

slip occurred. Because of their weight difference (Martin, 120 pounds; Jones, 200 pounds) and because the hardness of the snow made shaft belays uncertain, the party was unroped. Martin reasoned that crampons and an ice ax apiece were sufficient protection. Jones was wearing shorts. Martin did not see Jones slip. He was behind a rocky outcrop. The first indication Martin had of any trouble was Jones' cry. He turned to see Jones plunging down the couloir feet-first, alternately on his stomach and back. No attempt was made to effect a self arrest. Jones fell approximately 550 feet, swerving into a water-worn channel that led to the exposed scree ledge that stopped him twenty yards from the bergschrund. Martin climbed down to Jones, rendered what first aid he could, and anchored him to the ledge with his ice ax. Jones did not want to be left alone. In this state of mind and in shock he was helped into a pair of long trousers. He would not allow Martin to move his injured leg into the trousers. Later, cold forced Jones to make the move himself. Temperatures in the valley that night registered 29° F. Where Jones lay it was probably colder. Despite all, he weathered the night fairly well alone.

*Source:* Park Ranger John C. Fonda, via Frank R. Oberhansley, Superintendent, G.T.N.P.

*Analysis (GTNP):* Jones' snow and ice experience was limited. Because the snow was so hard and steep, the party should have turned around or utilized rock piton belays along the walls of the couloir. Jones' inability to effect a self arrest was not entirely due to his inexperience. The opinion of the rescue team was that even an experienced climber might have had trouble stopping himself on such snow and ice. Proper judgement of the terrain in conjunction with the strength of the party was not exercised by the leader.

*Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park (6), Nez Perce*—On August 18, Alex Shoumatoff (11) was a member of the Colorado Mountain Club's 1959 summer outing in Grand Teton National Park. During a group climb on Nez Perce, at the base of the northwest couloir, he was struck by a falling rock dislodged by another member of the party. He received a scalp laceration.

*Source:* Park Ranger John C. Fonda, via Frank R. Oberhansley, Superintendent, G.T.N.P.

*Analysis (GTNP):* This accident, though minor in nature, illustrates the need for all members of a climbing party to exercise caution in areas of loose rock.

(Ed. comment—This also emphasizes the importance of wearing hard hats.)

*Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park (7), Teepee's Pillar*—On September 6, Joseph E. Murphy (29) and Charles Crush were rappelling off Teepee's Pillar. A piton pulled out and Murphy fell about 15 to 20 feet landing in a sitting position. Crush had gone down the rope first without any difficulty. It is believed that Murphy would have suffered more severe injuries had he not been wearing a hard hat. As it was he was able to

make his way down to the Caves in Garnet Canyon by himself. Murphy rested at the Caves the night of the 6th. In all, twelve Park Service climbers were involved in the evacuation of Murphy. The evacuation was routine.

*Source:* Park Ranger John C. Fonda, via Frank R. Oberhansley, Superintendent, G.T.N.P.

*Analysis* (GTNP): This climb was a direct violation of the climbing regulations of the Grand Teton National Park. Crush was unregistered. Murphy, who was signed out with his wife for the Middle Teton, drastically changed his plans when she was unable to make the ascent. Crush had gone into Garnet Canyon to take pictures and there teamed-up with Murphy who persuaded him to try Teepee's Pillar instead of the Middle Teton.

*South Dakota, Badlands National Monument*—On July 27, a party of 35 Boy Scouts from Fargo, North Dakota, was stopped at the Norbeck Pass Overlook in Badlands National Monument. The weather was very hot, the temperature being 102° F., but several of the Boy Scouts left the overlook and began scrambling on the side of a 250-foot cliff nearby. The cliff consisted of rotten sandstone ledges and clay. One of the boys, James Rasmussen (12), had descended part of the cliff and was returning by another route. He climbed up a narrow ravine toward the road but slid back down part way. He regained his feet and was climbing back up when he slipped again, and slid eighty feet down the steep cliff and then fell twenty-five feet free over a lip. The lip overhung a vertical sink hole twenty-five feet deep, with a narrow tunnel leading out of its bottom. The boy lit on his chest and forehead and slid head down into the tunnel, becoming wedged. This was at about 9:45 a.m. The accident was reported to Monument Headquarters at 10:00 a.m. and the Chief Ranger, Supervisory Ranger, two Seasonal Rangers and the Park Naturalist went directly to the scene of the accident and were able to rappel down to the boy and survey the situation. Another of the Scouts had managed to reach Rasmussen and was trying to comfort him. The victim was semi-conscious and irrational. As he was wedged into the tunnel, it was first necessary to dig him loose.

He was then treated for shock and placed in a Stokes litter. Standard mountain rescue techniques were used to evacuate the stretcher. The stretcher and bearer were raised by means of a winch. The boy was taken to the hospital in Kadoka, South Dakota about 35 miles away, arriving at 12:15 p.m. He suffered a concussion, internal injuries, a severe laceration over the eye, and multiple bruises and abrasions. Under hospital care he recovered in about a week.

*Source:* Acting Superintendent, James W. Godbolt, and Seasonal Manager James Thompson—Badlands National Monument.

*Analysis:* In any analysis of the accident it should be pointed out that the boy was climbing on rotten and dangerous rock and was completely without experience. Falling rock is a constant hazard here. A corrugated Fiberglas hood designed locally to protect the victim's head by covering