

light-weight aluminum carabiner. When he was about 25–30 m above the ground, he fell, and the gate of the carabiner was torn off by a lateral force. He fell to the ground and suffered a fractured skull, brain hemorrhage, and a broken wind pipe. He was dead on arrival at Kingston Hospital. (Source: I. Varmuza, B. Lamb.)

Analysis. A locking carabiner and/or a safety sling is commonly used by solo climbers in these situations. (Source: J. Williamson.)

SLIPON ROCK AND CLIMBING UNROPED—*Ontario, Milton, Rattlesnake Point.* Mark Johnson (18) had climbed with a school group on May 2, 1976, on a part of the cliff with a steep, sloping top covered with leaves and branches, and without a clearly defined trail. While he was unroped near the edge, he tripped and fell 80 feet to the ground. He was dead on arrival at Milton Hospital. (Source: Peter Turner.)

Analysis. Beginners, particularly, should be moved well away from the top of the cliff before being unroped, particularly if the ground slopes steeply. (Source: Peter Turner.)

MISUSE OF BELAYING DEVICE—*Ontario, Milton, Rattlesnake Point.* Dave Embury (35) was climbing third on the rope of a 5.5 route in May 1974. His belayer was a Sticht Plate. About 20 feet from the top, Dave asked for tension to rest. His belayer agreed. Dave relaxed, then fell 30 feet, with some tension from the rope, and broke his wrist. His belayer had had the rope passing through the belay plate without the required 90-degree bends on both sides, and had the plate about three inches from the carabiner. He misjudged the direction of force and was put off balance, and could not recover and set the belay plate properly before the rope was going too fast to control. (Source: J. D. Embury, Lutz Ranke.)

Analysis. A cord should be used to keep the belay plate and the carabiner within two inches apart, and each part of the rope must bend 90 degrees as it leaves the plate. (Source: J. D. Embury, Lutz Ranke, Helmut Microys.)

FALLING ROCK AND NO HARD HAT—*Ontario, Milton, Rattlesnake Point.* Kim Rodgers was injured on the forehead on May 2, 1976, when she was hit by a rock dislodged by a climber above her. She was not wearing a hard hat. Five or six stitches were required. (Source: Helmut Microys.)

FALLING ROCK—*Quebec, Mont Pinnacle, Lac Lyster.* On July 2, a climber displaced, by a few inches, a block near the top of La Voie Normale on Mont