

Kuhn slid past him without crying out for help. She was too far away to grab. He watched her as she tumbled and slid for about 400 feet when he lost sight of her. Her body was found some 1200 feet below the slip.

*Source:* Richard C. Houston—newspaper clipping.

*Analysis:* Apparently lack of proper equipment and technique played an important part in this incident. Had they been roped and properly belayed this slip would have only been a slip and not a serious accident. Furthermore winter conditions can convert what in summer is an easy path to an impossible climb.

*California, Mt. Diablo—Devil's Pulpit*—On 14 July, Larry D. Robinson (19) with little experience and apparently climbing alone fell while ascending the Devil's Pulpit. His fall was either due to a slip or a handhold coming loose. He suffered possible concussion and internal injuries, broke both legs and his left arm. He was aided by men working on a nearby installation and evacuated by road to the hospital.

*Source:* W. Siri.

*Analysis:* Obviously inadequate training for climb. Should not have been climbing alone. DO NOT CLIMB SOLO!

*California, Sierra Nevada—North Palisade Peak*—On 7 July, John Findley Scott (23) and party of five other persons were ascending North Palisade. Near summit a handhold that Scott grasped came loose and Scott fell some 40 feet to a narrow ledge. He struck the rocks several times before he landed on the ledge. A difficult rescue was effected by 9 climbers with evacuation by horse and helicopter. Three days were required because of storms and difficult terrain. Scott suffered fractures of right wrist, right ankle, left foot, two ribs and a vertebra, as well as cuts and bruises. Rescue was made under supervision of Kings Canyon National Park assistant chief ranger Carl Schreiber.

*Source:* W. Siri.

*Analysis:* (Siri). Insufficient attention to safe climbing techniques. He did not carefully test handholds.

*California, Echo Summit Area*—Sometime in November, Earl B. Seibert was killed while climbing alone near the south end of Lake Tahoe. A search party found the body at the base of a sheer cliff from which a rope was hanging.

*Source:* National Skiing, Dec. 1957.

*Analysis:* Despite the scanty data a fundamental lesson is demonstrated. *Do not climb alone.*

*Oregon, St. Peter's Dome*—On Sept. 15, Don McKay (36) and Joe Quigley (32) were making an attempt to climb St. Peter's Dome by a new route. Both were extremely experienced climbers. From the saddle of the south side of the Dome they traversed around the east side and on to the sheer north face. They climbed up about 50 feet to a comfortable ledge (pitons were used for safety). From the ledge Quigley using pitons and stirrups led for about 25

feet. At this point for some reason it was decided to change leaders. Quigley was lowered to the ledge. McKay then took the lead and climbed to the top while being belayed. McKay was standing with his left foot in a stirrup and his right foot on a rock and was belayed through a piton, that was about level with and about 18 inches left of his waist when the fall occurred. As he fell he pulled the belayer off and both men fell to their death landing on a ledge about 175 feet below.

The fall was witnessed by three friends (F. Fossold, R. Petru and D. Hitchcock) watching from the highway below with a 40X telescope and 6X binoculars. Petru and Hitchcock reached the bodies within one hour. The evacuation required 35 more members five hours to complete.

*Source:* D. G. Hitchcock.

*Analysis:* (Hitchcock). It is not known whether the piton just pulled out or whether McKay slipped and his 18 inch pendulum swing dislodged the piton. The belayer was not anchored to a piton and therefore was totally unprepared for a complete upper piton failure. At the time of the fall the belay rope ran through only two of the pitons. The top piton may have been loosened when Quigley was lowered to the ledge. A later examination of the top piton showed it had at one time been tight, however, the rock in the Columbia River gorge tends to be unstable and cracks and loosens easily.

### **The American Alpine Club Safety Committee**

Benjamin G. Ferris, Jr. ....	Weston, Massachusetts, Chairman
John S. Humphreys .....	Cambridge, Massachusetts
William L. Putnam .....	Springfield, Massachusetts
Francis L. Cary .....	New York, New York
Hans Kraus .....	New York, New York
Arnold Wexler .....	Washington, D. C.
Guy M. Everett .....	Chicago, Illinois
Henry A. Waldrop .....	Camp Carson, Colorado
Harold F. Walton .....	Boulder, Colorado
Victor Josendal .....	Seattle, Washington
Russell McJury .....	Portland, Oregon
William Siri .....	Berkeley, California
David Harrah .....	Riverside, California
James Bonner .....	Pasadena, California