

route of North Dome Gully. It was mixed rain and snow, cloudy and foggy. The victim was walking across very exposed decomposed granite area with tennis shoes on. Combination of shoes, wet, granite, fog, fatigue, haste and individual fell to death. Fall was approximately 400 feet. (Source: Charles Farabee, Jr., Yosemite National Park)

*Analysis:* Better shoes and less haste might have made a difference. Descending was a calculated risk due to fog, wetness, gravel and the amount of exposure encountered in this area. Even under favorable conditions, it requires care. (Source: Charles Farabee, Jr., Yosemite National Park.)

**FALL, NO PROTECTION**—*California, Yosemite Valley, Tiny Tim.* Mark Thompson (18) was climbing as leader on Tiny Tim. The belayer tied on one bolt and belay line running through a second bolt—both bolts being approximately 65 feet off the ground. Belayer was at top of first pitch, Thompson was almost to the top of the second pitch approximately 75 feet above belayer. Thompson's partner stated that as Thompson made the last move on the pitch, he slipped and peeled off backwards, striking the ground before the belayer could catch him, as he had climbed beyond effective protection. (Source: R. Cooley, Yosemite National Park)

*Analysis:* The leader could have put in protection to prevent fall to ground, or, lacking experience for unprotected climb, could have backed off. (Source: R. Cooley, Yosemite National Park)

**NUT FAILURE**—*California, Yosemite, Washington's Column.* Nick Donnelly (23), having led the first pitch, belayed Alistair Miller (21), who, when he reached Donnelly, clipped into a nut above the belay anchor while Donnelly belayed the third climber, Stuart Miller (20). The nut came out, and Miller fell 150 feet (the length of his rope) to the base of the climb and sustained serious injury. Evacuation was very difficult, and took longer because of initial improper identification of the victim's location. (Source: R. Cooley, Yosemite National Park)

*Analysis:* Miller should either have made more sufficient anchor arrangements or else should have tied into Donnelly's anchors. (Source: R. Cooley, Yosemite National Park)

**ROPE FAILURE**—*California, Yosemite Valley.* At 5 p.m. on October 5, 1976, Ranger Rick Smith received a phone call from Mirror Lake. Chris Falkenstein reported that his climbing partner, Robert Locke (22), had sustained serious injuries during a 200-foot fall on the South Face of Mount Watkins. Smith arranged to pick up Falkenstein at Mirror Lake with John Dill and