

*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.

*Source:* G. M. Keeler.

*Analysis:* (G. M. Keeler) "If he was struck by a falling rock then the accident is the result of one of the natural hazards of climbing. If not, then it points up the fact that even 3rd class areas have their dangers and climbers cannot afford to become careless about such places. Probably the rappel should have been longer so that he would not have ended above the base of the cliff, however, it was a 60-foot rappel which would have meant using an extra rope. Very few of us haven't rappelled in a place where we didn't have to allow for 'stretch' at least once in our climbing careers."

*New York, Shawungunks (1)*—In June, 1956 Bob Graef and Mary Sylvander were climbing "Gaston." While leading the top pitch of "Gaston," a practice climb, Bob lost consciousness due to heat and fell 20 to 30 feet. He was held by Mary but he suffered a concussion and Mary had rope burns of both hands.

*Source:* Hans Kraus.

*Analysis:* Heat prostration.

*New York, Shawungunks (2)*—In November, 1956 Ted Church and Kris Räubenheimer were climbing "Gaston." On first pitch Ted's hand slipped off an extremely small ledge. His fall was held by Kris through piton about 6 feet below his point of fall. Ted received a concussion and laceration of his head.

*Source:* Hans Kraus.

*Analysis:* Slipped on difficult step.

*Colorado, near Mt. Neva*—On June 20, 1956 Robert H. Cook (14), one of a group of about 20 boys from a YMCA Summer Camp, fell down the snow-faced cliffs on the side of Mt. Neva. He apparently slipped and rolled and tumbled 60 feet suffering a broken collar bone, scalp lacerations, and a possible head injury.

*Source:* Newspaper clippings; Bob Michener.

*Colorado, Rocky Mountain National Park (1)*—On May 30, 1956 Patrick Dwyer (17) fell while climbing on the North Face of Hallett Peak. He fell free for nearly 200 feet, landed on a snow field and slid another 200 feet, stopping against a tree. Hitting the tree prevented him from falling at least another 800 feet and to certain death. Miraculously his injuries were minor; slight concussion, severe scalp wound and multiple bruises and slight shock. Another climbing party witnessed the accident and reported to the Chief Ranger's Office. A rescue party of rangers, assisted by three Colorado University students, effected a particularly long and arduous rescue, due primarily to the deep snow still on the ground in this area.

*Source:* George B. Hartzog, Jr., Acting Superintendent, R.M.N.P.

*Colorado, Rocky Mountain National Park (2)*—On July 10, 1956 Jack Jay (26) and a companion had climbed Hallett Peak. In descending they were sliding down a snow field above Emerald Lake when Jay slipped, fell, and slid into the rocks below the snow field. The fall caused abrasions of both hips and a broken right foot. The men spent the night near Emerald Lake and were brought out the next morning after Jay's companion went for help. These people were climbing without equipment of any kind and Mr. Jay was wearing oxfords for footgear.

*Source:* George B. Hartzog, Acting Superintendent, R.M.N.P.