

hanging flake, tests could not be conclusive. The second piton pulled out under the climber's weight as he stepped into the sling. He fell vertically 10 feet, then pulled out first piton (first after bolt) and swung horizontally 20 feet across face. He was held by the bolt and belayer. Only injuries were scratched arms, legs and face. Another attempt was made but soon abandoned when it became apparent that sound pitons could not be placed.

*Source:* William Siri.

*Analysis:* (William Siri) Pitons pulled out. First pulled out under weight of climber, second pulled out under impact of fall. Climber saved by sound expansion bolt and belay.

*California, Yosemite (2)*—On April 15, 1955 Don Claunch and George W. Whitmore attempted a direct ascent of Eagle Peak via the east face. Approximately 1,200 feet above camp Four. They were engaged in a traverse. Don led the pitch, placing a piton at a point which required considerable care; as Whitmore followed, he removed the piton. While attempting to negotiate a smooth step his remaining foot slipped. Since his hands were on under holds at the time, he lost four points simultaneously. As he dropped on the rope he was swung in an arc of perhaps 30 feet across steep slabs, being brought to an abrupt halt as he slammed into a wall which abutted the slabs at right angles. The actual vertical distance covered was about 15 feet, the effect being that of dropping 15 feet onto a sidewalk while in a prone position. This fall resulted in the loss of three teeth, a fractured jaw, an elbow bone chip, and the expected sprains, lacerations, abrasions, and contusions. Fortunately the cliff face had been studied previously from the valley floor, thus permitting the selection of a rappelling route which involved a minimum amount of climbing. Even so, the descent was so exhausting that he was forced to spend the night on the talus, finishing the descent in the morning with the additional assistance of John Ohrenschall.

*Source:* George Whitmore.

*Analysis:* (George Whitmore) "It might appear, at first thought, that this accident was caused because a second piton had not been placed by the leader. It is frequently overlooked that a traversing leader, in order to protect his second man, must place a piton after passing the difficult spot, as well as placing one before to protect himself. To let it go at this would be a gross oversimplification. The fact remains that the fall was caused by a slip, something over which I had complete control, something which I never should have allowed to happen, and yet which did happen. Why? The reason I fell was not that I slipped. That was merely the means to the end. In retrospect, I am convinced that, had I not fallen at that point, I would have fallen later that day. I am not one to worry, and, ordinarily, I am able to exercise reasonable control over my feelings and emotions. At that time, however, I was emotionally upset. Because of this, I was accident prone, and unable to realize it. I had had two close calls immediately preceding the fall, but had failed to recognize them for the warning signs that they were. Just as an emotionally disturbed person should not drive a car or engage in other potentially dangerous activities, so I should not have been climbing that day.

"In summarizing, then, the accident can be attributed to (a) relying on under-hand holds when the footing is insecure; (b) failure to have in a sec-

and piton to protect the last man on a traverse; (c) climbing while emotionally upset."

*California, Yosemite (3)*—On May 28, 1955 a party consisting of six experienced climbers were climbing Washington Column. The rock was dry, weather clear, and the party was properly equipped and led. Helen Ryckevorsel (34) was on second of three ropes. The first rope had already climbed the chimney. She led the second rope and slipped just as she reached the top of the pitch. She fell past her belayer and continued 45 feet down to a ledge breaking both legs and a wrist.

Rescue operations were aided by Yosemite Park Rangers who helped lower her by stretcher. She was admitted to hospital four hours after the accident.

*Source:* William Siri.

*Analysis:* She slipped while leading a 4th class pitch in an exposed open chimney. There is no clear indication why she slipped. She was presumably an able climber with adequate judgment of climbing difficulties. The route has been used hundreds of times without incident and rarely is a piton needed for protection.

*Washington, Wenatchee National Forest—East Fork of Boulder Creek above Timber Line*—On September 5, 1955 Clayton Ogle (35), a Forest Service trail crew cook, slipped on a 50 by 100 yard snow field below a rock cliff while traveling alone above Timber Line into a lake, located three miles from a trail. Carrying a heavy and bulky pack and not equipped with an ice axe, he slid the full length of the snow field and was killed when he struck the rocky ravine below. Ogle realized the danger of crossing the snow field since two days previously, with a companion, he had avoided the same snow field.

*Source:* Kenneth Wilson, in charge of the U. S. Forest Service search party which found Ogle's body, and J. K. Blair, Forest Supervisor of Wenatchee National Forest; Vic Josendal.

*Analysis:* This accident illustrates the danger of climbing alone and of climbing on snow with a bulky pack without snow-climbing equipment and without knowledge of snow-climbing technique.

*Washington, Mt. St. Helens*—On August 28, 1955 James F. Henriot (27) was hit by a rolling boulder of unknown origin while climbing on snow on Mt. St. Helens with three companions. He was making a switch-back turn when he saw the boulder just before it hit him in the hip. Lacerations and a chipped bone resulted. Henriot was hospitalized for five days but recovery has been complete.

*Source:* Interrogation of Henriot and *The Mountaineer* 48: 13, 1955 (Dec.); Vic Josendal.

*Analysis:* This accident illustrates the necessity of being constantly alert to the danger of rockfall.

*Washington, Near Mt. Stuart*—On September 5, 1955 David Martin (19) and his brother (17) along with Fred Facer (41) were returning to base camp from a climb on Mt. Stuart. They had backpacked to their base camp two days earlier, climbed to the summit ridge of Mt. Stuart, two miles away, on the previous day, and bivouacked the previous night at Ingalls Lake.

As one of the climbers climbed up a 40-foot ravine to reconnoiter the route, the other two took cover from the loose rocks which were knocked down.