

Appendix N. Chronology of Bear Inflicted Human Injuries in Denali National Park and Preserve

Updated 2002

Date: 7/12/1949

Number of Persons Injured: 1

Number of Bears Involved: 3 Grizzly Bears

Location: Ewe Cr.

Name of Injured: Jack Reed

Age of Injured: 19-25

Sex of Injured: Male

Nature of Injury: Puncture wounds on lower back.

Narrative: Reed, a USGS crew member, surprised 3 bears, described as 2 adults and a cub," on a tundra slope. One bear chased him downhill until Reed leaped off a 20-foot cliff, just as the bear swatted him in the back. The bear came to the foot of the cliff and chased Reed farther, but eventually gave up and ran away. Also see Murie, A. 1961. A Naturalist in Alaska, p. 75.

Date: 7/1949

Number of Persons Injured: 1

Number of Bears Involved: 1 Grizzly Bear

Location: Mile 30

Name of Injured: No Data

Age of Injured: 40-60

Sex of Injured: Male

Nature of Injury: Punctures, lacerations on one arm.

Narrative: Two Alaska Road Commission employees were relocating a live-trapped grizzly bear from Toklat to Teklanika. Upon raising the trap door to release the bear, it refused to leave. One of the employees got out of the cab and walked around the front of the truck. Just then the bear exited the trap, ran around the front of the trap, caught the employee and bit and mauled one of his arms. The injuries resulted in the loss of use in that arm.

Date: 8/4/1961

Number of Persons Injured: 1

Number of Bears Involved: 1? Grizzly Bear

Location: E. side of Igloo Mountain

Name of Injured: Napier Shelton

Age of Injured: No Data

Sex of Injured: Male

Nature of Injury: Punctures, lacerations on left foot and thigh.

Narrative: Shelton was increment boring a treeline spruce when he heard a loud "woof" and discovered a grizzly bear coming towards him. Shelton rapidly climbed the tree, which was leaning sharply downhill, but the bear climbed up after him and bit his left foot. The bear climbed the tree a second time and bit Shelton's right thigh. The bear then retreated slowly. The increment borer that Shelton was using may have been making squeaking sounds that attracted the bear. Dr. A. Murie had observed a sow with 2 cubs in the same area earlier in the day.

Date: 8/8/1967

Number of Persons Injured: 1

Number of Bears Involved: 3 Grizzly Bears

Location: 1 mile East of Road at MP 56

Name of Injured: James Magowan

Age of Injured: No Data

Sex of Injured: Male

Nature of Injury: Punctures, lacerations of head, neck, arm, shoulder, thorax, legs, back, buttocks.

Narrative: Magowan, the seasonal Toklat ranger, received a report of a bear chasing a vehicle just west of the Toklat campground. He drove to the area with his wife, daughter, and 2 visitors, in Magowan's personal vehicle. He took no firearm. He observed 3 bears about 1 mile from the road at mile 56 and began hiking towards them with a borrowed camera and 200mm lens, in the company of his wife and daughter. When 200-400 yards from the sow with cubs, the sow sensed his presence and began circling him. From 200 yards she charged and mauled him severely.

Date: 7/21/1972

Number of Persons Injured: 1

Number of Bears Involved: 3 Grizzly Bears

Location: East Side of Divide Mountain, 1.5 miles South of Park road.

Name of Injured: Chris Cauble

Age of Injured: 22

Sex of Injured: Male

Nature of Injury: Punctures, lacerations on right leg, arms, back, and head.

Narrative: Cauble was hiking along the gravel bar of the Toklat River and observed a single bear on a hillside 0.75 mi. in front of him. He continued towards the bear and walked up the hillside, aiming for a route above the point where the bear had been, attempting to detour around it. At a point where he thought he was safe from the bear, but might be able to see it, he stopped and took off his pack. He soon saw the bear, and then 2

bears about 100 yards away. A third bear, the sow, appeared and charged from about 120 yards away. She knocked Cauble into some willows and mauled him briefly.

Date: 7/23/1973

Number of Persons Injured: 2

Number of Bears Involved: 3 Grizzly Bears

Location: Headwaters of Big Creek

Name of Injured: Mark Carey, Roger Pearson

Age of Injured: 24, 26

Sex of Injured: Both Male

Nature of Injury: Mark Carey suffered lacerations on left thorax, Roger Pearson suffered abrasions on his right shoulder, contusion, left eye.

Narrative: Carey and Pearson were camped without a tent. At 11:45 pm a sow with 2 cubs appeared and made 2 bluff charges, then approached to the edge of their ground cloth. The bear jumped over Pearson and attacked Carey, who was standing up in his sleeping bag, trying to get out. Carey fell to the ground and played dead. Pearson was then attacked, but he too played dead and the bear soon left.

