

*Source:* Mountain Rescue Council Newsletter No. 11; Vic Josendal; Fred J. Overly, Superintendent, Olympic National Park.

*Washington, Olympic Mountains (2)*—On June 24, 1956 a party of eleven Mountaineers were descending the last steep slope of Mt. Constance. Greta Dahnke (40) attempted a glissade, fell, and failed to recover. Betty Parker attempted to arrest her fall but was unsuccessful. Dahnke picked up speed as the slope steepened. She tried an arrest with the pick of her axe, but the axe went out to arm's length and the arrest was ineffectual. At the foot of the steeper snow there was a vast field of talus and scree through which she slid for about 200 feet. When Jack Grauer and Bill Oberteuffer, leader and assistant leader, reached her, they found her sitting up with blood streaming down her face from a couple of superficial scalp wounds. It was felt she had no apparent serious injury. She was able to walk out the remaining 3-4 miles.

*Source:* Jack Grauer and W. H. Oberteuffer.

*Analysis:* (Grauer and Oberteuffer). This accident emphasizes the need for practice and more practice by all climbers so that such things as a self-arrest are instinctive. Glissading is a technique which requires a special sense, just as does skiing; those of us who have the ability cannot appreciate the fear of a person who is trying to master glissading.

*Washington, Olympic Mountains (3)*—On July 1, 1956 a party of 16 climbers was climbing Mt. Constance by the standard "Mountaineer Route." They were on the "Terrible Traverse" when Jack Hazle, who was leading the traverse, slipped in the sloppy snow and ran out the rope. He stopped himself but with difficulty. The middle man failed to arrest until pulled out and was belayed by the third man. The climb was continued uneventfully to the summit which was reached at 11:30 a.m. The descent was started at about noon. It was hoped that the afternoon sun would have melted the frozen surface of the steep upper slopes of the "last Gully." This was not the case. It was therefore decided that the facing-in glissade in self-arrest position would be the safest and quickest method of descent.

The first three ropes proceeded down with only one of these having slight trouble. The fourth team consisted of George Dragseth, Jerry White, and Mike Tyrone. Tyrone led off and they seemed to be under control although moving rapidly. At the midway point White seemed to have checked his rate of descent. According to observers Tyrone was still rapidly gaining momentum. At about this moment White shouted, "Let's get this thing under control." Tyrone's momentum, however, was transmitted to White, who was jerked out of position. The impact of the two climbers pulled Dragseth, who slid and fell, into White, who in turn fell onto Tyrone. The entire rope was now completely out of control and headed for the second of a series of outcroppings.

Near this outcropping, George Stamolis and Heinz Recker attempted to intercept and arrest the falling climbers. Recker dropped into an arrest digging in with everything he had. Stamolis, who remained standing, was struck by one of the falling men and was knocked backward onto the rock where he secured a solid hold. The ropes became entangled. The fall slowed perceptibly and then they crashed into the rocks. Fortunately White and Dragseth went in feet first, but Tyrone was on his back and sideways to the rock when he hit. The first two were shaken up but unhurt. Tyrone

received deep facial cuts, extensive abrasions, broken ribs and shock. He was evacuated by the party down the steep gully to the floor of the troughs. Once down Tyrone insisted he could walk out. This he did under the careful guidance of three of the party.

*Source:* Jack Hazle, *The Mountaineer* 50:118-19, 1956.

*Analysis:* (J. Hazle). The first incident emphasizes the need to belay the leader across this pitch. The second demonstrates how easy it is to get out of control on hard snow and how dangerous it can be in a narrow couloir with a restricted run-out. Practice and more practice in glissade is necessary to minimize these occurrences.

*Washington, Cascade Pass Area*—On September 16, 1956 a party of ten mountaineers were on their way to attempt Boston Peak at about 5:00 a.m. They were working their way up a 25-degree glacier worn rock slope. The climbers were unroped and were taking separate routes. On the slope there was a huge rectangular rock slab which appeared to be resting securely. When Helene Glass touched it, however, it slid toward her. As she attempted to jump out of its way, she slipped, fell and began sliding down the smooth rock in front of the huge moving block. A small rock rib caused the block to be deflected just as Miss Glass appeared on the point of being crushed. Other than being shaken up, her injuries were not severe.

Lincoln Hales, the trip leader, was roughly 30-40 feet above Miss Glass when the rock started to slide. He heard the noise. He turned his head, saw what was happening and immediately he rushed down the slope. In his haste, he slipped, fell and broke his leg. Later examination demonstrated two spiral breaks in each bone of the lower leg and a minor break of the ankle.

The leg was immobilized by members of the party. Another climbing party of four was contacted and evacuation was accomplished by the combined forces of the two groups in nine hours.

*Source:* Jack Hazle, *The Mountaineer* 50: 120, 1956.

*Analysis:* (J. Hazle). Miss Glass was wearing triconi-nailed boots on a hard, smooth surface; she therefore did not have good friction and this undoubtedly contributed to her slipping. It also emphasizes the need for caution near all large boulders on slopes. Hale's accident also shows the need for care where there is loose rock on sloping rock. (See Peñasco Springs Accident, N.M.)

*Washington, Snoqualmie*—On February 19, 1956 Everett Lasher and Gene Prater began a winter ascent of the 4,500-foot ridge lying north of Camp Mason on the Snoqualmie Pass Highway. It was a bitterly cold, overcast day with a sharp wind. As they made their way through the timber at the lower levels their snow shoes stood them in good stead as the snow was powdered and deep with no sign of a crust. As the party neared timber line, however, a crust was found to have formed on the windward side of a slight ridge running to the top of the main ridge. Here the snow shoes were removed and the two-man party continued upward, following the crest of this secondary ridge.

At a point near the top they were making a switchback on the lee side of this ridge when a slight "thud" was heard and a section of snow that had been cut by the switchback settled deeply. It was definitely wind slab and the climbers recognized it as such immediately. The party then crossed