placed in the Hornbein Couloir at 27,000 feet on October 2. The first summit attempt was to have been made by Todd Bibler and Ang Jangbo. They spent the night of October 2 at Camp V but a fierce storm destroyed their tent and forced them back. That storm caused avalanches which took out several hundred feet of rope between Camp IV and V. During the storm we all retreated to Advance Base. After it, Chas Macquarie and Eric Reynolds went back to Camp IV to refix the ropes to Camp V. After them, Rennie Jackson, Annie Whitehouse, Eric Reynolds and I were scheduled to make the second summit attempt. We were at Camp IV during another storm with high winds on October 11 and 12. I descended to Camp III to wait out the storm. Eric, Rennie and Annie stayed at Camp IV. On October 13 it cleared and the three went up to Camp V. They made their summit attempt on October 14 and made it to 28,000 feet before they had to turn back because of high winds. Annie Whitehouse made an altitude record for American women. After the second summit attempt the winds did not die down. Chas and I ascended once more to Camp IV to help the three down. Annie had frostbitten fingers. The winds along the west ridge at Camp IV and above we estimated at 100 mph. In all 18 tents were destroyed by the wind. After much thought and discussion we decided to clear the mountain. We had 18 Sherpas with Per Temba as sirdar, an excellent crew.

Everest Ascent and Tragedy. Two Japanese expeditions climbed Everest in the post-monsoon season, but three died on the descent. Five Japanese led by Haruichi Kawamura and ten Sherpas originally had permission for the southwest face but had it changed for the southeast ridge. They established Base Camp at 17,550 feet on September 5 and Camps I, II, III, and IV at 20,350, 21,000, 24,275 and 26,100 feet on September 13, 15, 24 and 30. They more or less followed the route of the 1981 American Medical Expedition to the left of the Lhotse Face. Bad weather halted them for a week. Five other Japanese led by Hiroshi Yoshino and two Sherpas got to Base Camp on September 14 and established Camps II and III on September 24 and 28. They fixed ropes to the South Col on September 30. They too had to wait until October 7 when Yoshino, Hironobu Kamuro, Noburu Sawagami and Haruyuki Endo established Camp IV on the South Col. That night Kawamura, Shomi Suzuki and Sherpa Pasang Temba were at their Camp IV ready to traverse to the right to the southeast ridge above the col. At 3:30 A.M. on October 8 all seven climbers met on the ridge. They climbed individually but generally together. They were amazed to see the Americans emerge just behind them from the Kangshung Face at 27,900 feet. The Americans passed them and they followed in their tracks. Pasang Temba and Sawagami decided to descend from below the south peak but the other five Japanese reached the summit between 4:20 and 5:10 P.M. All descended again individually. Sawagami returned to the South Col. Pasang Temba was descending behind the Americans when he slipped, shot past them and fell to his death. Kawamura and Suzuki descended to 27,550 feet, where they had left
their bivouac gear. Endo bivouacked at 28,800 feet. Yoshino and Kamuro had left their packs at 27,900 feet but were forced to make a cold bivouac under the Hillary Step at 28,875 feet. Endo returned the next morning alone to Camp IV. Yoshino and Kamuro must have slipped on the descent as Yoshino’s body and Kamuro’s boot were found at the foot of the southwest face on October 10. On October 9 Matatsugu Konishi and Sherpa Ang Nima made an attempt which took them as far as the Hillary Step. More details appear in Iwa To Yuki, No. 100. The Editor finds these two expeditions to have used inexcusable tactics. The present trend to climb without artificial oxygen can be carried to dangerous extremes, particularly if the climbers are insufficiently acclimated. One of the American climbers told the Editor that the Japanese were staggering like zombies, obviously suffering from hypoxia. But more reprehensible is the style first adopted disastrously by some of these same climbers on the north face of K2. Each climber was to be completely on his own and in no way responsible for his companions. The Japanese did not even know until the next day that Pasang Temba had plunged to his death. The Japanese felt no responsibility to see that the others got down. What a contrast to the Unsoeld-Hornbein-Bishop-Jerstad descent from Everest, where possibly none of them would have got down alive without the superb cooperation of all of them!

Mount Everest, Winter Ascent. The Japanese Lhotse expedition mentioned above, led by Kazuyuki Takahashi, acclimatized by making the successful ascent of that peak. They then climbed Everest by the South Col. On December 16 Takashi Ozaki, Noboru Yamada, Kazunori Murakami and Sherpa Nawang Yonden reached the summit. This was the third winter ascent and the first time a Nepalese has climbed Everest in the winter. The part of the expedition led by the leader’s wife attempting Everest from the Tibetan side failed. (See that section.)

Pumori. Craig Linford, Dave and Dianna Dailey, Paul Stevenson and I were able to make a new route on the northeast ridge of Pumori, but it took longer than we had time for and so we did not make the summit. We did a great deal of technical water-ice climbing and scared ourselves enough to make the trip worth the time and trouble. Linford and I reached 21,100 feet on April 29. Our route was to the right of the new one put up by Bridwell and Gillette. Having reached Base Camp at 17,000 feet on April 17, we initiated climbing on the 19th, almost entirely on 40° to 55° water ice. Avalanches were a constant, daily threat. The weather was variable with snow every third day. No Sherpa support was used to carry loads. The attempt was alpine style with the exception of several fixed lines to aid in carrying loads. We had only one high camp and would have placed another at the high point of the ridge if we had continued to the summit. We left Base Camp on May 3.

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