I learned Glynda Miller had been into climbing and caving since the first of the year. I know nothing of Geoff Lyons' background. I also learned the two had been taking either a climbing or caving class at Boise State University and that they went climbing or caving almost every week end.

I got in touch with the instructor at the University who suggested they may have gone to Papoose Cave (west central Idaho) or to Mount Borah and that the two were planning to attempt a Mount McKinley climb, possibly in July.

Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue had a party on the mountain over that weekend so I got in touch with them to learn that on their way down they had seen a couple in their base camp around 0930 on May 26, getting ready for the climb. Our members noticed the "new" ice axes with price tags still on them.

As we prepared to get a team to go back to the mountain, Mr. Miller called to say the couple had called him from a place near the mountain. They were late getting up the mountain and took what they thought was a short cut back down. They traveled all night, "to avoid frostbite," and got off the mountain at 0500.

The two said they were okay except that Miller was suffering from snow blindness. I saw the two about a week later. Glynda Miller was apparently all right although she said her eyes were still a little sore. They did not comment on their climb. (Source: Larry Novak, Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue)

(Editor's Note: Of the many overdue climber reports received, most of which did not result in injury, this one illustrates what happens when no itinerary is filed with anyone. At least in this case if a search had been necessary, some clues were in place as to where the couple had started their climb.)

FALL ON SNOW, CLIMBING UNROPED, PLACED NO PROTECTION Montana, Mount Reynolds

On May 31, 1986, Charles Bauer (27) and his brother, Lary (18), were climbing a technical route on Mount Reynolds when they encountered a steep chute filled with snow. They attempted to climb above and around the chute but eventually decided they would have to cross the snow. With crampons and ice ax, Charles Bauer jumped out onto the snow field from a rock which was about two meters above the snow. Charles was unroped. On landing, he apparently lost his balance and slid uncontrolled for about 225 meters, sustaining fatal injuries in the incident. (Source: Charlie Logan, SAR Coordinator, Glacier National Park)

Analysis

Besides not being protected for such a maneuver, very few situations would seem to call for jumping a vertical distance of two meters from rock onto a steep, snow-filled chute. Far too much is given to luck. (Source: Charlie Logan, SAR Coordinator, Glacier National Park)

FALL ON ICE, ICE SCREWS PULLED OUT New Hampshire, Mount Washington

On the morning of February 14, 1986, after spending the night at the Harvard Mountaineering Cabin, Rhode Island climbers Peter Barlow (29) and Steven Cournoyer (28) left