

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

placed in the Hornbein Couloir at 27,000 feet on October 2. The first summit attempt was to have been made by Todd Bibler and Ang Jangbo. They spent the night of October 2 at Camp V but a fierce storm destroyed their tent and forced them back. That storm caused avalanches which took out several hundred feet of rope between Camp IV and V. During the storm we all retreated to Advance Base. After it, Chas Macquarie and Eric Reynolds went back to Camp IV to refix the ropes to Camp V. After them, Rennie Jackson, Annie Whitehouse, Eric Reynolds and I were scheduled to make the second summit attempt. We were at Camp IV during another storm with high winds on October 11 and 12. I descended to Camp III to wait out the storm. Eric, Rennie and Annie stayed at Camp IV. On October 13 it cleared and the three went up to Camp V. They made their summit attempt on October 14 and made it to 28,000 feet before they had to turn back because of high winds. Annie Whitehouse made an altitude record for American women. After the second summit attempt the winds did not die down. Chas and I ascended once more to Camp IV to help the three down. Annie had frostbitten fingers. The winds along the west ridge at Camp IV and above we estimated at 100 mph. In all 18 tents were destroyed by the wind. After much thought and discussion we decided to clear the mountain. We had 18 Sherpas with Per Temba as sirdar, an excellent crew.

ANNE MACQUARIE

*Everest Ascent and Tragedy.* Two Japanese expeditions climbed Everest in the post-monsoon season, but three died on the descent. Five Japanese led by Haruichi Kawamura and ten Sherpas originally had permission for the southwest face but had it changed for the southeast ridge. They established Base Camp at 17,550 feet on September 5 and Camps I, II, III, and IV at 20,350, 21,000, 24,275 and 26,100 feet on September 13, 15, 24 and 30. They more or less followed the route of the 1981 American Medical Expedition to the left of the Lhotse Face. Bad weather halted them for a week. Five other Japanese led by Hiroshi Yoshino and two Sherpas got to Base Camp on September 14 and established Camps II and III on September 24 and 28. They fixed ropes to the South Col on September 30. They too had to wait until October 7 when Yoshino, Hironobu Kamuro, Noburu Sawagami and Haruyuki Endo established Camp IV on the South Col. That night Kawamura, Shomi Suzuki and Sherpa Pasang Temba were at their Camp IV ready to traverse to the right to the southeast ridge above the col. At 3:30 A.M. on October 8 all seven climbers met on the ridge. They climbed individually but generally together. They were amazed to see the Americans emerge just behind them from the Kangshung Face at 27,900 feet. The Americans passed them and they followed in their tracks. Pasang Temba and Sawagami decided to descend from below the south peak but the other five Japanese reached the summit between 4:20 and 5:10 P.M. All descended again individually. Sawagami returned to the South Col. Pasang Temba was descending behind the Americans when he slipped, shot past them and fell to his death. Kawamura and Suzuki descended to 27,550 feet, where they had left