

lbs.” (The RCS “bucket” used for practice in holding leader falls weighs about 80 lbs. and is dropped with varying amounts of slack in the rope. Although old ropes are always used, no other equipment failure has ever been reported). MSR’s 1976 catalogue adds, “Intended for average climbing.”

Dave’s harness was two years old, but had never suffered the shock of a fall, or any stress beyond being clipped to a chest loop in prusiking. His model was self-tied. Another belayer also holding simulated leader falls was wearing a pre-sewn model of the same material. Hers was partly torn by the end of the exercise (three “leader falls”), as the material had stretched and had holes in it. (Source: Ruth Mendenhall, Mugelnoos #522)

*FALL—AFTER CLIMB COMPLETED—California, Tahquitz.* Stan Klein, a climber from Loma Prieta Chap. RCS who has moved to LA, was making his second climb of the day with Jim McPherson. Stan led the last pitch of Graham Crackers. He completed the move at the top of the pitch and was walking off the sloping summit toward a belay position when he slipped and fell back over the edge of the wall.

All except one point of protection (chocks) failed. His belayer stopped the falling climber ten feet of the ground. This is about a 200 foot fall, and Stan had struck the rock several times.

A climbing doctor who was in the immediate area supervised as Stan was carried by stretcher to the roadhead (1/4 mile). An ambulance transported him to the Hemet Hospital. His injuries were amazingly light considering the severity of the fall and the fact that he was not wearing a helmet. They amounted to a broken left ankle, broken right foot, and many abrasions. (Source: Jim McPherson, The Mugelnoos, #522)

*FALL, SOLO CLIMBING—California, Yosemite Valley, Church Bowl.* Frank Anderton (36) stated he was free-climbing approximately 30–40 feet above “The Aunt Fanny’s Pantry Ledge” when the accident occurred. The victim stated he had good footing, was holding on to a ridge with his left hand and began to lose his strength, realized he had to make a move fast, decided on the next move and reached for it with his right hand, missed it and fell backward approximately 30 or 40 feet. The victim stated he landed on his face and stomach on a very small ledge with manzonita. Manzonita bush probably saved the victim’s life by stopping him from falling over the 165 foot drop.

*Analysis:* The risk factor in climbing solo rises considerably when no rope, no protection, and no hard hat are used. (Source: J. Williamson)

*FALL WHILE DESCENDING—California, Yosemite Valley, North Dome Gully.* John Shiner (23) and two friends had successfully climbed the Arches Direct 5.7 A1, spent the night and tried to come down the standard descent