

heat. The two men were spotted about 1000 feet below the summit on the northwest face of the mountain. Searchers Darv Lloyd of Troutlake, Washington, and Wayne Steinert of White Salmon, Washington, discovered the missing climbers after they had climbed to the summit via the Sunshine route.

The bodies of Stewart Picking (20), a student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Dan Owen (21) who had a Forest Service summer job, were reached by a volunteer climbing party at 10:30 a.m. The body of one of the men was dangling by a rope over a vertical crevice in the northeast face of the mountain. The other man was nearby in the snow. The two men had been roped while climbing.

Searchers said it appeared from damage to the face of the mountain and debris near the bodies that the men had fallen about 400 feet. They also reported that the climbing conditions on the mountain were not good due to the long spell of hot weather. The details of how these experienced young climbers, who were members of the Alpeines Rescue Group, fell are not known. (Source: *The Oregonian* and Richard Pooley)

AVALANCHES

Washington, Mt. Rainer

On May 31, Todd Davis (24) of Sitka, Alaska, was killed high on Mt. Rainier when a slab avalanche swept him and two other climbers about 2000 feet down the mountain. Davis, Jones and Beckter were climbing to the summit when the accident occurred above the Wilson Glacier, at 12,500 feet on the Fuhrer Finger route.

Davis' two companions, David Jones of Ward Cove, Alaska, and David Beckter, Everett, worked for two hours before they were able to uncover the body. They descended to Paradise and reported the accident about 5:30 p.m.

On May 29, eight climbers on two ropes were swept down the Cowlitz Glacier, east of Camp Muir. They included Lou Whittaker and his son, who suffered a possible broken ankle. (Source: *Seattle Times* and *Bergtrage*)

SLIP ON SNOW

Washington, Snoqualine Pass

On June 4, Elizabeth Howard (64) was plunge stepping down the east side of Red Mountain when she lost her balance and fell head first down 200 feet of snow into a rock field where she slid another 75 feet. She was with a group from the Seattle Mountaineers, and was given immediate aid. It took eight hours for rescuers to reach her and prepare for a helicopter evacuation. (Source: The Mountaineers Accident Report Form and King County Department of Public Safety)

Analysis

No mention is made of ice axe usage or other safety precautions. (Source: J. Williamson)