

Fielder said that when the group set out, "It was warm and we were a bit apprehensive, but the snow felt good." According to Fielder, Hysmith and Tehee were attached to the lead rope and Fielder and three other climbers to a second.

At 0730, when the avalanche occurred, the four climbers on the second rope had stopped for a break. The avalanche struck the climbers on the lead rope who were then in an area known as the "hourglass."

Climbers estimated that the avalanche, which was 12-meters high, started about 300 meters above the group and carried the three about 180–200 meters. Fielder said he could see two of the three stop the flow of ice and rocks.

The second group scrambled down to pull the others from the steep chute in which they had come to a stop. At first, they were unable to locate Hake but did find the two injured men.

Despite the extent of their injuries and because the debris was continuing to cascade down the chute, the other members of the party decided the men had to be moved. They used ropes and pulleys to haul them to a rock outcrop in the middle of the chute.

Two members of the second group hiked down to Illumination Rock, arriving about an hour later, where they met another climbing party. One member of that party skied down to Timberline Lodge to summon help. (Source: *The Oregonian*, June 21, 1982)

Analysis

Heavy snow pack, followed by rainfall, saturated the snow; this, followed by freezing at night and concluding with a hot, sunny day, created ideal conditions for potential avalanches. The climbers were on a 60-degree slope and in an hourglass chute. (Source: *The Oregonian*, June 21, 1982)

FALL ON ROCK, BEGINNER UNCLIPPED CLIMBING ROPE

Oregon, Rooster Rock

In late June 1982, a man (37) fell 30 meters to his death from Rooster Rock. He had unclipped from the climbing rope and when he fell, he was unprotected. He was part of a climbing class. (Source: *The Oregonian*, June 24, 1982)

Analysis

John Shadwick (16) was a member of a climbing class consisting of eight people. Although the leader of the group declined to be interviewed, Shadwick reported that, "We were all learning how to climb and the man (victim) didn't know what was going on. We all started yelling directions at him and I guess he got mixed up and unhooked himself from his carabiner."

A very common phenomenon among beginning classes in climbing and other sports, where one person is performing while others are watching, is that everyone suddenly becomes an expert. Beginners will tell other beginners, where to put feet and hands, how to move, and what to do next. In this case, there was one leader who was belaying from above. It is not known if he could see his clients. A general comment on these situations is that beginners need direct supervision, meaning visual and audio contact. (Source: J. Williamson and *The Oregonian*, June 24, 1982)