

southwest face. Seven members reached the summit, a route which is more direct, shorter and safer than the Tichy route. On May 3 Austrian Peter Habeler and the late Swiss Marcel Rüedi left a bivouac at 6000 meters and climbed to another bivouac at 7600 meters. After being held stormbound there for a day, they reached the summit on May 5. On May 9 American Jan Smith and German Rüdiger Schleypen got to the top, followed by three soloists: German Jörg Daum on May 10, Deputy leader Yugoslav Bogdan Brakas on May 11 and Austrian Manfred Lorenz on May 16. None used oxygen and all climbed semi-alpine-style.

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

Cho Oyu. Cowboys on Cho Oyu consisted of Americans Michael Bacon, Alan Jennings, Charlie Schertz, Ed Yoshida and me as leader, Michael Clarke, who is an Englishman who has acquired American citizenship, British David Hambly and Canadian David McClung. We flew to Lukla on March 21, but our baggage came overland through Jiri. We spent ten days acclimatizing in the Khumbu while waiting for our baggage to arrive. We took the standard approach to Base Camp through Thame, Marlung and Lunak. The weather was poor with heavy snows. One yak died in the deep drifts; we compensated the owner. On April 7 we established Base Camp at 5200 meters at Kangchung, wrongly marked on the Schneider map as Dzasampa; Dzasampa is located further up the Nangpa Glacier at the base of the icefall. During the next ten days, we used a dozen porters to help transport baggage to the site of Camp I with temporary camps at Dzasampa and at a place above the icefall. On April 17 we all occupied Camp I on the moraine of the Gyabrag Glacier at 5920 meters. This camp served as Advance Base. On April 20 Schertz and I occupied Camp II at 6350 meters on the northwest ridge. On April 23 Hambly and Bacon occupied Camp III at 6720 meters on the ridge at the base of the icefall. We all returned to Base Camp for our only rest period. On May 7 a four-man party tried to establish Camp IV at 7500 meters. High winds and intense cold turned us back a few yards above Camp III. On May 10 we again attempted to establish our high camp and make a summit attempt. Using lines we had previously fixed in the icefall, which had ice up to 80°, we broke new ground and reached the base of the first rock band on the western face of Cho Oyu. Bacon and Schertz dropped their loads and Hambly and I established Camp IV 100 meters higher at 7500 meters. The next morning we left at 6:30 and started through the first rock band. We bore to the right, joined the west ridge at 7800 meters and progressed up the ridge, a series of moderate ice pitches, to the flat snow area below the second rock band. We took a direct line through this, exiting on the right side into the broad, long summit area. We reached the summit at 2:30 P.M. on May 11. During the half-hour we stayed on the summit, we took photos and displayed the flags of Nepal, the United States and Great Britain. The thermometer read -20° C and the wind was estimated at 30 kph with gusts up to 60 kph. At the summit was a metal flag pole with a metal Chinese flag attached. The true summit should not

be confused with the lower false summit, which is closer to the second rock band. On the false summit is a pole with odd bits of prayer flags. Comparison of summit photos seems to indicate that it was there that Jan Smith got. No other summit attempts were made. Supplementary oxygen and high-altitude porters were not used.

JAMES FRUSH

Cho Oyu. Our team consisted of Etsuro Hino, Tateo Yamashita, Miss Taeko Noda, Takayushi Kawada, Mrs. Mutsuko Okuma, Tsuyoshi Murakai, Miss Masae Okamoto and me as leader. We pitched three camps on the south face of Ngozumba Kang, hoping to climb Cho Oyu by the east ridge. On September 29 Hino, Miss Noda and Miss Okamoto were at Camp III at 7500 meters, but we gave up the route because of deep snow. From October 5 to 9 we moved over the Nangpa La to Base Camp on the normal route. We set up Camps I, II, III, and IV at 5600, 6300, 6750 and 7200 meters on October 10, 11, 12, and 13. Because of strong wind we stayed at Camp IV on October 14 and 15. On October 16 Hino climbed to the summit.

NOBUO SHIRAIISHI, *Kitakyushi Alpine Club, Japan*

Cho Oyu Tragedy. The expedition to Cho Oyu which I led was composed of three Swiss: Pierre-Alain Steiner, Christian Dupré and me. After having arrived on October 8 at Base Camp at 5300 meters near the Nangpa La, we climbed to 6300 meters for acclimatization. We left on October 19 for an Advance Base at the foot of the west face at 6000 meters. That same day we started up a new route on the face and joined the Polish route at 7300 meters. The wind was so strong that we stopped for several hours. On the morning of the 20th the wind was the same and we decided to descend to wait for several days. Unfortunately, while descending, Steiner fell some 600 meters, which put an end to his life and the expedition.

ERHARD LORETAN, *Club Alpin Suisse*

Gaurishankar Attempt. After two weeks of bureaucracy in Kathmandu, Iñaki Alvarez, Koldo Tapia, Txema Cámara and I were finally able to take the bus to Charikot, arriving there on September 11. The approach was very difficult because of the monsoon rains, the stream crossings, the bamboo forests and the leeches. [Other reports say they also had difficulties with the local police. — *Editor.*] We got to Base Camp at 4800 meters on September 16, the 5400-meter col on the 17th and Advance Base at 4300 meters on the glacier on the 18th. The route to be attempted was on the southwest face left of the Roskelley route. On September 20 and 21 we bivouacked at 5500 and 6000 meters and climbed to 6100 meters on the 22nd. The weather was continuously bad with avalanches sweeping the face. We descended to Base Camp. Despite the weather we did climb two virgin peaks: Tsirigma Iksupegi (5430 meters, 17,815