

*Analysis.* Sometimes we might forget that hanging glaciers, even ones far above us, on occasion send down ice blocks. (Source: E. Whalley.)

**FALL IN RIVER**—*British Columbia, Rocky Mountains, Blaeberry River.* Mountain climbers frequently have to cross rivers, and occasionally drown in them as a result. We are reminded of this by the following accident which was serious and could have been fatal.

Peggy Ostlund was crossing a bridge over the Blaeberry River on July 24, 1976, on her way from the ACC General Mountaineering Camp, after having looked for a better crossing and not finding one. The bridge had three logs and a loose rope tied at both ends. Her boot slipped between two of the logs and her foot was locked in place. She then lost her balance and fell upstream and was swept under the bridge by the swift current, still holding the rope, which was useless. She grabbed one of the logs and tried to free her pack, which was pulling her under and threatening to drown her. She got the shoulder straps free but could not unbuckle the waist strap. In the attempt, her hand slipped off the log and the pressure of the water on her body freed her trapped leg and she was swept downstream. Finally, after many attempts, she pulled herself out of the water in a small cove. (Source: Peggy Ostlund.)

*Analysis.* Crossing swift streams is dangerous and should not be done alone. Climbers should be familiar with proper techniques. Waist straps should always be unbuckled. (Source: Peggy Ostlund.)

**FALLING ROCK**—*British Columbia, Bugaboo Range, West Buttress of South Howser Tower.* Thom Nephew (26) was prospecting the ridge approach to the West buttress of South Howser Tower at about 1330 hours on August 16, 1975, for an intended climb. He touched a large and apparently solid boulder, which then fell against his chest and legs, pinning him to the ground and causing a punctured lung, four broken ribs, and severely bruised flesh. The boulder was described as 4' × 3' × 1 1/2'-2', and weighed about 3000 pounds. Slippery rocks caused by recent rain could have contributed to its movement. He called for help, and his two companions, who were some way behind, found him after 8-10 minutes. One companion went for help, and Nephew was evacuated by helicopter at about 1640 hours. (Source: Joanne Gill.)

**HIT BY AVALANCHE**—*British Columbia, Rocky Mountains, Fisher Peak.* Chris Sadleir and Bob Bauman (23) and Mavis Bauman were approaching the summit of Fisher Peak on June 6, 1976, when a warm front engulfed the mountain and raised the air temperature by 15-20 degrees F. The weather forecast had been clear and cold. They immediately turned back because of

increased avalanche hazard. Most of the descent was protected by pitons in rock, but four rope lengths of snow had to be crossed. They decided to chance it rather than wait for it to freeze at night. B. Bauman was anchoring Sadleir who was belaying M. Bauman. At 1530 hours she had just reached the far side of a rock rib when B. Bauman and Sadleir were swept away by a one-foot deep, three-foot wide slough avalanche, down a 50-degree slope and over a 150-foot headwall. M. Bauman was slammed against the rock rib by the force of the falling pair and fractured her pelvis. The rope between M. Bauman and Sadleir was severed by rock, and they fell 1500 feet before they could self-arrest. The shell of a Compton helmet was fractured by the fall and the shell of an MSR helmet was caved in. Shouting to M. Bauman, they learned that her hip was broken, so B. Bauman went to her and Sadleir went for help. They were safely evacuated by helicopter later that evening. (Source: C. Sadleir.)

*Analysis.* A snow anchor instead of an ice axe shaft belay may have held when the slide hit. Additionally, crossing the slope under the conditions described was a calculated risk in which the climbers lost. (Source: C. Sadleir and J. Williamson.)

**FALL ON ROCK AND PITON FAILURE.**—*Alberta, Rocky Mountains Frontal Range, Yamnуска.* Jim Bay and Dan Griffiths were climbing the Direttissima on July 1, 1976, and Jim who was leading slipped and fell about 30 feet. His top protection, a soft iron piton, broke, and he was stopped by his second protection, a nut. In falling, his ankle fractured when it hit a small ledge. He was rescued by the Calgary Mountain Rescue Group. An attempt to carry equipment and personnel to the top of the cliff by helicopter failed because of high wind, and all equipment had to be carried on foot. The injured man was pulled about 110 feet to the top of the cliff by two 9-mm ropes using sack hauling techniques with three men on each rope. (Source: L. P. Michaud.)

**FALL INTO CREVASSE**—*British Columbia, Glacier National Park, Illecillewaet Glacier.* James Tutt (24) and a companion were attempting to climb Youngs Peak on skis on March 30, 1976, ascending the Illecillewaet Glacier and descending the Asulkan Glacier. They had no rope, ice axe, slings, etc., with them. At 1330 hours Tutt fell into a cornice crevasse. His companion was not able to retrieve him, and went down to Rogers Pass for help, arriving at 1445 hours. The first rescue party was flown to near Lookout Mountain at 1600 hours in storming snow and wind with zero visibility, but the second party could not land because of the bad weather. Another party flew in at 0745 hours the following morning, but visibility deteriorated again and the third party could not go until 1100 hours. The victim was found at 1210 hours and was removed from the crevasse at 1315 hours, suffering from hypothermia and injuries. He died at 1335 hours. The body could not be