

Fickeisen wobbled into the snow-covered camp at 1730 and told Kathleen Uterbach, chaperon of a visiting church youth group, that his injured climbing partner was still up at the falls. Fickeisen was taken by ambulance to Overlake Hospital in Bellevue.

Fifteen rescuers from Enumclaw's Rescue 1 and the Greenwater Fire Department, called in to find Fickeisen's climbing partner, headed into the accident area in the darkness of early evening. They were able to bring Gentry down to the road by 0015 in spite of worsening conditions. He died 15 minutes after he was placed in the ambulance. (Source: *The Seattle Times*, December 29, 1983, and *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, December 30, 1983)

Analysis

The falls, according to Max Eckenberg, a ranger stationed at the Boy Scout camp, "has layers which break off (and sound like) sonic booms when we get a rising temperature like we had today." (Source: *The Seattle Times*, December 29, 1983)

FALL ON ROCK, FAILURE TO FOLLOW ROUTE, FAILURE OF NUT West Virginia, Seneca Rocks

On June 5, 1983, Brian Garrity was leading out on the first pitch of Conn's East (5.4) when he got off route and found himself on much harder rock, somewhere in the vicinity of Soler. He lost his grip and fell. The topmost piece of protection held only long enough to turn Garrity upside down before it failed, resulting in a fall of about 12 meters. He hit a ledge headfirst on the way down. After dangling at the end of his rope for a few seconds, head down, Garrity got himself turned upright, but then found himself in serious trouble. He was bleeding considerably from cuts on his head and face, and needed to get off the wall as quickly as possible; however, his climbing rope had gotten jammed and his belayer, John Gorde, was unable to lower him down.

Lin Murphy and Parker Hill rushed to the fallen climber's aid and began the rescue operations. Hill rappelled down to the injured man while Murphy lowered another rope and set up an anchor for lowering the climber to Broadway Ledge. After tying a new rope to the accident victim, Murphy gently lowered him, while Parker assisted, preventing further injury.

On Broadway Ledge, Sallie Greenwood began administering first aid while others went to notify the authorities and obtain a Stokes litter from The Gendarme. Others set up the necessary anchors and pulleys for lowering the Stokes litter.

The victim was then transported down to Roy Gap Road where he was placed in a vehicle and taken to a hospital in Petersburg. Later it was learned that Garrity's skull had been fractured. (Source: Peter Grant in *Up Rope*, Volume 38, No. 6-7, June-July 1983)

FALL ON ROCK Wisconsin, Devil's Lake State Park

On May 15, 1983, about 1415, the South Shore Office was notified that there had been a fall on the East Bluff. About 1420 I went to the fall site. About 1425, Officers

Pyfferoen and Zipsie responded from the North Shore with the rescue truck to the Devil's Doorway Area. An ambulance was notified about 1430 and arrived at Steinke Basin about 1450. We arrived at the scene about 1440. The victim, Greg Stroupe (29), was conscious, in good spirits and had been sitting up. He complained of pain in the left knee, left wrist, tail bone and jaw areas, and had been unconscious for about four minutes. With the assistance of nearby climbers, the victim was placed onto a litter and pulled up the bluff about 12 meters, and from there carried to the rescue truck. About 1510 the victim was transferred to the Baraloo Ambulance at Steinke Basin. (Source: Officer John Burnesch, Devil's Lake State Park)

Analysis

The victim stated he was leading a climb up a rock face known as Jolly Roger and he put in "a bad hex" and it popped out, causing him to fall about ten meters to a rock ledge below. He stated he had made this climb before. He also had been drinking wine before the fall. There was no sign of any climbing gear or ropes when the officers arrived. (Source: Officer John Burnesch, Devil's Lake State Park)

PROTECTION PULLED OUT, FALL ON ROCK

Wisconsin, Devil's Lake State Park

On August 3, 1983, John Gorton (23) was climbing the rock face just below the balanced rock. He stated that he was using a Friend which he thought was in tight. He had been hanging on it for five minutes when it came out, resulting in his falling 20 meters. Paul Gorton was belaying below the victim and stated that the victim just fell. Both individuals were using headphones to communicate with one another, harnesses, ropes, and climbing shoes. A person was watching from above when the accident occurred and stated that Gorton just fell, stating, "Shit."

Gorton had fractured his left wrist and experienced pain in his lower left back. He was evacuated by park personnel. (Source: Officer John Burnesch, Devil's Lake State Park)

(Editor's Note: Of the seven accidents in Devil's Lake State Park this year, five of them involved falls where protection pulled out or was not placed at all. Park personnel believe that they still have many inexperienced climbers here, as the area is still in the process of being "discovered.")

FALL ON SNOW, CLIMBING ALONE

Wyoming, Tetons

On May 31, 1983, Robert Eastham (28), a moderately experienced mountaineer, signed out to climb the Skillet Glacier route on Mount Moran on June 1, returning on June 2. Because of the danger of spring avalanches, I advised Eastham to turn back if conditions seemed hazardous and to be off the mountain by 1100. He agreed with these guidelines.

Eastham successfully cramponed up the Skillet Glacier on June 1, reaching the summit at 1035. Because the snow was softening, he began his descent soon afterwards without crampons. While downclimbing the southern arm of the "V" at the