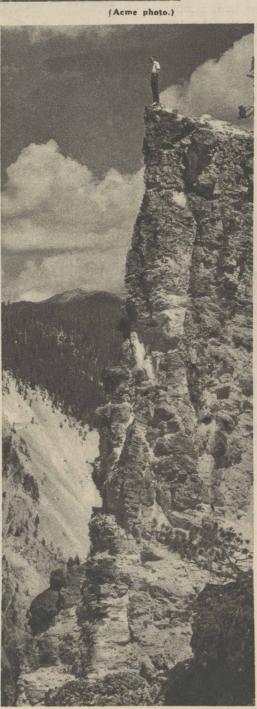






One of our commonest phobias, or fears, the psychologists say, is acrophobia, the morbid dread of being in a high place. In some persons this dread becomes a fascination—a great desire to throw oneself out into space. Some vestige of this psychosis probably motivates Noreen Leonard, 24 years old, as she sits on a tenth-story ledge of a San Diego hotel, threatening to jump. 7 After an hour of this sort of thrilla producing action Miss Leonard was dragged to safety. Some psychologists say that this dallying with the thought of jumping from a great height is a strongly developed reaction to an instinct left over from prehistoric days when most life was in the reptile or fish stage. Their theory is that the creature that was to become man in one stage of development was accustomed to the feeling of suspension in the medium in which he lived - namely, water. A recurrence of the instinctive desire to lose the feeling of weight causes the craze to jump.



3 From a dizzy pinnacle in Yellow-stone park this fear-conquering tourist views the valley below with little danger of giving in to the urge to jump. Mountain heights have been known, however, to affect some persons so strongly that anesthesia had to be resorted to before the climber





(Underwood & Underwood photo.) 4 Flying offers the average person little of the fearful reaction associated with high places because, according to one theory, there is no connecting line to the ground to give the sensation of height. Nevertheless stunt men and many pilots must conquer a fear of falling. Here is Al Wilson, aerial stunt man, who was killed in 1932.



8 Getting a vicarious thrill out of Warde's actions. So strong is the instinctive desire to jump that the mere thought brings a perverse sense of pleasure. Similar in effect is the toying with other fears, such as that of danger of accident in a fastmoving vehicle, be it auto or amusement park ride.