

and she continued to fall and tumble for several hundred feet down the snowfield. The other members of the party descended to where she stopped and determined that she had been killed during the fall. The party then returned to the valley and reported the accident to the Park Service. A 10 man rescue team was dispatched at daylight the next morning to evacuate Mrs. Rosenberg's body to the Lower Saddle where it was picked up by helicopter and brought to the valley.

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

*Analysis:* It is believed that possibly Mrs. Rosenberg did not understand exactly what Mr. Newcomb had meant when he asked her to stay where they were or that she might not have heard him.

The area where the accident occurred is not exposed and nearly all the parties travel through it unroped, and normally only the guided parties rope up for the section below that has a slight amount of exposure.

*Wyoming, Devil's Tower.* On 6 September John Peterson (52), Dr. Roland Fleck, David Johnston, and David Peterson were climbing Devil's Tower. Peterson was standing on top of "Leaning Tower" column belaying Dr. Fleck some 60 feet above through a fixed eye-bolt and three carabiners when a flake, estimated at 18 inches by 5 inches by 1 inch fell, possibly dislodged by a rope, from a few feet below Fleck. Fleck heard a sound, cried "ROCK!" Peterson locked belay in crotch with his right hand, instinctively raised left hand to ward off falling rock which caught his left hand between the rock and his *hard hat*, causing injury. Upon recovery from the blow and before swelling occurred, fracture was determined by manipulating his hand. Whereupon Peterson, aided and accompanied by Johnston, rappelled two rope lengths and climbed down to Tower trail where he waited while Dr. Fleck and Peterson's son David completed the climb to the summit and descended to trail. Peterson then was taken to Sundance Hospital for treatment.

*Source:* John D. Peterson.

*Analysis:* It is doubtful that the accident was avoidable in the preventive sense. Consequences could have been more grave and possibly fatal without the use of hard hats which all climbers are required to wear on any climb on Devil's Tower.

*Washington, Mt. Rainier.* On 2 August Miss Onyon (22), a member of the Peace Corps Training group, was descending en glissade (sitting) from Glacier Vista via a steep snow chute to the Nisqually Glacier. She lost control of her descent on the fast snow and punctured her left leg in the fall with her ice axe pick. Guides Lute Jerstad and Dick McGowan stopped the bleeding and effected an evacuation up the snow chute. Ranger Tony Andersen brought an Akja to the scene and the evacuation was completed by Jerstad and Andersen to Paradise.

*Source:* Jack C. Melill, Park Ranger.

*Analysis:* Miss Onyon, a member of a large training group (39) was receiving instruction in mountain survival and climbing. Adequate instruction and precautions were observed by competent instructors and a slope

with a safe run out selected. It does point up the inherent, but unavoidable potential of the ice axe in the hands of a beginner.

*Washington, North Cascades, Sharkfin Tower, Cascade Pass Area.* On August 7 a party of 6 (3 ropes of 2) was returning from an ascent of Sharkfin Tower. They were at the base of the rock summit at the top of a steep snow slope (50-40°). At 3:15 P.M. the first rope of Greg McGibbon and Bob Fraser had descended the snow slope and was a few hundred feet below in a rock gully as the second rope of Dave French and Fran Stevenson reached the snow slope. Mary McEachern of the third rope had reached the snow slope also and was belaying Dave Stevenson down the last 60 feet of rock. Dave French began to descend by heeling in (facing out) while on an ice axe belay by Fran Stevenson. The belay axe was fully inserted in a two foot wide snow platform. Dave French had descended about 20 feet at a slight angle when snow broke out under his feet and he fell, starting to slide rapidly. He slid about 15 feet while assuming an ice axe arrest position and the rope came up against the ice axe. The belay axe pulled out (it was later found half-way down the slope sticking in the snow), pulling Fran Stevenson from her belay stance with considerable force and starting her on an uncontrolled slide down the snow slope. About two thirds of the way down the slope she slid by French who was in arrest position, but still sliding rapidly. Fran encountered the rocks first. At this time she was falling on her back, head first. She made three complete backward rolls through the boulders and finally stopped twenty-five feet down the rock slope. Dave French slid over the rocks in arrest position a very short distance. Both climbers lost their hard hats. Fran's had been broken during the encounter with rocks and no doubt saved her from a severe skull fracture. Both climbers were stopped by the rope which had snagged on the rock. The entire fall for French was approximately 100 feet, and for Stevenson about 160 feet. Both climbers were conscious after the fall. Dave French had a severe pain at the base of his spine and Fran had extreme pain in her neck in addition to serious bleeding. French administered first aid to Fran to stop the bleeding from a lacerated skull and a deep puncture wound below her left knee. With the aid of the other climbers in the party she was moved to a small improvised ledge of rock and extra clothing was placed around her.

At 4 P.M., after obtaining full details of the nature of the injuries, McGibbon, Fraser, and McEachern returned to base camp. Dick Irwin then proceeded by foot and car to the ranger station (U.S.F.S.) at Marblemount, arriving there at 6:10 P.M. Details of the accident were then relayed by F.S. personnel to Skagit Sheriff's office.

In the meantime a relief party of five returned to the scene of the accident from Sierra Club base camp in Boston Basin with shelter, food, sleeping bags, and other supplies. Fran was moved again to a larger platform. A pack frame was used to help support her back and neck. Dave French was able to return with care to base camp. Fran's husband, Dave, and Dick Brown remained with her during the night.

The morning of August 8 was cloudy. A rescue party with two Stokes litters, a Navy medical corpsman (member of N.A.S. Search and Rescue