

bleeding from the head. He subsequently expired on December 29 of a basal skull fracture. (Source: Mary Taber, Ranger, Joshua Tree National Monument)

FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE PROTECTION, EXCEEDING ABILITIES, EXHAUSTION

Colorado, Eldorado Canyon

(On February 1, 1986, Clayton Jackson [24] fell while lead climbing “Raggae” [5.8]. The following is his account of the accident.)

After failing miserably on one route, we decided to try a slightly easier one. As I began climbing, I felt a little shaky coming off a three-month lull because of cold weather.

My first mistake was placing all my vitally important equipment down low on the pitch, where the climbing still was relatively easy. So, when I reached the crux of the climb, I had no remaining equipment with which to protect the climb.

My partner realized I was in trouble when I started taking a long time. As he stuck out his head, he saw me slip and he exclaimed, “uh-oh” as I began to fall.

“I started to take in the rope and the force pulled me up about 30 centimeters,” he said.

Initial impact broke the talus bone in my left foot and also caused dislocation of my ankle. After initial impact, I cartwheeled backwards before coming to rest. My immediate reaction was to grab my left leg, which was in excruciating pain.

“My leg is broken,” was one of my first utterances. My foot was cocked about 45 degrees to the inside because of the dislocation, and my partner was wondering why I had not straightened out my leg.

I had him lower me about 30 meters to the base of the climb. As I was being lowered, my injured leg hit the rock a few times, sending a shiver of pain up my spine.

Upon reaching the cliff’s base, I waited for my partner to retrieve what climbing gear he could.

A kind of paradox occurred as I was preparing to go back to the car—two climbers came up to my position and offered help, while another individual was helping himself to the climbing equipment I had left behind. This added insult to the injury. (Source: Article by Clayton Jackson in the *Daily News Press*, March 31, 1986)

Analysis

Most climbing accidents are caused by poor judgment. I realized I had been overtaxing my abilities so early in the season and should have placed more protection near the crux of the second pitch. (Source: Clayton Jackson)

RAPPEL ANCHOR PULLED OUT, INADEQUATE BELAY, INEXPERIENCE

Colorado, Eldorado Springs

On May 8, 1986, a novice female climber (23) was on the west wall of Redgarden Wall in Eldorado Springs State Park when her male climbing partner rappelled to the ground. The woman then adjusted the rappel anchor, backed off to rappel, and the anchor came out. She fell approximately 30 meters to the ground.

When members of the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group and A-1 Ambulance arrived at the scene, the victim was moaning and barely conscious. Her pulse was 136, and two intravenous lines were started on her. Medical anti-shock trousers and oxygen were also