

clothing and ground insulation. Jack said he was very comfortable and slept most of the night.

While Chris attended to Jack, Denise Read descended to Denise Daly and me on a fixed line set by Ansel Wald. Ansel then served as the communications link among Chris, Denise Read and me while Jonathan and Paul went for help. Denise Read and I stayed with Denise Daly for the remainder of the night. We spent our time trying to keep her warm, dry, immobile, and in good spirits. We had fairly good success except in keeping her immobile because of the wet and downsloping rock. We monitored her primarily by talking to her and simply asking her questions. Her general condition and expressiveness seemed to improve through the night but we did not give her food or water.

As we talked that night, Denise reported that she had been having trouble planting her ice ax for self-belay—that she could not get it to penetrate as deeply as necessary to perform an adequate belay. I noted that Denise is very small and lightweight and also that she had an ax with a plastic coated handle (not rubberized).

By 0600 the morning of July 4, rescuers from Bellingham MRC and Whidbey Island SAR arrived. They airlifted Jack and then later Denise. They were off the mountain by 0900. (Source: Gary McCunn, Leader of this Mountaineers trip)

Analysis

One of the victims, Jack Schneider, observed that the party had been climbing for almost 14 hours on a demanding route, and that people and conditions were deteriorating. At the same time, some members were trying to get the group to move faster. The other victim, Denise Daly, observed that the party being separated left the least experienced people without enough supervision and no belay. (Source: Reports filled out by victims)

FALL ON ICE, FALL INTO CREVASSE, CLIMBING ALONE

Washington, Mount Rainier

While descending Mount Rainier on July 3 via Tahoma Glacier, I slipped on some fairly steep ice. I tried unsuccessfully to self-arrest and was quickly out of control. I lost consciousness in five or ten seconds, and came to on my back on a ledge about ten meters deep in a crevasse. I estimate that I tumbled almost 100 meters on the ice before going in. Fortunately, the crevasse widened and its floor sloped up toward the down slope rim so that I had only two to three meters to climb out, which I was able to do after a couple of times using two ice screws, etriers, and ice ax. (Source: Bob Stenseth—43)

Analysis

I shouldn't have been climbing solo. Crampons should have been sharper as should have been the concentration of the one wearing them. (Source: Bob Stenseth)

FALLING ROCK, OFF ROUTE, EXCEEDING ABILITIES

Washington, Unicorn Peak

On July 5, 1988, Andre Genereux fell 150 meters to his death after pulling a rock off

the face of Unicorn Peak. The following details came from an interview with his partner, Edwin Murray (24).

Murray and Genereux had been "best friends" for about four years. Both work at the same office of Borg-Warner Automotive Co., in Michigan. Also, both were active rock climbers, having climbed on a few other occasions in Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park.

Two weeks prior to the accident, both Murray and Genereux developed plans to climb in Mount Rainier National Park. Their intention was to rock climb. They arrived at Seatac Airport early on July 2, rented a car, and drove to the Nisqually Entrance. They then drove to Longmire, where they discovered that Mount Rainier was snow and ice covered. Since they were only prepared for warm weather and rock climbing activity, they decided to purchase more equipment. In town they purchased extra clothing for cold weather, drove back to the Park, and hiked about two kilometers from the road and set up camp for the night.

On July 3, they participated in a one-day snow and ice school with RMI. Murray stated that after the school, Genereux was intent on climbing Mount Rainier. Murray said that he and an RMI instructor talked him out of this idea. When asked about an alternate climbing option, the RMI instructor suggested Unicorn Peak.

They went to the Paradise Visitor Center Information Desk and Murray told Ranger Bruce Hawkins that they were interested in a short, easily accessible backcountry campsite. Ranger Hawkins suggested Snow Lake Camp and issued them a backcountry permit for this site. They hiked to Site #1 with the intention to climb Unicorn Peak.

