

wearing was supplemented by a down jacket. She was wrapped in a full-zipped down sleeping bag and placed on the stretcher.

She was carried down the lower part of the slide under belay. Below the railroad tracks no belays were needed. Arriving at the road, she was placed in a station wagon and taken to the Littleton Hospital, where the injury was determined to be a broken ankle joint and leg.

The fall occurred at approximately 2:15 in the afternoon. Half an hour was consumed in splinting the leg and preparing the stretcher. Three hours were required for transportation to the road, and another ten minutes to load her in the car. Thirty-five more minutes saw her at the hospital.

Due to the fact that there were a number of trained first-aiders in the group, she arrived at the hospital in reasonable condition. Later, she expressed her thanks that the party was prepared with warm clothes and a sleeping bag, had the know-how to cope with the situation, and the ability to put on a tremendous effort to carry out the evacuation from the slope.

*Source:* Bob Leach, Chairman Mountaineering Committee; Bert Hirtle; John Perry. *Appalachia*, 34, 127-128, 1962.

*New Hampshire, Mount Washington, Huntington Ravine.* On March 17 Christopher MacRae (24) and Don Jensen (18) were involved in an avalanche in Damnation Gully. *The background:* a rope of two (from the Harvard Mountaineering Club) climbed North Gully, and traversed across to Damnation below the second ice-pitch; this had been climbed (using rock-piton belay), and about three quarters of the gully ascended (using two sling-belays to rocks and thereafter ice-ax belays). *Conditions:* There was a considerable wind above, but this was blowing over the gully; while there had been a certain amount of recent snow, this did not appear to affect Damnation till about 200 feet above the second ice-pitch; up to about this point there was a crust varying in hardness (whether a previous snowslip had stripped the loose snow or because the wind had done so, is not certain); above this point, there were about two to three inches of powder snow on top. (While the rope was climbing the second ice-pitch, a short but sharp burst of hail fell.) *The avalanche* started above the leader, out of sight (the visibility by this time was minimal because of cloud); at first it consisted only of surface snow; but when this had built up to waist height, the underlying crust was also swept away. Where the line of break occurred was impossible to say in the circumstances, and it is not absolutely certain from the second man's evidence whether or not the crust was stripped as far as the point at which he was (about forty feet below the leader). It does seem more than likely that the whole width of the gully went, since the leader was right against the wall. Both the leader (MacRae) and the second were swept down the gully. Jensen suffered a fractured shoulder blade. *Conclusion:* The leader had taken into account the possibility of a surface snowslip (as the avalanche started out by being); and had there been no more than this, the situation might have been worrying but not too dangerous. It appears that the snow-crust in Damnation Gully is not

always to be trusted, and for the upper third of the climb something more solid than an ice-ax belay is recommended.

Source: Christopher MacRae, *Appalachia*, 34, 128-129, 1962.

*Ohio, Practice Cliff near Dublin.* The climb was a routine practice climb of about 40 feet in a limestone ravine at Dublin, Ohio. The weather was not a contributory factor, and the rock was dry. The pitch that Chet Hedden (21) chose on July 1 was a direct overhang consisting of several consecutive "ceilings." He roped up with a double rope, each strand forming a loop, the size of which was regulated by a Hedden Knot tied to the loop and secured at the waist loop. This method eliminates the need for a second in double rope climbing, but does NOT provide a belay as one must depend entirely upon his pitons for security. He was aware of the nature of the hazard, but decided to take the risk since the exposure was practically non-existent. In this part of the country it is very difficult to find a second skilled in double rope climbing, and one must take his practice when and where he can — very often by himself. The climb went very well. He had no difficulty whatsoever and all of his pitons were sound. At the outermost edge of the overhang, suspended by two good pitons in the *same* crack, he began to drive the next piton, around the corner and into the vertical part of the face above the overhang. The crack that he used was the most obvious choice, the continuation of the *same* crack that held the two pitons supporting his weight. This third addition apparently proved too much for the ancient, crumbling blocks that comprise the practice cliffs in that locality. This last piton, acting as a wedge, forced the crack apart, allowing the two most important, load bearing pitons to drop out from underneath the overhang. He fell about 35 feet, striking his head on, or being struck by, a rock. He was unconscious for about two hours before picking himself up, coiling the rope, and driving a short distance to a friend's house. He was then taken to a hospital for treatment and observation. There was no serious injury other than a concussion of the brain and no permanent damage resulted. He was released on the third of July.

Source: Chet Hedden

*Analysis:* (Chet Hedden) For a number of years, I have been campaigning for the cause of hard hats in mountaineering; I would, therefore, like to let this accident serve as an example for those who chose to ignore hard hats. In this accident as in many others, the most serious injury was to the head. THIS INJURY WOULD HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED IF, ON THIS RARE OCCASION, I HAD NOT DECIDED TO LEAVE MY HARD HAT AT HOME IN MY RUCKSACK. (See also accident California, King's Canyon, where multiple pitons were placed in some crack).

*West Virginia, Nelson Rocks.* On April 22 George Farrow, Jerry Frederick, and Beverly Frederick were doing practice climbs on the cliffs. The day was sunny and the rock was dry. They had finished their climbing and decided to rappel down. They had their rope, 150 feet