

*Gangapurna from the North.* Our expedition was to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Slovensko Planinsko Društvo (Slovene Alpine Club). We were delayed five days in Kathmandu trying in vain to find a precious load which had our ski poles, Base Camp tent and all our tent supports. We traveled by special bus to Dumre and walked to Manang in nine days. We had difficulty with porters on the approach. They shortened the days' stages and even demanded 100 rupees per day instead of the official 25 rupees. At Manang we hired mules because of a shortage of porters. On the precipitous footpath to Base Camp, the animals panicked and eleven loads fell 1000 feet to the bottom of the valley. On October 8 we finally reached 15,900 feet, beyond which most of the porters would not go. We had planned for a higher Base Camp but had to settle for Base Camp I there. We provided ten porters with clothing and footgear. On October 10 we carried to Base Camp II at 17,550 feet, next to the French Grenoble expedition to Glacier Dome. That evening a blizzard began. When we had plowed back through three feet of snow on October 13, we found Base Camp II demolished. The sky cleared but there were hurricane winds and  $-20^{\circ}$  C temperatures there. We had only 18 days left. The north ridges from Gangapurna and Glacier Dome embrace a hidden cwm. The center of the north face rises 6000 feet to the summit of Gangapurna. Being pressed for time, and because of strong winds on the western side of the face, we decided to ascend the left (eastern) 4250-foot-high side and reach the northeast ridge at 23,000 feet. On October 16 we set up Camp I at 18,050 feet. We continued into and up the cwm and then fixed 650 feet of rope on the face to 20,000 feet, the site of Camp II. Rope was then fixed up to 22,500 feet. Camp III was to have been established at 22,000 feet. Marjan Kregar and Pavel Kozjek were to have made a summit push but wind and cold drove them back to Base Camp II on October 24. Camps I and II were swept in that storm by avalanches. We realized that a Camp III on the ridge would be of no use and so we decided to climb the mountain from Camp II. On October 27 Kozjek, Kregar, Emil Tratnik and I set out from Camp II in the moonlight and reached the ridge in the early morning hours. We fixed the last 650 feet of rope to protect the descent. We had fixed in all 4000 feet of rope. At nine A.M. we started unroped up the technically easy northeast ridge. The wind grew stronger and stronger and at times we had to crawl. We completed the new route to the summit (7455 meters, 24,457 feet) at 12:40. In 100 mph wind and  $-30^{\circ}$  C temperatures, we had to leave in 15 minutes. The wind abated lower down and with the fixed ropes we reached the support party of Božidar Alič and Boris Kofel at Camp II. We evacuated the high camps and were in Manang on October 30. The other members of the party were Marjan Brišar, Vid Mesarič, Andrej Beg and Marjan Novak.

STANE BELAK, *Planinsko Društvo Ljubljana Matica, Yugoslavia*

*Tarke Kang (Glacier Dome).* A French expedition led by Bernard Muller attempted this peak by its north face. They pitched three camps above Base Camp. They had reconnoitered to 21,000 feet above Camp III on October 8.

Heavy snowfall brought avalanches which swept the camp, destroying the tent. The four occupants managed to get out and dug a snow cave, which in turn was covered by slides. They managed to get down in the deep snow and called the expedition off.

*Tarke Kang (Glacier Dome).* Our expedition, led by Rudi Mayr had 16 members, most of them high-altitude trekkers with no serious ambition for the summit (7193meters, 23,600 feet). The mountain was approached from the south and Base Camp was established on October 14 at 14,450 feet. Further progress was delayed due to very deep snow and daily avalanches particularly in the dangerous area between 16,400 and 19,700 feet. On October 22, at four A.M. Rudi Mayr, Friedl Kleissl, Ang-Nima Sherpa, Gyalzen Sherpa and I left Camp II at 19,000 feet. The ascent was first through a 1000-foot-high ice gully and then over ice slopes to the ridge between Glacier Dome and Rock Noir.\* Following the long snow slopes to the east, we reached the summit at 4:30 P.M. Since I stayed on the summit for a longer time, I had to descend alone. Due to hallucinations and later to darkness, I lost the track and had to bivouac. On the next day I also got into an avalanche but finally escaped with some frostbitten toes. No further attempts on the summit were made.

OSWALD ÖLZ, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Annapurna, South Face Attempt.* An expedition of five Yugoslavs and two Italians was led by Andrej Štemfelj. They attempted a new route on the south face of Annapurna between the British and Japanese routes. Warm weather triggered much rockfall. On October 22 Janez Benkovic and Bogdan Bičak reached a high point of 21,000 feet. A rock struck the pack of one of them. Séracs were also falling in the area and so there was no safe route in the vicinity where they were climbing. They decided to stop on October 26.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*, and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Annapurna, Northwest Buttress Attempt.* Annapurna's still unclimbed northwest buttress is very dangerous. My friends and I are still alive, but we were in the wind from many avalanches in Camp I. An avalanche in Camp II killed a member of the Korean expedition and two of their porters on September 24. The Korean climbing leader, Carlo Besana and I rescued Kim Chung-Hwan below Camp II four hours later. Our group was made up of Besana, Giuseppe Lafranconi, Achille Pasini, Claudio Cavenago, Fabio Nicoli, Giulano Maresi, Lino Tagliabue, Paolo Lietti, Remigio Bonacina, Sante Armuzzi and me as leader. We had only ten days of good weather out of 38. We established Base Camp at 13,300 feet on September 12 and Camps I and II at 16,400 and 17,400

---

\* The official names recently announced by the Nepalese government for Glacier Dome and Roc Noir are Tarke Kang and Khangsar Kang.