

internally. His wrist problem was obvious and was treated. We also treated him for some mild shock from which he rapidly recovered. We continued his treatment during the evacuation, which was made by a sitting carry to the road and a waiting car. From the time of the accident to the arrival at the hospital was about 45 minutes. The physician's analysis was a broken radius near the wrist with a possible fracture of the thumb bone. (Source: Randy Nelson, Instructor, The Mountaineers)

Analysis

The rock was wet enough to require additional caution and even though the victim had climbed the route several times, adequate protection still needed to be in place. (Source: The Mountaineers, Accident Report Form, dated April 7, 1984)

FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE PROTECTION

Washington, Leavenworth—Icicle Creek

On May 13, 1984, Dr. Robert Yakel (52) was on an Olympic Mountain Rescue Team (for which he is the medical advisor) training trip to the Icicle Creek practice area when he took a ten meter fall, fracturing his right ankle and left knee. When he fell, a chock popped out, but broke his fall to some extent. Participants noted that he was not wearing a hard hat, and that if he had landed on his head, he would probably have been killed. (Source: George Sainsbury, Seattle MRC)

LOSS OF CONTROL—VOLUNTARY GLISSADE, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, EXCEEDING ABILITIES

Washington, Granite Mountain

On May 18, 1984, Donald Archibald and Ronald Aronoff (37) had scaled Granite Mountain, leaving the trail head parking lot about 1130. On the descent, Aronoff was leading with Archibald following. Aronoff was dressed warmly, and was wearing a wet suit. He chose to slide on the snow, and slid ahead of Archibald. As he progressed, he gathered more speed, and eventually left Archibald's view for a period of about five minutes. Archibald located Aronoff on the snow field, in the avalanche chute, near the treeline by an alderwood patch. Aronoff's legs were wrapped around a small tree, his head was downhill, and he appeared to have suffered a "two-inch deep gash from the upper lip to the forehead, and had cut his nose in half." Aronoff's left eye was swollen shut, the right eye was dilated and fixed, and the victim was not conscious. There was some loss of blood. Archibald moved the victim's head and body toward the top of the mountain to prevent further bleeding, and laid the victim on his side to keep the passage way clear for easier breathing. He then left the mountain for help.

Victim Aronoff was airlifted from the 1000 meter level by MAST and taken directly to Harborview Medical Center, where he was treated for a concussion and lacerations. The scene was secured about 2100 hours. (Source: Clinton Olson, King County Department of Public Safety)