

had experience climbing. Quinn was carrying a coil of clothesline on his belt. (Sources: Goodwin, Ralph Robinson, Peter Thompson, Wells.)

*Analysis:* The victim died of massive internal injuries, and in retrospect it appears he could not have been saved. However, Goodwin feels that the first ranger should have been prepared to evacuate, as the second team did not arrive for twenty minutes. A resuscitator needs an airway to be useable. The ranger told Goodwin and Wells that this was the ninth climbing fatality of the season. Meanwhile the Valley is filled with persons sporting "Go Climb A Rock" T-shirts purchased at the Yosemite Mountaineering Store. "Don't Fall Off a Rock" would be a defensible motto, but we would prefer that such organizations desist from commercial advertising of climbing. (Sources: Goodwin, Wells.)

*California, Yosemite Valley.* On October 17th David Bryan (age 20) and Michael Harrison (24) were attempting a new route on the Glacier Point Apron. Harrison jumared to the top of a rope he had fixed previously. The rope was attached by one carabiner and an overhand knot to a belay bolt. The bolt was a one-inch Rawl drive expansion type. The hanger was homemade of aluminum angle stock. It had been placed by Harrison the day before. The rope did not run vertically down the face from this belay bolt; ten feet to the left and slightly lower it ran through a carabiner attached to another bolt. As Bryan followed Harrison he reached the lower bolt and unclipped the rope from it. His weight, in addition to Harrison's, came onto the belay bolt. It failed and both men fell to their deaths. (Sources: Mark Forbes, Mead Hargis.)

*Analysis:* The exact cause of the failure is not known. The hanger remained attached to the rope. The bolt itself stayed in place and (viewed through field glasses from 100 feet away) appears to have stripped threads and be bent slightly downward. Harrison's homemade hangers were thicker than commercial hangers. Thus one explanation would be that the nut was not screwed all the way down, so that when the weight of the two climbers came onto the bolt the few threads actually holding the hanger stripped off. Harrison was, however, experienced at bolt placement and ought to have seen this weakness. Another explanation is that rope motion rotated the hanger slightly and gradually unscrewed the nut — Harrison might have been leaning to the right of the bolt, and the rope to Bryan ran to the left and down. Bolt failure is rare, but a completely safe belay system would have two independent anchors. (Sources: Forbes, Hargis.)

*Colorado, Boulder Mountain Park.* On August 13th Jim Erickson (age 24) was free-soloing a difficult section on the north side of the Fourth Flatiron. He fell about fifty feet to the ground, breaking his right leg and both wrists, tearing ligaments, and receiving multiple lacerations and abrasions. He shouted for help and a party of hikers contacted the Sheriff, who in turn called the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group. Before assistance arrived Erickson was attempting to descend the rugged scree slope under his own power, possibly compounding his injuries. (Sources: Jim Herrington, W. G. May)

*Analysis.* Erickson has many years' experience and climbs at the 5.10+ level. He is one of Boulder's best climbers. He knew the dangers, gambled, and lost. (Sources: Herrington, May)

*Colorado, Boulder Mountain Park.* Dan Franks and Guy Jenks, both 18 and University of Colorado students, began climbing the Third Flatiron about noon on December 2nd. The weather was sunny and warm, but a major winter storm had