

that I am the only person over 80 years of age to reach the lake. The climbers crossed to Nepal Gap Glacier, on which they placed Camps I and II at 5200 and 5800 meters on September 25 and 27. Camp III was on the ridge between Gimmigela II and Sugarloaf at 6500 meters. Camp IV was placed just below the top of Gimmigela II at 6900 meters on October 9. Japanese Hideo Koike, Masanori Sato, Taroh Tanigawa and Indian Sherpas Phurba, Chuldin and Pasang Nima reached the summit of the east peak, Gimmigela II, (7005 meters, 22,982 feet) on October 13. At five A.M. on October 18, the final assault team left Camp V on the ridge between the main and east peaks for the main peak, Gimmigela I (7350 meters, 24,144 feet). A 7:30 A.M., the climbing leader, Masanori Sato, fell 35 meters into a hidden crevasse and was instantly killed. Despite all efforts, the others could not recover the body. Out of consideration for our lost friend, the expedition was terminated. The expedition leader was Tsuguyasu Itami.

KO YOSHIDA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

Kokthang Attempt. An Indian team led by Dilip Kolhatkar had the dubious distinction of being the first Indian expedition to run into trouble with the new Government of Sikkim rules for mountaineers. They were stopped at a local police check point and extra payment was demanded even though they had full clearance from the Government of India and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation. The authorities in Sikkim were highly uncooperative and they lost too many days there to make progress.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, Himalayan Journal*

Nepal

Kanchenjunga Attempt. Jean Troillet and I set out to climb the world's third highest peak by the southwest ridge to the south summit and then to traverse northwards on the long, high ridge to the main summit. We arrived at Base Camp at 5350 meters after a 14-day approach, during which I was seriously bitten by a dog. Unfortunately, both of us fell sick and did not recover until the beginning of October. We made our first real sortie on October 7. The condition of the snow was very bad and it took us 12 hours to climb 700 meters. We gave up the attempt.

ERHARD LORETAN, *Club Alpin Suisse*

Kumbhakarna East Attempt. To make the first ascent of the extremely steep east face of Kumbhakarna (Jannu) has been a Slovene project since 1991. This autumn's three-man party was the fourth Slovene group to plan its ascent. But Dušan Debelak and Tomaž Zerovnik could get no higher than 6800 meters before frequent stone avalanches drove them down to safety. The 7468-meter east summit of Kumbhakarna remains untrodden.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Makalu, Attempt by West Face and Ascent by Normal Route. Our expedition was composed of Italians Floriano Castelnovo, Fabio Iacchini, Fabrizio Manoni, Salvatore Panzeri, Dario Spreafico and me as leader, Czech Leopold Sulovsky, Slovene Miroslav Svetičič, German Wolfgang Thomaseth and Tamang porters Mingmar, Saila, Tirtha and Tek. From April 5 to May 17, we attempted the west face of Makalu, where we reached the top of the last snowfield at 7600 meters (not 7800 meters as claimed by others who had climbed to that point before us.) Our strongest team, Panzeri, Spreafico and Sulovsky, was not able to climb the first part of the rock above, which was very difficult and unsafe. On May 20, nine left Base Camp to try the normal route alpine-style. Bivouacs were made on May 20 and 21 at 6500 and 7500 meters. On May 22 at 2:30 P.M., Sulovsky, Panzeri, Spreafico, Manoni, Tirtha and Mingmar were on the summit. On the last part, from 8100 meters to the summit, they did not follow the normal route but took a new variant on the northeast ridge.

ORESTE FORNO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Makalu West Face Attempts. The west face of Makalu was also attempted by American Jeff Lowe and French climbers Catherine Destivelle and Erik Decamp. After acclimatization, they divided. Lowe turned to the route unsuccessfully tried in 1981 by Pole Wojciech Kurtyka and Briton Alex MacIntyre. He was dismayed to find that the Italians also had permission to attempt the same route and were a week ahead of him in going to the mountain. When he arrived at the foot of the face, he was, as he described it, "in a bit of a dilemma" about his own climb. He didn't want to join the Italians on their fixed ropes, but he "felt ridiculous" making his own line very near it. "I was quite de-motivated" by this situation, but he ascended the lower part of their route and then moved off to the right on a different line he liked better. After the Italians moved off to the normal route, Lowe now made preparations to solo his line and continue on up to finish at the south ridge and thence to the summit. But he was too late. He gained a high point of 7000 meters on May 23, but during the night of May 24 it snowed. So much avalanche debris backed up in the two chutes which met just below his "safe" bivouac site that his tent was buried and it took him three hours to dig himself out. The next day, a snowstorm dumped enough new snow to render the face completely out of condition and it appeared that the monsoon had arrived. On May 25, he quit. Meanwhile, Destivelle and Decamp had been climbing on the west buttress but there was too much snow on this route too after May 24. Strong winds had delayed their progress earlier in the month. They had reached 7650 meters on May 14 before descending to rest and then unsuccessfully making what they hoped would be their final push to the top.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Makalu Post-Monsoon Attempts. Four expeditions attempted unsuccessfully to climb Makalu (8463 meters, 27,766 feet). Six Australians and a New

Zealanders led by Ian Collins tried to ascend the west buttress and reached 6800 meters on October 1. They then turned to the west face-northwest ridge route and got to 7400 meters on October 15. Four Germans under the leadership of Jürgen Knappe also attempted the west buttress. They had to turn back at 6795 meters on October 2. Jiří Novák led four Czechs and two Italians on the Kukuczka route. Italian Rolando Nicco got to 8250 meters on October 10 and Simone Moro to about the same altitude the next day, but both were turned back by high winds and deep snow. Another historic climb was attempted by a French expedition led by Jean Coudray. They tried to make the first ascent of an 8000er by a blind person. Guy Gérard, a 48-year-old French postal worker who has been totally blind since the age of 30, was the central figure in a team of ten, including his wife and six professional mountain guides. He was a fast climber on snow and succeeded in reaching 7200 meters with Jean Coudray. The high point for this expedition was 8000 meters on October 7.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Makalu Correction, 1992. Despite what appeared on page 209 of *AAJ, 1993*, I was without French companions on my Makalu expedition: M. Estève and Dr. Senechal canceled out in July. Sherpas Na Temba, Ang Dorje and I twice reached Camp IV at 7800 meters (not 7400 meters) on September 27 and 28, 1992. Threatening bad weather made us turn back.

ANNIE BEGHIN, *Club Alpin Français*

Kangchungtse (Makalu II) Attempts. Two French expeditions failed in their attempts to climb Kangchungtse by its south ridge. A party of five led by François Lévêque got to 7400 meters on October 9, while four other Frenchmen led by Pierre Thèvenard had to turn back at 7200 meters on October 16.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Baruntse Ascents and Attempts in the Post-Monsoon. An expedition led by Ralf Dujmovits was composed of six Germans, one Swiss and one Czech. On October 15, Germans Dujmovits, Wolfgang Kunzendorf, Frau Helga Kowatsch, Manfred Kowatsch, Swiss Rafael Wellig and Sherpas Kami Tenji and Sangje climbed the south ridge to the summit (7129 meters, 23,389 feet). That same day, the leader of five French climbers, Alain Hirsch, also reached the top by the same route. Also on the south ridge were four Americans led by Christopher Brown, who had to turn back on October 25 at 6000 meters. Four Germans under the leadership of Jörg Zengerle unsuccessfully attempted the northeastern side of the peak, reaching a highpoint of 5800 meters on October 19. A French team of eight led by Pierre Brizzi had also hoped to climb the south ridge but did not get higher than Base Camp. Porters carrying their gear and food were

not properly outfitted for snow and cold, and the Frenchmen had to devote their energies to helping these poor people to survive.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Everest in the Pre-Monsoon Season. Everest overwhelmingly dominated Nepal's climbing scene this spring. Half of the 30 expeditions that went to Nepal came to Everest 40 years after its first ascent. Of the 429 men and women who went climbing above their Nepalese Base Camps, 294 were concentrated on Everest. Eighty-one of these 294 climbers, over a quarter, managed to reach the summit from Nepal and nine more got there from the northern slopes in Tibet. In about six weeks, more climbers summited Everest than in the 26 years from May 1953 to September 1979. On one day alone, May 10, 40 men and women, a record number for a single day, got to the top. This spring's unprecedented number of successes brought the grand total of all Everest summiters to 496 individuals in 575 ascents. (A number of climbers have reached the summit more than once.) Another unprecedented total was that of the total number of successful women, fourteen, one of whom, India's Santosh Yadav, was the first of her sex to make a second ascent; their triumphs in one season nearly doubled the previous total of women atop Everest: 16 since 1975. And another: of this spring's 90 summiters, 22 had been to the top before in previous years, and one, Ang Rita Sherpa, now made an historic *eighth* ascent. All the Everest summiters made their climbs by standard routes, via the South Col to the southeast ridge on the Nepalese side and via the North Col from Tibet. The few expeditions that attempted other routes either gave them up and went home or changed over to the South Col route and succeeded. None even attempted new routes.

