

13, 25 and 28 and May 4 respectively. The weather was bad on May 5 and the climbers descended to Camp IV. One of the pair suffered from high-altitude sickness and had to be carried down on May 6. On May 8 Tanaka and Sherpa Pemba reached the summit at 12:05 P.M. We withdrew from Base Camp on May 14.

YASUO KUBOTA, *Shizuoka Prefecture Mountain Federation, Japan*

Annapurna II Attempt. The aim of the expedition was to make the fourth ascent of the mountain, but doing it alpine-style with a team of three, Alan and Adrian Burgess and me. After a nine-day walk-in, we arrived at 11,500 feet, where our Base Camp was set up. The next three weeks were spent acclimatizing. We surveyed the north face, looking for a more direct route to the summit. The idea was crushed when one morning we witnessed the largest avalanche any of us had ever seen sweep the line of our proposed ascent, destroying Camp I. (We had been at Advance Base.) We then changed our line of attack to the route by which the mountain had first been climbed. On October 6 we began our ascent with fifteen days of food and fuel. After ten days, often harrassed by high winds and new snow, we had got to over 21,000 feet. Alan had been weakened by a severe stomach and bowel infection and decided not to go higher. On October 18 Adrian and I left camp at five A.M. on a bid for the summit. At eleven o'clock we were at 23,500 feet but had to turn back in the face of terrible winds. On October 20 we began our journey back to Kathmandu.

PAUL MOORES, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Annapurna III, South Face and West Ridge. Our expedition was composed of Peter Melling, Robin Whittam, Alan Deakin, Eric Penman, John Whittock, my wife Linda and me as leader. We had hoped to make a new route on Annapurna III. We left Kathmandu on October 5 for Base Camp at 11,500 feet with 26 porters. On the approach Melling fell 60 feet down a crag, sustaining a fractured leg and pelvis and a dislocated shoulder. He was evacuated by helicopter seven days later and remained in the hospital in Kathmandu for six weeks. We established three camps at 13,000, 15,000 and 17,000 feet respectively. Above Camp III we spent five days attempting to find a route through the heavily crevassed glacier, but we had to give it up owing to large crevasses and dangerous séracs. We eventually discovered a route via a rock buttress (UIAA grade V). Fixed rope was discovered on this section, a remnant of the 1978 American expedition. From Camp III on October 26 all six of us launched a summit assault which resulted in Mrs. Linda Rutland and Whittock reaching the summit via the south face and west ridge on November 6 after ten bivouacs. Throughout the ascent the weather was

good although extremely cold, at times reaching -35° C. Both summit climbers sustained minor frostbite to fingers and toes. The actual route taken was a combination of the Italian 1977 and the American 1978 routes. Above Camp III at 17,000 feet we used only snow holes and bivouac equipment. We had no Sherpas or oxygen. We returned to Kathmandu on November 16.

RON RUTLAND, *Lancashire Teachers Mountaineering Club*

Annapurna Ski Descent and Tragedy. Our team was composed of Dr. Lucien Adenis, Michel Berquet, Bernard Germain, Jean-Louis George, Yves Morin, Henry Sigayret and me and three Sherpas, Dawa Gyalzen, Chawang Rinzee and Dahunga Pemba Lama. We followed basically the route of the 1950 first ascent, which is not difficult save for a few very steep sections of séracs between 20,000 and 23,000 feet, and so was adequate for our ski project. However the north face of Annapurna is very dangerous because of avalanches. We left Kathmandu on March 13 and installed Base Camp on April 1. A porter strike in Choya, the last village, delayed our approach since we had to find a helicopter to help transport loads. Camp II was installed on April 6 at 18,000 feet and Camp III on April 17 at 20,675 feet. On the 18th an avalanche, which fell from the top, injured Dawa Gyalzen and Chawang Rinzee, who had to be carried down to Base Camp. From Camp III on, the ascent was alpine-style: Camp IV at 23,000 feet on April 27, Camp V at 23,950 feet on April 28 and Camp VI at 24,925 feet on April 29. The progress was relatively slow since carrying the skis up, without oxygen, was really exhausting. On April 30, despite a very strong north wind, Berquet, Germain, Morin, Sigayret and I left Camp VI, carrying one pair of skis. Morin and Sigayret reached the summit at five P.M. We other three reached the foot of the summit couloir and decided to give up there, provided the others got to the top. Yves Morin skied down and we gathered for the night at Camp VI. During the descent the day after, on a very steep ice section around 22,300 feet, Morin got his Jümar stuck while descending a fixed rope with his skis on; after a few minutes of effort to extricate himself, he died of exhaustion. After burying him, we continued the descent and reached Base Camp on May 3.

BENOIT RENARD, *Club Alpin Français*

Annapurna IV, Northwest Route, 1978. We were Chun Byung-koo, leader, Yoo Dong-ok, Byun Myu-keun, Lee Myung-ho, Chun Doo-sung and I, deputy leader. We left Begnas village on March 14, 1978 with 73 porters. During a heavy snowstorm at Chame village at 9000 feet, all the porters ran away. We managed to employ 22 high-mountain tribe people and relayed loads to Base Camp at 13,125 feet by April 5. The