



IN REPLY REFER TO:



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL MOUNTAINEERING REPORTS

from

Areas Administered by the National Park Service 1968

Annual Mountaineering reports were received from Black Canyon; Organ Pipe Cactus; Chiricahua; Colorado and Devils Tower National Monuments; Harpers Ferry National Historical Park; Crater Lake; Lassen Volcanic; Mount McKinley; Sequoia and Kings Canyon; Yosemite; Mount Rainier; Glacier; Grand Teton; Rocky Mountain; Grand Canyon; and Zion National Parks.

Climbing Activity

Mountain climbing activity in the National Park System increased dramatically this year. The attached supplement lists mountain climbing activity by area. In the areas reporting there were 19,908 recorded ascents in 1968, compared with only 10,541 recorded in 1967. Generally good weather in the areas showing increases may be partially responsible, however, such a rise undoubtedly has additional causes unrelated to normal visitation increases and good weather.

Search and Rescue Activities

A statistical chart is attached to show search and rescue activities by area. In summary, there were four searches of consequence, one airplane crash, seven rescues due to illness, 15 non-climbing related accidents and 41 climbing related accidents, 48 of the persons involved survived the incidents, 31 did not. In 15 instances persons rescued were able to get out under their own power after being removed from a stranded position or administered first aid. Thirty-seven involved evacuation on foot for at least a portion of the distance. Five evacuations utilized either horses or mules and 11 were air lifted out of the back country. In the 41 accidents relating to climbing activities there were nine fatalities, 25 injuries and nine strandings requiring rescue for a total of 43 persons. 1967 figures record 16 people killed and 27 injured while climbing. Although this shows a decline in climbing related accidents the areas reporting made up for it with an increase in other backcountry rescue operations. Yosemite was the hardest hit of these areas with nine miscellaneous accidents resulting in six fatalities and three injuries in addition to 21 climbing accidents causing six fatalities, eight injuries and eight strandings.

It should be noted that only the information involving climbing activities and accidents is valid for Servicewide statistical use. Incidents involving other backcountry problems such as lost persons, miscellaneous accidents, illness, and air crashes also occur in areas which have no reportable mountaineering activity. Since in 1968 these areas made no report, the figures for these other categories are not Servicewide figures.

Training

Servicewide approximately 6,450 man-hours of training were received by Service personnel on mountain rescue techniques. Instructors were obtained from Service areas and cooperating agencies. Of special note were a one week interregional winter mountaineering school presented at Rocky Mountain National Park in March, a Medical Emergencies and Winter Survival School in January at Mount Rainier, and two September schools in which five Park Rangers received training at Banff National Park in Canada on Mountaineering and Mountain Rescue. In addition to the climbing aspects of mountain rescue, Rangers from Rocky Mountain and Mount Rainier participated in advanced training in medical treatment at Denver and Seattle hospitals respectively. Such skills as intravenous shock therapy and the use of morphine for treatment of pain were taught and incorporated into the parks' rescue capabilities.

Enclosure

SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

Area	Type of Incident					No. of Persons Rescued	No. of Fatalities	Method of Evacuation			
	Lost Person	Air Crash	Illness	Misc. Accidents	Climbing			Own Power	Foot	Horse or Mule	Air
Yosemite				X		1			X		
					X	1			X		
					X	1			X		
					X		1		X		
					X	1			X		
					X	1		X ^{1/}			
	X			X		1		X			
					X	1			X		
					X	1			X		
				X			1		X		
				X			1		X		
					X	1		X ^{1/}	X		
				X			1		X		
				X			1		X		
				X			1		X		
					X	1		X ^{1/}			
					X	1			X		
	X			X			1		X		
					X	1			X		
					X	1	1		X		
					X	1		X ^{1/}			
				X		1		X ^{1/}	X		
					X	1		X ^{1/}			
					X	1	1		X		
					X	1		X ^{1/}			
	X				X	2		X ^{1/}			
					X		1		X		
Zion					X		1		X		
					X	1		X			

Totals 4 1 7 15 41 48 31 15 37 5 11

^{1/} Rescued from stranded position

SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

Area	Type of Incident					No. of Persons Rescued	No. of Fatalities	Method of Evacuation			
	Lost Person	Air Crash	Illness	Misc. Accidents	Climbing			Own Power	Foot	Horse or Mule	Air
Crater Lake					X	2					X
					X	1		X			
Grand Canyon			X			1				X	
					X	1		X ^{1/}			
				X			1		X		X
							1		X	X	
Mt. Rainier			X				1				X
					X	1			X	X	
			X			1					X
				X			1		X		
		X					2				X
				X		2	1		X		
					X	1			X		
					X	1	1		X		
Rocky Mountain					X	1			X		
					X	1			X		
					X	1			X		
					X	2			X		
			X				1		X		
Sequoia & Kings Canyon				X		4					X
				X			6		X ^{2/}		
				X			1		X		
			X			1					X
			X		X	1					X
							1			X	X
	X						1 ^{3/}				
Grand Teton					X	1		X ^{1/}			
					X	1		X ^{1/}			
					X	1		X			
					X	1					X
					X	1				X	

