

*Lobuje East.* We reached our high camp of 17,000 feet on April 19. On the 20th I soloed P 5551 (18,212 feet), which lies a mile south of Lobuje East, for a better look at our chosen southeast-face route on Lobuje East. Bad weather forced us to remain in camp until April 25. That morning found Sherpa Ang Gyalzen and me working our way up the southeast face. It began to snow at ten o'clock. We summited (6119 meters, 20,075 feet) at 11:30 A.M., descended to camp by one o'clock and then to the village of Pheriche. Our third member, Len Torobin, could not go beyond high camp because of an ear infection. The Sherpas and the Nepalese authorities state that ours was a first ascent, but Japanese led by Yoshihiro Hayata climbed the peak in 1979.\*

LAWRENCE NIELSON

*Lobuje East.* Our French and Swiss expedition was composed of Denise Hembise, Samyr Lazizi, Bernard Nief, François Ryter, Serge Chartoise and me. After an approach of 12 days, we placed Base Camp beside a lake at 5000 meters below the southeast ridge of Lobuje East. The route ascended a snow slope to reach the crest of the southeast ridge where it has two rock bands at 5500 meters. We placed Camp I at 5700 meters. The difficulties began there. There were two steep steps on the summit ridge and there were knife-edged sections. On November 5 Chartoise, Lazizi, Ryter, Sirdar Chowang Rinzi and I reached the summit at 1:30 P.M.

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*Lobuje West.* Yuji Kamakura, Yoshihiro Taguchi, Mrs. Akiko Kanazawa, Miss Keiko Nishihira, Dr. Ken Kanazawa and I settled Base Camp on September 16 on the Lobuje Glacier at 5000 meters. Within a week we made a route in the labyrinth of a huge icefall, using 1000 meters of fixed rope. The icefall completely hid the upper glacial basin and the couloir which led to the summit ridge. On September 26 Kamakura and Taguchi left Base Camp and entered the camp which had been pitched in the basin at 5650 meters the day before. The next day they climbed the slope to the 60° couloir. In the lower part, they climbed the left side of the couloir for 300 meters and then traversed to the right and climbed another 120 meters. After a few pitches, they reached the rock wall below the summit ridge, where they bivouacked. On September 28 they continued up the wall and snow to reach the summit (6145 meters, 20,160 feet) at 10:15 A.M. The summit was a sharply knife-edged point. It seems likely that Fred Beckey and party in 1955 climbed the east peak of Lobuje East and so ours may have been the first ascent.

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\*George Bell has cleared up details about what he and Fred Beckey climbed in 1955. They climbed the southeast face of Lobuje East but did not go to the highest summit. Bell states, "We climbed the east peak of Lobuje East, not the west peak as stated in the 1956 A.A.J. account. The real summit tower is some ten meters higher and 200 meters west of where we got."—Editor.