

14,775, 18,050 and 21,500 feet on March 20, 28 and April 15 respectively. They attempted the northwest ridge of Kang Guru (7010 meters, 23,000 feet), but bad weather, heavy snow and a lack of equipment, especially fixed rope, drove them back from 21,650 feet.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Dhaulagiri, Pear Route Attempt, 1979.* (Further and more accurate details of the Polish Gdynia-Gdańsk expedition.) Expedition equipment was lost in a fire in Karachi during shipment, delaying matters. Base Camp was set up on September 1, 1979 at 15,100 feet on the Mayangdi Glacier. The "Pear" route was attempted, where previously the Argentinians had failed. Camps I and II were established at 18,375 and 19,700 feet on September 5 and 14. Camp III at 22,000 feet was placed on September 28 on the lower edge of the Pear and Camp IV on October 1 at 24,275 feet above it. The route up the Pear was on the right, not the left as before. On October 12 Waclaw Otreba solo and on October 13, 1979 Walenty Fiut and Wojciech Kurtyka made summit attempts, reaching the ridge at 25,500 feet, but high winds and snowfall turned them back. From September 29 to October 3 Kurtyka and Fiut made an alpine-style attempt on the difficult and dangerous east face, getting to 20,350 feet, where bad weather prevented further progress. American Alpine Club member, Alex Bertulis, also took part.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Taternik, Poland*

*Dhaulagiri.* Dhaulagiri was climbed in 1960 for the first time by a Swiss expedition, led by Max Eiselin, by the northeast ridge. Now, 20 years later, Eiselin organized another expedition to the same mountain, open to all experienced mountaineers. I was chosen as leader. On March 21 we—13 Swiss, an American, a German, a Czech and an Austrian—left Pokhara with 240 porters. In three weeks we marched westward to Kusma-Beni and up the Mayangdi valley to Dhaulagiri. We chose this route because the Dambush Pass is still under deep snow at this time of the year. On April 10 we erected Base Camp at the so-called French Camp at 15,100 feet and on April 18 Advanced Base on the northeast col at 18,375 feet. Three further camps were established: Camp I on April 21 at 21,000 feet, Camp II on May 2 at 23,125 feet and Camp III on May 10 at 24,950 feet. After two days of snow and storm, the weather changed and Fritz Luchsinger, Sherpa Ang Rita and I reached the summit (8222 meters, 26,975 feet) after a 5½-hour climb. For Luchsinger, 59 years old, it was his second 8000er, the first being Lhotse in 1956. Dhaulagiri was my fourth mountain over 8000 meters (Lhotse, 1977; Makalu, 1978; Everest, 1979). Thanks to extraordinary

weather four further parties reached the summit: 14 of 17 climbers and three Sherpas. They were Josef Buholzer, Hansjörg Müller, Raymond Monnerat, Hans Zimmermann on May 14; Hans Burgstaller, Hans Eitel, Fredi Graf, Marcel Rüedi on May 17; Mike Ballmann, Rolf Bleiker, Mingma, Lakhpa Gyalzen on May 18; and Simon Burkhard, Jean Müller, Ang Rita on May 19.

HANS VON KÄNEL, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

*American Women's Expedition to Dhaulagiri I, Pear Route Attempt.* After delays in Bangkok, where we had to transship our gear, our AAC-sponsored expedition left Pokhara in two groups on August 13 and 14, with a total of 270 local porters. It took us nine days to reach Yak Pass above Tukuche in the Kali Gandaki Valley. From Yak Pass, most of the loads were carried by mules; the trail crosses the 17,000-foot Dhampus and French Passes which are separated by several miles of scree-covered, high terrain. We established one support camp at about 16,000 feet on the Kali Gandaki side of the Dhampus Pass, and another in the Hidden Valley between the two passes to provide logistical support especially when the high passes were covered with deep snow. During monsoon, this approach is probably safer than the Mayangdi Khola gorge approach, where landslides occur. From the French Pass camp the loads were relayed to the Mayangdi Glacier Base Camp, which was established at 15,000 feet opposite the Pear Route on September 4. On September 7, Susan Havens, Shari Kearney, Ang Dawa, and Gyalzen (Phortse) climbed up an obvious scree, rock, and snow ridge to establish Camp I at 17,000 feet. It was possible to place several tents at this camp. The next section of the ridge consists of mud and rock and is narrow; we fixed approximately 600 feet of rope there. A snow section of the ridge leads to a short icfall and to a plateau, where Cyndy Simer, Lucy Smith, and Gyalzen established Camp II on September 11. The camp was later moved to a position directly on the way to the future Camp III. This new site was exposed to snow sliding off the ridge above; however, placing the camp on the ridge itself would have meant a very long carry. After a snowstorm which deposited about six feet of snow at Camp II, Camp III was established on September 25 by Sue Giller, Heidi Lüdi, Ang Rita, and Gyalzen at 21,300 feet, under a triangular sérac located on the right side of and below the Pear. They followed the ridge above Camp II and then started climbing on the gradually steepening snow of the north face proper; the only fixed ropes were placed on the steep terrain directly below Camp III. The establishment of Camp IV was hampered by strong winds on the face. This camp was placed by Annie Whitehouse, Ang Rita, Gyalzen and me on October 5 at 23,300 feet at the top of the Pear, where a snowbank permitted construction of tent