

*Washington, Mt. Rainier National Park.* On 17 February Mr. Charles H. Anderson led a group from Paradise to the Paradise Ice Caves. The party consisted of him, his wife Edith (22), Dave Mischke, and Bob Brown. Brown, however, turned back shortly after leaving Paradise because he had forgotten his ice axe. The remainder of the group continued on. Brown later reported that when he turned back, Mrs. Anderson was apparently having difficulty getting her footing and keeping up with her husband and Mischke and it was snowing. They later reached the caves and spent about an hour inside. On their return, the weather deteriorated severely and at Mazama Ridge they constructed a small snowcave. They were lost in white-out conditions at this time and Mrs. Anderson was too weak to continue.

About 5:00 p.m. the other member of the original party, Bob Brown, alerted rangers at the Paradise Ranger Station that the party was overdue.

Rangers Erskine, Pinnix, and Haertel began immediately to make preparations for a search operation. They made a hasty search of the Golden Gate Ridge (the trail to the Ice Caves) to no avail.

The weather conditions were very poor with 30-40 mph winds, freezing rain and snow and low visibility (50 feet). The minimum temperature during the night as recorded at Paradise was 31°F., with 30 mph wind velocity, the chill factor would be -38°F.

At 2:00 a.m. Rangers Erskine and Haertel with six Mountain Rescue Council men again returned to Golden Gate to continue the search, but were again turned back by severe weather conditions.

At 6:30 a.m. a team of MRC personnel was dispatched to the ice caves under the direction of Ranger Pinnix. Approximately an hour later a second team of MRC personnel was dispatched under Ranger Miller to follow team number one for support purposes. They were advised to follow the exact route because of serious avalanche danger.

At approximately 8:30 a.m., February 18, Mischke walked out to Paradise. He had difficulty finding the way even though the storm had subsided considerably. From his description of the location of the Snowcave site, teams were sent to the vicinity and the cave was located. The cave did not offer very good protection. It was only about two feet square and six feet deep.

Mrs. Anderson was very near death at the time she was found. She had stopped breathing and there was no apparent pulse nor any pupillary reaction. She was given first aid treatment by MRC personnel to no avail. Charles Anderson was apparently all right.

*Source:* Paul F. Haertel and Clyde Lockwood, Mt. Rainier National Park.

*Analysis:* Accident could have been avoided by party leader's consideration of weather and time factors. It would have been better to remain at the Paradise Ice Caves for the night or to have turned back before reaching the caves.

*Washington, Mt. Rainier.* On 23 June Ray Smutek (31), Patrick Chaimay (31), Ian Wade (22) and David Hambly (28), were climbing Mt.

Rainier. At about the 13,000 foot level Chamay apparently developed pulmonary edema and died before he could be evacuated.

*Source:* George M. Peters, Mt. Rainier National Park.

*Analysis:* Parties should have a knowledge of early symptoms of altitude sickness and pulmonary edema and be prepared to descend to lower altitudes promptly.

*Washington, Mt. Rainier.* At about 8:00 a.m. on 31 May Mr. Sundquist and his daughter, and Mr. James M. Reddick (51), with his son David (12) and daughter Sharon (11) left Paradise for Camp Muir. The party planned to spend the night in the public shelter at Muir and return to Paradise the following day. The weather was clear at that hour with a temperature of 38° at Paradise.

A five man summit party was checked out at Paradise at 9:00 a.m. As this party left Paradise for Camp Muir at 9:30 a.m. a thin cloud cap had formed on the mountain. This cap was pointed out to the party and they were told that a cap often means bad weather. A commercial radio had also predicted stormy weather through the following several days.

The summit party caught up to the Reddick party above McClure Rock a little after noon. By this time the weather had deteriorated badly. The summit party suggested to the Reddick party that they should turn back as they were not equipped to travel through high winds, blowing rain and snow. The summit party went on and the Reddick party followed.

At 2:30 p.m. Mr. Sundquist and his daughter decided not to continue and turned back to Paradise. At about 3:15 p.m. a Mr. Laurel Thompson and a companion had turned back below Anvil Rock. The storm had gotten bad and there was a white-out condition. Mr. Thompson tried to talk Mr. Reddick into returning to Paradise. Mr. Reddick would not turn back.

At about 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 1, Mrs. Reddick asked at Paradise Visitor Center if anyone had seen her husband who was due to return from Camp Muir. At 12:15 p.m. the rangers at Camp Muir checked in by radio and were asked if they had seen the Reddick party. They reported that the party had never made it to Muir. The weather at Muir was 18°F., 45 mph wind, snowing with no visibility. They could not conduct a search in those conditions.

Extreme weather continued throughout the night as 4.38 inches of rain fell at Paradise. Plans were made for the next day and operations secured for the night. Extensive search operations were instituted.

At 1:45 p.m., Sunday, June 2, Valder found the Reddick party dug into a snow trench in the Muir snowfield about 500 feet below Anvil Rock. The two children had survived in reasonably good condition while Mr. Reddick had succumbed, probably late the night of the 31st.

*Source:* Paul Haertel, Mt. Rainier National Park.

*Analysis:* This would appear to be another case of pulmonary edema. Probably brought on by the extra exertion of digging the snow trench.

*Washington, Carbon River Area.* On 29 August Martin J. Quinn (23) and a companion had intended to follow the trail to the Carbon Glacier