At the foot of the Nepalese side, Base Camps for 15 teams were set up close together. Their approximately 200 Buddhist Sherpa climbers, cooks and other staff performed their usual rituals upon arrival in March and early April. On the 40th anniversary of Everest's first ascent on May 29, 1953, more teams signed up than in any previous season. Twenty were granted permits although only fifteen arrived. (Last spring 12 groups came and sent 55 people to the summit.) This large number was also due to mountaineers' eagerness to make their climbs before a steep increase in the fee charged by the Nepalese government goes into effect in the autumn. This rises on September 1 from the present \$10,000 for a team of one to nine members, plus \$1200 per additional member, to the new charge of \$50,000 for up to five members, \$10,000 for the sixth and seventh members each, and no more than seven members permitted. Furthermore, only one team will be given permission for each of Everest's four climbing routes in Nepal. Most of this season's 15 teams were crowded onto the single standard route leading to the southeast ridge. Several were commercial groups with professional mountaineers guiding inexperienced clients. Some had special motivations: the leader of an Australian team, Tashi Tenzing, is a grandson of Tenzing Norgay, who hoped to pay tribute to his illustrious

grandfather by following in his footsteps: with him was a nephew of Tenzing Norgay, and on another expedition was his niece. Others, both foreigners and Nepalese, aspired to be the first persons or the first women from their country to reach the top of the world or to achieve other historic "firsts." By and large, the teams got on well together and helped each other out in times of crisis. They joined in assisting in bringing the dead down off the mountain. Basques rescued a Briton, who would have died, and Tashi Tenzing talked down via his walkie-talkie two Americans whom he could see from afar were in difficulty finding the correct line to descend. But there was occasional friction as well. For the second successive year, Russians were charged with theft, helping themselves to oxygen bottles at the top camp, where their owners might have been put in danger when oxygen was badly needed; taking four pairs of high-altitude boots from a Korean camp and mats from a British tent and selling them in a village well below Base Camp. (A trial was held by some teams' government-appointed liaison officers in Namche and a Russian was found guilty in the case of the stolen boots.)

The tragic deaths of Mrs. Pasang Lhamu and Sonam Tshering (noted below) were unfortunately not the only fatalities on Everest. Three other men also died, all on the Nepalese side, all from falls, and two in descents from the summit. The first was Lobsang Tshering Bhutia, a 41-year-old nephew of Tenzing Norgay and like his famous uncle, a mountaineering instructor in Darjeeling. It is speculated that he became confused when his oxygen supply ran out, that he wandered off the correct line onto steep ground, fell and broke his skull. In the next week, two members of a Korean expedition perished in falls on separate routes. One, Nam Wan-Woo, ascended his team's original southwest face route, which he and his teammates had tried to scale and abandoned on May 5 at 8450 meters because of unstable snow. He was not an expert climber but he went up this difficult, steep face alone, nonetheless. He was seen to fall. A trail of blood was discovered leading to a bottomless crevasse. The other, An Jin-Seob, after they shifted to the South Col route, came down the southeast ridge from the summit, lost his way and fell on the very steep blue ice of the south pillar. There was very nearly another death on Everest. Briton Harry Taylor had been four times to Everest without summit success, as recently as last December. He was back again, climbing without artificial oxygen. He made it to the top this time, at about 10:30 A.M. on May 10, after having left his British team's South Col camp at eleven o'clock the previous night. He got into deep trouble on the descent. Others had seen him going up not wearing his goggles. He later swore that he had them on all the time—probably an indication that he was suffering from cerebral edema. Going down, he fell into a small crevasse and lost a crampon. He was now snow-blind and extremely tired. Not far above the South Col, he fell again, this time down an ice slope. He managed to arrest his slide but could no longer progress. He was out of sight of his teammates, who were camped on the col, getting ready for their own ascent the next day. Finally, at about ten P.M., he started shouting for help. His calls were heard and heeded by Basques on the col. They got to him at 10:30

and in 15 minutes they had him down to the col and inside a British tent. The Basques said that he was in such extreme condition that he would have died in about a half an hour if they had not rescued him. He was suffering from snow-blindness, hyperthermia, cerebral edema, dehydration, exhaustion and frostbitten nose and toes. Once he was delivered to the British, they took care of him. Rebecca Stephens stayed to look out for him instead of trying for the summit the next day. (She did summit a few days later, the first British woman to do so.) After Taylor refused for some time to have oxygen administered, she finally told him to shut up and shoved an oxygen mask onto his face. Thus, he made an oxygenless ascent but not an oxygenless descent. He was not fit to go anywhere on the 11th. John Barry stayed with him while Stephens descended. On the 12th, the two men started down, and on the 14th, Taylor got to Base Camp. He was evacuated by helicopter from there to Kathmandu and caught a flight to England the same day. His next stop was a British hospital.

After the ascent by Mrs. Pasang Lhamu and her party on April 22, no one summited from Nepal until May 10, but then it seemed that everyone succeeded at once. Harry Taylor had been the first to set out for the top. Others also began their ascents late on the 9th. The first to arrive was American Alex Lowe, who was making his second ascent and got there about 9:30 A.M. By the time the last man, Russian Aleksei Mouravlev, arrived after one P.M., an astonishing total of 40 men and women from Australia, Britain, Canada, Finland, India, South Korea, Lithuania, Nepal, New Zealand, Russia and the United States had made it successfully on that single day. Some had to wait their turn at the foot of the Hillary step and again for those ahead of them to finish taking pictures and move off the limited space on the very top. Again, a similar situation developed on May 16, when the summiters totaled 29 people from India, South Korea, Nepal, Russia, Spain and the United States. Amongst the many summit "firsts" on Everest were: the first Irishman, Dawson Stelfox; the first Finn, Veikka Gustafsson; the first Lithuanian, Vladas Vitkauskas (He arrived in Kathmandu with his own gear early in the season looking for a team to attach himself to for a payment considerably less than the full permit fee. After having talked to several teams, Vitkauskas became a "member"—but a silent and independent one—of Pasang Lhamu's expedition); the first Taiwanese, Wu Chin-Hsiung, a member of a Sino-Taiwanese expedition, which represented the first mountaineering collaboration between mainland China and the island nation; the first women from Britain (Rebecca Stephens), Korea (Kim Soon-Joo, Ji Hyun-Ok and Choi Oh-Soon) and Nepal (Pasang Lhamu); the youngest woman, 19, Indian Radha Devi Thakur; the oldest woman, 47, American Dolly Lefever; the first woman of any nation to make her second ascent, Indian Santosh Yadav; the first person to make his eighth ascent, Ang Rita Sherpa, who is still getting to the top despite his advancing years. (He is at least in his late 40s. No other person has summited more than five times, and no non-Sherpa more than three.)

