

the end of February. Jorge Pons, Dr. Mariano Anglada, Eduardo Blanchard, Antonio Villena, Javier Pérez, Enrique Benavente and I as leader reached Pokhara on March 9. We had to wait a week to find 200 porters and 57 mules. It took seven days to get to Chhoya, where problems began because the Thulobugin Pass (14,100 feet) to the Miristi Khola was full of snow and most porters refused to go on. After relaying loads, we reached Base Camp on April 4. On April 12 we established Camp I at 17,060 feet on the main glacier of Annapurna I. On the 16th we placed Camp II (19,350 feet) a mile from the north face. From there we followed the north ridge of Annapurna East; several days' work of cutting steps and fixing ropes took us on the 22nd to Camp III (21,325 feet) on the ridge. The Sherpas refused to go beyond Camp II but we finally convinced three of them to make three carries of 25 pounds to Camp II (for additional pay). From there on expedition members packed 45-pound loads ourselves. On April 24 we reconnoitered and packed to 22,650 feet. On the 26th Martín, Villena and Pérez as support and Cavis, Pons and I as the attack team left Camp III and reached 23,500 feet, where the latter three established Camp IV. On the 28th we three set up Camp V at 24,575 feet, still on the ridge. On April 29 we left Camp V at seven A.M. and followed the ridge leading directly to Annapurna East. At midday a snow and lightning storm made it difficult to advance; later it cleared but stayed cold. We reached the summit at nine P.M. in the moonlight. The temperature was -36° F. We descended until four A.M. when the moon set but soon continued again, reaching Camp V at six A.M.

JOSÉ MANUEL ANGLADA, *Club Montañés Barcelonés*

Annapurna IV. To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Oberland Section of the German Alpine Club, Ulrich Kamm, Dr. Peter Weidenthaler, Ulrich Eberhardt, Heinrich Gentner, Georg Gruber, Heinz Hüttl, Franz Leutgäb and I as leader undertook to climb 26,041-foot Annapurna II. We met in early March in Kathmandu. We started the 10-day, 100-mile march up the Marsyandi from Dumbre. On the ninth day the party arrived at Pisang under the north face of Annapurna II. The left side of the two-mile-wide wall has hanging glaciers, icefalls and avalanche danger. In the middle and right of the wall are buttresses, which offered a steep and difficult but objectively less dangerous route (the route previously climbed by Japanese in 1971 and 1973). From Base Camp at 11,825 feet we quickly set up Camps I and II at 13,800 and 16,600 feet. To climb the 45° to 55° buttress took two weeks; we fixed 4600 feet of rope. Five Sherpas, equipped and fed like us, worked with us in three-day stints, carrying loads of from 35 to 55 pounds. We established Camp III at 20,000 feet on April 14 and Camp IV at 22,800 feet a week later. Stormy, windy weather followed. Finally on April 26, Gruber, Hüttl and Leutgäb made use of good weather and in several

hours reached the west ridge, the site for Camp V. Since they could not see further along the ridge, they went ahead to the best view point, which happened to be the summit of Annapurna IV (24,688 feet). This was about 500 feet higher and about 650 yards distant from the proposed camp site. The Sherpas reported this to the liaison officer, who communicated with the foreign ministry, which forthwith withdrew our permission for Annapurna II*. Leutgäb and Gruber descended with frozen toes. While the Sherpas were evacuating the camps, unobserved I again climbed Annapurna IV solo to leave the Oberland pennant on the summit.

PETER BEDNAR, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Gangapurna. A Japanese expedition from Osaka led by Toshio Noshi made a successful ascent of Gangapurna (24,457 feet) by the east ridge, the same route followed by the Germans in 1965. From their highest camp, Camp III at 20,675 feet, Takeshi Kikusawa and Shinsuke Fujiwara climbed to the summit on May 13 via the 22,500-foot col between Gangapurna and Annapurna III.

MICHAEL CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

Annapurna South. The Japanese Gamagori Alpine Club Expedition was led by Tsuneo Suzuki. They attempted 23,683-foot Annapurna South or Moditse by a new route, the southwest ridge. From Camp III at 18,375 feet, on April 26 two members reached 19,700 feet. Two different Base Camps were hit by avalanches before a final Base Camp was established in a third position. Food and equipment were lost in the avalanches, but there were no casualties. The leader explained their failure by saying the chosen route was technically too difficult for his team. The loss of food and, more important, equipment was also a major factor.

MICHAEL CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

Hiunchuli, Correction. In the *American Alpine Journal* 1973 on page 333 it states that the peak east of Annapurna South was officially called the "Eastern Outlier of Annapurna South." Michael Cheney has pointed out to us that this is not correct and that the official name is Hiunchuli, which it is indeed called locally.

Dhaulagiri IV Attempt. The British Royal Air Force Dhaulagiri IV Expedition was led by Wing Commander D. le R. Bird and had 14 members. They were attempting Dhaulagiri IV (25,133 feet) from the Barun Khola to the north. Camp I was established at 16,000 feet on April 9

* The expedition was fined 6000 rupees and all members and organizers were banned from climbing in Nepal for three years.