

members of the Washington Alpine Club had established camp at the end of the road in Snow Gulch and started preparations for climbing the mountain the following day. With the comment that he was just going for a walk to "try out my new boots," Reid left Camp at 4:00 p.m. and started up the trail, lightly clad and with only his ice axe. About 300 yards from camp, and just barely out of sight, he encountered the first hard snow in the gully, remains of the past winter's avalanches. About 200 feet up the snow he apparently attempted to get onto the rock again, but the rotten snow at the lip of the gap between snow and rock collapsed under him and he fell about 40 feet suffering severe head injuries and a broken neck.

*Source:* Kenn Carpenter, Everett Mountain Rescue Unit.

*Analysis:* As an experienced climber Reid should have been more cautious in approaching the moat and known that the edge of the snow was soft and very likely undercut and weak. His first error was in leaving camp alone. There was evidence which suggested his fall was not immediately fatal, and hence a companion's call to the nearby camp might possibly have saved his life.

*Washington, Cascades, Mt. Pilchuck*—On June 20, following an early supper, Scoutmaster Dearborn gave permission to Eagle Scout Henry Bryan (15) and his 23 companions to do some exploring in the vicinity of their Heather Lake Campsite. During their excursion Bryan attempted to jump a moat separating the rock he was on from the steep hard snow field. Following the jump he slipped and slid over the lip of the snow, falling 15 feet to the rocks below and becoming wedged between rock and ice. Dearborn quickly arrived at the scene, sent word to the Ranger Station for help, and with the aid of the other boys evacuated Bryan on a makeshift litter back to the camp. Within three hours of the accident the rescue team and doctor arrived, and Bryan was in a hospital three and a half hours later. He was unconscious for 10 days.

*Source:* Kenn Carpenter, Everett Mountain Rescue Unit.

*Analysis:* As an Eagle Scout, Bryan was an experienced camper and hiker, but he was not aware of the dangers that hard snow presented to off-trail climbing. Had he taken an ice axe with him and known how to use it, there is no doubt he could have arrested his slide before going into the moat.

*Washington, Dome Peak Area, Spire Point*—Sixteen climbers were on an official Mazama outing in the Dome Peak Area with a base camp located near Cub Lake. Outing was under the leadership of Ed Dolan and Jim Craig. On August 6, the entire group started to move over the divide to Whiterock Lake to bivouac Thursday night. On reaching the crest the group was split. A party of five, including both outing leaders, was to continue on to Whiterock Lakes, deposit gear, and proceed farther north to climb Sentinel and Old Guard. The remaining group was to climb Spire Point and then proceed to Whiterock Lakes. Both groups consisted of experienced climbers with many years of climbing on both snow and

rock peaks. Leo Margosian and Bill Oberteuffer (39), with Leo leading, started up the peak to set up hand lines. Part way up the rock face Leo entered an inclined trough. Half way up it he climbed out of it to the west. Bill evidently did not notice this. When he entered the trough he climbed to the head of it immediately below a large chock stone. He examined one rock and noticed that it was loose and relayed this information to the man below him. He then touched the large chock stone whereupon it immediately came out. He strove to push himself to the right out of the path of the approximately 500-pound boulder. As he did this, he tumbled backward down the steep slope. The large boulder went past him bringing others with it. He instinctively put his arms around his head to protect it. As he tumbled he became aware of a drop-off toward which he was falling. Throwing himself into a spread-eagle position he managed to stop on a ledge just short of a 30-foot sheer fall. It was found by measurement later that he had fallen 65 feet. Examination by a nurse disclosed many scratches and abrasions and a large lump on the head but no other apparent injuries. The party which had started for Whiterock Lakes now rejoined the main party. Since it was apparent that Bill was suffering from shock it was decided to return to base camp. He insisted very emphatically that he was alright and that the climb should continue. He finally agreed to return to base camp. Since he had had a blow to the head he was roped to two strong climbers because of the steep and icy condition of the snow slopes. He began to experience difficulty walking when he got down to the heather slopes near camp. His right ankle was swollen and quite painful by the time he reached camp. Since it was evident he could not walk out and carrying him would have been an almost impossible task because of the brush and lack of a trail into the area it was decided to have him evacuated by helicopter. His wife, Margaret, and Warren Wilson left at 5:00 a.m. the following morning for assistance. The Forest Service personnel arranged for a commercial helicopter which was in the area to stop by for Bill. At 2:00 p.m. that afternoon the helicopter dropped in and evacuated Bill. Several weeks later X-rays disclosed that he had also suffered a broken collar bone in the accident.

*Source:* Ed Dolan.

*Analysis:* Failure to follow exactly same route leader took, in a hurry, and touching a chockstone from a position which allowed of no escape if the rock came free.

*Washington, Cascades, LaBohn Gap*—About noon on August 1, Jack Slehofer (16) and William Johnson (18) were traveling from South to North over LaBohn Gap in the Washington Cascades. They were fishermen, headed for a string of lakes in Necklace Valley on the north side of the Gap. Two companions were headed in the opposite direction and all were to meet at or near the Gap. Neither Slehofer nor Johnson had any particular experience in snow climbing. Johnson had been over the Gap before, however, and had been on enough snow to realize some of its hazards. The snow ascent to the Gap from the south side was not