

minor, Joe belayed Cameron up the same climb. The rope was properly anchored at the top. In a standing position, Joe proceeded to belay Cameron with a figure eight connected to his harness. He was not separately anchored. Cameron climbed with an extra rope. He slipped on a wet spot about two meters up from the start of the climb. Cameron's fall pulled Joe off balance. Joe fell face first over the rock. Cameron fell to the base of the climb. Cameron's weight held Joe from sliding down the slope. (He was still attached to the rope by the figure eight.)

Cameron fell and swung into a small tree, with no injury. Joe skinned his left arm and left leg and hit his head just above the left ear, immediately resulting in double vision. Joe never lost consciousness and was soon able to right himself and secure himself. With the aid of the rope Cameron was able to safely climb to Joe and lower him to the base of the climb. (Source: Joseph Hanna)

### **Analysis**

First of all, we both decided that the accident was caused by a lack of common sense, but more because of the lack of difficulty involved. Seeing no present danger, we overlooked the obvious in eagerness to continue the latter half of the climb.

Nevertheless, the system was not checked with understanding. A helmet would have eliminated the seriousness of the injury but would not have prevented the accident. The belayer should have been secured separately, regardless of whether or not he felt secure.

The Climbers Guide to North Carolina and previous knowledge of the area allowed us to reach medical care within a reasonable amount of time. We will continue to be aware of medical services in the area in which we climb and in the future, helmets are a must! (Source: Joseph Hanna)

## **WEATHER, HYPOTHERMIA, AMS**

### **Oregon, Mount Hood**

On June 9, Cassandra Kelley (38) was transported from the 3000 meter level on the south side of Mount Hood to Timberline Lodge. She was with a Mazama group, and was experiencing altitude sickness and hypothermia symptoms on the ascent. The group continued to the summit, where they experienced high winds and blizzard conditions. Clackamus County searchers were called at 1330 and found the group at 1608 using a locator unit which fixed on the beeper being carried by the group. (Source: from a story in the Sunday Oregonian, June 10, 1990)

*(Editor's Note: No information on how or why a rescue team was called in was included in the report. Beepers are being used by many groups on Mount Hood now, as a result of the 1986 blizzard in which nine persons from the Oregon Episcopal School died.)*

## **FALLS, FALLING ROCK, NO HARD HAT**

### **Pennsylvania, Delaware Water Gap N.R.A.**

There continues to be more climbing and off-trail hiking in this reservation. Two of the three reports we received involved rappels. In May, a 17 year old female was climbing up a hill with several other members of her group to do some rappelling

when a large rock was knocked loose from above and struck her on the right side of her head. In September, an 11 year old Boy Scout was engaged in a rappelling experience with his father and several others when he “appeared to slip, then screamed and disappeared from sight,” of the adults at the top. Rangers climbed up to him—just seven meters from the bottom of the rappel—and found that he had just made a side-ways swing, which had scared him. No injury resulted, and it was observed that the activity was being run safely. (We did not count this as an accident.)

The other fall involved a couple who were making their way back to the road by way of a bank beside a creek. The woman, Elizabeth Taylor (30), fell 40 meters, hitting a rock and losing consciousness. This, while not a climbing accident, resulted in a technical climbing rescue. (Source: Reports, submitted by Jim Yestor, came from the Delaware Water Gap N.R.A.)

## **FALLS ON ROCK, PROTECTION PULLED OUT, NO HARD HAT, ETC.**

### **Utah, Cottonwood Canyons**

Four reports of climbing accidents were filed for this area, one resulting in a fatality when a solo climber fell while descending Mount Superior's north side. The others resulted in injury due to the length of the falls. (Source: H. Thad Moore, Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office)

## **WEATHER, EXPOSURE, EXCEEDING ABILITIES**

### **Washington, Mount Rainier**

During the week of March 19-23, 1989, a ten-person Special Forces Unit of the U.S. Army climbed from Paradise to the Camp Muir area and back for the purposes of testing equipment and men in a winter mountaineering and survival environment. Three members were sent back to Paradise at 1200 on March 21 because two of them, SSGT Bronn (28) and SFC Taylor (36), were suffering from various degrees of hypothermia, frostbite, and fatigue. SFC Martinez, a medic, was assigned to look after them. The party encountered blizzard conditions and a near white-out. Progress was very slow, with two men on skis and the third on snowshoes. For reasons unexplained, some of the equipment that would have assisted with navigation down the snowfield was given to a member of the seven-person unit continuing to Camp Muir. The three became disoriented and descended Paradise Glacier instead of Muir Snowfield.

The group of three encountered continued severe weather the next day. Despite the danger of travel on glaciated terrain, they chose not to rope together. In fact, they traveled closely bunched together in order not to get separated from each other.

At 2200 they stopped for an extended period to melt snow for water, soup, etc. They did not set up a tent or dig a snow cave to spend the rest of the night, choosing instead to continue walking slowly. They were not able to return to Paradise on either the 21st, as expected, or the 22nd.

The evening of March 22 and the morning of the 23rd plans were made and teams organized to search for the overdue party. Just as three park rangers and 15 volunteer Seattle and Tacoma Mountain Rescue people were about to initiate a ground search, the three soldiers arrived back at Paradise at 0500. Bronn was later treated for second degree frostbite to his lower back and toes and Taylor for a back injury. The remainder of the Special Forces Unit successfully descended from Camp Muir to Paradise in