

Nun. Our 18-man party attempted to climb the west face of Nun (23,410 feet), a 6000-foot, 55° ice face, but the bare ice forced us onto the northwest ridge (the Czech route of 1976). The weather turned so warm—40° C. (104° F.) at 18,375 feet—that the snow ran off in floods and ice screws holding fixed lines melted out. The monsoon struck us at 20,675 feet and we gave up.

ERICH VANIS, *Österreichischer Alpenklub*

Nun. After an eight-man West German team led by Ekkehart Rubel failed at 19,700 feet due to inclement weather, the Swiss Sylvain Saudan brought a six-person team to Nun at the end of May. Not until June 20 did they set up Camp I at 19,000 feet. After an unsuccessful attempt, on June 26 the final assault commenced from Camp I. Along with his fiancée Mlle Marie Jose Valancot, the American photographer Del Mulkey and his cousin Eric Poumallou, Saudan reached the summit at three P.M. He skied down a gradient of 50° and reached Base Camp at seven P.M.

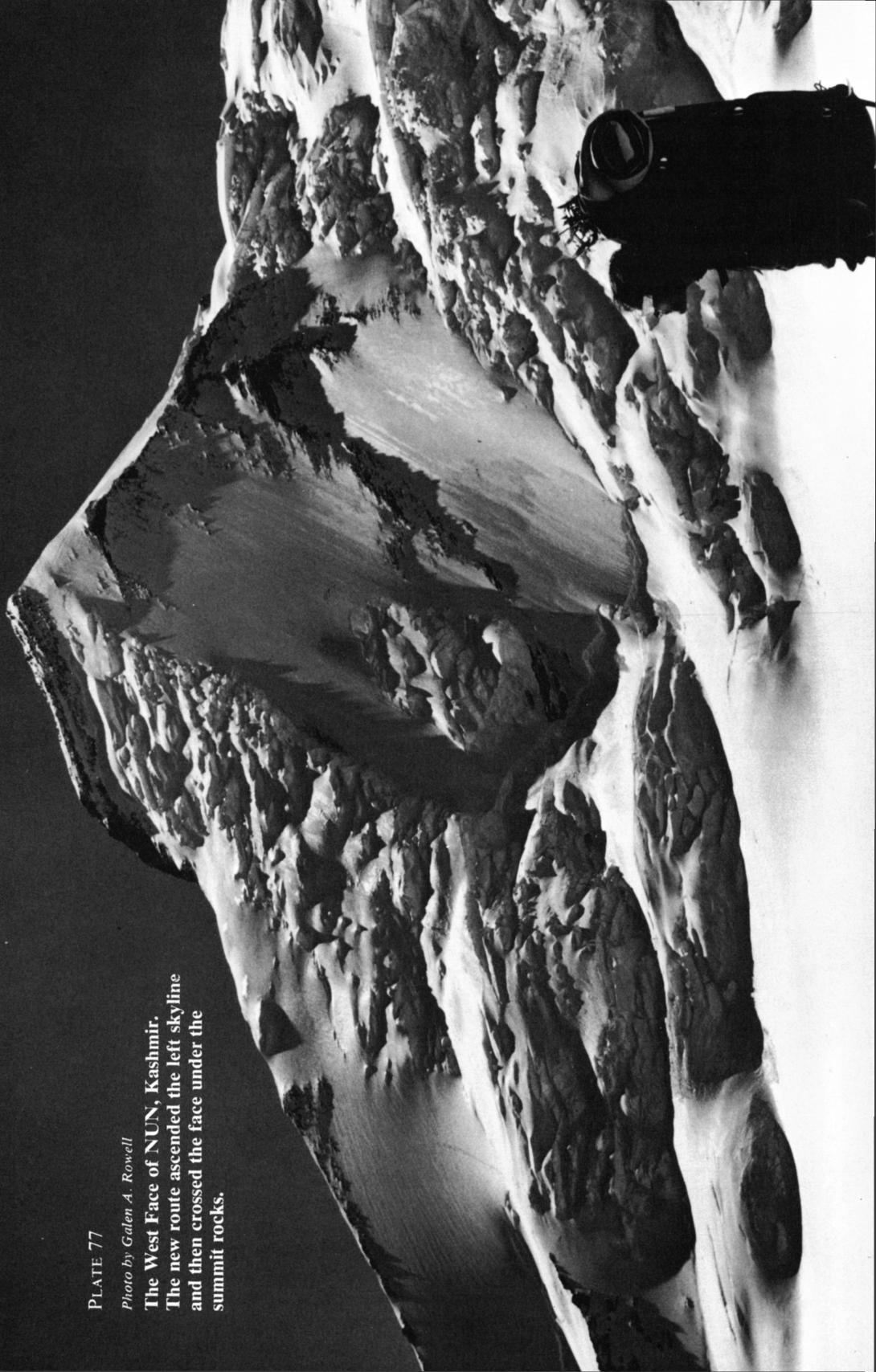
KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

