

line of ascent. The belay was ineffective and Dunn came to rest on a ledge slightly below and to the right of his belayer.

During the fall, contact with the rock produced moderate to heavy abrasions, and bruised his lower trunk. It was thought that the arm was broken when he landed on the ledge. Dunn was able to move under his own power and the party descended from the shoulder, roped and under the supervision of Rangers Thorson and Church.

*Source:* J. Orren Church, Ranger, Devil's Tower National Park.

*Analysis:* (Church) The use of a piton before the difficult move was attempted would have spared the injury. The fact that Dunn was wearing a hard hat prevented possible skull injuries. All climbers on the Tower are required to wear hard hats. The loss of purchase with the left hand is understandable in the portion of the climb. Rock dust accumulates on ledges and in cracks which is like grease to sweaty hands.

*Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Practice Cliffs.* On 10 August Paul Ramer and Bob Fenichel were climbing in separate parties on the practice cliffs near Hidden Falls. Ramer, standing on a talus slope about 200 feet below Fenichel, wore an aluminum hardhat, while Fenichel's helmet was a mesh-reinforced fiberglass model.

As Fenichel bent to coil his rope, his helmet's loose chinstrap proved to be inadequate. The helmet rolled and fell toward Ramer's party, finally hitting Ramer's helmet after a free bounce of about 30 feet. Only at the last moment did Ramer's party realize that Fenichel's cries of "Rock!" were intended for them, and at no time did they see the helmet falling toward them.

Ramer's helmet prevented all injury, and he continued climbing immediately after the accident.

During last-moment evasive action, another member of Ramer's party happened to step on their 7/16" goldline rope, severing it in two places. As the rope was not in use at the time, this unfortunate side-effect had no serious consequences.

*Source:* Robert Fenichel.

*Analysis:* (Fenichel) (1) Ramer could certainly have sustained some injury if he had not been helmeted. This incident supplies another straight-forward argument for the use of hardhats by all rockclimbers.

(2) The incident would never had occurred if Fenichel had been more attentive to the possibility of losing an inadequately-secured helmet.

(3) This incident shows that stepping on ropes, a mispractice classed by some climbers with such mild errors as letting ropes drag on mud, is actually a far more dangerous offense.

*Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park, Baxter's Pinnacle.* On 15 August Herb Swedlund, Bob Fenichel, Charles Joyce, Mike Edesess, and Peter Keller were descending in that order through the loose gully to the west of Baxter's Pinnacle. Although Swedlund and Fenichel ducked when the others cried "Rock!," Swedlund was struck on the back of the head by a head-sized boulder.

Swedlund had been wearing a light cloth cap, but this did not prevent