

clear of the rock for the last 50 ft. When his fall stopped, he immediately sat up and shouted that he was all right but would require assistance. His left arm appeared to be broken (later found to be deeply bruised). He had assorted deep bruises and abrasions over his body, and contusions of the kidneys. He noted several symptoms of shock. The two started down immediately and were forced to pick a poor route between slabs and sloping ledges. Route finding was difficult and steps had to be retraced frequently. Roper was in great pain, had lost his glasses, and had difficulty in maneuvering. He credits Sacherer with doing a superb job of helping him down. Roper was hospitalized for 2 weeks but has completely recovered.

*Source:* Wayne P. Merry, Park Ranger, and Will Siri.

*Analysis:* Roper noted that he thought that they used extremely bad judgment both in regard to lack of equipment and in attempting to climb the thinly-covered slabs. Investigating rangers concurred.

*California, San Gabriel Mountains, Thunder Mountain.* On the morning of December 26, Michael Bressler (16), Brian Milman (17), and Richard Schuster (17) embarked on a ridge climb up the lower western slopes of Thunder Mountain. The boys did not intend to climb Thunder by this route, but only to reach some steep rocks about 500 ft. above their starting point at Manaket Flat. Climbing conditions were excellent at this time—the day was comfortably cool and fair and the route was free from snow except for some icy patches that could be avoided. The boys, however, had neither rope, ice axe, nor crampons and had little experience in such terrain. Earlier in the day they had been advised by a forest ranger to avoid the snow patches because of icy conditions. In any case, Bressler attempted to cross a fairly high angle snow slope. He immediately slipped and fell over the brink of an 80-ft. cliff. He landed some seventy-five feet from the base of the cliff and was dead by the time his companions reached him. The cause of death appeared to be a basal skull fracture. His body came to rest approximately 75 yds. from a nearby chair-lift line. Employees of the ski concession and Forest Service personnel evacuated the body with no difficulty.

*Source:* Robert Gardner, Altadena Mountain Rescue Squad.

*Analysis:* Obviously the boys used very poor judgment and showed little knowledge of good mountaineering practice.

*California, San Gabriel Mountains, Mt. Baldy.* Early in the morning of December 14, James Northrup (19) and two male companions attempted to climb Mt. Baldy. Inasmuch as the lift was not yet in operation, the group decided to hike up the lift line to the upper terminal, where the trail (covered with snow at this time of year) left for the summit. The men were warmly dressed except for inadequate footgear. They carried neither ice axe nor rope and were apparently unaware of the icy conditions that prevailed from the 7500-ft. level to the summit. The day was ideal for climbing. Near the top of the ski lift the slope steepens abruptly and most climbers depart from the lift line and follow lesser slopes to the upper terminal. Northrup and party, however, chose to climb directly

up to the trail junction on the ridge. Near the top of this route, at about 7800 ft. Northrup slipped on steep frozen snow and plunged down a narrow chute. His fall was arrested by rocks and vegetation in the chute; but by the time he came to a stop he had fallen some 300 ft. Northrup's friends were terrified at the situation. They made their way to him but inasmuch as neither was versed in first aid all they could do was to make him as comfortable as possible under the circumstances. Then *both* left the scene and notified the local forest ranger. A San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department rescue group reached Northrup's inert form 2 hours later and evacuated him to a nearby hospital where he was determined to have fractured legs, ribs, and back. He remained hospitalized for some time.

*Source:* Robert Gardner, Altadena Mountain Rescue Squad.

*Analysis:* It is obvious that the group used the poorest judgment possible under the circumstances and in general behaved in an irresponsible manner.

*Oregon, Mt. Hood.* On June 25, a regularly scheduled Mazama climbing party of several ropes successfully climbed Mt. Hood by way of the Sunshine Route. Climbing conditions were good, the weather was excellent. The descent was made by way of the Cooper's Spur route. At this time of year, this route is a single smooth snow-covered spur running almost the entire distance from the summit to timberline. Its upper portions vary between 45-degrees and 55-degrees with extreme exposure to the Eliot Glacier cirque.

At about 1:30 p.m. the last rope to descend from the summit contained Colin Chisholm (54) and his son Doug (21). After descending several rope lengths from the summit using standard belaying techniques, they decided to alternately glissade and belay in order to speed the descent and to catch up with the main group some distance ahead. Colin glissaded first wearing crampons in fairly soft snow while Doug belayed. Just as he reached the end of his rope his crampons hooked into ice throwing him forward into a fall. This dislodged his belayer who in turn started to slide downward. Loose rope entangled Colin's legs and both men lost their ice axes. Their slide carried them over the edge of the very steep slopes above Eliot Glacier. The two climbers lost some 1500 ft. of elevation in a matter of seconds passing over the edge of one crevasse, where Colin broke his ribs on impact with its lower lip. After passing over the shrund above Eliot Glacier, they came to rest on the slopes of the glacier. Composing themselves and ascertaining that their injuries were not major (Colin had broken ribs and abrasions and Doug had abrasions only), they attempted to attract the attention of the rest of their party. The accident went unnoticed for some minutes as the rest of the party, who were well in advance, were not watching and were unaware of the Chisholms' absence from the upper slopes. Upon becoming aware of the accident, Earl Levin organized a rescue squad out of the climbing party and sent Marge Dauelsberg to notify the Mountain Rescue and Safety Council of Oregon. Earl Levin and his group performed the necessary first aid and made the accident victims comfortable until help arrived.