

ond 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.

Near the top of the gully, a large slab, two feet by three and one-half feet and nine inches thick, began to slide near the climber. The slab tipped and rolled, careening from wall to wall of the ravine, and seemed to be heading for the two at the bottom in their shelter. They both moved into the open and the slab hit David Martin in the right heel, tearing open the back of his boot and injuring his heel. He was rescued by Coast Guard helicopter twelve hours later and he reached a doctor the day of the accident.

Source: Report by Fred Facer, and report by U. S. Forest Ranger, Donald E. Allen; Vic Josendal.

Analysis: Rockfall, started by climber.

ACCIDENTS REPORTED, 1956

New Hampshire, Mt. Washington, Tuckerman's Ravine—On February 19, 1956 A. Aaron Leve (29), Albert E. Sanderson (51), Charles Fay (21), Frank Truesdale (31) and George Speers (34) were involved in an avalanche in Tuckerman's Ravine. The day before with three other companions, they had climbed the right gully but, due to a snow storm at the time, they turned back at the Alpine Garden and descended over the Lions Head in deep powder snow. About seven inches of snow fell that night and on the 19th it was windy with flourey snow and limited visibility. The snow was crusted and hard-packed above the Little Headwall where the group was walking. At the time of the accident Fay and Speers were just beginning to reach the steeper part of the headwall; Sanderson, Truesdale, and Leve had turned back and were descending on the north side of the snow field that makes the floor of the Ravine. Suddenly Fay was aware that snow under him was moving. Speers, a few feet behind Fay, was hit by a roll of moving snow and was swept off his feet. The other three, considerably lower down and not facing the headwall, were hit from behind and tossed and rolled. Fay, fortunately, remained on top of the moving snow near Speers by using a type of swimming motion. Speers was partially buried after being carried about 100 yards. He was quickly dug out by Fay. The other three were carried about 150 yards nearly to the end of the avalanche. Fay and Speers hurried to help their companions. Sanderson was buried face-down with his legs exposed. Truesdale was covered to his shoulders. Neither could move their bodies in the firmly packed snow and they had to be dug out. Their attempts to locate Leve were unsuccessful and after half an hour, they descended for help. Meanwhile three skiers had arrived and they continued the search also without success. A rescue party came up from Pinkham Notch and were also unable to locate Leve. It was extremely cold with high winds in the ravine and after a total of three hours' searching, it was decided to abandon the attempt until the next day. Leve's body was finally located by a group from an Army Quartermaster camp. He was two feet beneath the surface in a standing position and 5 to 8 feet to the left of where Truesdale had been buried. The snow was packed so hard that he had to be dug out all the way to his ski boots. Several attempts were made to lift him out when he was dug out to his knees, but with the combined struggle of three strong men bearing on his stiffly frozen arms and body he still could not be moved.