

*Lhotse Shar Attempt.* A pre-monsoon Italian expedition of 16 members led by Giancarlo Riva failed to climb the normal route, the southeast ridge, of Lhotse Shar (8450 meters, 27,559 feet). They had two high camps and planned another at 23,000 feet. After Marco Della Santa and Norberto Riva reached that altitude they decided to give up the climb because of terrible winds and frequent heavy snowfall that brought on acute avalanche danger.

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*Lhotse Shar Attempt.* Canadian Roger Marshall, Cynthia Cannell and American George Lawrence attempted Lhotse Shar by its southeast ridge. They made five camps above Base Camp, including an ice cave used by Marshall alone on October 20 and 21. Marshall solo reached 26,000 feet on October 21 and then gave up in the face of steep ice, wind, cold and fuel-and-food shortages. Lawrence had become exhausted and stopped climbing toward the summit with Marshall on October 17. Cannell went several times to Camp I and a bit above it.

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*Lhotse.* A Japanese expedition led by Kazuyuki Takahashi climbed Lhotse by the normal route in the post-monsoon season. The Lhotse climb was for high-altitude acclimatization for a winter ascent of Everest via the South Col by this party and by another party on the north face led by Takahashi's wife, Michiko Imai. On Lhotse they had 14 Sherpas above Base Camp, including a few "Icefall Sherpas," who never slept above Base Camp. They all used artificial oxygen while sleeping in Camp IV at 25,750 feet and climbing to the summit. On October 9 climbing leader Noboru Yamada, Takashi Ozaki and Kazunari Murakami reached the summit. Tsutomu Miyazaki, Takashi Kagawa and Sherpa Dawa Norbu on October 10 and Takahashi, Shigeru Suzuki and Sherpa Pemba Nuru on October 14 also climbed to the top.

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*Mount Everest.* The trip was led by German Gerhard Lenser with Phil Erchler as climbing leader. We started in the icefall on April 1. The winter had been very dry and the icefall was in bad shape. It took nine days of hard labor to establish a route through it to Camp I. Beyond Camp I, the pace of the expedition increased dramatically. We established Camp II quickly and work began on the Lhotse Face. This was very icy, but we were aided by old fixed ropes. Camp III was placed halfway up the face at 24,000 feet and the South Col was stocked. The Sherpas would leave Camp II early, go to Camp III empty, carry a load to the col and return to Camp II for the night. The first summit team consisted of Peter Jamieson, Larry Nielson, David Breashears, Sherpa Ang Rita and me. We

left the South Col at five A.M. on May 7. Nielson and Ang Rita climbed without oxygen while we other three carried one bottle of oxygen each. We chose a direct line up the southeast face and made good progress until 27,300 feet, where soft snow was encountered. We three with oxygen took turns breaking trail but progress was very slow as there were stretches of thigh-deep snow. Finally we climbed a steep headwall and reached the southeast ridge at 28,000 feet at one P.M. The direct line was a mistake as the soft snow continued to just below the south summit, which we reached at three P.M. On firm snow at last, our pace increased and we got to the summit at four P.M. Nielson got there at 4:20, the first American to climb Everest without oxygen. On top, 20 pounds of batteries, video camera and transmitter were assembled and a signal was sent to the Everest View Hotel. The events on the summit, including Nielson's arrival, were recorded on video tape and aired on the ABC show, *American Sportsman*, on May 15. With all now out of oxygen, the descent was a trying affair and we got to the South Col well after dark. On May 14 Gary Neptune, Jim States and Sherpa Lhakpa Dorje left the South Col at three A.M., carrying one bottle of oxygen each. They climbed the rocks east of the direct couloir and avoided some of the deep snow. They reached the summit at 1:30 P.M. and were back at the South Col before dark. A third attempt including Dick Bass was turned back from 27,500 feet. Several further attempts, which included both Bass and Frank Wells, were frustrated by high winds and did not go beyond the South Col. While Bass and Wells were not able to become the oldest Everest summiters, they must be credited with organizing a very successful trip. The expedition ran like clockwork thanks to the tremendous efforts of the Sherpas and the climbing leader, Phil Erchler.

GERALD A. ROACH

*Everest, West Ridge Attempt.* Our team members were Jim Sano, leader; Chas Macquarie, climbing leader; Todd Bibler, Sandy Stewart, Claude Fiddler, Alex Moad, Shari Kearney, Lucy Smith, Doug Dalquist, Eric Reynolds, Annie Whitehouse, Rennie Jackson, Sue Giller, climbers; Susan Buren, doctor; and Rodney Korich, Base Camp Manager. We attempted the Yugoslavian route on the west ridge to the top of the west shoulder and from there the 1963 American route up the Hornbein Couloir. We reached Base Camp at 17,800 feet on August 20. On August 24 we established the route to the base of the winch at 19,200 feet. Beyond, we had a very dangerous rockfall section with difficult steep rock pitches. We set up a winch system which eventually lifted four tons of food and equipment for the higher camps. Camp I (Advance Base) was occupied on the Lho La at 19,800 feet on August 27. We placed Camp II about halfway up to the west shoulder at 22,300 feet on September 6. Camp III was established on September 10 at 23,500 feet near the top of the shoulder and Camp IV on September 16 at 24,700 feet at the end of the west ridge where it joins the summit pyramid. From September 18 to 24 storms halted operations. The route leading to Camp V was difficult and took much route preparation. Camp V was