

ACCIDENTS 1966

CANADA

Alberta, Rockies, Jasper National Park. At 6:00 a.m. on April 9, Harvey Sloan (29) and his wife (22) began to climb to the North Face of Roche a Perdreux Mountain at the east park gate of Jasper National Park. They were both inexperienced, and had no equipment. The weather was warm, but at 10:30 a.m. temperatures dropped rapidly and it began to snow. At noon Mrs. Sloan returned to the gate house suffering from cold and severe lacerations to her back caused by sliding and falling on the mountain side. She said a storm hit them near the bottom of the "chimney," a section needing proper climbing technique under normal conditions, and perhaps impossible in such a storm. Mrs. Sloan wanted to return but her husband violently insisted that they go on. She thereupon turned and ran down the mountain.

Search began at once, using tracking dog and helicopter as well as regular search teams. But new snow piled up to 3 feet deep. The body was found at the base of a cliff on May 12. In all the circumstances it is not possible to analyze the accident adequately.

Source: Paddy Sherman

British Columbia, Coast Range, Golden Ears. In June 1966, Leslie Evans and his son John (13) set out to climb the Golden Ears. Search began when they failed to return. The weather was bad and precise information on their objective was not available. A four day search revealed no trace and further searches in summer and fall were also fruitless. Evans had some experience and carried a rope, but was reported to be awaiting hospital treatment for trouble with a knee cartilage.

Source: Paddy Sherman

British Columbia, Coast Range, Golden Ears Area. During the search for Mr. Evans and his son in June Don Ourom of the Mountain Rescue Group suffered severe leg fractures when hit by a falling rock. Quick radio communication brought an Air Force helicopter to the scene, and he was winched up and removed to a hospital in very short time.

Source: Paddy Sherman

Alberta, Rockies, Tower of Babel. On August 20, Brian Greenwood (32) and Charles Locke (21) were on the third day of a new face route on the Tower of Babel above Maligne Lake in the Rockies. They were leading alternately and were about 250 feet below the top of what Greenwood considers the most difficult rock climb yet attempted in the Canadian Rockies. Locke was leading at this point and had climbed 20 feet of a 60 foot overhanging crack (A4 standard), when the piton on which he was relying came out. Two other pitons pulled before a lower one held. He struck the belayer's ledge, and apparently broke his wrist. It later turned out to be dislocated with damage to the tendons and pinched nerves, causing fainting spells. The climb was well observed and although Greenwood considered completing it, the fainting fits decided him to call for help.

The National Park's rescue team under Walter Perren was lifted by helicopter to the summit next morning; Warden W. Vroom was lowered by cable, and both men were taken up in a Gramminger seat.

Source: Greenwood and Sherman

Analysis: Greenwood said the injury was unfortunate; in most such falls the party would have continued climbing. Using bolts would have avoided the possibility of a fall, but this was not considered. Greenwood also notes that the efficiency of the rescue team was extremely high.