

(It is of interest that following the report of this accident in Appalachia there is another report of a similar episode which had a happier ending, and it makes one wonder how often these occur. Both of these emphasize the importance of being willing to turn back and to turn back *before* one is exhausted).

*Connecticut, West Rock*—On June 1 Leo Arsenault (16), Peter Davis (18), Edw. Goderre (16) and Marvin Moore (15) went to West Rock near New Haven, Conn. Davis remained at the foot of the Rock to direct and advise. Arsenault and the other two descended from the road at the summit using a rope tied to a stump to aid in control of descent. Part of the way down (less than half) they stopped at a convenient ledge to rest because they had reached the end of the rope. Moore went up to see if he could find some more rope. Then, a housewife nearby spotted them, called the police, and in a matter of minutes a crowd of spectators had gathered and a Fire Department rescue truck was on its way to the summit. At the sound of the truck and at the sight of the crowd, Goderre stayed put on the ledge. Arsenault started scrambling his way up the rather sheer face of the rock, trying to find grips with fingers and feet. Goderre said Arsenault started to climb off the ledge rather abruptly and impulsively. In going up, he dislodged some outcroppings, fell, and struck some boulders at the foot. He suffered head injuries and died almost instantly. Goderre was struck by some rocks dislodged by Arsenault, receiving superficial abrasions, Davis and Moore were un hurt. Davis climbed to the summit and was paramount in aiding police and fire department personnel in retrieving Goderre from his perch.

*Source:* John E. Taylor; M. Doverman, Supt. of State Receiving Home, New Haven, Conn.

*Analysis:* Inexperience and fear of police leading to rash action.

*New York, Pocomoonshine Slab*—On July 6 Hugh Tanton (26) a member of an experienced party of four British and two Canadian climbers set out to do a difficult climb (Pocomoonshine Slab) just off the highway about 20 miles south of Plattsburg. They did an easy climb first to warm up. As they were approaching the foot of the slab over some very steep but tree-covered ground, Tanton slipped on some pine needles in a stretch between two trees and fell about fifty feet down a small cliff, hitting his head a glancing blow on a stretch of rock in the process. His friends carried him down to the road, quickly summoned an ambulance from Plattsburg, and in a matter of a few hours he was in a hospital, where he was found to have a fractured skull in addition to various other less serious injuries. He remained alternately delirious or unconscious for the next four days, but has since recovered completely.

*Source:* Hugh Tanton, John Humphreys.

*Analysis:* A careless slip, illustrating that even an experienced climber is not immune, and that speedy rescue operations can be of crucial importance. Had the accident occurred in slightly more inaccessible terrain, its consequences might have been fatal.

*Wyoming, Casper Mountain (Laramie Range), Garden Creek Canyon*—On March 2 Karen Stubbs (19) wearing galoshes, slipped on the ice-covered trail just above the canyon wall, slid, fell, and rolled 160 feet. The fifteen foot slide on ice and packed snow gave her sufficient momentum to clear the canyon rim for a 40 foot freefall. She hit a 60° rock slope, bounded 15 feet further, then rolled and bounced 90 feet down a couloir, stopped by the narrowing gully walls which wedged together and acted as a brake. Karen was with a party of 10 hikers, 7 of whom were members of the Wyoming Mountaineers of Casper College; the other three (including Karen) were along for the Sunday afternoon walk on the horse trails. Three climbers on the walls saw the fall, one rendered first aid, one alerted the hospital and went after the club's Stokes litter, the third ran on up the trails and called back the other climbers. The litter was lowered by four carriers and belayed by four anchored belayers as it was brought down the remaining 100 vertical feet of the wall. A short carry across the creek and 200 yards on the icy trail brought the party to the waiting ambulance. The total time from fall to ambulance was less than one hour. Karen suffered multiple lacerations, a broken pelvis, and compression fractures of two lumbar vertebrae.

*Source:* Walt Bailey, Sponsor, Wyoming Mountaineers of Casper College.

*Analysis:* This can hardly be called a climbing accident, since the victim slipped on an icy trail where no one would think of using climbing gear for protection. The speed and efficiency of rescue was due to the presence of climbers trained for this type operation (and the fact they had not removed climbing equipment from their cars after a previous day's ascent of Devils Tower). The value of the Stokes litter in transporting the injured down vertical walls cannot be over-emphasized. Although this was much like slipping on the ice on a city street, it is a reminder that care and caution are needed even on a well-developed summer trail under winter conditions.

*Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Mount Teewinot*—On July 27, Thomas Mayer (20) and Warren Wolff (20) were descending the east face of Teewinot. Weather and climbing conditions were good. The party was below the Black Chimney, to the right of the central gully and above the center snowfield. Mayer was climbing down belayed by Wolff. The belay rope caught behind a loose rock and pulled it down. The rock fell and hit Mayer on the left hand, dislocating and separating the first joint of the fourth finger. A nerve was severed.

*Source:* Frank R. Oberhansley, Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park.

*Analysis:* This accident could have been avoided through better rope management on the part of all concerned. It is the responsibility of both men on the rope to keep it free from loose boulders, and to advise each other if a rock pulls loose.

*Wyoming, Grant Teton National Park, Mount Teewinot*—On August 13, F. M. Andrews (47) accompanied by Douglas Andrews (11), Parshall