^{1/} Rescued from stranded position

^{2/} Automobile wreck which required technical climbing for body recovery

^{3/} Assumed dead, body never found

CLIMBING ACTIVITY

<u>Area and Feature Climbed</u>	<u>Attempted Ascents (Climbers)</u>	<u>Successful Ascents (Climbers)</u>
Black Canyon of the Gunnison		
Painted Wall	2	2
Colorado		
Independence Monument		14
Kissing Couple	18	3
Miscellaneous Climbing		120
Devils Tower		
Devils Tower		
Durrance		89
Hollywood and Vine		8
Pseudo Weissner		6
Sundance		5
Weissner		5
McCarthy (West)		4
Bon Voyage		3
Delta One		3
Goosberry Jam		3
Cave		2
Devil's Delight		2
D.O.M.		2
Exit-Us		2
Second Cave		2
Glacier		
Allen Mountain		4
Altyn Peak		14
Appekunny Mountain		3
Bearhat Mountain		9
Blackfoot Mountain		8
Boulder Peak		10
Mt. Campbell		1
Mt. Cannon		4
Mt. Chapman		2
Chief Mountain		22
Citadel Mountain		6
Citadel Spire		2
Clements Mountain		60
Mt. Cleveland		26
Crossley Peak		2
Divide Mountain		21
East Flattop Mountain		14
Fifty Mountain - Chaney Glacier - Sue Lake Traverse		31
Goat Haunt Mountain		10
Going-to-the-Sun Mountain		28
Mt. Gould		33
Grinnell Glacier		10
Grinnell Point		26

<u>Area and Feature Climbed</u>	<u>Attempted Ascents (Climbers)</u>	<u>Successful Ascents (Climbers)</u>
Glacier (continued)		
Mt. Henkel		33
Iceberg Peak		5
Mt. Jackson		8
Little Chief Mountain		2
Mount Logan		3
Mahtotopa Mountain		3
Mt. Merritt		4
Mt. Oberlin		31
Otokomi Mountain		6
Piegan Mountain		34
Pollock Mountain		23
Porcupine Ridge		4
Ptarmigan Tunnel - Red Gap Pass Traverse		2
Ptarmigan Wall		1
Red Eagle Mountain		3
Reynolds Mountain		67
Mt. St. Nicholas		5
Mt. Siyeh		11
Split Mountain		2
Triple Divide Peak		7
Mt. Wilbur		18
Wynn Mountain		4
Grand Canyon		
Miscellaneous Climbing		3
Grand Teton		
Baxter's Pinnacle		24
Buck Mountain		40
Cloudveil Dome		52
Cube Point		14
Dissappointment Peak		34
Grand Teton		539
Icicle Point		98
Middle Teton		11
Mt. Moran		165
Nez Perce Peak		66
Mt. Owen		122
Rock of Ages		29
South Teton		143
Storm Point		100
Symmetry Spire		259
Teewinot Mountain		51
Mt. Woodridge		127
Miscellaneous Climbing		699
Harpers Ferry		
Miscellaneous Climbing		79

<u>Area and Feature Climbed</u>	<u>Attempted Ascents (Climbers)</u>	<u>Successful Ascents (Climbers)</u>
Mount McKinley		
Mount McKinley		
West Buttress	32	26
Via Karsten's Ridge	4	4
Mount Foraker		
Via Central-Southern Ridge	4	4
Mount Rainier		
Mount Rainier		
Curtis Ridge	6	0
Disappointment Cleaver	615	359
Disappointment Cleaver <u>1/</u>	778	528
Emmons Glacier	504	351
Fuhrer's Finger	48	25
Gibraltar Ledge	39	29
Kautz Glacier	32	27
Liberty Ridge	56	35
Liberty Wall (new route)	3	3
Mowich Face	4	4
Nisqually Icefall	46	9
Ptarmigan Ridge	23	8
Success Cleaver	9	0
Sunset Ridge	4	4
Tahoma Glacier	73	40
Willis Wall	2	0
Wilson Headwall	2	2
Organ Pipe Cactus		
Arch		3
Diaz Peak		6
Kino Peak		13
Montezumas Head		7
Mount Ajo		15
Pinkley Peak		3
Twin Peaks		65
Rocky Mountain		
Longs Peak (technical)		379
Longs Peak (non-technical)		3847
Sequoia and Kings Canyon		
North Dome - East Crack	2	2
Mt. Whitney - East Face		48
Mt. Whitney (non-technical)		6297
Yosemite		
El Capitan - North American Wall	1	1

1/ Professionally guided climbers

<u>Area and Feature Climbed</u>	<u>Attempted Ascents (Climbers)</u>	<u>Successful Ascents (Climbers)</u>
Yosemite (continued)		
Washington's Column	2	2
Half Dome	2	0
Miscellaneous Climbing		4202
Zion		
Twin Brothers		4
South Guardian Angel		4
Total successful ascents		<hr/> 19,908
Minimum total attempted ascents <u>1/</u>	20,751	

1/ When no attempted ascent figures were given the corresponding numbers of successful ascents were used.