There were two Everest teams that were notable non-starters. One was a Russian-Ukrainian-French team for the southwest face direct. The other was a

clean-up party, which was supposed to go as high as the South Col to remove the accumulated rubbish of earlier years, especially empty oxygen cylinders, broken tent poles and one or two dead bodies. First it was to be a French team led by Philippe Royer, who in February said he was organizing an expedition costing \$740,000 that would provide Sherpas with lightweight sleds to pull the junk down the mountain. Then in April came the news from Vancouver that a Canadian group headed by Joe Cadham was entering the scene with two helicopters to lift the debris from the col. Soon afterwards, Royer dropped out, citing differences with the Canadians and asserting that there is no helicopter that can do the job. The Canadians actually came to Nepal. Two climbers went to Base Camp, but plans for them and 30 Sherpas to move up to the col to make the rubbish ready for being lifted off were never put into effect after arrangements for the helicopters' insurance were not completed in time to start work. Finally they went home, saying they wanted to come back next year.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Mount Everest, Nepal Pre-Monsoon Summary. 6 *Nepalese* led by Mrs. Pasang Lhamu Sherpa, Summit reached on April 22 by Mrs. Pasang Lhamu Sherpa and Sherpas Sonam Tshering, Dawa Tashi, Lhakpa Nuru, Pemba Nuru, Nawang Thile. Pasang Lhamu and Sonam Tshering died on the descent; 23 *Americans*, 1 *Canadian*, 1 *South African* led by Todd Burleson, Summit reached on May 10 by Americans Alex Lowe, John Helenek, John Dufficy, Wally Berg, Canadian Michael Sutton and Sherpas Apa, Dawa Nuru, Chuldin Temba; 14 *South Koreans* led by Miss Ji Hyun-Ok, Summit reached on May 10 by Miss Ji Hyun-Ok, Miss Kim Soon-Joo, Miss Choi Oh-Soon and Sherpas Ang Dawa, Ang Tshering, Sona Dendu, Rinzin; 8 *Australians*, 1 *Macedonian*, 1 *Indian* led by Tashi Tenzing, Summit reached on May 10 by Australian Michael Groom, Indian Lobsang Tshering Bhutia, the second of whom died in a fall on the descent; 9 *Britons* led by John Barry, Summit reached on May 10 by Harry Taylor and on May 17 by Miss Rebecca Stephens and Sherpas Ang Pasang and Kami Tshering; 14 *Indians* and 2 *Nepalese* led by Miss Bachendri Pal, Summit reached on May 10 by Indians Miss Dickey Dolma, Miss Santosh Yadav, Miss Kunga Bhutia, Baldev Kunwer and Sherpas Ongda Chiring, Na Temba, Kosang Dorje, Dorje and on May 16 by Indians Miss Radha Devi Thakur, Rajiv Sharma, Miss Deepu Sharma, Mrs. Savita Martolia, Miss Norbu Dolma, Miss Suman Kutiyal and Sherpas Nima Dorje, Tenzing, Lobsang Jangbu, Nga Temba; 6 *Americans* originally led by Paul Pfau, who became sick and never reached Base Camp and passed leadership to Michael Sinclair, Summit reached on May 10 by Miss Mary (Dolly) Lefever, Mark Selland, Charles Armatys, Pema Temba Sherpa and Moti Lal Gurung and on May 16 by Michael Sinclair, Mark Rabold, Phinzo Sherpa, Dorje Sherpa, Durga Tamang. Climbing co-leader Dan Aguilar selflessly assisted in the evacuation of the bodies of Mrs. Pasang Lhamu Sherpa and Lobsang Tshering Bhutia and so gave up any chance for the summit; 7 *New Zealanders*, 1 *Briton*, 1 *Frenchman*, 1 *Finn* led by Rob

Hall, Summit reached on May 10 by Finn Veikka Gustafsson, New Zealanders Mrs. Jan Arnold, Rob Hall, Jonathan Gluckman and Sherpas Ang Chumbi, Ang Dorje, Nuru; *1 Lithuanian*, Summit reached on May 10 by Vladas Vitkauskas; *9 Russians and 1 Belarus* led by Aleksandr Volgin, Attempt on west ridge failed at 6800 meters on April 26, Summit reached on May 10 by Aleksei Muraviov, on May 15 by Vladimir Janochkin, on May 16 by Vladimir Bashkirov, on May 17 by Vladimir Koroteyev, all Russians; *9 Spanish Catalans* led by Lluís Belvis, Summit reached on May 16 by Josep Pujante, Ang Phurba Sherpa, on May 17 by Oscar Cadiach; *9 Spanish Basques* led by Josu Feijoo, Summit reached on May 16 by Joxe Maria Oñate, Alberto Zerain, José Ramón Aguirre and Sherpas Jongbu and Ang Rita (this was the eighth ascent of Everest by Ang Rita); *3 Americans and 1 Australian* led by Keith Brown, Summit reached on May 16 by Americans Jan Harris, Keith Brown; *7 South Koreans* led by Lee Jong-Ryang, Attempt on southwest face failed at 8450 meters on May 5, Summit reached by South Col on May 16 by Park Young-Seok, An Jin-Seob, Kim Tae-Kon, Kaji Sherpa; Nam Wan-oo died in a fall on the southwest face and An Jin-Seob fell as he descended from the summit. All these ascents were completed via the South Col and southeast ridge. *13 South Koreans* led by Jeon Byoung-Man attempted unsuccessfully to climb the south pillar to the southeast ridge, reaching 8600 meters on May 8.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Everest, First Ascent by a Nepalese Woman and Tragedy. The first to climb Everest from Nepal in the pre-monsoon were Nepalese, who reached the top on April 22 via the South Col and southeast ridge. There had been drama from the very inception of this Nepalese Women's Sagarmatha Expedition. (Sagarmatha is the Nepalese name for Everest.) It was organized to place the first Nepalese woman at the top of the world. Eighty-one Nepalese men had already been there, 23 of them more than once, but no Nepalese woman. Earlier in the year, India urged the Nepalese authorities to give a climbing permit to Indian women to celebrate Tenzing's historic ascent and in return the Indians offered to include three Nepalese women, including Mrs. Pasang Lhamu Sherpa. She had already been three times on Everest and felt entitled to co-leadership. The Indians declined to accept her on those terms. She then decided that she must have an expedition of her own, knowing that one of the Nepalese women who did accept the Indian invitation was capable of being a summitter. She and her husband Lhakpa Sonam Sherpa, director of a prominent Kathmandu trekking agency, hurriedly put together a team to try to get her to the top first. Actually, she was a 30-year-old housewife and mother of three children aged 7, 9 and 13, who occasionally led treks in Nepal. Before leaving Kathmandu, she stated that she was "determined to climb Sagarmatha on behalf of Nepalese women without caring for my life." It is clear that she was competing fiercely with her compatriot on the Indian team. She herself was not an expert mountaineer. A disaffected woman member of her own expedition claims she did not know how

to down-climb with crampons and had to descend sideways. In her three Everest attempts in 1990, 1991 and 1992, she was an extremely slow climber, especially in descent. Sonam Tshering Sherpa, already a four-time Everest summiter and member of her "high-altitude support team," thought they should pitch an extra camp at 8500 meters, but this idea was ignored. When Pasang Lhamu with Sherpas Sonam Tshering, Dawa Tashi, Lhakpa Nuru, Pemba Nuru and Nawang Thile set out shortly after midnight on April 22 from the South Col for the summit, they carried no sleeping bags nor bivouac equipment except a lightweight wind sheet. One of the men explained that this was because each man was carrying a 26-kilo (57-pound) load of oxygen bottles for themselves and for Pasang Lhamu, while she carried only one bottle for herself. This she transferred to one of the men and thereafter took her oxygen from it by a long hose. They had no walkie-talkie and they dropped their headlamps at dawn. Determined to stay ahead of the Indian women, they were completely on their own, without communications equipment, no support climbers on the South Col and no potential support from any other teams, since no one else had camped at the col yet. Pasang Lhamu was as usual extremely slow on her ascent to the summit, and so was Sonam Tshering, who had been immensely strong last year in his fourth ascent, but clearly now was not. Most climbers take about ten hours from the South Col to the summit, but this party took 14¼ hours. Most take an hour or less from the summit down to the south summit, 100 meters below, but they took 4½. Pasang Lhamu had to be dragged down to it and Sonam Tshering was even slower than she and was coughing up blood. Three of the male Sherpas went ahead, but Pemba Nuru stayed with the ailing pair in an unprepared bivouac on the south summit, unable to communicate with the three who had gone ahead. Their last supply of oxygen ran out. Sonam Tshering coughed blood all night and spoke of great pain. When Pemba Nuru insisted on resuming the descent in the morning, Sonam Tshering was too sick to stand up and Pasang Lhamu was so dizzy when she stood up that she fell over twice. Pemba Nuru went down to the South Col to send up the other three with oxygen. More oxygen never reached them. The trio at the col were too exhausted to try. When other Sherpas attempted to get to the bivouac on the following day, the 24th, fierce winds drove them back. It was not until May 10 that anyone got there. Pemba Nuru was one of those who did, and he found Pasang Lhamu sitting in death with her back to the 40° slope just as he had last seen her alive on the morning of April 23. Sonam Tshering was not there, but his backpack was. Pemba Nuru speculates that he must have pitched over the huge east face into Tibet. Pasang Lhamu has now practically been canonized by Nepalese political leaders and the press, most of whom had never paid serious attention to mountaineering accomplishments since Tenzing Norgay scaled Everest 40 years ago. "Pasang has carved an enviable niche in the history of mountaineering where she will stay till eternity, commanding the adoration of all those who love dignity, courage and bravery" was a typical newspaper comment. The nation's prime minister sent a message of condolence to her family, saying "the name and fame of Pasang Lhamu Sherpa, who proved that Nepali women are

