

prevented this. On April 28 Christian Gabl, Thomas Juen, Anton Schranz and Dr. Theo Ljubanovic and Sherpas Ang Kami and Lhakpa Norbu set out from Base Camp. Their attempt failed in two-meter-deep snow at Camp II. On April 29 Günter Assmann, Rudi Mayerhofer and I began, but from Camp II to III it was only Mayerhofer, Ang Kami and I. We got to Camp III at eleven A.M. on April 30 and took five hours to dig the tents out and arrange them. We left again in moonlight at ten P.M. but Mayerhofer had to turn back after 200 meters. Ang Kami and I bivouacked in the open at 7000 meters at 1:30 A.M. before continuing in the early morning of May 1. We could not climb on skis above 7300 meters. A steep rock rib led us from there to the Manaslu Plateau, where we joined the northeast route at 7600 meters. There were no more technical difficulties. We reached the summit (8163 meters, 26,780 feet) in a strong wind and dense fog at three P.M. On the descent, when we reached the skis, I left Ang Kami and skied and climbed to Base Camp, which I reached at ten P.M., having had nothing to eat or drink for 24 hours. Ang Kami continued on foot, getting to Camp III at eight P.M. A second summit attempt by Gabl, Schranz and Juen had to be given up at 7300 meters because of bad weather. At nine P.M. Juen was carried by a windslab avalanche over a 70-meter ice cliff. The search the next day was in vain and Schranz and Gabl descended to Base Camp. The high camps were evacuated on May 6. After a short service for our lost friend, we headed for Kathmandu on May 8.

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*Manaslu, Three Attempts.* A large Japanese expedition with a film crew led by Yoshimichi Furuhashi hoped to climb and descend Manaslu by the normal northeast-face route. The highest point reached was the site for Camp III at 7200 meters which Furuhashi and three Sherpas got to on October 22 and 23, when snow had abated and climbing was again possible. On October 25 an avalanche struck Camp II, which was occupied by four Japanese and four Sherpas. They were carried down in their tents for 100 meters. One of the Sherpas, Nima Norbu, was unable to get out of the tent and was fatally buried by avalanche debris in a crevasse. The avalanche destroyed much of the expedition's food, tents and equipment and so they abandoned the attempt. Five Spanish Basque climbers led by Felipe Uriarte were on the same route. October's constant heavy snowfalls at first kept the expedition in the lower camps. When the Japanese were swept by an avalanche, the Basques went to help. By October 26 avalanche danger higher up the mountain was great and the time needed to make progress in the deep snow was so much that the idea of climbing further was given up. The highest point, Camp III at 6300 meters, was reached by Uriarte, Bixente Itxas and Andrés Prego. Another Japanese expedition led by Iwao Tsushima was on the east ridge. On October 9 Hitoshi Kudo and Norimasa Nishiie got to 6250 meters, just 50 meters above their Camp III and then turned back in very deep snow. A final summit bid was launched on October 16 but again there was

very heavy snowfall in the following days and on October 19 the leader called off the climb.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*, and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Manaslu, Northeast Ridge in Winter.* As both Yasuhira Saito and I were fatigued when we came back from Everest, we spent several days of rest in Kathmandu. Then, we were carried by helicopter to Sama on December 2. On December 5 we moved to 4800 meters by the side of the Manaslu Glacier and made Base Camp. Carrying a small tent, gas stove and a little food, we started climbing the next day. On the Manaslu Glacier, knee-deep snow slowed us. We bivouacked at 5450, 6100 and 6850 meters on December 6, 7 and 8. On the 9th we started for the summit but had to give up at 7200 meters because of terribly strong winds. We went down to Base Camp that same day. We spent the next waiting for the winds to subside. On December 11 we left Base Camp for the second attempt and spent the first night at 6100 meters. On the next day, however, heavy snowfall kept us from moving up. We got to 7050 meters on December 13. At 3:20 A.M. on December 14 we left the bivouac site. We suffered from strong winds and cold. The winds were so strong that when we reached the summit ridge, we had to rope together to keep from being blown away. We gained the summit at 11:40 A.M. There, I found a Japanese cigarette can which had been left by the first summit party in 1956. We had to descend immediately because of strong winds. We had one more bivouac at 7050 meters and reached Base Camp on December 15. We came back to Sama that same day. Last year, in 1985, I climbed three 8000ers: K2 in July, Everest in October and Manaslu in December.

NOBORU YAMADA, *Himalayan Association of Japan*

*Himalchuli Ascent and Tragedy.* The members of our expedition were Laszlo Berzi, Sandor Csanadi, Peter Greskovits, Dr. Antal Kallo, Laszlo Katona, Jozsef Csikos, Istvan Szabo, Gyorgy Toldi, Istvan Tolnai, Csaba Toth, Laszlo Voros and I as leader. From Botha Odar we started with 63 porters, a sirdar and two Sherpas. We followed the Marsyandi Khola and then the Dordi Khola for seven days and got to Base Camp at 4550 meters. From there we climbed the 1984 American route up the southwest ridge to the west peak and from there the 1960 Japanese route. We established Camps I, II, III and IV at 5450, 6480, 7000 and 7200 meters on April 30, May 4, 12 and 22. On May 5 our two Sherpas deserted from Base Camp, taking all their equipment; we don't know why. Csanadi and Greskovits started from Camp II to carry loads to Camp III on the morning of May 16. They did not arrive there. Probably they were swept away by heavy winds. Despite a search for them, we did not find any trace of them. On May 23 Jozsef Csikos, Laszlo Voros and Sirdar Norbu Sherpa got to the summit (7893 meters, 25,895 feet).

PAL GÉZA ORBAN, *Magyar Hegymászó Klub, Hungary*