

goal of new visitors. It is made of bands of rotten, sedimentary rock, and the upper half consists of steep cliffs and sloping ledges covered with scree. While it is not a difficult climb in summer, it sometimes entraps unwary climbers into making the simplest mountaineering mistakes by not treating moderate terrain seriously enough. (Source: T. Auger, John Fyke)

### **FALL ON ROCK**

#### **British Columbia, Garibaldi Park, Diamond Head**

Charlotte Ackerely (32) and three companions were climbing an easy but loose and exposed route on Diamond Head about 0530 on 15 July 1979. Ackerely fell off the west side of the ridge, a distance of about 700 feet. The rest of the party could not reach her because they did not have enough rope, and a helicopter was called. Ackerely was dead when she was reached. (Source: F. Baumann, Squamish Mountaineering and Rescue Group)

#### **Analysis**

We do not know why Ackerely fell, but fatal falls on easy ground are common. (Source: E. Whalley)

### **FALL THROUGH SNOW INTO STREAM CAVITY**

#### **British Columbia, Rocky Mountains, Mt. Assiniboine, Headwall**

Karl Klassen (24) and a companion were climbing the headwall on Mt. Assiniboine on 18 July 1979 by the scree and snow patches to the right of the main snow chute, intending to traverse to the main snow chute higher up. When climbing a small snow chute, the snow gave way under Klassen and he fell about 80 feet into a cavity between the rock and the snow caused by a stream. He was able to traverse to the edge of the chute and climb about 25 feet to the surface between the rock and the snow. He had minor cuts and bruises to his arms and legs, and was able to return to the valley without help. (Source: Keirm Gray)

#### **Analysis**

This accident, and a similar one I helped to rescue someone from a few years ago, suggest that when climbing snow gullies on soft snow, climbers should avoid the low part where the stream might run. (Source: E. Whalley)

### **FALLING ROCK, BAD WEATHER**

#### **British Columbia, Rocky Mountains, Mt. Bryce**

Hector Allison (27) and Norman Letnik (22) started climbing the 7,000-foot north face of Mt. Bryce on 1 August 1979. On the first day, they climbed the first 4,000 feet and bivouacked near the start of the 50° ice face. On 2 August, Allison was struck by a rock fall as he was belaying Letnik on a ridge and sustained a compound fracture of an arm. They bivouacked on the ridge and awaited rescue. On 4 August, they thought

they were lost, and Letnik went for help. He traversed 600 feet of steep ice solo to leave the face.

On the same day, they were reported overdue by friends with whom they had made casual arrangements, and a helicopter search was started on 5 August. Allison was sighted about noon, and Letnik was found struggling along the summit ridge in deteriorating weather, and was picked up by helicopter. By that time, the mountain was being hit periodically by storms bringing snow and wind, thus making helicopter slinging impossible. In the early afternoon, a rescue team was landed on a small hanging glacier on the face at the same height as Allison, but separated from him by 600 feet of 50-55° ice. Clair Israelson and Cliff White led the horizontal traverse while the other wardens prepared to rig for a horizontal recovery of the victim to the glacier. Midway through the rescue, ice broke from near the summit and swept through the rescue team, hitting several members with large chunks but causing no serious injuries. At 1700 hours, the party reached the victims, and during a lull in the storm all were slung directly off the ridge by helicopter. (Source: T. Auger)

### **Analysis**

Rescue from the major alpine faces of the Rockies is a difficult proposition. This party was lucky that the weather broke enough to allow the rescuers to traverse the face to reach them and for the helicopter to pick them up. The only other way to reach them would have been from the summit ridge 1,500 feet above, and this would not have been possible for several more days because of the weather.

The party had made casual arrangements with their friends regarding their return and were expecting rescue sooner. Climbers undertaking such major tours must realize the extent of their commitment and be prepared for extended, forced bivouacs in case of trouble. (Source: T. Auger)

## **FALLING ROCK**

### **British Columbia, Rocky Mountains, Mt. Quadra**

A. Magnus, a member of a party of 13, was crossing a pass, which required a rappel, near Mt. Quadra on 5 August 1979. Magnus was first down and stayed at the foot. A rock fall hit him on the head, and he was evacuated by helicopter. (Source: T. Auger)

### **Analysis**

In mountains having much loose rock, such as the Rockies, climbers should either keep clear of the foot of a rappel route when others are following or take shelter. (Source: T. Auger)

## **FALL ON ICE, PLACED NO PROTECTION**

### **British Columbia, Rocky Mountains, Mt. Assiniboine**

On 1 August 1979, Edward Donn (39) and Vic Beresford (24) were descending Mt. Assiniboine at 930 hours after reaching the summit. Beresford easily crossed a six-foot-wide ice chute on footsteps cut by a previous party. Donn did not like the crossing, and tried unsuccessfully lower down. He returned and, after trying to step across and