also endowed with such tremendous courage, will ever be remembered." The King sent his own condolences. A street is to be named for her in Kathmandu, a city where most streets have no names. A Pasang Lhamu Mountaineering Institute has been established. Postage stamps with her picture are to be issued. A memorial to her is to be erected in Namche Bazar. The government of Nepal is giving the equivalent of \$10,000, a huge sum in Nepal, for the education of her children. One of the highest awards at the King's disposal, the Star of Nepal, has been conferred on her posthumously.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Everest Post-Monsoon Ascents and Tragedy and Lhotse. Aside from the Himalayan Kingdoms Expedition described below, two other groups climbed Everest. A French military expedition of nine led by Alain Estève climbed the South Col route. On October 6, François Bernard, Antoine Cayrol, Eric Gramond and Sherpas Gyalbu and Dawa Tashi reached the top, followed on the 9th by Estève, Hubert Giot and Sherpas Nuru and Gombu. On October 4, Gerard Vionnet-Fuasset and Nuru Sherpa ascended Lhotse by the normal route on the west face. Eight Spanish Basques were on the South Pillar route. On October 7, leader Juan Oiarzabal and Ongda Chhiring Sherpa completed the ascent. Tragically, one member of this party, Antonio Miranda, died in a fall on October 7.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Everest, Age Record and Himalayan Kingdoms Expedition. Our international post-monsoon Himalayan Kingdoms Expedition via the South Col was led by Britons Stephen Bell assisted by Roger Mear and Martin Barnicott. On October 7, Britons Bell, Ginette Harrison, Graham Hoyland, Scott McIver, Spaniard Ramón Blanco, who lives in Venezuela, Sherpas Na Temba, Pasang Kami and Dorje, and I from the United States reached the summit, followed on October 9 by Britons Barnicott, David Hempleman-Adams, American Lee Nobbman and Sherpas Tenzing, Nga Temba, Lhakpa Gelu and Ang Pasang. Ginette Harrison was the second British woman to climb Everest and Ramón Blanco at 60 years of age became the oldest person to stand on the summit. He was five years older than American Dick Bass had been when in 1985 he had set the age record. We had originally planned to attempt the summit as a single team, but an enormous avalanche on the Lhotse Face wiped Camp III at 24,000 feet off the mountain. The loss of tents and gear necessitated dividing the group for two attempts.

GARY PEISTERER

Additional Information on Himalayan Kingdoms Expedition. Sixty-year-old Ramón Blanco had a brush with death during the descent when his supply of

oxygen ran out as he was coming down the Hillary Step, not far below the summit. He passed out and was saved by the Spanish Basque team, who supplied him with some of their oxygen—and while reviving him, deprived one of their own members, a potential summitter, from making use of it. Blanco was helped to reach his expedition's highest camp after nightfall. He managed to descend off the mountain safely, but eight days later, I saw him in his comfortable Kathmandu hotel, still a rather tired man. The Himalayan Kingdoms Expedition was punished by the Nepalese authorities for being too successful and sending too many members to the summit. Under the new rules, not only did the peak fee go up, but the total number of foreign members permitted went down, with a maximum of seven allowed. Actually Stephen Bell's commercial, guided expedition had eleven clients and three guides, as well as 14 high-altitude Sherpas (and the unusually large total of 59 bottles of artificial oxygen, for all of which supplies and services each client paid \$32,000). Bell thought he had a way to make it possible to take 14 members to Everest at a reasonable cost. He divided them into two teams with one holding a permit for Everest with a fee of \$70,000 and the other allowed to climb Lhotse for just \$9600. He says he understood from middle-level officials in the Tourism Ministry in Kathmandu that it would be all right for those on the Lhotse list to go to the summit of Everest provided he paid the extra fee of \$10,000 for each summitter afterwards. Four of his Lhotse team went to the summit of Everest. The tourism officials deny that they had agreed to let anyone from the Lhotse list go to Everest and stated that four climbers had not confined themselves to their permitted peak but had "climbed Everest without permission," an act subject to punishment. The fine was set at \$100,000. Himalayan Kingdoms is appealing the severity of this fine on what Bell describes as an "enormous misunderstanding."

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Everest, Southwest Face in Winter. The southwest face of Everest, very seldom successfully scaled in any season, saw its first ascent in wintertime by a small but highly experienced team of seven Japanese aided by 28 strong Sherpas in the unusually short climbing period of only three weeks. In the Japanese leadership were three Himalayan veterans: Kuniaki Yagihara, leader, who stayed at Base Camp throughout the climb (Everest teams on the Nepalese side are now allowed only seven foreign members, so he was at Base Camp with just a trekking permit), plus deputy leader Yoshio Ogata and climbing leader Hideji Nazuka. The seven Everest climbing members, plus Yagihara, five more compatriots and five of their Sherpa, climbed Cho Oyu in the autumn, which gave them good acclimatization. Their use of artificial oxygen when they went to the summit minimized the likelihood of frostbite. They then spent three weeks resting in Kathmandu and lowland Nepal before returning to the high mountains. When the Japanese arrived at Base Camp on November 21, two of their Cho Oyu teammates had already established the camp and supervised the arrival of 13 tons

of food, tents and clothing. Their equipment included a special light platform for their highest camp, 6000 meters of rope for fixing the route in the Khumbu Icefall and up much of the face and 96 bottles of oxygen, of which they used 65. Having struggled in the winter of 1991–2 in their first attempt to climb the face, they knew the route, which was the same line taken in the autumn of 1975 in the first successful ascent of the face by the British led by Chris Bonington and the one they had tried two years before. In the last half of November, the Sherpa's had made the route through the Khumbu Icefall with 50 ladders and 2000 meters of fixed rope. They had carried loads to the top of it to the site of Camp I. The Japanese made a quick climb of Pokalde (5806 meters, 19,049 feet). Well acclimatized and fit, on December 1, the first official day of the winter season, seven re-acclimatized members and a number of Sherpas moved through the icefall. By that afternoon, six Japanese were established at Camp II at 6500 meters at the foot of the face. Little snow falls in the winter and there was only one day when new snow fell all day long. However, on the face there was falling rock, blown loose by strong winds, and several climbers' headlamps and goggles were damaged, but no one was hurt. The problems were the wind and cold. At Base Camp, the temperature fell to -16°C . One day at the highest camp, Camp IV at 8350 meters, it was -36°C . The wind above the south summit was so fierce that the summiters could not see Makalu, not far away to the east. Between Camp II and the south summit, they fixed 3635 meters of rope. After joining the normal southeast-ridge route, on the Hillary Step they had no need for fixed rope as plenty had been left there by previous expeditions. The successful summiters were Hideji Nazuka and Fumiaki Goto on December 18, Osamu Tanabe and Sinsuke Exuka on the 20th and Yoshio Ogata and Ryushi Hoshino on the 22nd. The seventh climbing member had developed chest pains on arriving at Camp IV on December 13 and was forced to abandon the climb. With the use of bottled oxygen while sleeping and climbing at and above their two highest camps, they suffered no serious frostbite.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Ama Dablam, Solo Winter Ascent of West Face, 1992. Yasushi Yamanoi's solo winter ascent of a new route on the west face of Ama Dablam on December 6 and 7, 1992 was mentioned in *AAJ*, 1993. There are more details and photographs of this remarkable climb in *Iwa To Yuki* of April, 1993.

