

instructors and five students, responded to Live Oak. Instructors Ric Backus and Drew Davis scrambled to Manini's position, then belayed students Jerry Despres and Jim Jennings up. Anchors were set at the top while instructor Robert Turan maintained contact with the subject and placed him in a climbing harness and helmet. Manini was then lowered approximately 12 meters to the ground. (Source: Mary Tober, Ranger, Joshua Tree National Monument)

*(Editor's Note: Joshua Tree National Monument has become a popular climbing area. It has very accessible rock, and climbing activity easy to see. While we don't know if this victim—from Brooklyn, New York—is a climber or just someone who saw the activity and decided to try it out, we know the latter potential is there. The April 19 accident reported earlier is another example.)*

## **DISLOCATED ANKLE WHILE RAPPELLING**

### **California, Joshua Tree National Monument**

Richard Riley (22) dislocated his right ankle on October 25, 1986, on Cyclops Rock, near Hidden Valley campground, while rappelling down the west face of the rock formation.

Riley was rappelling with a belay from the summit when the injury occurred. At first Riley believed that he had sprained his ankle, but when he looked down at it the deformation was obvious. Riley said that he was rappelling slowly when the incident took place. Riley's belayer lowered him to the ground.

Ranger R. Guerrieri arrived at the scene at 1355 and performed the initial patient survey. He asked that an ambulance and litter team be sent to the scene. Shortly after Guerrieri arrived, an ambulance from Joshua Tree arrived followed by volunteers James and Barbara Munro and Rangers Arrington and Taber. The subject was transported via litter to the ambulance. (Source: Richard Guerrieri, Ranger, Joshua Tree National Monument)

*(Editor's Note: Proper technique, including the back-up belay, spared the victim additional trauma.)*

## **FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE PROTECTION, INADEQUATE BELAY, INEXPERIENCE**

### **California, Yosemite Valley**

On October 25, 1986 at 1410, Ranger Torrie Finley reported to dispatch that a climber had fallen in the Church Bowl area. Rangers Jim Tucker, Torrie Finley, Jerry Bronson, and Tony Lue responded to the accident. On our arrival we found the victim in moderate distress at the bottom of the climb Deja Thourus (5.10a). Don Davis (38) had fallen out of the roof on the climb.

Information gathered at the scene suggested that Davis was at the crux of the climb and became fatigued while attempting to get over the roof. He fell and his last piece of protection pulled, allowing him to fall approximately seven to eight meters. His belayer failed, allowing him to fall another seven to eight meters. Davis landed on a small ledge about eight meters above the ground, at which time the belayer was assisted by another climber who then lowered Davis to the ground. (Source: Jerry Bronson, Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

### **Analysis**

Penny Davis (29) who was the belayer, had no previous experience climbing or belaying a climber. She did not understand the belay system or how it worked. Penny was not tied in, nor was she in a position to arrest a fall.

Davis had never climbed a 5 10a before. His climbing experience was less than a year. (Source: Jerry Bronson, Ranger, Yosemite National Park)

### **FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE PROTECTION**

#### **California, Joshua Tree National Monument**

On November 16, 1986, a report of a fallen climber on Jimmy Cliff rock was called in. John Hayward (43) was leading "Third World" (5.9), and while trying to place protection, he fell about three meters onto a ledge. His partner, Bill Gibson (26) lowered Hayward to the base of the climb about ten meters. Gibson made Hayward as comfortable as possible while another person reported the accident to the Park Service. Hayward sustained a broken lower leg and elbow. (Source: Kip Knapp, Ranger, Joshua Tree National Monument)

### **FALL ON RAPPEL, IMPROPER TECHNIQUE**

#### **California, Joshua Tree National Monument**

On December 9, 1986, at 1400, Ellen Hoffman (26) was rappelling down the face of Intersection Rock from a climb called "The Flake," when her rope became tangled. She stopped about six meters from the bottom to untangle it, letting go of the rope with her belay hand. She fell to the ground, landing on her lower back.

An ambulance was dispatched to the scene when the incident was reported at the request of the reporting person. She refused the ambulance transport when it arrived, because of the cost. The Para-medic from Joshua Tree Ambulance and myself explained the possible consequences of transport in a private vehicle without neck and back precautions. Hoffman signed a release from JTA and left at 1700.

On December 17, I contacted Hoffman by phone. She stated that she had sustained a mild concussion from the fall and was seeing a doctor about lower back pain. There were no broken bones. (Source: Kip Knapp, Ranger, Joshua Tree National Monument)

*(Editor's Note: The victim must have disconnected her rappel rig, too. This is a rare accident these days, especially with most climbers using a prusik loop back-up or being belayed. We could call this "failure of the rappeller" rather than "rappel failure."*

### **FALL ON ROCK, PROTECTION PULLED OUT, NO HARD HAT**

#### **California, Joshua Tree National Monument**

On December 21, 1986, Lawrence DeLong (38) was lead climbing "Double Cross," a 5.7 crack on Old Woman Rock. He was approximately six meters from the ground, with his second piece of protection, a Friend, placed at waist-level. DeLong fell, and the Friend pulled out of its placement. DeLong fell past his first piece of protection (a nut) and struck the rock face with his head approximately three meters above the ground. The nut prevented DeLong from falling to the ground. DeLong was unconscious and