On July 4 they left their gear in the site and hiked out to purchase more equipment. At that time they felt ill equipped to climb the snow slopes to Unicorn. At the RMI shop at Paradise, they purchased gaiters, water bottles, food, gloves and overmitts, as well as renting ice axes. They then returned to Snow Lake Camp. At 1800 they dismantled their campsite and departed for their climb. They were able to reach just below the base of the peak, but due to impending darkness, decided to descend 150 meters to their bivouac site.

On July 5 at 0900, they departed their bivouac site for the climb. Reaching the 1850 meter elevation, they encountered route finding problems. Murray said that Genereux stated he found an easier route. Immediately after that statement, Murray heard Genereux scream. Murray then turned and looked, watching a one by two meter rock break from the wall. This was the rock that Genereux was attempting to surmount. Murray watched as Genereux and the rock fell, and also observed other comparable sized rocks fall from the same location. As Genereux was falling, Murray saw the primary rock strike him on the head. Murray felt that after the rock struck Genereux, that Genereux was then unconscious. Murray said that he noticed that Genereux was then falling in a limp fashion. Murray then attempted to catch Genereux as he tumbled past him, but missed. Murray also had to dodge the other falling rock. He estimated that Genereux then became airborne for about 25 meters before stopping on a scree slope. Genereux landed face down. Murray went to Genereux and felt for a radial pulse. He found none. He suspected back and neck injuries, and decided not to turn Genereux over to check for respiration. Murray descended for help. The body recovery was completed by 2015, after a difficult lowering and transport. (Source: John Roth, Ranger, Mount Rainier National Park)

Analysis

While Murray described his friend as having a stable emotional state, and as being a giving person with a strong Christian/religious background, he also characterized Genereux as being impulsive and spontaneous. Genereux was intent on climbing Rainier, despite the poor weather, lack of equipment, and no experience on snow and ice. Murray said he had to continually talk Genereux into waiting to climb Unicorn—until they were prepared. (Source: John Roth, Ranger, Mount Rainier National Park)

FALL ON SNOW, UNABLE TO SELF-ARREST, FALL INTO MOAT**Washington, Olympic Mountains**

On July 10, 1988, after descending about 30 meters from the summit of The Brother, I stepped into a footstep made by my sons who were descending immediately ahead of me. The snow collapsed under my foot, causing me to lose my balance. My ice ax would not stop me due to mushy snow conditions. I slid across a snowfield, rolled across some rocks, and stopped when I fell into a moat.

After a tricky rescue by the Olympic Mountain Rescue Team, and others (totaling about 300 person hours), Lynnae Mountford (48) was helicopter evacuated, after being belay/hoisted 200 meters to the summit, at 2300. (Sources: Lynnae Mountford, and *Bergtrage*, September 1988)

Analysis

July is a hazardous month in The Brothers because of snow conditions. The descent is very steep at the summit; even when conditions are at their best, it's risky. (Source: Lynnae Mountford)

FALL ON ROCK, INADEQUATE BELAY**Washington, Cascade Mountains**

On July 26, 1988, Peter Potterfield (38) was leading around a corner on U-Gap when he fell after making an off route move. He had a sling over a rock horn for protection. He went 20 to 30 meters, landing on a small ledge, and resulting in multiple fractures (shoulder, elbow, wrist), lacerations and abrasions. (Source: Peter Potterfield)

Analysis

Cause of poor belay unknown. "Ultimate" climbing helmet saved my life. (Source: Peter Potterfield)

(Editor's Note: There's more to this story. First, there is the rescue operation, which took place over the next day and evening and included a 12 hour descent and difficult helicopter landing. Then there is the recovery of the victim, who, in addition to the fractures, nearly destroyed his kidneys when he drank too much water. When he arrived at the hospital, one of the team of doctors and nurses looked at him and said, "You're all fxxxxxxx up!" Even after eight hours in the operating room and several months of therapy, his climbing days are over because of the permanent nature of the arm injury. He was an experienced climber (20 years) and former