

in the strongest terms, is one answer, but there will always be people who should listen and won't, and one wonders what it will take to convince them."

*Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Grand Teton (1)*—At 1:00 p.m. on June 25, Ralph Miller (26) reported to the Jenny Lake Ranger Station that his climbing partner, Dr. Philip O. Nice (42), of Hanover, New Hampshire, had suffered an attack of extreme chest pain while they were climbing the Grand Teton. They had reached a point below "Wall Street" and Dr. Nice was unable to continue the climb. Mr. Miller assisted Dr. Nice down to the "black dyke" when the pain become so severe that Dr. Nice was unable to continue the descent.

Mr. Miller left Dr. Nice and his daughter there and returned to Jenny Lake for help. Dr. Nice thought the pain was caused by a heart attack and that he should not try any more physical movement than absolutely necessary.

A rescue team, led by James M. Langford, Park Ranger, and accompanied by Seasonal Rangers Timothy G. Bond, David Dorman, Leon R. Sinclair, and Fire Control Aid Fritz Ermarth were dispatched at 2:00 p.m. with the necessary rescue equipment.

After the first rescue teams were on their way, Chief Ranger Russell Dickenson called Chrysler-Avery Helicopter Service at Greybull, Wyoming. Rescue was accomplished by the helicopter by 6:30 p.m.

By using the helicopter, the evacuation was shortened by better than 12 hours of back-breaking work, and at only a slightly greater cost.

*Source:* F. Douglas McLaren, Supervisory Park Ranger, and H. L. Bill, Superintendent, G.T.N.P.

*Analysis:* Ulcers were later diagnosed as the cause of the abdominal pain.

*Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Grand Teton (2)*—On August 9, a guided party led by Robert French (25) and Peter Lev (20) were descending the summit block of the Grand Teton. The weather was clear and the climbing conditions were excellent.

The party of nine had started down from the summit shortly before 10:00 a.m. They were descending the relatively easy series of broken chimneys and ledges just above the Owen Rappel without ropes. Robert French was leading the party down, placing himself carefully at the bottom of each pitch and giving assistance where necessary.

Several members of the climbing party had successfully negotiated one 10-foot pitch into the floor of a wide chimney and were standing together when Mrs. Jessie Sargent (44), in the act of descending the same pitch, suddenly peeled off backwards. Bob French, who was standing directly below her, caught her as she fell, lost his footing and rolled downward a few feet with her. Apparently, Mrs. Sargent struck her left foot against a rock in the tumble, breaking it at the ankle.

Mrs. Sargent was made comfortable and warm in the floor of the chimney, Peter Lev remaining with her. The rest of the party was helped

over the rappel, after which Bob French left them at their insistence that they could make their way down without difficulty.

The accident was reported to the Ranger at Jenny Lake Ranger Station within 3½ hours. Two sleeping bags, a down jacket and several parkas and sweaters were immediately dispatched by the Guide Concession to the scene of the accident.

Four park rescue team members, assisted by Glenn Exum of the Guide Concession, arrived at the Lower Saddle early that evening. Assured that Mrs. Sargent was warm and comfortable and in care of two guides, it was decided not to climb any higher or to attempt any rescue activities until the next day.

Rescue operations from the 13,400-foot level were under way by 5:00 a.m. the next day and the Lower Saddle was reached shortly after 10:00 a.m. where a helicopter took over and completed the mission.

*Source:* Park Ranger James M. Langford and H. L. Bill, Superintendent, G.T.N.P.

*Analysis:* The cause of Mrs. Sargent's fall was not apparent to any of the climbers who witnessed the accident. She was climbing down the short but steep pitch facing inward. About 3-4 feet above the floor of the chimney she "gave a little gasp and peeled off backwards" in a spread-eagle position.

This particular pitch should warrant an upper belay; however, in this case, the protection from below was presumed to be adequate. Certainly this accident points out the importance of the responsibility of the leader in evaluating the climbing ability of each individual in his party. At the slightest hint of difficulty by a member, a belay should be initiated. Of course, this accident could have very well taken place on the backyard fence.

*Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Symmetry Spire (1)*—On July 1, Fritz Ermarth (19) and Greg Engstrom (19) were ascending the Durance Ridge. Weather and climbing conditions were excellent. At approximately 3:30 p.m. Ermarth began the lead on the third pitch from the top of the ridge. When approximately 20 feet above his belayer, he placed an angle piton, snapped his rope into it with a karabiner and proceeded up another five feet. At this point, a slip occurred. Ermarth felt a slight tug as he fell facing the wall in a semi-crouched position. He fell the full 25 feet and struck the ledge on which his belayer was stationed.

He suffered numerous scratches and bruises on his nose and limbs and a severe cut on the left leg which included a chipped bone. Ermarth, however, managed to complete the ascent of the mountain under his own power although he felt nauseated most of the time.

*Source:* Park Ranger James M. Langford and H. L. Bill, Superintendent, G.T.N.P.

*Analysis:* This fall was caused by a slip while the climber was engaged in a lay-back maneuver. The fall was precipitated when the karabiner that was snapped into the angle piton became detached. It is probable that the karabiner was incorrectly placed. Ermarth, however, claims he