

wait until he could establish a proper belay. Almost immediately he heard Johnson cry out as he slipped on the 50 degree slope. Things happened fast. Johnson slid past White who was pulling in the rope as fast as he could. White established a belay and waited for the tug as the rope was snubbed. There was no strain, just a dull thud. He shouted out but received no reply. White then cut steps down to a wide bergschrund into which Johnson had fallen. Johnson was in a sitting position with blood pouring from a head wound. White knew little first aid but did try to stop the bleeding, using a first aid kit in the pack. He realized there was little he could do. He laid out the contents of the pack and then started down the couloir calling for help. He finally met one person. It was pitch dark. They started back up but the flashlights were weak. Part way back near the crevassed section a sudden snow storm occurred which reduced visibility to 5 yards. This made them decide to turn back. They reached camp at 2:00 A.M. the next morning exhausted.

A rescue party was organized by other members of the group and members of another group nearby. When they finally reached Johnson he was dead. Death was attributed to a fractured cervical vertebra and massive hemorrhage from scalp lacerations.

*Source:* Leon Blumer and Barry White.

*Analysis:* This again presents the difficulty of small parties that suffer an injury. It is doubtful whether an earlier rescue would have saved Johnson. Certainly a night out under such conditions is not safe. In retrospect it would have been better if Johnson had descended with a belay since his crampons did not fit properly. Incidentally, the loose crampon was found imbedded in his back—the other was on his foot. Then White who had good crampons could have descended with a belay from below. It is easy to point out what might have been done and in White's account he mentions the general care with which Johnson climbed and also that Johnson had ascended the couloir without crampons. Johnson's limited previous experience with crampons, however, should have dictated his descending first. This two-man party lacked effective support from the other climbers. The party also lacked proper equipment, sufficient experience for this peak, and knowledge of first aid.

*Washington, Mt. Rainier—Success Glacier—*George Sainsbury (32), Ray Barker and Arnold Bloomer, all experienced climbers, two of them members of the Mountaineers, planned to climb Mt. Rainier by the then unclimbed ridge between the Success and Kautz Glaciers. On Aug. 24, after turning back at 8000 feet the previous day due to bad weather, the climbers were again seeking an approach to the ridge. They crossed the Kautz Glacier and climbed in fog up steep ice into a maze of an active ice fall which appeared to be the pressure ridge separating the Kautz and Success Glaciers. Because visibility remained limited, the party decided to retreat to the base of the ice slopes and then find simpler terrain. They descended, crossing a narrow corridor between two crevasses. The first two men on the rope passed through, and the middleman, Arnold Bloomer, was belaying the last man, George Sainsbury, by means of a natural belay. As he was descending a three or four foot high steep ice pitch just at the upper end of the corridor, Sainsbury slipped suddenly and unexpectedly. Steps cut in the ice may have given way, but the victim thinks the prime reason for his fall was due to his leaning into the slope. The belay rope was taut when the fall occurred. Sainsbury pendulumed down

across the corridor, dropped over the upper lip of the crevasse and hit the lower lip some six or seven feet below with considerable force. He then slid a few more feet down the comparatively flat lower inner wall of the shallow crevasse and came to rest suspended two or three feet above its bottom. When Sainsbury slipped the middleman skidded down the slope a few feet so as to shorten the rope. Sainsbury's fall was stopped without difficulty since the rope tended to pull upward on him.

Sainsbury suffered a compound dislocation of the tibia at the ankle. He was left in a comfortable position inside a tent pitched at the crevasse bottom, while his two companions roped and descended the ice fall and crossed the Kautz Glacier. One man went for help while the other returned to aid the victim. The party believed that it was safer and easier for a lone climber to climb back to the site of the accident from the edge of the glacier, than for a lone climber to descend through the same difficult terrain. Also the victim was in good condition and in a tent in a safe location. An efficient rescue was accomplished by the Park Service.

*Source:* G. R. Sainsbury; *Mountaineer* 50: 6, Oct. 1957. Albert D. Rose, acting superintendent, Mt. Rainier National Park.

*Analysis:* Sainsbury's analysis points out the hazard of leading into a slope. This strong experienced group with adequate emergency equipment demonstrates how the serious effects of accidents can be minimized.

*Washington, Mt. Rainier—Ingraham Glacier*—On September 1, the collapse of a large mass of snow and ice into a hidden crevasse above the 13,000 foot level of the Ingraham Glacier on Mt. Rainier resulted in the death of a novice climber, William Hauptert (20). There were two guides for the party of 12. They were travelling in three ropes of four climbers. The victim was the second man on the first rope to ascend up one of the steep "rolls" in the summit snowcap area. The line of ascent was the same as that used all summer by guided parties. The slope up which the first rope team was ascending at 8:30 A.M. was about 50 feet high and rose at an angle of about 30 degrees.

A dull cracking sound was heard and felt as the entire slope above dropped into a hidden crevasse, with the guide, Gary Rose and Hauptert dropping into a chaos of ice blocks as it landed and plugged up the wide hole beneath. The crevasse suddenly exposed was about 150-200 feet long and 25 feet across, with the upper lip rising 25 feet above the lower lip. The fallen debris filled the hole to within 8 feet of the lower lip. The guide was unhurt and quickly followed the rope into the snow and uncovered the head and upper body of Hauptert, who had been completely buried. First aid was administered, two men went for help and rescue parties of other climbers on the mountain; Rangers and Mountain Rescue Council personnel were organized. Hauptert who suffered a broken back and probably damaged spinal cord, died late in the afternoon of the same day.

*Source:* The *Mountaineer* 50: 7, Oct. 1957; Preston P. Macy, superintendent, Mt. Rainier National Park and report of Gary Rose, guide of party.

*Analysis:* This appears to be one of those unfortunate episodes. Ordinarily the first man to fall would have been more likely to be hurt. Whether Hauptert's inexperience did not permit him to maneuver properly or not cannot be stated.