Nun, Northwest Ridge and West Face. The highest summit (23,410 feet) between Nanga Parbat and the Garhwal Himalaya, Nun, was climbed by a 15-member Mountain Travel team, led by Galen Rowell. Five climbers reached the summit and twelve got to the 20,500-foot High Camp. The mountain was climbed semi-alpine style, not according to plan, but because of an unexpected shortage of tents and Sherpas. We lacked the tentage and manpower to fix the necessary two camps above 17,500 feet on the normal French route. Instead, six of the strongest climbers attempted the northwest ridge and west face in two days with only enough gear for one camp. Climbing was alpine style except for the assistance of three Sherpas who made a carry to High Camp, then returned to a lower camp the same day. Above the camp, we followed the 1976 Czech route up the northwest ridge for a few hundred feet and then veered away from the ridge, where the Czechs had fixed thousands of feet of rope, onto the unclimbed west face. At 22,000 feet progress was slowed by a long traverse on 55° ice. After the traverse, one rope of three elected to go for the summit and the others went down. Maynard Cohick, Peter Cummings, and I reached the summit late on the afternoon of June 18 in a localized blizzard. We descended in the dark to the High Camp. Two days later Kim Schmitz led another rope of three up the same route. Schmitz and Pat O'Donnell reached the summit an hour earlier in the day than we had, but Malcolm Jones, who waited below, was so exhausted that darkness caught them higher on the route than it had the first team. At ten P.M., with no lights on a moonless night, the rope of three was still above High Camp descending an ice bulge. Jones

PLATE 77

Photo by Galen A. Rowell

The West Face of NUN, Kashmir.
The new route ascended the left skyline
and then crossed the face under the
summit rocks.



inadvertently jerked O'Donnell from his tracks and both men plummeted past Schmitz, who stood on his front points in the ice, realized that his axe wouldn't hold in that spot, and made a desperate effort: he wound the rope around his arm so that the jerk, when it came, wouldn't pull directly on his body and yank him out of his tracks. Somehow he was able to hold the fall of both men. O'Donnell fell 200 feet and Jones about 150 feet. Other than scratches and bruises, no one was hurt. The expedition made a happily uneventful retreat through icefalls, newly green hillsides, and villages, back to the luxury of a houseboat in the Vale of Kashmir.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Kun. Hanns Schell, his wife Lilo, Gerhard Pressl, Robert Schauer and Karl Hub climbed Kun by the normal route. They did not attempt the traverse over Nun, which had been said to be one of their objectives.

Kun and P 6300 above Phirtse Pass. Five German climbers, led by Ludwig Greissl, and a Sherpa climbed Kun on August 19. A second group of nine, led by Franz Klement, got to the top on September 2. Two of a group in the Zanskar climbed an unnamed peak of 6300 meters (20,670 feet) above the Phirtse Pass, which links Keylong-Darcha and Padam. This was probably a first ascent. These were climbers from Hauser International.

GÜNTER HAUSER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Eiger and Cathedral Attempts, Kishtwar. Our party was composed of Emmett Goulding, Anthony Latham, Joss Lynam, Clare Sheridan and me as leader. We hoped to climb peaks on the south side of the Kiar Nallah. Base Camp was set up at the foot of the Sarbal Glacier on June 14 and a camp at the foot of the Eiger at 19,700 feet on June 17, but the proposed route up the icefall leading from the Sarbal Glacier to the west ridge was dangerous owing to windslab and so we turned to our second objective, Cathedral. We made camp on the Sickie Moon Glacier below the west face of Cathedral on June 21. The whole party climbed to a bivouac at 17,000 feet. On the 23rd Sheridan, Latham and I climbed rock of HVS standard to reach the south ridge at 17,725 feet, where a rock step turned us back. We reoccupied the Eiger Camp but the icefall was still dangerous. Two attempts to climb a peak of about 18,700 feet, immediately west of Eiger Camp, were frustrated by bad weather. Finally Latham, Lynam and I climbed a 5000-meter (16,404-foot) peak above Base Camp by its northwest ridge, straight-forward except for a 300-foot rock step. After a bivouac above the step, we reached the top on July 5.

CALVIN TORRANS, *Irish Mountaineering Club*