sion was thought by the examining physicians to have been caused by the wound on the forehead, negating a hard hat’s altering the outcome.

**Washington, Cascades, Big Four Mountain.** On 23 August Robert Byhre and Grant Byhre were ascending a rock gully intending to climb Big Four mountain and Halls Peak. Robert Byhre had ascended each by nearly the same route four times. Route ascended a rock gully for several hundred feet to a broad terrace with scrub brush. Upper section of route was up a 60 to 70 degree granite wall about 70 feet high, few holds, and quite smooth.

Robert Byhre was at the top of the wall and beginning to make his last move to reach the terrace when he slipped and fell. He was out of sight of his partner. They were not roped. Byhre fell down the wall to a small ledge and was catapulted over backwards in a free fall of 35 feet and landed on his head. He then slid down and over three more overhangs and then travelled about 50 feet horizontally across the rock gully and struck the rock wall head first. He then fell to the gully and slid down until stopped by a log. Total distance fallen was about 300 feet. Grant Byhre gave first aid and notified Forest Service. Evacuation was done by helicopter. He suffered multiple fractures and lacerations, and a concussion.

**Source:** Robert Byhre, Frank Fickeisen.

**Analysis:** (Byhre) It is not known what caused the fall but it could have been: 1.) Foot slipped on wet moss on the rock and; 2.) Rock fall from above at a critical time; 3.) Small tree may have pulled out when used for handhold at final move. The two man party did not rope up but discussed the possibility. It was rejected because rock did not present any adequate belay stances and it was thought that if one fell both would fall and there would be no one to go for help. It was a calculated risk. In retrospect the minimum size of the party should have been four persons. Byhre was wearing a hard hat that undoubtedly saved his life. The hat was severely damaged but had protected his head during the fall except for the last bit when it came off because of a loosened chin strap.

**Washington, Mt. Si.** On 26 February Boyd N. Arentsen and Jack Day were out for a drive when they decided to climb the West face of Mt. Si. They were inexperienced and had inadequate equipment. The face is very rotten rock and contains much moss and other moisture retaining vegetation. Arentsen wore moccasins. They were about 700 feet up the face and about to turn back when Arentsen fell about 200 feet and was killed. Day hurried to the body and then descended to his car and went for help.

**Source:** Frank Fickeisen.

**Washington, Cascades, Red Mountain.** In August a party of about 25 persons reached the small lake on the Crest Trail below Red Mountain about 10:15 on a warm, sunny morning. After a rest, about twenty members (12 men, all with previous climbing experience; 4 women and 4 11-year-old boys with limited climbing experience) started up the gentle west slope of Red Mountain. About one-third of the way up, experienced
climbers were sent to the right and to the left to select the easiest route. Because there was some loose rock on the slope, these “scouts” took special effort to traverse away from the party before starting up. For the same reason, the party had been kept spread across the slope with no climber permitted above any other. When the “scout” to the left of the main party reported that his route was easy, the party began to traverse to the left. Just as the main group started to move, cries of “Rock! Rock!” came from both scouts. About fifteen small rocks came from well above all climbers and down a shallow gulley through the middle of the group. Roland Amundsen was struck in the head as he tried to avoid a rock. Although he was not in great pain, it was quickly decided to seek help in evacuating him because of his injury. Two members reached the highway at 12 noon where they reported to a member of MRC. The exact cause of the rockfall will never be known but it is the consensus of the experienced climbers that it was most likely caused by some animal. Goats and marmots were observed in the area.

Source: Wes Marden and John Pollock.

Washington, Mt. Index. On 26 December, Horace Gates (42), and his three sons, William (16), Louis (13), and Frank (12) set out for a day trip to Lake Serene at the 2900-foot level of Mt. Index. The weather was clear and balmy for a December day so the party, after reaching the lake, decided to traverse around it. Events after this are not too clear. Apparently, after darkness overtook them they continued to traverse the lake, running into cliffs on the east side. Here they attempted to work their way above the cliffs. It was in this general area Horace Gates and his son, Frank, were found lying together in the snow, dead. The other two boys, William and Louis, had made their way slightly above and about 50 yards laterally from the collapsed boy and his father, William built a fire and returned to his father after receiving no answer from him. Frank was unconscious and the father not too coherent at this point. William took the car keys from his father and went for help.

He was met at the car by the sheriff. Everett Mountain Rescue was called and rescue teams left the road early Friday morning. Louis, who spent the night by the fire, was evacuated by the Paine Field Air Rescue helicopter at 10:00 A.M. The father and son were pronounced dead by Dr. Otto Trott on the slope where they were found. The bodies of Horace Gates and his son Frank were evacuated by ground parties.

The autopsy report showed that Horace Gates and his son, Frank, died from exhaustion and exposure.

Source: Safety Committee, Mountaineers.

California, San Jacinto Mountains, Mt. San Jacinto. On 9 February, Jackson Jordan Sr. (47) along with four boy scouts ranging in age from 12 to 16 years, set out to make a winter ascent on Mt. San Jacinto (10,831) in the San Jacinto Mtns. of Southern California. The plan was to backpack to the summit shelter, spend that night there and return to the roadhead on the 10th. At the time of their departure the weather was fairly clear with seemingly good prospects for the weekend.