

distance when the two girls in the lead saw Miss Johnson fall. She hit a ledge 5 or 6 feet down, then fell to a ledge about 20 feet farther. She then fell out of sight. This fall took place about 6:15 p.m. The two survivors hurried back to the hotel and reported the accident about 9:00 p.m.

At 2:00 a.m. on July 22, a four-man trained mountain rescue crew started out to be in the area and ready to climb, if necessary at daylight. At 4:30 a.m., Robinson found Miss Johnson's body at the base of the cliff. She had fallen approximately 1,000 feet.

Evacuation of the body was completed by 8:00 a.m. on July 22. The entire operation was completed during the night of July 21 and early morning hours of the 22nd. Ten men were involved from 2 to 9 hours. A Stokes stretcher was used for transporting the body. Handi-Talkie FM radios were used to maintain contact with the rescue crew. Flashlights provided needed illumination.

*Source:* Stanley C. Joseph, Acting Superintendent, Glacier National Park.

*Oregon, Three Sisters*—On July 24, 1955, Frank Gillette (32), accompanied by Leo Margosian, Richard Chambers, Frederick Kaufman and Ronald Toks, was only 50 feet below the summit of the North Sister when a rock fall occurred. Chambers had reached the summit and was about to photograph the others. They were unroped. The rock fall struck Gillette who was next behind Chambers. Gillette's ankle was fractured by the large rocks. The rest of the fall passed between Gillette, Margosian and Kaufman. The rock fall was apparently started when one of Gillette's hand holds pulled out.

The rescue operation was extremely difficult but was well handled. Gillette was removed in a basket stretcher to the 6,000 foot level where he was picked up by a helicopter. During the rescue one of the rescuers slipped as he was setting up a belay. He slid backwards to an outcropping of rock, flipped over it into the air and plunged down the 6-degree slope. He landed in loose rock and managed to hold on only 15 feet from the edge of the cliff until he could be pulled to safety by his brother.

*Source:* Newspaper clippings.

*Oregon, Mt. Hood*—A party consisting of 30 members (men, women and children) of the Sierra Club climbed Mt. Hood on August 19, 1955 from Timberline Lodge to the summit via the normal route (all class 2 and 3). The party was led by Gene Todd, an experienced climber. All members reached the summit. It was necessary to place fixed ropes at the beginning of the "chute," a glaciated area extending 800 feet to the summit, because of ice.

On the return Miss Patschkowski lost her balance and rolled down from about the middle to the bottom of the chute and ended in a crevasse 30 feet deep. She received the immediate attention of two physicians in the party and was taken down on a stretcher-sled sent up by Timberline Lodge. Injuries consisted of extensive bruises, contusions, abrasions, multiple lacerations of the right side of her abdomen, right thigh and leg caused by her ice axe, and seven ribs were fractured.

During first aid treatment, Dr. Wayburn (a member of the party), discovered she had a lift on one foot as a result of poliomyelitis several years

earlier. Later several members of the party reported she stumbled several times before the fall and had difficulty keeping up with the party.

The weather was dry and warm. Snow conditions at the point where she fell were good with no tendency to slide and deep enough to offer good footing. The other members of the party had no difficulty.

*Source:* William Siri.

*California, Mt. Ralston*—On January 1, 1955, Allen Steck (28), Richard Houston, William Dunmire, and Kenneth D. Adam set out for a ski ascent of Mt. Ralston from Echo Lake, above Tahoe. Plans to attempt Pyramid Peak were cancelled because of a recent heavy snowstorm and 40-mile-an-hour winds. At 11:00 a.m., a mile and a half from the camp and 1500 feet beneath the summit, the four started across an open slope about 200 yards wide. When they were halfway across the area, without warning, they were suddenly engulfed in an avalanche. They were carried 120 feet downhill and encased in the snow. Houston was almost completely buried but was able, by means of a swimming motion, to free his face. Dunmire and Adam, by similar motions, made an airpocket for their faces. Steck, who was in the lead, came to rest face down under 4 feet of wet snow. Fortunately, a second party left shortly after the first group and came upon the avalanche site, one-half hour after the accident. Houston was dug out promptly and the others were finally recovered. Steck was unconscious but revived promptly.

*Source:* William Siri, Newspaper accounts.

*Analysis:* This accident occurred in only moderate terrain slope and involved a group of persons with extensive experience. It demonstrates the need for extreme caution during ski mountaineering and the real hazard presented by recent heavy snow fall.

*California, Higher Cathedral Spire, Yosemite National Park*—On April 17, 1955, at 5:30 a.m., Jack Weicker (24), Irene Beardsley (19), and Anne Pottinger (19) started up the talus at the base of the Higher Cathedral Spire. Roughly one and one-half hours later they began the climb. The weather was overcast at this point, but not actually raining. The first two pitches were climbed without incident. On the second pitch, the Bathtub, Weicker used a 15-foot sling and gave tension to Miss Beardsley, climbing third. During the course of the climb the girls took tension twice, but this is not unusual on the Higher Spire and Weicker reported that both girls were climbing well and showed no signs of undue fatigue. At the top of the Bathtub there was a short flurry of snow, less than five minutes. This wet sections of the upper part of the climb. The rock was cold, but there was ample opportunity to warm the hands between pitches. Weicker had a pair of buckskin gloves, and the girls shared an extra pair of socks.

The clothing of the party was that customarily worn by rock climbers in Yosemite. Miss Pottinger had two shirts and a wind breaker, Miss Beardsley one shirt and a parka, and Weicker a shirt and parka. The girls were wearing levis and boots, Weicker mountain pants and tennis shoes. The party had the usual climbing equipment, including adequate pitons and slings, first aid, three flashlights, and waterproof matches. They had a more than adequate supply of food, but this was left at the base of the rock climb.