

he was delirious and unable to help himself. On the morning of the eighth day, the weather cleared and shortly before noon a small plane, piloted by Robert Symons, a rescue veteran from Bishop, flew over the campsite. His presence indicated to the four that Hooley and Allen had been successful, as indeed they had, covering 28 miles in a day and a half over extremely difficult terrain and dangerous snow conditions. The rescue effort that was immediately launched was directed by the rangers in Yosemite and the military sea and air rescue command at Hamilton AFB, San Francisco. A Sierra Club party gathering in Yosemite for a trans-Sierra trip of their own from west to east started out to act as ground support, since the weather still made aircraft operation uncertain. Symons made four or five trips from Yosemite to the camp on Saturday, the seventh day, dropping supplies and instructions. Fortunately, it was also on this day that Pope showed signs of recovery, regaining full consciousness and a measure of strength. An effort to move him down the canyon farther failed, however, due to deep snow. An effort to get a single place helicopter into the site also failed due to weather conditions. The following day, Sunday, a storm closed the area completely, and operations were suspended. Knowing that the first clear hour would bring on a maximum effort to get Bill out, the other three made preparations for a rapid departure. Monday dawned clear, and Symons was overhead as soon as it was light enough to see. Within an hour, a twin-rotor helicopter from Fort Ord was able to land on a small knoll close to the campsite. Pope was well enough to put on skis and be helped up the slope to the waiting craft. A rapid descent to Yosemite Valley was made, with clouds already closing in again. The Sierra Club group, hampered by soft snow and avalanche danger, returned to Yosemite.

*Source:* Michael Roberts.

*Analysis:* There are two points of importance to be covered in respect to this rescue. Perhaps the most important is that even for the strong and experienced party, high mountain winter touring is a rigorous and uncertain business. The weather cannot be considered in terms of "normality," and even the strongest-seeming member of a party may fall ill. In this particular case, it turned out that Bill Pope had contracted viral-myocarditis, a relatively rare inflammation of the heart lining, which resulted in congestive heart failure. A strong constitution, the prompt administration of antibiotics, and a rapid rescue were probably responsible for the saving of his life. A second point is that mountaineers can be thankful for the rapid, well-coordinated rescue system that is available in a crisis. A few years ago, nothing of its kind existed anywhere in the country. As a side issue it is clear that more than one member of such a party should possess some medical or first aid knowledge since there is no guarantee that the party's doctor will not himself become sick or injured as in this case.

*California, Guadalupe Rock, 15 miles from San Jose*—On April 20, a pleasant sunny day, about 20 members of the Stanford Alpine Club were at the practice rocks. The majority of the party was on the larger rock doing some of the easier climbs. Five were at a smaller more difficult cliff

about 25 feet high and slightly overhanging. Some of the candidates for leader status were taking turns leading up the pitch which was 5th class and required several pitons in the rather rotten rock. The first person made the climb successfully. As the second man was leading it there were four persons below him, the belayer and three 'kibitzers.' Karl Hufbauer (20) was one of the 'kibitzers' and as a leader was also observing the technique. Near the top of the pitch the climber had a rather large handhold crumble out and he peeled off. His first piton came out but the second held and his fall was only about 12 feet. Meanwhile a shower of rocks rained on the spectators. Hufbauer was the only one hit by a large rock and was knocked unconscious, not even feeling it hit. Apparently he regained consciousness within a minute or so but his memory retention was poor. Hobey DeStaebler, leader of the trip, arrived about 5 minutes later with a first aid kit. After testing his reactions and bandaging the wound the decision was made to walk him to the cars about ½ mile away. This course was chosen as the fastest since he was losing blood and time might be a factor. (Doctors later said the decision was probably right; it was apparently a 50-50 question). Hufbauer was taken to a hospital where emergency surgery was performed for a fractured skull. He remained in the hospital for a week. DeStaebler is to be complimented for a well executed rescue with a minimum of fuss (practice climb continued with many persons not realizing the accident had occurred) and a maximum of speed.

*Source:* Karl Hufbauer.

*Analysis:* Practice climbs are not as safe as normally assumed and precautions which are taken on longer, more difficult climbs should be adhered to. Since Hufbauer's accident he has checked with many people and nearly all of them said that their own clubs made the tacit assumption that all loose rocks on practice climbs had long since been pulled out. This assumption certainly is not warranted, as this case demonstrates.

*California, Matterhorn Peak*—On June 15, while descending a broad snow chute on Matterhorn Peak, George Wallerstein (28) tripped and fell. As he attempted a self-arrest with his ice ax somehow he was impaled on the point, which went completely through his leg. Fortunately no major vessels were injured. First aid was given and he was able to ski and hike out by himself. There were 37 on the trip. His wound healed without incident and he climbed North Palisade 20 days later.

*Source:* Mugelnoos No. 307, July 10, 1958: George Wallerstein.

*Analysis:* As Wallerstein pointed out in his letter, more organized practice in ice ax technique is advisable. He further suggested that groups who have had limited experience with the ax use two or more week-ends in the early spring for practice. This should include practice of the techniques on hard frozen snow as well as on the softer snow of the afternoon.

*California, Kings Canyon National Park, Paradise Valley*—On August 21, Charles Gibbons (16) of Hollywood, California, climbing in hazardous terrain with two companions, became stranded on a ledge approximately 1,000 feet above the floor of Paradise Valley on the South fork of the