

of the Sierra Club rock climbing section. The body was seen from a helicopter on the morning of June 2. Rangers and a rescue crew of volunteers descended the cliff with ropes and recovered the body which was then buried in a suitable place nearby on the cliff, as it was considered too dangerous a task to remove it from the cliff.

*Source:* John C. Preston, Superintendent, Yosemite National Park.

*California, Yosemite (2)*—On June 28, 1956 Larry Hawley (19), an employe of the National Park Service, suffered a broken neck, shoulder, ribs, and collar bone when he fell while descending a chimney about one mile west of Taft Point. He and Mark Powell, both members of the Sierra Club, were going down a chimney about a thousand feet from the top of the cliff when Hawley fell about 10-15 feet to a ledge. It is not known definitely but apparently a rock was loosened and dislodged and either hit Hawley or caused him to loose his hand- or foothold and fall down the chimney. Ropes were not being used at the time. A ranger rescue crew took 9 hours to remove this severely injured man from the cliff.

*Source:* John C. Preston, Superintendent, Yosemite National Park.

*California, Yosemite (3)*—On August 29, 1956 Ronald W. Beck (19), fell about 150 feet and was killed while attempting to climb Grizzly Peak near LeConte Gully, off from the Sierra Point trail. He had removed his shoes and tried to cross a smooth section of rock when he slipped and fell to a ledge below. He was accompanied by two other young men on this climb but his companions did not witness the fall.

*Source:* John C. Preston, Superintendent, Yosemite National Park.

*California, Yosemite (4)*—On June 9, 1956 an accident occurred on the lower part of the Royal Arches on a pitch known as the "Bear Hug," an open, high-angle chimney that is climbed mainly by friction holds. The party was on a standard and frequently used route. It consisted of two ropes of two climbers, all of whom were experienced rock climbers, and several of whom had been on this climb before. The rock was dry and the weather clear and warm. Clark McKemper (40) led the Bear Hug pitch belayed by Phillip Boetler from a ledge at the start of the pitch. Twelve feet above the ledge McKemper placed a piton for protection. About 12 feet above his piton he slipped and fell back to the ledge, landing on Boetler who was not, however, dislodged. McKemper suffered abrasions and an injured back but was able to descend under his own power aided by the other climbers.

*Source:* William Siri.

*Analysis:* (W. Siri). The pitch on which the accident occurred requires fine judgment and considerable skill. It is one that easily leads a climber to overextend himself because there are no intermediate resting points and continues as an unbroken friction pitch to the top. If McKemper felt at all uncertain he should have placed a second piton, though in fairness to him it should be added that the nature of the rock may have made this nearly impossible.

*California, Sequoia National Park*—On July 24, 1956 Gerry Rule (16), while climbing with a companion on a steep talus slope above Hamilton Lake, slipped and fell some 40 feet. He was pinned under a large boulder all night, until a rescue party consisting of Park Rangers and trail crew employees, in company with a physician, could reach the victim. Rule