

School. The accident occurred around 4:00 p.m. Dieringer climbed 15 feet on mixed vertical and high-angle ice on The Playground and placed an ice screw. He climbed another five feet and, while he was swinging his ax, his ice hammer came out of the ice. He fell backwards to the bottom of the pitch because his ice screw did not hold. He was hospitalized and his injuries were described as serious. (Source: Steven Carroll, The Stowe School)

Analysis

Dieringer needed more experience, additional upper body strength, and better screw placement. (Source: Steven Carroll, The Stowe School)

FALL ON ROCK, CLIMBING UNROPED, EXHAUSTION

Washington, Mount Index

Michael Welch (28), a Seattle climber, died January 11, 1981, in a fall from a rock wall near Index, Snohomish County authorities said.

Welch was climbing without ropes with his older brother on the Lower Town Wall, a half mile west of Index, when he fell 300–400 feet, said Sheriff's Sergeant Dave Sargent.

Sargent said Welch "had about three years' experience in climbing hard rock." He said that Welch became tired and lost his grip or missed his hold and fell. (Source: *The Seattle Times*, January 12, 1981)

FALL ON ROCK, STRANDED, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT

Washington, Mount Pilchuck

After nightfall on January 11, 1981, rescuers were notified that Mark Winder (25) and a companion, Mike Depew (23), were stranded halfway up a rock cliff above Lake 22, northeast of Mount Pilchuck.

Search and rescue teams from Snohomish and Marysville and a rock-climbing team from the Everett Mountain Rescue Unit were dispatched. Working in the dark, they lowered ropes to the stranded climbers and then dropped down to lash Winder to a litter and lower him to rescuers at the bottom of the cliff; Depew was lowered by a sling. The rescue party then began a two- to two and one-half hour trip back.

There were four people in the climbing party; two who supposedly knew what they were doing and two who were to be trained by them, said Sheriff's Sergeant Dave Sargent. He added that it was the two novices who got stranded.

Sargent said the climbers had only planned on a day's outing and were dressed in light clothing despite freezing temperatures. (Source: *The Seattle Times*, January 12, 1981.)

BAD WEATHER, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT

Washington, Mount Rainier

On January 20, 1981, two missing mountain climbers were successfully airlifted from the summit of Mount Rainier to safety. They had been nearly four days overdue in returning from their climb.

Brian Sullivan (23) and Dan Stage (26) self-registered for climbing the Liberty Ridge route on Mount Rainier by completing climber registration cards at the unmanned Carbon