

After the group had been on the trail for some time it became apparent that they would not reach the summit shelter until after dark. In addition the weather had grown steadily worse and snow was falling on a rising wind. To complicate matters Jordan was going poorly, having to stop and rest often. About one mile from the shelter he told the boys to go on ahead and get a fire started in the shelter. After reaching the shelter the boys waited some time and then went out and called to Jordan. They heard a reply which they interpreted as a sign he was on his way and would arrive shortly. He never arrived at the hut. The weather developed into a full blizzard and marooned the boys in the summit shelter from that time until their rescue on 11 February.

When the party failed to return on the night of the 10th preparations were made by the Riverside County Sheriff's office to search the area as soon as the weather permitted. In the morning on the 11th a helicopter located the boys outside the summit shelter. Survival packs were dropped to them and they were picked up several hours later in Round Valley. It was only after their rescue that it was known that Jordan was still on the mountain. Rescue teams were called from Riverside, Sierra Madre and Altadena and they initiated a ground search the following day. Jordan's body was located approximately 50 yards from the summit shelter; he was huddled under a rock as if to seek shelter from the weather. The evacuation was carried out by standard mountaineering methods to a point where he could be air-lifted by helicopter to Palm Springs. An autopsy showed Jordan died from freezing.

*Source:* Robert C. Gardner.

*Analysis:* Victim inadequately prepared for adverse weather conditions. Victim inexperienced in winter mountaineering techniques.

*California, Yosemite National Park, Lost Arrow.* On 19 April Glenn Denny and John Weichard, both about 22, were caught on the 3rd pitch of the lost Arrow by a sleet and snow storm. Being lightly dressed both were greatly affected by the cold. A retreat was not practical from their position, so they continued to the summit (100 feet of 6th class climbing) for a more favorable rappel angle, then tied their ropes together to make a single long rappel into the notch (270 feet). An attempt was made to prussik up fixed ropes 270 feet to the Valley Rim, but the ropes were frozen and icy and Weichard was too weak. Denny might have been able to make it, but elected to stay with Weichard and call for help.

*Source:* Ranger David W. Huson.

*Analysis:* The weather had been threatening for two days. This climb should not have been undertaken during questionable weather as the retreat from this climb is one of the most technical in Yosemite. Parkas should be taken on long climbs of grade three in the early season.

*California, Yosemite National Park, Washington Column (1).* At about 7:30 A.M. 29 June, E. Walton Kirk and Mickey McKinney were a little over 300 feet above the talus on Washington Column. It was their intention to climb to lunch ledge and then either return or proceed up. At the point the accident occurred they were about 40 feet to the right (north) of the