Date: 8/19/1973

Number of Persons Injured: 1

Number of Bears Involved: 1 Grizzly Bear

Location: Wonder Lake

Name of Injured: John Osborn

Age of Injured: 21

Sex of Injured: Male

Nature of Injury: Lacerations on arms and hand.

Narrative: Osborn was ironing clothes in the Wonder Lake Ranger Station when he heard a noise on the front porch he believed was made by Bill Reed. Osborn opened the door and found a grizzly bear tampering with the refrigerator on the porch. Osborn shut the door and the bear immediately began to knock the door in. Osborn jumped through the rear window, lacerating his hand and arm.

Date: 9/11/1973

Number of Persons Injured: 1

Number of Bears Involved: 4 Grizzly Bears

Location: 0.5 miles North of road at MP 7

Name of Injured: Alfred Johnson

Age of Injured: No Data

Sex of Injured: Male

Nature of Injury: Punctures, lacerations, head, neck, arms.

Narrative: Johnson was taking pictures for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. He climbed a spruce tree 100-200 yards from the bears and made sounds like a wounded rabbit. The sow ignored him for a while, but suddenly ran to the base of the tree, climbed part way up and pulled Johnson to the ground by his left foot. She mauled him severely before leaving.

Date: 8/6/1975

Number of Persons Injured: 1

Number of Bears Involved: 2 Grizzly Bear

Location: East face Igloo Mountain

Name of Injured: Michael Bishop

Age of Injured: 26

Sex of Injured: Male

Nature of Injury: Punctures, right thigh.

Narrative: While hiking on Igloo Mountain, Bishop, photographing sheep, crested a rise and saw 2 bears 40 yards away. One of the bears charged. Bishop ran down the rise and fell. The bear leaped and bit him, released and then bit him again in the same spot.

Date: 7/26/1977

Number of Persons Injured: 1

Number of Bears Involved: 4 Grizzly Bears

Location: Drainage SE of Highway pass

Name of Injured: Robert Muller

Age of Injured: 26

Sex of Injured: Male

Nature of Injury: Broken ulna, lacerations, forearm, upper back and head.

Narrative: Muller and companion walked within 50 yards of the bears to photograph. One of the yearling cubs bluff charged. The sow then charged, Muller ran until the sow was close. He then dropped to the ground and curled up. The sow mauled him for 5 seconds.

Date: 6/3/1980

Number of Persons Injured: 1

Number of Bears Involved: 3 Grizzly Bears

Location: Riley Cr. East of RR bridge

Name of Injured: Mark Davenport

Age of Injured: 22

Sex of Injured: Male

Nature of Injury: Laceration to hand.

Narrative: Walking at 24:00 hrs., Davenport, encountered 3 bears on an unmaintained path leading into a wooded creek bank. One bear approached and Davenport shouted. The bear hesitated then charged from 40 feet. Davenport stepped behind a tree and the bear bit his left hand through a ski glove.

Date: 6/4/1980

Number of Persons Injured: 1

Number of Bears Involved: 2 Grizzly Bear

Location: Park road mile 1

Name of Injured: Dan Merren

Age of Injured: 21

Sex of Injured: Male

Nature of Injury: Puncture, left ankle.

Narrative: Three hotel workers walking on the road at 00:55 hrs saw 2 moose cross the road 100 m ahead with 2 bears in pursuit. The larger of the bears saw the hikers and loped towards them. The hikers ran. Merren climbed a tree but the bear pulled him down. The bear moved off and Merren got up the tree again but higher. The bear returned and tried to reach Merren unsuccessfully.

Date: 8/11/1980

Number of Persons Injured: 1

Number of Bears Involved: 2 Grizzly Bear

Location: Grant Cr., Mt. Eielson

Name of Injured: Hiroshi Tokura

Age of Injured: 25

Sex of Injured: Male

Nature of Injury: See narrative.

Narrative: Four backpackers approached thick brush along creek. The victim stated that he was ahead of others, heard, then saw the bears 6 meters away coming towards him. He yelled, backed away, and sat down covering his head. Another member of the party stated that he ran from the bear. The bear attacked causing almost complete avulsion of the scalp, severe facial and shoulder lacerations, puncture wounds to the back and buttock and severe facial fracture.

Date: 8/31/1982

Number of Persons Injured: 1

Number of Bears Involved: 1 Grizzly Bear

Location: 1 mile east of Teklanika Campground

Name of Injured: John Alsworth

Age of Injured: 28
Sex of Injured: Male
Nature of Injury: Puncture wounds, buttocks.

