

clear but frigid weather, we climbed to the summit to complete the 39th ascent of Manaslu. We were back in Base Camp by mid-morning on May 3. Rather than to return by the approach route in the Buri Gandaki, we crossed the Larkya La to join the Annapurna trekking route to Pokhara, thus completing the circuit of Manaslu.

MICHAEL LEUPRECHT, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Manaslu Ascents, Tragedy and Attempts.* An expedition of 11 Italians led by Paolo Paglino managed to put Silvio Modinelli on the summit via the south face on October 13. Austrian Josef Inhöger, leader of eight Austrians and two Germans, succeeded in getting to the summit solo on October 15 via the northeast face. A Russian party of eight led by Valeri Karpenko was also on the northeast face. On October 19, Vladimir Lopatnikov climbed to the summit, followed on the 21st by Igor Khmiliar and Mrs Ekaterina Ivanova. Tragically, two members of the group died: Khmiliar, who was blown off his feet on his summit day and fell, and Sergei Jadrchnikov, who was smothered in an avalanche on October 22. An expedition of five Germans and an Austrian led by Heinz Schauer was not able to get higher than 7300 meters on the northeast face, which they reached on October 6.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Kang Guru.* A Japanese expedition led by Kiyoshi Washizu made the 14th ascent of Kang Guru (6981 meters, 22,904 feet) by the normal west ridge. They placed Base Camp, Advance Base, Camps I and II at 3800, 4600, 5600 and 6020 meters on March 25 and 30 and April 2 and 6. They fixed 13 pitches with rope above Camp II to reach the west ridge. On April 14, Masake Koike, Koichi Nagamori, Sarki Nurbu Lama Sherpa climbed to the summit, followed on the 16th by leader Washizu, Kazuhiko Ogawa, Eiichi Hitomi and Pasang Sherpa.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Annapurna IV Attempt.* A 13-member British team hoped to climb Annapurna IV (7525 meters, 24,688 feet) by the northwest ridge. They had to turn back at 7400 meters on November 20. The leader was Robin Roy Hamer.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Annapurna and Dhaulagiri Climbed by Tibetans.* On standard routes were the first Tibetans and first of any Chinese, on a climbing venture outside China. Their team, called the "China Tibetan Expedition to the 14 Mountains above 8000 Meters in the World," commenced its program to put Tibetans on the summits of all the 8000ers by the year 2002 by going first to Annapurna and then to nearby Dhaulagiri. Led from Base Camp by a 1975 Everest summitter,

Samdrup, the nine climbers, several of whom had already been successful on Cho Oyu and Shisha Pangma as well as on Everest in 1975 and 1990, climbed both peaks. On April 26, Tshering Dorjee, Ren Na, Pemba Tashi and Akebu completed the ascent of Annapurna. On the last two days of May, all nine climbers ascended Dhaulagiri: on May 30, Tshering Dorjee, Pemba Tashi, Akebu and Dachung and on May 31, Da Chimyi, Gyalbu, Lodue, Ren Na and Wangyal. Samdrup said that they found Annapurna technically more difficult than Everest from the north, and they fixed 4000 meters of rope on the unusually long line they picked on the north face. Nonetheless, the four summiters managed an ascent all the way from their last camp at only 6700 meters, 1400 vertical meters, to the summit and a safe return to camp late the same night, a round-trip of 21½ hours. Because of the meager supply of oxygen at the camp when they set out at three A.M., only two men climbed on oxygen during the ascent and even they had none left for the descent. Dhaulagiri via the northeast ridge was found by the Tibetans technically easier than Annapurna and Everest but harder than their own 8000er, Shisha Pangma. The second group had such perfect weather at the top that they didn't want to come down and while they lingered there for an hour and 11 minutes, they burned incense, an activity not routinely performed on an 8000-meter summit in Nepal.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Annapurna South Face Attempt and Near Tragedy.* Franc Knez and Slavko Svetičič attempted to complete the route on the south face of Annapurna previously tried by Beghin and Lafaille. Accompanied by Andreja Knez, they left on August 23 and a few days later were joined by Matjaž Pečovnik and a TV team. When at the end of September, Knez felt ill, Svetičič decided to try alone. On October 3, he began to climb with 50 kilos of equipment but after a bivouac at 6800 meters, he descended because of avalanche danger. On October 7, he set out again but at 6:45 A.M. he was swept down 500 meters by an avalanche. By nine A.M., the rescue operation began and he was carried down to Advance Base at 4800 meters by 7:30 P.M. The following day, he was carried to Base Camp and on October 9 was helicoptered to Kathmandu. He has returned to Slovenia, where it has been decided that no spine operation will be necessary.

FRANCI SAVENC, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

*Annapurna North Face Attempts.* There were two unsuccessful attempts to climb Annapurna by the usual north-face route. Nine Spanish Catalans led by Oleguer Suñe reached a high point at 6200 meters on October 4. A second expedition of Catalans, also numbering nine, were under the leadership of Sebastià Massagut. They had to turn back on October 21 at 6850 meters.

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