

Weather was good. It was an unfortunate fall in class 3 terrain. A rope might have prevented long fall.

*California, Yosemite National Park—Goodrich Pinnacle.* On 20 June Ernest Milburn (18) and John Gibbins (20) had completed ascent of Goodrich Pinnacle (Glacier Point Apron) and were rappelling down route. One inch tubular nylon web rappel anchor sling broke while Milburn was on a second rappel from top. Anchor sling had been in place for at least one year and possibly two. Milburn's body lodged on a ledge about 90 feet from base of wall (top of first lead). Gibbins was left stranded on rappel ledge about 700 feet up and was rescued by two climbers.

*Source:* Steve Hickman, Yosemite N.P.

*Analysis:* Party should have replaced anchor sling if it appeared worn or weathered. There are numerous semi-permanent rappel anchors on Valley climbs and sling material weathers fast due to heat and sunshine encountered there.

*California, Yosemite National Park.* On 21 August Peter Ullrich (17), and Allen Harris (15) and two skiers were attempting to scale 3rd and 4th class cliffs east of Tenaya Creek Bridge. Their companions turned back. Ullrich and Harris continued on since they were unable to descend without difficulty. Ullrich slipped on slabs and loose rock and fell several hundred feet to his death.

*Source:* Steve Hickman, Yosemite National Park.

*Analysis:* All were inexperienced and inadequately equipped, and demonstrated poor judgment and a lack of common sense.

*California, Yosemite National Park.* On 13 April Patrick Kearns (19) became separated from friends halfway up the Yosemite Falls Trail and continued on alone. He attempted to return by a short cut via a chimney between the Royal Arches and Washington's Column. He slipped in his descent and fell 1,500 feet or more to his death.

*Source:* Ivan Miller, Park Ranger, Yosemite National Park.

*Analysis:* Mr. Kearns tried a short-cut in an area that he was unfamiliar with on his descent. He should have had a better knowledge of the area or had the proper knowledge and equipment for rappelling before he strayed from the trail and should not have separated from his party.

*California, Yosemite National Park.* On 18 May Spencer Conley (34), was leading a pitch on the East route of Monday Morning Slab. He states that he was out 100 feet on the rope with two pitons placed for protection. The last pin was a lost arrow horizontal. When Conley fell, he pulled the first pin (which he claims was properly placed) and the belayer could not catch him before he hit a ledge. He was off route and searching for the route when the accident occurred 20 feet from his last pin on a traverse.

*Source:* Russell Cahill, Yosemite National Park.