Narrative: Two day hikers met a bear at 10 meters in brush. They left food that the bear ate. The bear approached again and ate some cookies thrown in the opposite direction. The bear approached again, the hikers lay down and the bear circled, sniffed and bit Ashworth's buttocks once. The bear left. The bear appeared more curious than aggressive.

Date: 6/12/1985
Number of Persons Injured: 1
Number of Bears Involved: 1 Grizzly Bear
Location: Railroad tracks 200 meters South of depot
Name of Injured: Saskia Roggezeen
Age of Injured: 25
Sex of Injured: Female
Nature of Injury: Punctures, buttocks and right foot.

Narrative: At 2045 hrs, Roggezeen and companion were walking south along the RR tracks from the train depot. They observed a bear about 50 meters away, near Morino Campground. They ran down the track embankment into the brush. The bear pursued them. Roggezeen fell and was bitten briefly by the bear.

Date: 6/13/1985
Number of Persons Injured: 1
Number of Bears Involved: 4 Grizzly Bears
Location: Savage Campground near site 3
Name of Injured: LeAnn Landstrom
Age of Injured: 30
Sex of Injured: Female
Nature of Injury: Punctures, back, right thigh, buttocks.

Narrative: Landstrom was walking through the forest towards the park road at 2145 hrs when she saw a sow with 3 yearlings 100-150 feet ahead. The sow charged and Landstrom ran. The bear caught her, bit her, and then backed off. Landstrom got up and was attacked a second time. The bear moved off again and Landstrom climbed into a tree. The sow was probably acting defensively to protect her cubs.

Date: 5/31/1987
Number of Persons Injured: 1
Number of Bears Involved: 2 Grizzly Bears
Location: 5 miles South of Park road, West branch of Toklat River.

Name of Injured: Randy Smith
Age of Injured: 29
Sex of Injured: Male
Nature of Injury: Broken left foot.

Narrative: Smith was passing the base of a 20 foot high cut bank when he looked up and saw 2 bears at the top of the bank 100 meters away coming towards him. Smith started yelling, one bear veered off, but the other continued to charge. It knocked him down and stepped on his foot as he turned away from it. The blow also ripped Smith's pack. Smith curled up on the ground and the bear moved off immediately. Smith felt he had surprised the bears. He thought they had been in the same area a few days earlier.

Date: 7/5/1985
Number of Persons Injured: 1
Number of Bears Involved: 1 Grizzly Bear
Location: 0.5 miles North of Park road at mile 59.
Name of Injured: Lee Grimstad
Age of Injured: 29
Sex of Injured: Male
Nature of Injury: Laceration, punctures right calf.

Narrative: While day hiking, Grimstad saw a bear in the distance and approached to within a quarter mile for photographs. The bear slowly moved towards Grimstad as it fed. Its movements were not direct or purposeful. Grimstad continued to photograph the bear during its approach and made no attempt to scare it off as it moved to within a few feet of him. At this point Grimstad lay down and the bear cautiously sniffed him and bit his leg. Grimstad moved abruptly and the bear backed off and moved away. Grimstad described the bear as curious rather than aggressive.

Date: 6/6/1988
Number of Persons Injured: 1
Number of Bears Involved: 1 Grizzly Bear
Location: 3.5 miles South of Savage River Campground.
Name of Injured: Graig James
Age of Injured: No Data
Sex of Injured: Male
Nature of Injury: Laceration, scalp.

Narrative: Craig was sleeping on the ground without a tent, on a defined bear trail, near a winter-killed moose. The backcountry unit was closed at the time. Craig felt a blow to his head at 01:30 that elicited a loud yell. Craig circled up into a ball and heard the animal move off. He never saw the bear.

Date: 7/9/1997

Number of Persons Injured: 1

Number of Bears Involved: 3 Grizzly Bears

Location: Backcountry Unit #11, low saddle between Stony Dome and Gravel Mt..

Name of Injured: Lucynthia Robins

Age of Injured: 20

Sex of Injured: Female

Nature of Injury: Single injury to hand; puncture on top of hand.

Narrative: Lucynthia was hiking out from behind Stony Dome, alone, making noise by singing. She was 20-30 yards below a ridge and saw a bear with 2 cubs on top of the ridge. The female bear charged towards her, stopped, then continued charging. She stood her ground until the bear was close then she dropped to the ground and played dead. The bear ran on top of her and grabbed her hand in its mouth. She resisted at first then relaxed and the bear let go. The bear pawed her briefly then ran away with its cubs.
