

but were under the impression that it would only last a day and they had planned to endure it. They had attempted The Nose route approximately four weeks prior and had had to come down because of the weather. (Source: Fred Hempill, Yosemite National Park.)

*Analysis:* It appears that Jeffrey Hall's death was due to anxiousness to retrieve a jammed rope at the end of a frustrating day. Hall did not wait for a standard belay to be set up but rather wanted to use a self-belay system as he hand-over-handed on the jammed rope. Hall also appeared to use a figure-of-eight knot on a bight and locking carabiner to tie himself into his harness/swami belt.

Once the jammed rope freed itself, Hall fell much further than if he had a normal belay. It is speculated that during the fall, his carabiner somehow opened, causing his subsequent fall to the ground. This speculation is based in part on the fact that the portion of rope Hall had tied into was not broken and the figure-of-eight knot was still intact on the end from which Hall had been tied into. (Source: Tim Setnicka, Yosemite National Park.)

*FALL, PROTECTION FAILURE, OFF ROUTE—California, Yosemite Valley.* On April 30, Suzanne Carne (31) and John Carne (30) parked near Rixon's Pinnacle at 7 a.m. and walked to what they thought was Lower Brother—Southwest Arrete. Mr. Carne did not think they were on the right route.

The couple began climbing at 7:35 a.m. They climbed second class to a tree approximately 100 feet above the ground. (This is the tree Mr. Carne rappelled from later.) Mrs. Carne began to lead the climb from this point and showed some apprehension and expressed that she was having some difficulty in climbing. She backed off this route, stated she was sorry, and began climbing a second route. She was climbing very slowly but moved up and to the right around 120 feet, with Mr. Carne belaying her. He could not see her at this point. Mrs. Carne placed a piece of equipment (unknown as to type and size) and called to her husband that she had something but that it wasn't very good. She then moved out five or six feet, again slowly, and called that she had another piece in and that this was good.

Mr. Carne thought that things were not progressing satisfactorily and advised his wife to find an anchor point. Mrs. Carne moved out about ten feet and was apparently looking for an anchor. Approximately two minutes had passed when Mr. Carne heard his wife say "falling" and saw several large rocks and the rope go past him about 35 feet to his right. He did not see his wife falling. Mr. Carne thought his wife had fallen 150 to 200 feet. He was able to stop her fall with the belay line. He called to his wife with no response. He then lowered her until there was no tension on the line, tied the rope off on the tree, and rappelled down to his wife. This took about ten minutes. He could not get any pulse or see her breathing. He was with his wife for five to ten minutes then descended to Northside Drive where he flagged down Miller and Ward and asked them to get help. Miller and Ward stated they

were contacted by Mr. Carne around 9 a.m. (Source: Mark Forbes, Yosemite National Park.)

*Analysis:* Suzanne Carne was far from the route she and her husband had initially wanted to climb. Both had previous experience in climbing. She had led out and placed two and three points of protection, which pulled once she fell. Her fall was between 150 and 200 vertical feet. Better protection and being on route in an area with less loose rock could have prevented this accident. (Source: Tim Setnicka, Yosemite National Park.)

**EXPOSURE, BAD WEATHER, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, DARKNESS, INEXPERIENCE**—*California, Yosemite Valley.* The following report was given by Larry Day (26) and Donald Evans (23) following their rescue, during which Jack Dorn (30)—a member of the Yosemite Rescue Team—lost his life.

Day and Evans left their tent at 5:30 a.m. on May 22 to start the approach of the climb of Yosemite Buttress. Both stated that they had discussed taking rain gear. Evans did throw in a rain jacket, two oranges, and a bag of gorp. Day was wearing a cotton T-shirt with a long-sleeved cotton shirt over it, cotton pants and tennis shoes as well as "EB" climbing shoes. Evans was wearing a cotton turtleneck and cotton pants with a wool cap. Evans also had tennis shoes as well as "EBs." Each carried one glove for belaying. Climbing equipment: two 11mm 165-foot climbing ropes, a rack of hex's and stoppers, 12 slings and two prussiks.

Day's climbing experience included four to five years of climbing in Boulder, Colorado, Rocky Mountains; Granite Mountain, Arizona; Seneca Rock, West Virginia; and Red River Gorge, Kentucky. Although Day was a steady 5.9 climber and leader, he had done only short routes with the longest being Royal Arches in Yosemite (13 pitches). Other leads included the first pitch of the Gripper and Reeds Direct. Day had no experience with direct aid.

Evans had been in Yosemite for approximately six weeks and started climbing upon his arrival. Although Evans had done several 5.8 leads (including Sunnyside jam crack and Bishops Terrace) he had done no long climbs and was also unfamiliar with direct aid. The longest climb he had followed was eight pitches. Evans had never jumarred.

Day stated that the approach to the climb was hard on both of them and they had been delayed by another party who climbed past them. Although the weather looked threatening when they finished the tenth pitch of the Yosemite Point Buttress putting them atop the "pedestal," they decided to try for the top rather than rap down and descend through the boulders in the dark. Neither subject had a flashlight. Evans stated he was cold and tired upon reaching the top of the pedestal.

Day led the first pitch above the pedestal. Half way up it began to rain. Day had on the rain jacket leaving Evans with no protection from the rain and