

*Source:* Mr. Albert E. Sanderson, Mr. George A. Speers, Mr. Joseph B. Dodge, *Appalachia* 31: 94-98, 1956.

*Analysis:* (Joseph B. Dodge) On Saturday, after a snowfall of four inches at Pinkham Notch, there was a high wind all night and through Sunday (the day of the accident). Probably the total accumulation in the Ravine, to judge from the snow-fracture line, was from four to five feet. Under these conditions wind slab is very deceiving and treacherous. The combination is very unstable, particularly where the considerable powder snow beneath the wind slab rests on wind-pack or glaze. The wind slab might bear a person unless he jumped on it, but it is very likely that just the extra weight of Fay disturbed its delicate balance and thus started the fatal avalanche. There is nothing in the hills more unstable than wind slab, especially newly created wind slab. The whole east side of the cone of Washington sometimes lets go onto the Alpine Garden, so that climbers cannot be too careful under such conditions.

Fay's success in staying on top of the snow by using a swimming motion should be emphasized. This is a well recognized technique and its value is demonstrated here. (See accident Washington-Snoqualmie)

*New Hampshire, Mt. Kearsarge*—On May 13, 1956 James Moore (20) slipped on ice about a quarter of a mile from the summit of Mt. Kearsarge. He suffered a dislocated right shoulder. He was accompanied by three companions.

*Source:* Newspaper clipping and James A. Ricard, member of rescue party.

*New Hampshire, Mt. Clay*—On about September 1, 1956 John Ochab (37) apparently slipped on wet rocks and fell to his death a few feet below the summit of Mt. Clay. He fell down the gully toward the Great Gulf on the east slope of Mt. Clay. Ochab was alone and the accident can be constructed only in retrospect. His body was found September 5. It had been a rainy week and the rocks were wet and slippery and he was wearing sneakers.

*Source:* Paul T. Doherty, *Appalachia* 31: 264-5, 1956.

*Connecticut, Sleeping Giant State Park—Mt. Carmel*—On October 14, 1956 Robert W. French (22) was climbing on the Chin of The Sleeping Giant. He was considered by both the Yale Mountaineering Club and the Dartmouth Outing Club to be a strong, capable, and safe leader. On the same day he had led and completed two climbs and one rappel without incident. The accident occurred after completion of the second rappel.

He used a Swiss Chair type sling in rappelling and ended the rappel on a ledge above a short 3rd class climb. He was either trying to get out of the sling or pull the rappel rope down when he lost his balance and fell backwards. He fell for about 15 feet, bouncing off ledges twice. According to those present he appeared to be somewhat under control and landed feet first on each bounce. He lost control after the second bounce and turned so that he landed on his left side with his head and arms taking the force of the fall. He suffered two broken wrists and a severe head wound, causing a concussion.

French himself does not remember anything about the fall and has suggested that perhaps he was unconscious before falling—perhaps having been hit by a falling stone. Those who witnessed the accident feel that he slipped on loose rock while engaged in pulling the rappel rope down.