Ama Dablam, Pre-Monsoon Ascent and Attempt. An expedition of 11 Americans and a Briton to Ama Dablam's southeast ridge was led by Scott Fischer. On April 24, Americans Fischer and Stephen Shrader reached the summit. Slovenes Bojan Počkar and Štefan Mlinarič attempted a route on the northwest face of Ama Dablam where Počkar and Vanja Furlan had failed in 1989. On May 3, the Slovenes got to 5600 meters, but they found the ice in such bad condition that they quit.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Ama Dablam in the Post-Monsoon. Ten teams went to Ama Dablam (6812 meters, 22,349 feet), nine of them to the standard southwest-ridge route, and there were the usual problems of coordinating climbers' movements on the narrow ridge with little space for pitching tents. Somehow they managed, and all the normal-route teams sent at least one member to the top, with Swiss Aldo Verazoli, leader of a *Swiss expedition of three*, achieving a rare solo ascent on October 25. The other successful groups were *5 Germans and 2 South Tiroleans* led by Hans Kammerlander, of whom South Tiroleans Kammerlander, Werner Tinkhauser, Germans Michael Kobl and Günter Schweizer reached the top on October 15; *4 Americans* led by Douglas Chabot put Chabot, Peter Carse and Timothy Howard on the top on October 16, along with Joe Lackey of a *2-man American* party led by Todd Wells; *8 Germans* led by Anton Dallmair with summiters Jörg Hanel and Paul Baierlacher on October 16, Dallmair and Michael Lindenmeyer on October 17, Karen Grünberg (f) on October 19, Wolfgang Müller and Klaus Weichert on October 20 and Gerold Sopper and Sarke Lama Sherpa on October 21; all *7 Venezuelans* led by Marcos Tobia reached the summit: Tobia, Alfredo Autiero and Martín Echevarría on October 17, José Delgado and Carlos Calderas on October 19 and Pablo Borjas and Hans Schwarzer on October 20; *6 Frenchmen* led by Dominique Ripoll had as summiters Jean-Michel Paulik and Yves Gueslain on November 5 and Ripoll, Christian Pellet and Cédric Pellet on November 6; *6 Germans* led by Manfred Zink placed Zink, Harald Wilner, Thomas Zenz and Andreas Neudert on top on November 7; *7 Frenchmen* led by Paul Grobel placed François Damilano on the summit on November 4, Françoise Denais (f) and Sonam Dendu Sherpa on November 6, Bernard Cabrol on November 7 and Grobel and Stéphane Guillot on November 9. The last team also attempted the west face, reaching a high point of 6600 meters on November 8. The expedition that attempted the northeast ridge was led by Swiss Karl Kobler and was composed of *7 Swiss, 1 Austrian and 1 Briton*. They got to 6200 meters on October 4.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Ama Dablam, Winter Ascents and Attempt. There were four expeditions on Ama Dablam in December of 1993, all on the normal southwest ridge. A South Korean expedition led by Yoon Kwang may be punished by the Nepalese authorities for completing almost all of their ascent before the starting date of the winter season, December 1. The five-man group began its ascent on November 21 and it was on December 1 that Cho Kwang-Jae, Kim Dae-Young, Song Hoon-Jae and porter Ang Dawa Sherpa went to the top from Camp IV. Seven Americans put five members on the summit on December 6: Bill Crouse, leader, Todd McDougall, Kevin Lundy, Kathy Zaiser and Robert Ziegler. The Tourism Ministry raised another problem for them. They had permission for Ama Dablam and also Cholatse, and they had paid the peak fees for both. They were told by officials in Kathmandu that they would have to have separate liaison officers for the climbs and this meant an additional cost of \$1500 or

more. The self-financed party did not have the extra funds, so they dropped their plans for Cholatse, thereby forfeiting the fee they had already paid for that peak. All of another American party got to the summit: Jim Olson and Sean Sullivan on December 6 and leader Jim Williams and Mrs. Lily Leonard on the 8th. Five Japanese, led by Hiroshi Nakamura, reached a high point of 6300 meters on January 8, 1994.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Kangtega, Northeast Buttress. The German Alpine Club (DAV) Training Expedition was led by me. After an 11-day approach from Jiri, we set up Base Camp on September 21 at 4900 meters on the moraine-covered Hinku Nup Glacier. It snowed for the next week. On the 28th, we established Advance Base at 5100 meters at the foot of the Kangtega Glacier. We fixed 700 meters of rope on the rock spur on the right (north) of that glacier, which gave us access to the glacier itself. On October 1, we dug a snow cave on the glacier at 6080 meters. Following the 1986 route of Jay Smith, Mark Hesse and Wally Teare, on October 3 Bruno Bayer and Christian Treimer reached the summit. Other summit climbs were as follows: Joachim Alle, Gerhard Wagner, Michael Wegner on the 4th, Robert Rackl, Gerhard Mülstegen on the 6th, Andreas Sippel, Alexander Issler, Dieter Elsner on the 7th and Wolfram Schröter, Jens Webersinn on the 9th.

DIETER ELSNER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Pumori Attempt. Hall Wendel, two Sherpas Indra and Nuru and I made an unsuccessful attempt to climb Pumori by the southeast face to the east ridge. We arrived at Base Camp on April 3 and the next day began fixing ropes toward Camp I. We established Camps I and II at 6400 and 6700 meters on April 6 and 8. We reached a high point of 6860 meters on April 11, where we were blocked by a huge sérac/crevasse barrier surrounding the summit slopes. We would have needed rocket packs or 50 ladders to get over it!

ED VIESTURS

Pumori Ascents, Tragedy and Attempt. An expedition led by Briton Henry Todd had 7 British, 4 Polish climbers and one each from Switzerland, the United States and New Zealand. They climbed the normal southeast ridge and face. On October 25, Poles Ryszard Pawłowski, Aleksandra Tomkowicz (f) and Ryszard Knapczyk got to the summit (7161 meters, 23,494 feet). They were followed on the 27th by Briton Alec McNab and American Dale Wang and on the 31st by Britons Lester Gray, Max Dubois and Poles Jan Orłowski and Pawłowski a second time. Timothy Brill led 10 Americans on the same route. On October 25, Don Beavon and William Pierson climbed to the top followed on the 27th by Gregory Gordon and Pasquale Sacturro. Tragically, Gordon died

the next day in a fall. An expedition of seven Greeks led by Epaminondas Nikas reached a high point of 6300 meters on October 19.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Lobuje Southeast, Southeast Face, 1992. A Korean team led by Kim Jae-Soo made what is probably a new route on the 750-meter-high southeast face of the southeast summit (c. 5970 meters) of Lobuje East. They made two unsuccessful attempts on September 5 and 11, 1992. Leader Kim, Lee Sung-Chun and Park Young-Sik started the final ascent on September 15, 1992, helped by ropes fixed during the attempts. After 13 difficult pitches they were caught by bad weather but continued up the 6½ pitches to the top without more fixed rope. The new route began left of the broad buttress and left of the 1990 Czech alpine-style direttissima of Miroslav and Michal Coubal. The two lines joined after a few pitches. Then the Korean route went 20 to 50 meters to the left before crossing the Czech route in the upper part of the face.

