

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

steep and no trouble had been encountered. The first 500 yards of the descent on the north side is quite gradual, then the snow slope takes a decidedly sharp drop, of about 600 feet. A large rock island in the center of this steep slope is so wide that it would be virtually impossible to avoid it in a fall. Both boys had on smooth soled boots, and were without crampons, ice axes, or ropes. Johnson started the descent of the steep part, heading for the top of the rock island, which was only about 50 feet down. About half way down to it he turned to see his younger companion blithely walking down the steep part in a different area, not immediately above the rock point. He reports that he then realized the impending danger and started to call to his companion, but at that moment Slehofer fell, sliding rapidly about 150 feet into a smaller rock island and then bouncing 150 feet farther into a 6-foot schrund at the lower part of the rock island. He suffered severe lacerations of the right arm and scalp, and a mild concussion.

The snow slope at the point of fall was so steep that some of the rescuers, with ice axes and crampons, who later ascended to the summit of the Gap would not descend the place where Slehofer descended, but instead came down the rock island. After seeing the fall Johnson hurried down the rock island (an easy descent) to aid Slehofer. At the same time the two companions coming from the North saw the fall and hurried up the snow slope to the place where Slehofer lay. There was no danger in their ascent as the lower part of the slope was a gentle grade. Their calls to each other attracted the attention of Paul Uno, a Scoutmaster, who was nearly in the valley on the north side with a group of Boy Scouts. He went to the scene of the accident bringing first aid equipment and rendered effective first aid. At about 3:00 p.m. Uno left the scene and brought word out by an 11-mile trail to the road.

Uno reached the Seattle Mountain Rescue council by telephone about 6:30 that evening. An attempt was made to get a helicopter to the scene that evening but darkness came too quickly. As it was a warm, fair week-end it was difficult to locate experienced climbers for the rescue. However, by 9:30 p.m. the first units left Seattle on the 70-mile trip to the end of the road. The rescuers, after traversing a very brushy and stream-filled 11-mile trail, reached the scene of the accident at 6:00 a.m. the next morning, to find that Slehofer's companions had helped him descend about 700 yards to the valley floor. Dr. W. B. Spickard tended Slehofer. Radio contact was established with a Coast Guard helicopter which was standing by, and at 10:00 a.m. evacuation by helicopter was effected, thus saving the 15-man rescue team the prodigious task of a stretcher evacuation.

*Source:* Ralph W. Johnson and Arne Campbell who led the rescue.

*Analysis:* The accident resulted from the inexperience of these youthful fishermen. Slehofer in particular evidently had no knowledge, and thus no fear, of very steep snow slopes which could easily have been avoided. Slehofer was lucky to get away alive.

*Washington, Hozameen Peak*—On August 22, in good weather, a party of four climbers, all from Vancouver, British Columbia departed from