

three-and-a-half days. I do know that Tamayo and I climbed to 8200 meters, where we set up a bivouac in a comodious bergschrund protected from the wind. I also remember that we got up at four A.M. on May 21 to head for the summit. Tamayo set out a little ahead of me and immediately returned, telling that there was furious wind and that it was frigidly cold. We had to go back to the tent. After that, my mind is a complete blank until we got to Camp II, except that I am aware that Ramón Portillo and Antonio Trabado helped us down to Camp II. Tamayo had severe frostbite and I was mentally completely confused, probably from cerebral edema. Another summit attempt on May 27 failed at 7900 meters.

JUANJO SAN SEBASTIÁN, *Federación Vasca de Montaña*

*Everest Attempt.* In the post-monsoon 31 climbers attempted Everest from the Western Cwm. All but four climbers were on the permits of Austrian Hanns Schell and all used his route through the icefall and cwm. Murray Rice and I were a two-man expedition from the Northwest attempting the South Col route and the northwest face of Lhotse without Sherpas and without supplementary oxygen. We helicoptered to Lukla and arrived at Base Camp at 5400 meters on September 1. We spent eight days acclimatizing and carrying loads through the icefall before moving to Camp I at 6000 meters on September 9. We acclimatized there during a five-day storm, carried to Camp II at 6500 meters on the 14th and moved up the next day. On the 16th we descended to our single-tent Base Camp for the last of our gear. Fearful of hepatitis and infectious diarrheas, both present in Base Camp, we moved up again to Camp I (our fifth carry) and to Camp II on the 18th (our third carry). We now had food and fuel in Camp II for a month. I set up Camp III on the 20th at 7300 meters on the Lhotse Face. Three days later we both moved up to the higher camp with heavy loads. I felt wasted on arrival. During dinner, eating competed with breathing and in order to chew and swallow, we first had to hyperventilate. This was difficult with a respiratory rate of 60 already. My breathing was stimulated partly by acetazolamide, but Murray's only by his very brisk ventilatory drive. During the night I noticed the now familiar sensations of wet cough and sweet-tasting fluid of pulmonary edema. At first light we began an eight-hour descent to Base Camp. The Lhotse Face had wind-blown snow varying from ankle to thigh deep. The lower cwm had a half meter of new snow. The heavily laden west shoulder unloaded an avalanche across our tracks an hour after we hurried by. The "Golden Gate" bridge below Camp I had been extended to six ladder-lengths as the crevasses widened and the séracs in the mid section of the icefall collapsed. Uneasy about climbing soon above 8000 meters without oxygen, I left Base Camp on the 26th to join the Polish expedition on the south face of Lhotse as physician. Murray returned that same day to Camp II and continued climbing with French Bernard Muller and Laurence de la Ferrière and Austrian Rüdiger Lang. With them he reached the South Col on September 29. When the tent threatened to disintegrate in the

high winds, they descended the next morning to Camp II and several days later all the way to Base. Murray made another trip to Camp II and two more attempts as far as Camp III before descending for good on October 17, just in time to clear out our camps before the blizzard on October 18.

STEVEN BOYER

*Everest Attempts.* The “expedition” organized by Hanns Schell was actually a group of teams. It included the American Snowbird Expedition as well as Steve Boyer and Murray Rice whose efforts are given above. In all there were 5 Austrians, 5 Germans, 1 Italian, 2 French and 13 Americans. They all attempted the South-Col route and none were successful. The highest any of them got was 8400 meters reached by South Tirolean Reinhard Patscheider and Austrian Thomas Schlicher on October 2. They were turned back primarily by wind. The French couple Bernard Muller and Laurence de la Ferrière and Austrian Rüdiger Lang spent the night of September 29 on the South Col.

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

*Everest Attempt.* The Snowbird Everest expedition began with a casual visit to Nepal’s Ministry of Tourism and then a letter to Austrian Hanns Schell, Everest’s permit-holder for the post-monsoon season. Karen Fellerhoff gained from Schell the admission of a cadre of Americans to join his group on the classic South-Col route. Our climbing group was composed of Fellerhoff, Sally McCoy, Mary Kay Brewster, Kelly Rhoads, Steve Fossett, Renny Jackson, Robert Link, Christopher Noble, Peter Whittaker and me as well as journalist Elizabeth Kaufmann and film-maker Marjorie Lester. From Namche Bazar we quickly made our way to 17,800-foot Everest Base Camp, arriving on September 6. We were preceded by the Austrian team, who had agreed to establish the icefall route. For safety reasons, we traveled through the icefall during the colder periods of the day, usually arising at three A.M. each day. With the assistance of our able Sherpas, we established Camps I and II (Advance Base) at 20,000 and 21,800 feet. From there we placed Camp III at 23,500 feet on the Lhotse Face and Camp IV on the South Col at 26,000 feet. With the exception of one major storm and the odd morning or afternoon snow, the weather proved amenable. By September 27, we were ready to send our first summit team from Base Camp with the hopes of summiting on October 2. Those plans were not to materialize; nor were the next series of summit attempts. High winds above Camp III would prevent us, the Austrians and all other expeditions on the mountain, in Tibet as well as Nepal, from reaching the top. Finally Peter Whittaker and Christopher Noble were climbing above Camp IV on October 9, but unfortunately they were thwarted by wind not far from Camp IV. They made a stalwart attempt to wait out the winds in the cwm, even after the exodus of the Austrian team on October 15. Everest administered