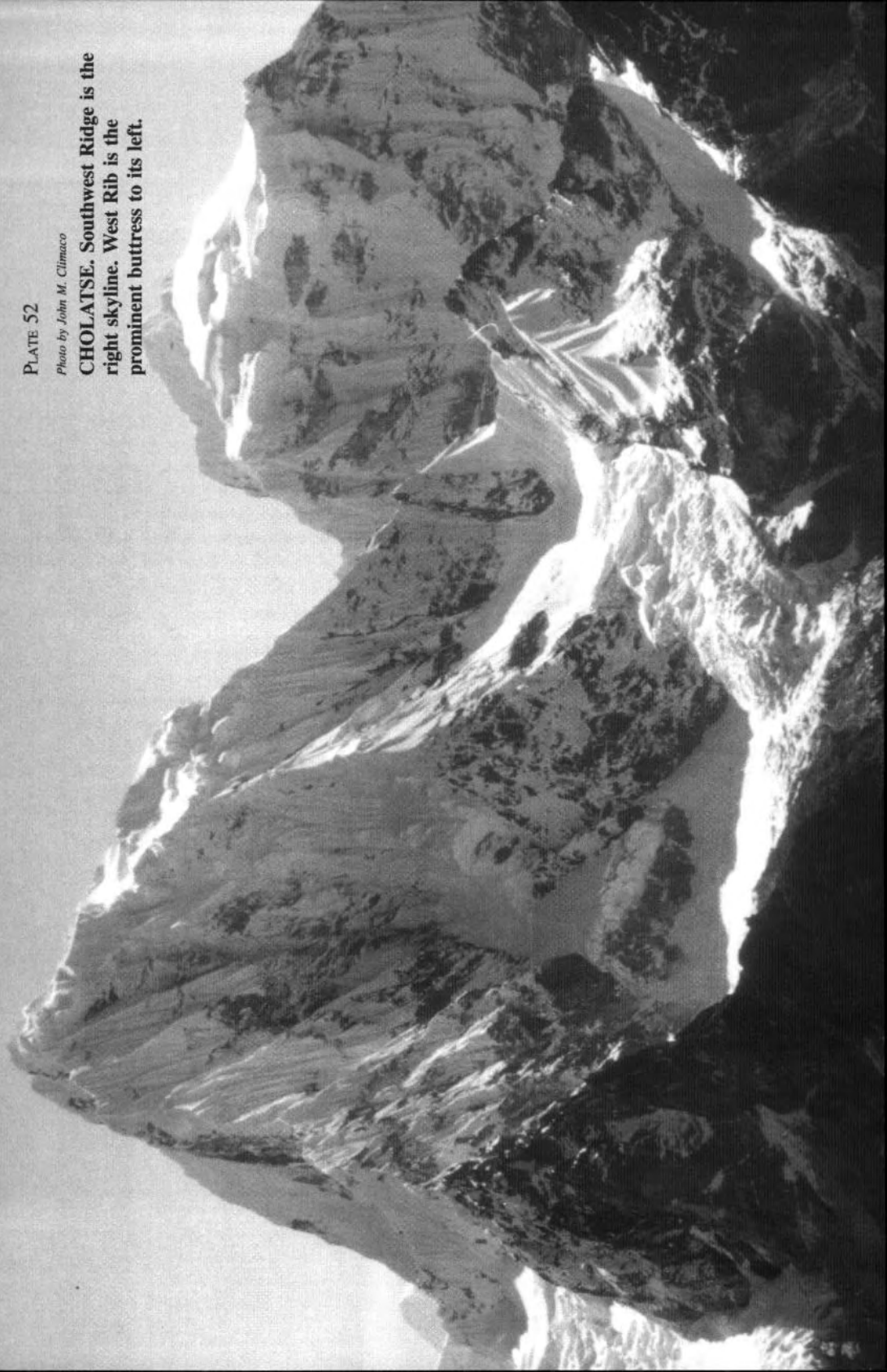
JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Taternik, Poland*

Cholatse. Our members were Americans Nick Beatty, Chris Breemer, Rob Cassady, Glenn Dunmire, Ed Webster and I, Canadian Andrew Brash and Argentine Tom Heinrich. We established Base Camp below the west side of the peak on October 4. Dunmire and Webster were hoping to climb a new line on the left of the face, joining the northwest ridge while the rest of us were looking to the right side after a "warm-up" on the southwest ridge. A week spent watching the face gave no encouragement that it could be climbed safely with bombardments coming from the summit séracs. On October 15, our first night in Advance Base, the matter was settled. At 1:55 A.M., a chunk of the upper west face, 200 feet across and 100 feet high, broke off and pulverized on its 6000-foot ride to the valley, nearly flattening the tents at Advance Base and dusting Base Camp with snow a mile away. We established Camp I on the southwest ridge at 18,000 feet on October 16. On October 18, we moved to a bivouac in a wind scoop below the prominent tower at 19,000 feet. Here we found the broken adze of John Roskelley's axe, undisturbed for 11 years. Unfortunately, Beatty had to descend to Base Camp with bronchitis. Threatening weather delayed us until ten P.M. on October 19 when we climbed to our highest bivouac at 20,000 feet. Climbing through the night was gripping with the south and west faces yawning below. Sunrise found us following Brash on three brilliant traversing leads over 75° rotten ice to reach the summit ridge. That same day, Webster and Dunmire arrived at their first bivouac on the west rib. On October 21, Breemer, Cassady, Brash and I reached the summit (6440 meters, 21,129 feet), which is about the size of a desk chair. Meanwhile Webster and Dunmire were on the west rib. After a second bivouac, they climbed a nearly vertical 300-foot pitch, but a chunk of falling debris tore Dunmire's rotator cuff. They topped out on October 23, the same day the southwest-ridge

PLATE 52

Photo by John M. Climaco

CHOLATSE. Southwest Ridge is the right skyline. West Rib is the prominent buttress to its left.



team returned to Base Camp. We had left rappel anchors for them on the southwest ridge. It was only upon their not reaching the second anchor that they realized we were using two 50m ropes while they had one of 300 feet. Despite being 15 feet short on all dozen rappels in the dark, they returned safely to Base Camp on October 24.

JOHN M. CLIMACO

Cholatse Winter Attempt. Two Australians and a Briton led by Armando Corvini attempted to make a winter ascent of Cholatse. On November 26, they got to 5000 meters on the west face and on December 5, to 5900 meters on the northwest ridge.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Cho Oyu from Nepal in the Pre-Monsoon Season. There was nothing new or unclimbed about the ascents on Cho Oyu (8201 meters, 26,906 feet) made by expeditions in the spring of 1993. All the Cho Oyu teams, three from Nepal and seven with permits to climb from Tibet, basically used the same route on the west side of the peak pioneered by the Austrian Tichy in 1954. Twenty-six men and women reached Cho Oyu's summit this season, bringing the grand total of summitters to 362, of whom only 35 have climbed any other route. What was new on Cho Oyu this spring was the unexpected reception given by Tibetan security men to the teams that had the Nepalese government's permission to climb in Nepal but, like many others before them, crossed the international border without authorization to follow in Tibet the Tichy route to the summit. Each of the three parties from Nepal, one German and two Spanish, had pitched two camps in Tibet and expected to climb to the summit soon when, in late April, the Germans were accosted by Tibetan police. Sherpas from a large expedition of Swiss and Austrians, authorized to climb on the Tibetan side, had met with the police at their Base Camp because of problems with bandits in the area. They had also complained that climbers had come over from Nepal and crowded onto their route. The police then went up to meet the Germans. The German leader of six Germans and two Austrians, Peter Guggemos, was told he could pay \$15,000 to continue, almost twice what each client had paid him. The police escorted him down to the Swiss Base Camp. After three hours of negotiations, it was agreed that he could pay \$5000 for his group to resume their ascent. He rushed down to his base on the Nepalese side to fetch the necessary funds. One of his party, German Georg Seifried, reached the summit on April 26. Eight Spaniards led by José Joaquín Betelu and solo Spaniard Gumersindo Ibañez decided not to risk being caught and retreated from 5600 and 6600 meters respectively.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Cho Oyu from the South in the Post-Monsoon. By the end of this autumn, a total of some 400 people have claimed success on Cho Oyu—although some

