axes about ten meters away from the crevasse. I was afraid we were seriously injured and needed help as fast as possible. We needed the park radio in my pack, so I went back down the ramp and dug it out. From then on, we were in contact with park personnel via radio. (Source: Mark Ross)

INADEQUATE PROTECTION—RAPPEL FAILURE, ANCHOR SLING KNOT PARTED
Washington, Icicle Creek Canyon

On August 28, 1989, Gretchen Glatte (23) fell about 20 meters, breaking her neck, elbow and both wrists, and collapsing a lung when the sling being used for an anchor to lower her parted. (Source: From a report by Richard Watson)

(Editor's Note: This is the fifth report of this kind of accident for 1989: two in Canada, three in the United States—all narratives presented in this volume.)

FALL OR SLIP ON ROCK, FALLING ROCK, FAILURE TO FOLLOW ROUTE
Washington, Mount Thompson

On September 24, 1989, RobertaMohrholz (32) and Jalen Johansen (32) set out on what was to be a training hike and easy scramble up Mount Thompson. Roberta had left a route map with her fiance, Dave Whalen. Both Roberta and Jay were in top physical condition and were using this outing to train for various marathons and triathlons they were involved in. Roberta was a veteran snow and ice climber but generally stayed away from rock climbing unless necessary. Though Jay had done a lot of hiking, he had no rock climbing experience.

They stopped for lunch at a place where they could see the face of Mount Thompson and discussed their route. The only nonclimbing route was the east ridge, which Roberta had outlined and left with Dave Whalen. For some reason, Roberta decided they could start slightly south of the east ridge, work their way up a steep gully and fracture system, and then intersect the east ridge farther up. She told Jay that it looked terraced enough to prevent much exposure.

As they began to climb, it became apparent that they had committed themselves to a face with serious exposure, but found that it was too steep to downclimb. They continued up and were very close to reaching the ridge, when Roberta came to a difficult move and waited for Jay to come up along side her. She told him to see if he could make the move and get above her. He was able to do so, but because of the slight overhang, he could not see her. She shouted that she would try to the left, and at this point Jay heard her scream. He shouted to her. She responded that she had only slipped a short way to a narrow ledge and was all right. Shortly after this, she screamed again, and fell from the ledge.

A witness watching from a ridge across the valley reported seeing a rock the size of a car falling with her. Jay made his way down the east ridge and circled around below where they had been climbing. He realized she had died instantly after falling 200 meters. He ran the 16 kilometers to Snoqualmie Pass and alerted the Forest Service. A helicopter was dispatched but did not locate the body until dark. Because of the rugged terrain, a search and rescue team was sent to bring the body out the next day. (Source: Pat Whalen)
Analysis
The victim has been climbing for a decade or so and was one of the founders of the local women's climbing organizations, "Northwest Women's Climbers." She was considered to be a skilled, experienced, and careful climber and had a number of demanding ascents to her credit.

The ridge route in question is a walk-up, which explains the lack of equipment. I am told by members of the party that recovered the victim that they understand she purposely left the normal route and detoured a short way out on the south face for the specific purpose of giving her friend an opportunity to get a taste of rock climbing on this, his first, climb. The rock proved to be incredibly rotten, and the accident resulted. (Source: George Sainsbury)

(Editor's Note: Another incident where hiking off route leads into a climbing situation. See also the report below.)

FALL OR SLIP ON ROCK, FAILURE TO FOLLOW ROUTE
Washington, Mount Thompson
On October 15, 1983, Edward Henderson (47), Johanna Backus (45), Sherman Ackley (46), and Roger Ehret (52) set out to climb the West Ridge of Mount Thompson. Although the weather was clear, the route was covered with ice.

Rather than give up our objective, we decided to traverse to the third class, East Ridge route. Once on the route, we dropped our climbing gear, taking only one rope. Although the route was covered with snow and ice, we made a fast ascent as our time was running late.

About 30 meters from the summit, Henderson, slightly off route, slipped while scrambling fourth class rock. He fell backwards six meters, coming to rest against a dead stump. He sustained a compound fracture of the right radius and ulna.

As we were in a precarious position, Ehret immediately tied in and set up a belay for the other party members. The victim was belayed down icy rock about 30 meters to a safer position. Backus, an R.N., stabilized and splinted the victim. We scrambled back to base camp and hiked out. (Source: Roger Ehret)

Analysis
We knew the rock was icy when we aborted the fifth class route. We were all aware there had been a fatal accident two weeks before in the same spot where Henderson fell. However, we had "summit fever" and had climbed together as a team several times. As time was running late, we were moving fast and got off route. We should have used more caution because of the icy conditions and set up belays. We were very fortunate. Henderson's injuries could have been much worse. None of us was wearing helmets. As we were experienced in mountain rescue, once we roped up, the rescue went smoothly. As we all reflected later, icy third class rock is not "a piece of cake." (Source: Roger Ehret)