

Mr. Brauning, in a dazed condition, cut himself from the rope and went to see if he could be of assistance to Summers. Summers died shortly after Brauning reached him. Brauning called for help and remained near Summers. Another party nearby heard the calls and went to their aid. When the condition of the party was known, one member of the second party returned to the valley and reported the accident to the Ranger Station at Jenny Lake. A park rescue team was dispatched, and Brauning was hand carried out during the night. A helicopter was called in, and Summers' body was removed the following morning.

*Source:* F. Douglas McLaren, District Ranger.

*Analysis:* Neither man had had snow- and ice-climbing experience for the conditions they faced on this climb. The snow had become soft on the surface, and when they set up their ice ax belay, they did not realize the danger of utilizing only the surface snow for the belay.

*Wyoming, Tetons, Symmetry Spire (1).* On June 23, a party of five was making an ascent of Storm Point. They ascended the Symmetry Spire Couloir. As Mrs. Slansky (44) was traversing the upper end of the snowfield, she slipped and fell and slid down the snow for about 30 feet, then across about 10 feet of bare rock and over the edge of a 6 foot drop into the snow. She attained a self-arrest position immediately upon slipping but was not able to stop because she was partially on her side. She was not belayed. The injuries were minor lacerations and abrasions. The party was able to continue their ascent. A snow-school of sorts had been conducted earlier in the day, and it was thought the individuals had developed sufficient ability.

*Source:* Leon R. Sinclair, Park Ranger; Bill Echo.

*Analysis:* The leader probably should have sensed the insecurity of the inexperienced climbers on snow and required the precaution of at least roping the members of the party across the snowfield.

*Wyoming, Tetons, Symmetry Spire (2).* On July 15 John Biehn and Albert Sickler (31) had completed a successful ascent of Symmetry Spire and were descending via the Symmetry Spire Couloir. They were glissading down the snowfield when Sickler slipped and fell. Sickler dislocated his shoulder during his attempt to control his slide. Biehn immobilized the injured arm. They were able to complete the descent without additional assistance.

*Source:* George J. Kelly, Park Ranger.

*Analysis:* Party members were not fully aware of the dangers of glissading without the protection of a rope.

*Wyoming, Tetons, Symmetry Spire (3).* On August 20 Thomas Morgan (16) and Robert Rosch had completed an ascent of Storm Point and were descending via the Symmetry Spire Couloir. Morgan decided he would try glissading down the snow field even though he had no ice ax. Rosch advised against it and continued down the trail alongside the snow field. Morgan started down the snow, then changed his mind and started

back toward the rock. He slipped and slid down the snow, grabbed for a rock at the side of the snow-field some 20 feet down, and dislocated his right shoulder. He slid another 40 feet before he stopped. Rosch reported the accident to the Jenny Lake Ranger Station, and the rescue team was dispatched. Morgan's shoulder was immobilized, and he was able to walk down with assistance from members of the rescue team.

*Source:* F. Douglas McLaren, District Ranger, and Sterling L. Neale, Park Ranger.

*Analysis:* The cause of the accident was directly related to Morgan's lack of knowledge and experience in glissading steep snow fields.

*Wyoming, Tetons, Grand Teton.* On July 26 at 4:00 A.M. a party of ten Appalachian Mountain Club members began an ascent of the Grand Teton via what was supposed to be the Petzoldt-Loomis route. The party included Ellis Blade (leader), Mary Blade, Stephen Smith (21 – assistant leader), Griffith and Lydia June, John Fenniman, Charles Kellogg (22), Charles Joyce, Lester Germer (65), and Janet Buckingham. The age range of the group was 18 to 65.

The progress of the party was very slow from the start, and it did not reach the top of Teepe's Glacier until noon, which normally is a three to four hour climb from their base camp. During this part of the climb, Janet Buckingham slipped shortly after starting up the Glacier but was held by a belay. Kellogg and Joyce were hit by some large snow blocks while eating lunch on a rock outcropping near the top of the Glacier; they were not seriously injured, but an ice axe and a pair of crampons were lost. The party moved up to the moat at the top of the Glacier where they weathered an electrical storm accompanied with some rain and snow.

The party's progress up the couloir was even slower than before, and they encountered continual waterfall and frequent rock fall in the ascent of the couloir. Kellogg's pack was hit by falling rock that drove the points of his crampons into his back causing him a considerable amount of pain; and on at least one occasion, members of the party felt shocks from nearby lightning. By nightfall the party reached two small, sloping ledges about halfway up the couloir. Blade made an exploratory climb up the couloir to a point about one rope length above the rest. In this position the party spent the night.

The next morning (Friday, the 27th) after several attempts, Blade brought the party up to his position. This operation took most of the morning. During this operation, Griffith June fell and pendulumed back to the ledge, but was not seriously injured. Blade then led another pitch and set up a fixed rope to bring the rest of the party up. During this climb Germer began to weaken physically, and after the remainder of the party was brought up to this position, it was determined that because of Germer's condition, a three man party should attempt to get out to get help. Blade asked Smith and Joyce to go with him in an attempt to find a route off the peak to get help for the party. The route Blade chose was up the Otter Body snowfield with the idea of reaching either the