of them may actually have stopped at a slightly lower summit than its highest point (8201 meters, 26,906 feet). This season, of the 39 who made the climb, all but four were on the normal route, first climbed in 1954 by Herbert Tichy. The many summiters belonged to 10 of the 15 teams on the mountain, eight of whom had permits from the Tibetan authorities while the other seven crossed the border from Nepal without permission. Several teams without Tibetan permits had earlier obtained Nepalese permission and planned to cross the border illegally, but after they heard of Tibetan security men demanding money last spring from climbers who had come across from Nepal, they cancelled their Nepalese permits and got Tibetan ones. They need not have bothered; none of the parties from Nepal encountered any police or army, and they were able to cross the border at will. Indeed, one small European group did not trouble to obtain permission from anyone; they simply went trekking, crossed the frontier, quickly climbed the mountain and came back to Nepal again in a nine-day round-trip journey from the Nepalese village of Thami. (They had very recently done a more leisurely unauthorized ascent of Shisha Pangma and were well acclimatized to high altitudes.) There is also a report of a Korean and two Sherpas arriving on Cho Oyu from Nepal without authorization, who climbed high, possibly to the summit. A number of expeditions did cross the frontier from Nepal. *Five Spaniards* were led by Juan Antonio Serrano. The leader joined Koreans led by Kang Tae-Sun, who came from Tibet, and they all reached the summit on September 10. (For the Korean ascent, see the section on Tibet.) Another expedition of *four Spaniards* led by Carles Figueras joined with *seven other Spaniards*, led by José Ramón Lasa. On September 21, Francesc Campos and Berenguer Sabadell from the first group got to the summit. On September 30, Joan Cardona teamed up with Lasa and climbed to the top. Jesús Gómez led *five Spaniards* to the mountain at the same time as Czech Ludek Ondrej brought *three Czechs* and *four Spaniards* there. On October 8, Jesús García of the first group and Carlos Pitarch of the second climbed to the summit. On October 10, Jesús Gómez, Yolanda Martín (f) and Joseba Agirrezabal (f) made the ascent. On October 31, *Spaniard* Manuel de la Matta and *Frenchwoman* Chantal Mauduit reached the summit. This was the third 8000er for her.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Cho Oyu Winter Ascent and Tragedy, 1994. The last of the winter expeditions to get to their Base Camp were two Swiss and four Spaniards, who got to the foot of Cho Oyu from Nepal on January 8, 1994. They were not a closely knit party but a collection of Europeans who wanted to climb Cho Oyu as cheaply as possible. The co-leaders were Swiss Jean-Luc Beausire and Juan Carlos Piedra (actually with dual Swiss-Spanish nationality), who wanted to share the \$8000 peak fee and other costs. They advertised for more climbers. Spaniards Juanjo Garra and Joaquim Tell, who did not know each other, responded. Later, Jordi Magriñà and Albert Cucurull also joined. They expected

to climb as three separate groups, but Tell dropped out early, leaving the Swiss as one team and the Spaniards as the other. The Swiss pair set off from Base Camp at 5600 meters for their push to the summit as soon as the clouds cleared on the morning of January 19. The Spaniards followed the next day. The Swiss stayed ahead of the Spanish trio, who in the following days spotted them above from time to time. Then Beausire and Piedra disappeared. They were last seen alive on the 22nd, moving up in an area of séracs at 6700 meters. Their footprints continued on to just below the first foresummit of Cho Oyu, still an hour or two from the highest point. There was no indication that they reached either peak. They may either have fallen or collapsed from exhaustion and then frozen to death. One body in red down clothing was seen on the 25th two or three hundred yards to the right of the climbing route in a dangerous area of rock and ice. The Spaniards did not attempt to reach it, knowing that in temperatures of -20° to -40°C , no one could survive. The Swiss had left their tent, sleeping bags and gear at a bivouac site at only 7000 meters. Cucurull abandoned his attempt to reach the summit on the 25th, but Magriñá and Garra pressed on and finally on their seventh day up from Base Camp, at eleven A.M. on January 26, 1994, gained the highest point. They had spent the previous night out without a tent but had the protection of their sleeping bags. Despite frost-nipped toes, all returned safely to Base Camp.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Gurkarpo Winter Attempt, Jugal Himal. Eight South Koreans led by Chun Young-Ho attempted to climb little-known Gurkarpo (6891 meters, 22,608 feet) by its southwest ridge. They were stopped at 6100 meters on December 8 by a 500-meter-high rock wall, around which they could see no way. They wanted to try another approach from the southeast, but their liaison officer forbade another route without getting permission from the Tourism Ministry in Kathmandu. They did not have time to ask for this and left the mountain.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Ganchenpo Attempt. Six Britons and an Irishman led by Ray Delaney attempted to climb Ganchenpo (7455 meters, 24,459 feet) by its west ridge from the north. They got to a high point of 6000 meters on April 5.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Ganchenpo. Our expedition was composed of Hiroyasu Sugita, Yoshichika Segi, Yoshiko Kasho (f), Tsuyoshi Itai, Yasushi Tatsumi, Shuichi Takeda, Yumi Kanaoka (f) and me as leader. On April 7, we started trekking from Dhunche. We acclimatized at 4500 meters above Kyangching. On April 14, we waded the Langtang Khola to establish Base Camp at 4400 meters. This was lower than the Nepalese team's, when they made the first ascent in 1990, because of

heavier snow than usual. We followed the Nepalese route, climbing a southwest spur to the west ridge, placing Camps I and II at 4900 and 5500 meters on April 16 and 19. We climbed over the 6100-meter west peak and tried in vain to climb the knife-edged west ridge. We descended to the glacial basin on the south of the peak and placed Camp III at 6000 meters there on April 25. After crossing the basin, Sugita, Mrs. Kasho, Itai and Nepalese Nima Temba Sherpa, Phurba Gyalzen Sherpa and Damber Bahadur Gurung climbed on April 28 to the east ridge and the summit (7455 meters, 24,459 feet).

DAIZO YAMAMOTO, *Japan*

Langtang Lirung Winter Attempt. Eight Japanese led by Kouich Ezaki attempted to climb Langtang Lirung (7234 meters, 27,324 feet) by its southeast ridge. They were able to get only to 6250 meters on December 11.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Manaslu North Attempt. Five Frenchmen led by Michel Richard attempted to climb Manaslu North (7157 meters, 23,481 feet) by the northeast face to reach the south ridge. On October 23, they reached their high point of 6400 meters.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Manaslu. Our expedition was the best and the most successful I have ever been on, not just because we reached the summit, but because of the warm relationship between the members. There was never a single quarrel among the eight of us. Arthur Haid is an outstanding leader who managed everything perfectly. We began our 12-day approach from Gorkha on March 24. There was much more snow than usual, beginning at 2900 meters. We had planned to have Base Camp at 4800 meters but had to set up an improvised Base Camp at 3700 meters just above the village of Samagaon. We ferried loads higher on skis with skins. Without skis we would never have had a chance for the summit. On April 5, we occupied our previously planned Base Camp at 4800 meters. The weather for the next three weeks remained unsettled, but we set up Camps I and II at 5700 and 6650 meters, breaking trail on skis. We made a first summit attempt on April 24. At 7000 meters, the Sherpas hesitated. One of them had slipped and fallen 25 meters without injury. We persuaded them to continue, but 100 meters higher, we came upon a climber's corpse hanging on a fixed rope from a sérac. That ended the attempt. Stormy weather drove us back to Base Camp. On April 28, when it improved, we climbed back to Camp II. Bad weather forced a rest day on us. From there on, we climbed alpine-style. Josef Brunner, Gerhard Flossmann, Josef Hinding and I spent the night of April 30 at 7000 meters in a cramped two-man tent. We had to leave our skis there and plow belly-deep from there on to spend the next night at 7520 meters. On May 2, in gloriously

clear but frigid weather, we climbed to the summit to complete the 39th ascent of Manaslu. We were back in Base Camp by mid-morning on May 3. Rather than to return by the approach route in the Buri Gandaki, we crossed the Larkya La to join the Annapurna trekking route to Pokhara, thus completing the circuit of Manaslu.

MICHAEL LEUPRECHT, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Manaslu Ascents, Tragedy and Attempts. An expedition of 11 Italians led by Paolo Paglino managed to put Silvio Modinelli on the summit via the south face on October 13. Austrian Josef Inhöger, leader of eight Austrians and two Germans, succeeded in getting to the summit solo on October 15 via the northeast face. A Russian party of eight led by Valeri Karpenko was also on the northeast face. On October 19, Vladimir Lopatnikov climbed to the summit, followed on the 21st by Igor Khmiliar and Mrs Ekaterina Ivanova. Tragically, two members of the group died: Khmiliar, who was blown off his feet on his summit day and fell, and Sergei Jadrichnikov, who was smothered in an avalanche on October 22. An expedition of five Germans and an Austrian led by Heinz Schauer was not able to get higher than 7300 meters on the northeast face, which they reached on October 6.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Kang Guru. A Japanese expedition led by Kiyoshi Washizu made the 14th ascent of Kang Guru (6981 meters, 22,904 feet) by the normal west ridge. They placed Base Camp, Advance Base, Camps I and II at 3800, 4600, 5600 and 6020 meters on March 25 and 30 and April 2 and 6. They fixed 13 pitches with rope above Camp II to reach the west ridge. On April 14, Masake Koike, Koichi Nagamori, Sarki Nurbu Lama Sherpa climbed to the summit, followed on the 16th by leader Washizu, Kazuhiko Ogawa, Eiichi Hitomi and Pasang Sherpa.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Annapurna IV Attempt. A 13-member British team hoped to climb Annapurna IV (7525 meters, 24,688 feet) by the northwest ridge. They had to turn back at 7400 meters on November 20. The leader was Robin Roy Hamer.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Annapurna and Dhaulagiri Climbed by Tibetans. On standard routes were the first Tibetans and first of any Chinese, on a climbing venture outside China. Their team, called the "China Tibetan Expedition to the 14 Mountains above 8000 Meters in the World," commenced its program to put Tibetans on the summits of all the 8000ers by the year 2002 by going first to Annapurna and then to nearby Dhaulagiri. Led from Base Camp by a 1975 Everest summitter,

