

*Additional Comment (editor):* The difficulties associated with this route do not make it attractive. Dr. J. Gordon Edwards tried to locate this route in 1961 and in the process found another easier route, that will be described in the new edition of Ortenberger's guide. The Otter Body route has been closed by the park for at least a year in memory of Smith.

*Wyoming, Tetons, Mt. Moran.* On June 12 Milt Hokanson (19) and David Wood (20) were attempting a climb on the South Buttress of Mount Moran. Hokanson led around a corner onto a high angle slab attempting to reach the bolt from which to pendulum. This pitch requires various direct aid moves according to ability. Hokanson used two Army vertical pitons that had been placed in a previous year. He was standing in one of these and leaned over to talk to Wood when the piton pulled out. The lower piton failed, and Wood stopped Hokanson after a fall of sixty feet. Hokanson hit a large sharp flake and suffered a severely bruised hip and lacerations on his fingers. Wood suffered a cracked rib, sprained thumb and rope burns. They rappelled about 1,000 feet down the buttress and walked out unaided.

*Source:* Leon R. Sinclair, Park Ranger.

*Analysis:* The party was climbing rapidly and well. They left camp at 6:30 A.M. and had climbed about 1,200 feet of hard fifth-class climbing by 10:00 A.M. when the fall occurred. Their desire to "make good time" was probably the reason why Hokanson failed to place adequate protection. They are both aware that the Army vertical piton is particularly unsuited for the type of rock they were on, especially since these pitons had been placed at some undetermined time in the past.

*Wyoming, Tetons, Practice Rocks Near Hidden Falls.* On August 8 Richard Frisbee (25), John Baker, Roger Wolfe, and Roger Cook were taking the one-day climbing school offered by the Exum School of American Mountaineering. Peter Lev, the guide, had set up the rappel at the beginner's climbing school by tying two ropes together around a large tree with a "ring bend" leaving a tail of about 7 inches. The belay was through a carabiner clipped into a butterfly knot tied in the rappel ropes. The rappel started on a ledge about 20 feet from the tree. Lev shook the ropes a number of times to free them from some branches; he then went down the ropes hand over hand about 20 feet to 30 feet to the overhang and back up again. Frisbee then proceeded down the rappel. Just after he started down the overhang, the rappel ropes came untied, and he fell about 20 feet before the belay was effective. Frisbee was wearing a hard hat at the time, and he hit first on his head (cracking the hard hat), then bounced and lit on his feet and pitched forward hitting his head again. The guide went to his assistance and found that Frisbee had cut his forehead and injured his ankle. It was later determined that the ankle was fractured along with some bones in the heel of his foot.

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

*Analysis:* It is believed that the "ring bend" used to tie the two ropes together became loosened while the guide was trying to shake them out of the branches and came loose when a steady pull was applied to the ropes.

*Arizona, Catalina Mountains, Alamo Canyon.* On November 12 Edward Reilly (17) and Bryan Castner were hiking and scrambling on the cliffs of Alamo Canyon. Reilly slipped and fell about 20 feet. He was also struck on the right ankle by a falling rock. He suffered a fracture of his right ankle. Castner went out to obtain help. (See rescue report.)

*Source:* Southern Arizona Rescue Association, Raymond R. Neal.

*Analysis:* The party was too small and too inexperienced on rock.

*California, Hunter's Hill, Near Vallejo.* On February 11, William Litterick, Jr. (25) and George Pastor were climbing the Yellow bank on Hunter's Hill. Some parts of the rock are sound, other parts are extremely rotten. The weather had been quite unusual with considerable rainfall and freezing conditions that undoubtedly loosened the rock.

Litterick was leading a fifth-sixth class pitch (pitons used for direct aid). Near the top of the climb, he placed a piton which pulled out when he placed his weight on it. During the fall, he pulled out four to six lower pitons, but the fall was held by his belayer after he had fallen 40 feet. The first (highest) piton dislodged a "large" rock that struck Litterick in the abdomen and probably inflicted the serious internal injury and massive internal hemorrhage. Vallejo police, highway patrol, local fire departments, and Air Force helicopter responded to the call for assistance. Litterick died within minutes after the fall.

*Source:* William Siri, George Pastor, John R. Neale, Matthew T. Pauley, Hal Van Zoeren and Pete Carah.

*Analysis:* If Litterick had not been struck by rock, he probably would not have sustained any injuries.

Failure of so many pitons suggests faulty judgment in proceeding so far without sound pitons, but there may not have been a choice. Question of judgment in placing the piton that dislodged the rock is hard to evaluate. It may not have been evident when piton was driven, although certainly the "sound" must have indicated it was unreliable.

*California, King's Canyon (National Forest).* On April 20, Daniel Smith (17), Richard Dixon, E. J. Pagliassotti, Jerry Sarquis, and Ellis Hedlund started to make a six class climb to Generator Cave which is about 55 feet up an 80 degree cliff. The climb was started at dusk after dinner. The dark presented no apparent problem because all were experienced 'splunkers' of the National Speleological Society. Carbide lamps and hard hats were in use.

Smith placed his highest piton at 31 feet. This was apparently the last (good) piton crack. Dixon and Hedlund were going to do the rest of the climb with drive studs. Smith hung a cable ladder from the top piton. Then he proceeded to remove the lower pitons. Then Hedlund questioned Smith about the number of pitons at the top of the ladder. Smith proceeded up the ladder to place a second piton to correct the error. Everyone was quiet now. No one was aware of the mistake that Smith was going to make. This was to start a piton in the same fracture line. On about the second blow he felt the vibration in the ladder. Next he was falling. He was turned in the fall to face away from the cliff as his