

leg. He was two and a half miles up the standard climbing route at 1:40 p.m. when the accident occurred. Heraty had a compound fracture of the femur. He was helicoptered to the hospital by 3:30 p.m. (Source: Sgt. D. M. Gill, SAR Report)

FALL INTO CREVASSE, HYPOTHERMIA

Washington, Mt. Baker

On July 27, Jack Frazier (18) was two and a half miles from the trail head on Mt. Baker at 3 p.m. when he fell 15 feet into a crevasse and became wedged. His two partners attempted to get him out with a rope, but it broke. They lowered food and a jacket to him and went for help. It was six hours before the victim was helicoptered to the hospital. He died at 11:20 p.m. (Source: D. M. Gill, SAR Report)

Analysis

It is curious to note the similarity, yet with different results, of these two accidents. As for cause, both occurred in summer, when snow bridges have been exposed to sun and rain. The results again demonstrate the differences in pain and cold tolerance from one individual to the next. The experience levels of the individuals is unknown. (Source: J. Williamson)

CEREBRAL EDEMA

Washington, Mt. Rainier

Breck Haining was airlifted from the Emmons Glacier on Mt. Rainier on August 15 after suffering a seizure which may have been caused by cerebral edema, a rare high altitude sickness. He was discharged from Harborview Medical Center on August 16.

Haining, who was making his fifth ascent of Rainier this summer with the "High Adventure" program from Boy Scout Camp Sheppard, was stricken shortly after the 13-member party reached Camp Schurman on Steamboat Prow at 9,500 feet.

John Krambrink, Pacific Crest District Ranger, said Haining, an experienced climber, exhibited the "classic symptoms" of cerebral edema (accumulation of fluid in the brain, severe weakness, severe frontal headache, elevated heart rate, rapid breathing and convulsions).

"The weather was off and with a very dense cloud ceiling above Schurman," Krambrink said, but an Army Chinook helicopter from Ft. Lewis was able to slip through a break in the clouds and pick Haining up about 5 p.m. (Source: *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, August 17, 1979).

Analysis

Dr. Rob Schaller, the team physician for both the 1975 and 1978 K2 expeditions and a longtime climber in the Northwest, said he knows of no documented case of cerebral edema on Rainier.

"It is one of the rarest forms of high altitude sickness but very dangerous," Schaller said. "A person can be strong and healthy one minute and comatose in a matter of hours."

"The only definitive studies on the cerebral edema have been done by British physicians in the Himalayas," Schaller said, "but they show a mortality rate of 40-50 percent."

Krambrink and Lou Whittaker, operator of the guide service at Rainier, both praised the "High Adventure" program set up by Max Eckenburg, and Krambrink noted that Haining's party handled the emergency like veterans. (Source: *The Seattle Post Intelligencer*, August 17, 1979)

FALL INTO CREVASSE, CLIMBING UNROPED, INEXPERIENCE

Washington, Mt. Rainier

On September 1, Dale Click (21) was killed when he fell 20 feet into a crevasse while descending from a glacier at the 8,800-foot level on the northeast side of Mount Rainier.

Click carried his team's climbing equipment with him when he tumbled into the crevasse. His partner, Tom McKee, was unable to retrieve him.

McKee summoned help from other climbers and the Park Service, but by the time the rescue party arrived five hours later, Click had died.

The search party marked the location for later retrieval of the body when bad weather and threatening avalanche conditions set in. (Source: *Seattle Times*, September 3, 1979).

Analysis

The climbers were not roped and had no previous experience on snow or ice. (Source: John Krambrink, Mt. Rainier National Park)

FALLING ROCK

Washington, Cathedral Rock

About 10:30 a.m. on September 23, our party was proceeding up to the chockstone on the Northwest couloir on Cathedral Rock. I was leading the party approximately 50 feet ahead, in order to determine the rope-up point. I stepped on a fractured area of the rock block I was moving over. When I removed my foot, a section two feet by three feet in size broke off and shot down the couloir taking loose material with it. This section hit Anne Griffin (apparently on her pack) and knocked her down.

Griffin was caught and prevented from falling by Marv Olson. Upon reaching her, I found that she was stunned and dizzy but coherent. She was bleeding slightly from her nose, her elbow was bruised and she had chipped a tooth. I checked the pupils of her eyes and they were even. We made her comfortable and treated her for shock, allowing her to rest for approximately 45 minutes. After resting, Griffin said she was all right and would be able to walk out. We divided her equipment among the members of the climbing party. I put her in the middle of a shortened rope, and we proceeded down the mountain slowly.

Upon reaching the meadow near the trail intersection, we unroped and rested for a half hour and then started down the trail, arriving at the cars at 4:30 p.m. I checked with Griffin the following Thursday after the climb, and she said she felt all right except for bruises. (Source: Hubert Favero, The Mountaineers Accident Report Form)