions were favorable for avalanche development. Total depth of snow was much greater than average and the season was late with more than average snowfall in April. Previous weather conditions were such that the bond between snow layers was weak. It is known that a hard crust of snow in the mountains formed during the fourth week of March and that on March 25 and 27 dry powder snow fell. This fact is well established since a 15-inch layer of new dry snow avalanched from this crust near the Stevens Pass chair lift on March 27 and buried four skiers (all were rescued within 15 minutes). In later weeks heavier snow fell. Possibly snow in the Snoqualmie avalanche separated at this particular underlayer. The sky was clear on the morning of April 18 and the temperature on the mountain was described as "fairly warm."

Degenhardt climbed ahead of the other two in skis. As he was two-thirds of the way up on a steep slope on the east side of the main ridge running south from the summit, an avalanche started under his skis and carried him 150 feet down the snow and over some rocks. He suffered bruises and a