

the wall to bring down the Whittakers. They met the Whittakers and Wilson and Brauchli at the 16,400 foot elevation and escorted them down. The Anchorage Party redescended the wall and arrived at the 14,400 foot camp in a blizzard.

The storm lasted two days and deposited a considerable amount of new snow that prevented the descent of the party for another day. During this period, a member of the rescue party suffered from severe altitude sickness. He was flown out by Sheldon on May 25 and the rest of the party walked out to 10,200 feet where they were finally evacuated on May 26.

*Source:* Personal reports of Pete Schoening, John Day, Jim and Lou Whittaker, Paul Crews, and Rod Wilson.

*Analysis:* This accident points out that the descent of any mountain is potentially dangerous since the stimulus of reaching the summit has gone and the element of fatigue has increased. In this instance, the accident occurred close to the camp when their vigilance may have been relaxed resulting in a minor slip that was magnified into this accident.

The physical condition of the party appeared to be excellent. They had all been previously well acclimatized to a minimum of 14,000 feet. Schoening had climbed higher than 20,000 feet twice before in the Himalayas.

The previous passage of the two Japanese and one Anchorage Party had virtually eliminated the normal problems of making a track and establishing a route. The weather throughout the climb was good to excellent.

It appears, therefore, that their speed was consistent with their physical condition, the preparation of the route, and the weather.

Their equipment and food were adequate to excellent. In fact, their down jackets and sleeping bags prevented their suffering more injury after the fall.

It was extremely fortunate that the Anchorage Party was close to the scene of the accident and that they had carried a radio to their high camp.

Currently, the condition of the Seattle Party is excellent. Pete Schoening has lost the tips of his little and third fingers of his left hand as a result of frost-bite. John Day was apparently fully recovered from his leg injury. Jim and Lou Whittaker are completely recovered. The altitude sickness of Helga Bading and one of the rescue team demonstrate how crippling this condition can be to an individual and to the entire party.

*Hawaian Islands, Oahu, Koolau Range*—On the morning of September 5, 1960 (Labor Day) the Reverend Irwin Jackson (30+) pastor of the Kaimuki Christian Church in Honolulu, led a picnic-hiking group of one adult and 12 teenagers into Manoa Valley in back of the University of Hawaii. After hiking to the head of the valley (about 1000 feet elevation) Jackson and two boys (16) climbed to the top of 100 feet Manoa Falls in Waihi ravine while the rest of the group waited at the foot of the falls. Against Jackson's wishes the two teenagers descended the steep side of the falls, reaching the bottom at 11:30 a.m. One boy fell and was injured. (Severity of injuries unknown.)

Jackson did not descend. He climbed alone up the steep ravine to the

top of the ridge of the Koolau range (about 2500 feet elevation). Jackson's progress was slow because of heavy rain, clay, mud, lichen and rotten rock, and he was forced to bivouac in the open in the clothes he was wearing. The next morning, September 6, he continued along the crest of the Koolau ridge and at 12:30 p.m. he descended to the highway at the Nuuanu Pali Lookout (elevation 1200 feet) in reasonably good condition.

On the afternoon of September 5 rescue teams were alerted. Marine and Air Force helicopters flew to the area, but high winds, rain and steepness of terrain prevented their utilization then and on following days. A five-man rescue team of firemen, using ropes, scaled cliffs in the waterfall area, and returned the same afternoon.

At 8:30 a.m. on September 6, another five-man team of firemen resumed the search. They drove to Mt. Tantalus (about 2,000 feet elevation) and on foot traversed a ridge to a point above Waihi ravine. Sometime while traversing the ridge they learned by radio that Jackson was safe. They decided to leave the mountains by descending Waihi ravine. During the descent at about 4:30 p.m., Fireman Philip T. Chang (48) fell 15 to 20 feet in the ravine. He became immediately unconscious and was breathing heavily. He did not revive despite the use of mouth-to-mouth artificial respiration. The firemen reported by radio that Chang had a head injury, a broken leg, and possibly internal injuries. He died at 7:10 p.m.

Nightfall was approaching, and because of inadequate ropes, the four firemen spent the night with Chang. They had no food nor shelter. There were heavy showers.

At 5:00 a.m. on September 7, an Army rescue squad and another squad of firemen started from Mt. Tantalus. At 1:05 p.m. they reached the stranded group. Late that evening the two teams reached the base of the falls carrying the body.

*Source:* Merrill F. McLane.

*Analysis:* Some of the factors causing these accidents:

1. Failure of the hiking group to appreciate the inherent dangers in the Koolau range: heavy rainfall, steep ravines, knife edges, lichen-covered rotten rock, soil of thick mud and clay.
2. Lack of proper equipment for other than a picnic hike.
3. Inexperience of hiking group.
4. Leaving an established trail.
5. Failure to comprehend that hiking groups must have a leader.
6. Failure to realize that a climbing group, once committed to dangerous terrain, does *not* split up.
7. The leader's decision to solo-climb up the crest of the range and out to Nuuanu Pali Lookout. This involved an involuntary bivouac.

## **ORGANIZED MOUNTAIN RESCUE IN NORTH AMERICA**

The aims and activities of all mountain rescue groups everywhere are directed towards one single objective: that of saving lives. The advantages of organization lie in faster mobilization of available manpower and in experienced coordination of efforts in the field to help those who, through