

## **FALL ON ROCK, INEXPERIENCE, FAILURE OF PITON, INADEQUATE BELAY, NO HARD HAT**

### **Wisconsin, Devil's Lake State Park**

On June 30, 1981, Tom Tabbert (20) fell from a route between Moldy Buttress and D'Arcy's Buttress, sustaining injuries to his left ring finger, lower back, and head. He said he fell because one of his "pins" had popped loose. An EMT on the scene stated that both climbers were new to the sport and that their climbing rope was wrapped around a tree and the belayer's waist when the fall occurred. The rope slipped up the tree and thus up to the belayer's armpits; after this the belayer let go. (Source: Terry Tyler, Devil's Lake State Park)

## **FALL ON ROCK**

### **Wisconsin, Devil's Lake State Park**

On November 7, 1981, about 11:30 a.m., Jeff Oimoen (25) came to Park Headquarters and asked for help. He said he was climbing on the South Shore and fell. He had severe burns on all of his fingers and his hands. His hands were bandaged and he was transported to the hospital. (Source: J. Buchholz, Devil's Lake State Park)

### **Analysis**

There are not enough details to know whether Oimoen was ascending or rappelling. Devil's Lake State Park has only been reporting accidents for the past few years, as it is a fairly recently "discovered" climbing area. The Superintendent reports the following:

"For some reason—we wish we knew what it was—1981 was a quiet year for climbing accidents at Devil's Lake State Park. I have attached reports of the only three accidents that occurred in which we were involved in a rescue.

"We had made conscious efforts to hold down the accident rate this year. We met with several climbing groups, we provided rescue equipment in the climbing areas, and we attempted to stress safety in the minds of climbers. Perhaps these efforts caused the low accident rate." (Source: J. Williamson and Craig Karr, Superintendent, Devil's Lake State Park)

## **FALL ON ICE, CLIMBING UNROPED**

### **Wyoming, Tetons**

On January 18, 1981, Harry Frishman (38) and Mark Whitten signed out at the Moose Visitor Center for a climb of the Black Ice Gully on the Middle Teton. They hiked to the Lower Saddle and spent the night inside the Exum Guide's hut.

On January 19, they decided to climb the Northwest Couloir route on the Middle Teton. This route is described in Leigh Ortenburger's *A Climber's Guide to the Teton Range* as "a difficult high-angle snow and ice climb." It is rated at Grade II, F6. Both Frishman and Whitten had extensive mountaineering experience. Frishman worked as a guide for the Exum Mountain Guide Service. That morning they left the Lower Saddle and began ascending the Northwest Couloir. They decided to climb unroped, although they carried a rope with them. They also had crampons and ice-climbing tools but no hard hats.

Around 11:15 a.m., Whitten successfully reached the top of the couloir, with Frishman