

*Analysis:* No further information available. One can assume that Llewellyn became unclipped from his anchor point, but as to how Brooks managed to belay all three is unknown. Given the nature of the mishap, there is a lesson to be gleaned from it—somewhere. (Source: J. Williamson.)

*FALLING WHILE DESCENDING, UNROPED—Washington, The Tooth.* David Putnam (19) fell while descending “The Tooth.” He was with Steven White (19) and Gary High (18) when he fell 100 feet down a steep snow and rock slope, coming to rest against a tree. He was seriously injured, and was air evacuated by a MAST helicopter. (Source: Rodney McDowell, King County Police.)

*Analysis:* Risk increases when (1) climbing unroped, especially while (2) descending. (Source: J. Williamson.)

*FALLING ROCK—Washington, Mt. Rainier.* On June 18, a fifteen-year-old boy was injured by rockfall while climbing in the Thumb Rock area of the Liberty Ridge route with five others. His kneecap was broken, so a rescue team of eight had to lower him 1000 feet before an air evacuation was possible. (Source: Dave Sicks, Mountain Rescue Council.)

*LOSS OF CONTROL IN A VOLUNTARY GLISSADE—Washington, Emmans Glacier.* Dean Klapper (33) was killed in a fall from the 13,000-foot level of the Emmans Glacier while climbing with four friends. (Source: *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, “July 8, 1977.”)

*LOSS OF CONTROL, INVOLUNTARY GLISSADE—Washington, Big Four Mountain.* I was the leader on the July 9 climb which included six other climbers, three of whom were experienced and three of whom were basic students in the 1977 Everett Basic Climbing course. Dave Moffat (50) was one of the experienced, having climbed for many years.

At no time prior to the accident were there any indications that any of the party were either mentally or physically tired. At the time of the accident, the visibility was approximately 100 feet, with the temperature in the 50° range.

The party had been on the upper snow slope of Big Four which has an approximate angle of 30° when the accident happened. It was about 2 p.m. and the elevation was approximately 5800 feet. The party had been descending on the snow for about five minutes when Dave slipped onto his buttocks. I noticed that he stuck the spike of his ice axe into the snow (as if he were glissading) before he rolled over to attempt an ice axe arrest. His attempts at arrest appeared futile; he lost his axe, and he tumbled from my sight into the mist.