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# Tragedy On Peaks, Aid Asked; And Cry Arises, 'Call Ome Daiber'

By Robert Reed

**T**HEY ought to name a mountain somewhere after Ome Daiber.

And if the peak is to fit the man, it will have to be a



**HELPER**—Mrs. Ome Daiber prepares sandwiches which her husband will carry with him on a rescue mission high into the Cascade crags. An old hand at this, she has seen her husband summoned many times on errands of mercy.

straight spire a little bigger and taller than those around.

The Pacific Northwest's best known mountain climber has an unusual name which people remember. So when the high rocks and treacherous crags trick the unskilled or unwary, when a person falls or is injured, the word comes out:

"Call Ome Daiber."

## OFTEN CALLED—

Because his German-Swiss monicker etches itself into minds wherever it falls, Daiber has been called on dangerous missions of mercy or death since 1936. The man behind the name is 45. He is a wiry carpenter-builder with the built-in, balance of a mountain goat.

In 25 years of climbing mountains Daiber has learned not to try to be clever on the face of a cliff, to be as cautious sometimes as a little old lady and to take painstaking care of his equipment.

"We who climb in the mountains love them," Daiber said. "We want people to enjoy them without being hurt. Tell people not to climb unless they are trained, not to go unless they are completely equipped and to go only with a climber of ample experience."

Cascade and Olympic mountains, the lofty rock peaks and even the foothills are attracting more climbers than ever before. They are lured to the high country by the breathtaking beauty of the peaks and their shadows, the sweeping views and by an urge to conquer a strange and sometimes

deadly challenge of nature.

Instead of the usual one or two summer rescue missions, there have been six in 1952. This has been Daiber's busiest summer.

Daiber, however, is the first to point out that there are others who serve equally well and he doesn't claim to be the most skilled.

It was Wolf Bauer, a consulting engineer, who first realized the state needed a mountain rescue organization. He observed the work of the German Red Cross. Later he suggested a meeting and the Mountain Rescue and Safety Council was formed in 1947.

## LEGENDARY—

Almost as well known as Daiber is another of the founders, Dr. Otto Trott, who is medical director for the group. His capacity to respond whenever needed is becoming legendary.

Almost as soon as it was formed, the group was called on its first mission, one of death. They brought out the body of a young man. As they served again and again, they began to emphasize safety.

In this they were supported by their sponsoring organizations, the Mountaineers, Washington Alpine Club and Pacific Northwest Section of the National Ski Patrol. Cooperating agencies are the Washington State Patrol, United States Coast Guard, U. S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Washington State Aeronautical Commission, and the Air Search and Ground Rescue Unit at McChord Base.

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● ON HIS WAY—A coil of rope on his shoulder, Ome Daiber, expert mountain climber, packs to go to an accident scene high in the mountains. He is placing gear in a small trailer. One pair of boots is his. The other pair will be worn by another member of the rescue team.

—(Post-Intelligencer Photos.)