

*Hagshu Attempt.* A British group led by John Barry failed to climb this difficult peak, which they were attempting by the north face. Bad weather turned them back at 5790 meters.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Himalayan Club*

*Hagshu, Kishtwar Himalaya.* We were Tim Whitaker, Max Holliday, Phil Booth, Ken Hopper and I. Booth, Hopper and Holliday made the first legal ascent of Hagshu (6330 meters, 20,768 feet), reaching the summit on September 16 after a three-day, alpine-style climb of the east face. I returned to Base Camp with Whitaker, who had contracted pulmonary edema after we had reached 6000 meters on the north face and east ridge. Whitaker made a fast recovery but obviously was unable to make a second attempt. Both routes were approached in two days from Base Camp on the Zanskar side north of the mountain. The climbing was relatively easy, but serious.

ROBIN BEADLE, *British Mountaineering Council*

*Matho Kangri I and III.* Matho Kangri (or Yan Kangri) had been climbed only once before, by Japanese in 1986. A 21-member team from the Army Ordnance Corps was led by Major Harjit Singh Bawa. They reached Base Camp at 15,000 feet on the Shang River on August 29 and gained the summit (6230 meters, 20,440 feet) two days later. Further details are not known. Another expedition of ten established Camp I at 18,000 feet on September 11. On the 12th, leader Babban Prasad Singh, Sudhir Kumar, M.M. Singh, Chhering Lotto and guide Chewang Norbu set out for the summit. Although M.M. Singh very nearly had a fatal slip, all reached the summit at 12:45. That same day, others headed for Matho Kangri III but were turned back the next day by a snowstorm. They returned from Base Camp to a new Camp I at 18,500 feet on the 15th. At one P.M. on September 16, B.P. Singh, Dilip Kumar, B.K. Srivastava and Skikant Srivastava climbed rock bands, loose boulders and snow to gain the summit of Matho III (6121 meters, 20,083 feet).

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Editor, Himavanta, India*

*Kolahoi, Southeast Rib.* On June 25, Jan Harris and I made what may have been the first ascent of the southeast rib of Kolahoi. There were nine pitches of difficult mixed snow and rock.

KEITH BROWN

### **India—Eastern Karakoram**

*Saser Kangri I and IV, 1988.* The 144 kilometers from Leh to Panamik were covered by Army trucks via the highest road in the world; this crosses the Khardung La at 18,380 feet. Base Camp at 15,500 feet was set up on July 19,

1988 after a two-day trek from Panamik up the Pukpoche Lungpa. Camp I was established on July 26 at 17,800 feet on the Pukpoche Glacier, a kilometer short of the bifurcation of the North and South Pukpoche Glaciers. Camp II was placed at 20,300 feet above the South Pukpoche Glacier on July 28. Camp III was above a steep ice patch, followed by a sharp snow ridge and rock shoulder. The complete route from Camp II to III required 2500 feet of fixed rope. Camp III, established on August 6 at 22,600 feet, was the summit camp. For Saser Kangri IV (7420 meters, 24,330 feet) it was a three-hour climb to the top. For Saser Kangri I it would have been advisable to have a bivouac camp in the col, though we climbed it from Camp III, based on the previous year's report. It took us a little more than twelve hours to reach the summit (7672 meters, 25,170 feet), but unlike last year's expedition, we fixed 2000 feet of rope simultaneously from the col to west summit. From there to the main summit is less than an hour's descent to the col and the final ascent of 400 feet to the peak. On August 24, 1988, two summit parties left at the same time for the two different peaks. K.R. Lavaraju, Sange (senior), Pasang and I climbed Saser Kangri I. Kripa Narayan, S. Srivatsa and Sange (junior) climbed Saser Kangri IV. The other members of the team were Mahendra Sharma, S. Bhattacharjee, B.K. Gupta, J.P. Singh, Surinder Chauhan, Sandeep Goswami, Prajapati Bodhane, Tapesh Bansal, Miss Nandini Lohia and Miss Yangdu Gombu. For the first time, Indian women participated in an expedition to the Karakoram.

HEERA LOHIA, *Climbers and Explorers Club, India*

*Peaks Above Chong Kumdan and Aq Tash Glaciers.* Our members were Arun Samant, Muslim Contractor, Monesh Devjani, Vijay Kothari, Ashwin Papat and I as leader. We visited the last two major glaciers in the Eastern Karakoram and climbed peaks northeast of the Saser La. Our approach was fraught with difficulties. Via Sasoma, the Tulum Puti La, Changmolung, the Saser La and the Shyok River, we finally got to Base Camp at the snout of the Aq Tash Glacier on July 29. It was 28 days since we had left Bombay and 17 days from Leh (instead of the expected 6). During the ensuing days, I suffered a bout with malaria and went to Chong Tash Camp with Devjani to recover. Samant and Contractor penetrated the Aq Tash (White Stone) Glacier with porters. In six days they had Camps I and II established and stocked at 5200 and 5650 meters. In inclement weather they climbed to the col between Aq Tash (7016 meters) and P 6739. Aq Tash was too steep and sharp. They tried P 6739, east of the col, and on August 7 reached a 6400-meter black tower. They returned to Base Camp on August 9, where Devjani and I joined them after my recovery. Contractor and porter Pasang Bodh decided to continue climbing around the Aq Tash Glacier while others proceeded to the Chong Kumdan (Big Dam) Glacier. They climbed "Lokhzung" (Eagle's Nest; 6090 meters, 19,981 feet) on August 12 and "Chathung Thung" (Black-Neck Cranes; 5645 meters, 18,520 feet) on August 14. Devjani, Samant and I with three porters left for the Chong Kumdan Glacier along the Shyok River. Cutting across the Thangman Glacier, Samant and porter