Samdrup, the nine climbers, several of whom had already been successful on Cho Oyu and Shisha Pangma as well as on Everest in 1975 and 1990, climbed both peaks. On April 26, Tshering Dorjee, Ren Na, Pemba Tashi and Akebu completed the ascent of Annapurna. On the last two days of May, all nine climbers ascended Dhaulagiri: on May 30, Tshering Dorjee, Pemba Tashi, Akebu and Dachung and on May 31, Da Chimyi, Gyalbu, Lodue, Ren Na and Wangyal. Samdrup said that they found Annapurna technically more difficult than Everest from the north, and they fixed 4000 meters of rope on the unusually long line they picked on the north face. Nonetheless, the four summiters managed an ascent all the way from their last camp at only 6700 meters, 1400 vertical meters, to the summit and a safe return to camp late the same night, a round-trip of 21½ hours. Because of the meager supply of oxygen at the camp when they set out at three A.M., only two men climbed on oxygen during the ascent and even they had none left for the descent. Dhaulagiri via the northeast ridge was found by the Tibetans technically easier than Annapurna and Everest but harder than their own 8000er, Shisha Pangma. The second group had such perfect weather at the top that they didn't want to come down and while they lingered there for an hour and 11 minutes, they burned incense, an activity not routinely performed on an 8000-meter summit in Nepal.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Annapurna South Face Attempt and Near Tragedy. Franc Knez and Slavko Svetičič attempted to complete the route on the south face of Annapurna previously tried by Beghin and Lafaille. Accompanied by Andreja Knez, they left on August 23 and a few days later were joined by Matjaž Pečovnik and a TV team. When at the end of September, Knez felt ill, Svetičič decided to try alone. On October 3, he began to climb with 50 kilos of equipment but after a bivouac at 6800 meters, he descended because of avalanche danger. On October 7, he set out again but at 6:45 A.M. he was swept down 500 meters by an avalanche. By nine A.M., the rescue operation began and he was carried down to Advance Base at 4800 meters by 7:30 P.M. The following day, he was carried to Base Camp and on October 9 was helicoptered to Kathmandu. He has returned to Slovenia, where it has been decided that no spine operation will be necessary.

FRANCI SAVENC, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

Annapurna North Face Attempts. There were two unsuccessful attempts to climb Annapurna by the usual north-face route. Nine Spanish Catalans led by Oleguer Suñe reached a high point at 6200 meters on October 4. A second expedition of Catalans, also numbering nine, were under the leadership of Sebastià Massague. They had to turn back on October 21 at 6850 meters.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Khangsar Kang (Roc Noir) Attempt. Seven Koreans led by Yang Wha-Souk attempted to climb Khangsar Kang (7485 meters, 24,557 feet) by its south face. Their high point was 5500 meters, reached on October 16.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Tilitso Attempt. Eleven Greeks under the leadership of Stratos Paraskevaides attempted to climb Tilitso by its northeast spur and north ridge but could get to only 5800 meters on October 23.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Dhaulagiri Attempt. Eight Australians, two New Zealanders and a Briton, led by Australian Zac Zaharias, had hoped to climb the northeast ridge of Dhaulagiri but they reached only a high point of 7600 meters on May 20.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Dhaulagiri Direct North Face. Rick Allen describes in a full article earlier in the *Journal* his experiences with a Russian expedition which made a difficult new route on the north face of Dhaulagiri.

Dhaulagiri in the Post-Monsoon. There were six expeditions to Dhaulagiri, all on the normal northeast ridge. The expeditions are listed below with the make-up of the group, the leader, those who reached the summit and when: 3 *French* and 2 *Swiss* led by Benoît Chamoux: Chamoux on October 6; 6 *Japanese* led by Hirotaka Imamura: Masao Koseki, Ayumi Nozawai on October 6; 2 *New Zealanders* and 1 *Finn* led by Rob Hall: Finn Veikka Gustaffson on October 9 (for Gary Ball's death, see below); 10 *Latvians* led by Tedors Kirsis: Kirsis, Ilgvars Pauls, Imants Zauls on October 10; 8 *Belgians* led by Theo Bollen: Jos Varmarsenille, Dawa Sherpa on October 11; 6 *Japanese* led by Masakatsu Nakamura: Seiichi Sekiya, Mingma Tshering Sherpa on October 11.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Dhaulagiri Tragedy. On October 6, the well-known New Zealander Gary Ball died from high-altitude sickness on Dhaulagiri. He was 40 years old. He and Robert Hall led several commercial expedition to the Himalaya and elsewhere. These two were the first New Zealanders to climb Everest twice (1990 and 1992), using supplementary oxygen. In 1990, they both climbed to the highest summits of all the seven continents in a record time of *seven* months. In 1992, they tried unsuccessfully for the third time to climb K2. When 300 meters below the summit, Ball fell ill with mountain sickness and had to be helped down. Despite this ominous warning, Ball planned to ascend Dhaulagiri in the autumn of 1993. Having reached Camp III at 7350 meters, he was

afflicted again by mountain sickness. Desperate efforts by Hall and others, who moved down to Camp II, were in vain and the next day, Ball expired. This points out clearly that he made no use of his serious K2 experience. Climbers, knowing that they are sensitive to the effects of high altitude should never attempt the very highest peaks again.

JÉZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Churen Himal Attempt. An expedition of nine Italians led by Adriano Favre attempted to climb Churen Himal (7371 meters, 24,183 feet) by the west ridge from the south. They reached a high point of 6600 meters on October 29.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Tripura Hiunchuli II. The members of our expedition were Mariano Diaz, Vincent Devlamynck, Francis Parrot, Olivier Pohl, Michel Lentz, Juany Pérez, Didier Demesy and I as leader. We approached via Jumla in western Nepal. We set out with 35 porters and on the recommendation of a local installed our first Base Camp at the foot of Dudu Kundare. Since we were not in a good valley, we set up a new Base Camp six days later up the Jagdula Khola, which we had to cross twice by Tirolean traverse. On October 5, we placed Advance Base on the glacier at 4600 meters. The next day, Demesy and I set up Camp I at 5230 meters, having found deep and unstable snow. We two placed Camp II on October 7 at 5450 meters after climbing for 5½ hours. On October 8, we two continued up the southwest ridge to complete the first ascent of this summit. (The main peak is 6553 meters or 21,499 feet. This summit is the second of four along the southeast ridge, probably about 6450 meters high.—*Editor.*)

ALAIN BIGEY, *Club Alpin Français*

P 6455, Palchung Hamga Himal. We had received permission to climb Kanjiroba by its northern side. However, because of the difficulty of the approach up the Langu Khola, this proved to be impossible. Instead, Dr. Fritz Mross, Dr. Helga and Helmut Schempp, Dr. Gudrun Scharifi and I crossed the Dolphu Kang to the settlement of Dalphu, ascended the Chhapa Khola to Phopagaon eventually to the Dunai airstrip. In the Palchung Hamga Himal, we made the first ascent of P 6455 (21,178 feet; 29°41'22" N, 82°52'27" E) with Base Camp at 5000 meters and Camp I at 5400 meters. We climbed the corniced ice ridge which rose up to 50°. Travel is difficult in this area. We had to climb over ten passes of 5200 to 5700 meters. Every day, we had at least one difficult section where we had to build a bridge or climb with UIAA III difficulty.

FRANZ KRÖLL, *Mountain Guide, Austria*