

Mt. Dana. None was an experienced climber. There was no thought of doing any difficult climbing. While exploring the upper tongue of the nearby Dana Glacier, they decided to attempt to climb down to its base along the junction of the ice and rock. Stopped part-way by difficulty, they then decided to "slide" the remaining distance. They sat in a chain, grasping the man in front around the waist, and let go. After a short distance they lost control. A hitherto invisible "bump," the almost filled bergschrund, catapulted them into the air. It is likely that the injuries occurred when they slammed back down. Smith suffered a broken leg and Forest Follette a broken back.

The victims with only minor injuries carried their companions to nearby scree, gave them extra clothing, and one man went for help.

The distance of their fall was approximately 700 feet.

*Source:* Wayne P. Merry, Ranger YNP.

*Analysis:* This is a simple case of inexperienced people attempting technical terrain. The glacier at the point they started their slide is steep enough to require ice axe, crampons, and rope.

*California, Mt. Shasta.* On 21 August, William John Mihm, Jr. and Stephan Tillman were climbing Mt. Shasta on the North West slope with improper equipment. When they got to the 12,000-foot level they decided to start back. They were standing at the top of a small glacier and Mihm started down by sliding, with the idea that he could stop safely. He slid about 150 yards on the glacier and hit rocks at the bottom of the glacier and went about 50 yards through the rocks cutting his head open.

Mihm succumbed to his injuries and was dead when the rescue party arrived.

*Source:* Lawrence Taylor, Sheriff's Investigator and John Marker, Asst. Ranger U.S.F.S.

*Analysis:* Inadequate experience and equipment; Crampons and Ice axes should have been carried.

*California, Yosemite National Park, Lower Yosemite Falls.* On 31 August, Jack Berger, an expert gymnast, managed to climb a very difficult Chimney 80 feet up to the West (left) of Lower Yosemite Falls. The chimney led to open book and face climbing for 220 more feet to the top of lower Yosemite Falls. When Berger got out of the chimney and into the first few feet of face climbing he decided he could not go up any higher and he could not return. All this time he had climbed 3rd class as he had no equipment with him. At this point he decided to send his friends that were watching from below to go to Park Headquarters for help.

*Source:* David W. Huson.

*Analysis:* This is one of three such accidents that occurred in Yosemite. They are difficult to prevent and much education of the public will be necessary. This type of incident has resulted in a number of serious accidents since the individual starts to do a 3rd class climb that turns into a high 5.