

Gangapurna Attempt. The Tourism Ministry says that a lone Korean, Lee Suk-Woo, and his sirdar climbed to 7100 meters on January 31 and then gave up when they couldn't find a route above that point.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Tarke Kang (Glacier Dome). Josef Oberauer led three Austrians, two Germans and an American on a successful climb of Tarke Kang's normal southwest route. They had four camps above Base Camp. On October 22 Oberauer, Klaus Solbach, Miss Herta Kantner, Werner Masik and Sherpas Ang Nima and Gyalgen reached the summit (7193 meters, 23,600 feet), only ten days after reaching Base Camp. Solbach is German and the others Austrians. Two members became ill at Machhapuchhre Base Camp and left the expedition even before they reached their own Base Camp. So really all the team members reached the summit.

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

Tarke Kang (Glacier Dome), North Face. Um Gae-Sung and two other Koreans established three camps on the north face of Tarke Kang. Um and two Sherpas, Pasang Norbu and Lhakpa Tshering, went to the summit on October 27.

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

Annapurna's West-Northwest Spur, Attempt and Tragedy. Between Annapurna I and Varah Shikhar (Fang) lies a summit of over 7700 meters from which a prominent spur descends to the valley of the Miristi Khola. Our expedition, consisting of Michel Drapier, Philippe Dumas, Roger Fillon, my son Pierre Sigayret, Patrick Taglianut and me, *French*, Pemba Norbu, *Nepali*, Louis Craig and André Laperrière, *Canadians*, hoped to climb this spur, to reach the nameless peak and then to climb the west ridge to get to the summit of Annapurna. Our Base Camp, reached on March 19, was 4000 meters on the moraines of the Miristi Khola about 2½ hours' walk below the usual Annapurna Base Camp. From Base Camp we followed the moraine of Annapurna's northwest glacier up easy terrain, which was exposed to sérac falls. Camp I was placed on March 22 at 5000 meters in an ice cave as protection from avalanches. From Camp I to Camp II the route followed the secondary glacier and turned left over the séracs. A 45° ice slope, on which we fixed rope, let us reach a glacier shelf, where we established Camp II at 5600 meters on March 25. From Camp II we climbed the western side of the main northwest spur to gain its crest. We followed this snow-and-ice crest to place Camp III at 6100 meters on April 6. There were continuous fixed ropes from Camp II to III. From Camp III we crossed almost horizontally left in the direction of a secondary spur on hard ice partially exposed to avalanches. We then ascended the icy spur until it turned to



PLATE 63

Photos by Henri Sigayret

Annapurna West-Southwest.

PLATE 64

Wind and Spindrift between Camps I and II on Annapurna West-Southwest.

rock. Camp IV was placed at 6900 meters on August 21. Again ropes were fixed. From there Pemba Norbu, my son Pierre and I climbed to a high point of 7200 meters on April 23. When no one ascended from Camp III, we went down and discovered the tragedy. On April 21 Taglianut and Dumas had stayed in Camp III. Apparently a snowslide had precipitated their tent into the void. In spite of extensive search, the bodies were not found.

HENRI SIGAYRET, *Groupe de Haute Montagne*

Annapurna, Middle Summit, South Face. Our expedition was made up of only Nil Bohigas and me, though we had two friends in Base Camp. We intended to climb the route attempted by Alex MacIntyre and René Ghilini in 1982, but from the beginning it was our plan to descend the face while they would have gone down the north face if they had succeeded. Our ascent of the 2300-meter (7500-foot) face was made without fixed rope, camps, or any previous load-carries. After five weeks of acclimatization between our 4200-meter Base Camp and 6000 meters to various points in the Annapurna Sanctuary, we set out with 55-pound packs that had food and fuel for seven days, tent, an 8mm rope, a 7mm rope and enough hardware to rig rappels on the 2000-meter descent. We actually used only the 8mm rope doubled on the ascent at difficult points. We took nine days on the climb; one approaching the foot of the face, seven ascending the face and one on the descent. We left a bivouac at the very foot of the wall at 5800 meters at ten P.M., climbed all night and all the next day (19 hours) to reach 7100 meters, where we placed the second bivouac. All this part, similar in difficulty to the north face of the Droites, was climbed unroped in the interest of speed. The next day we had to climb the most difficult part of the climb, the place where MacIntyre and Ghilini had to quit in 1982 for want of gear. It took us all day to climb the 50 meters from 7150 to 7200 meters with UIAA Grade V + , A2. Our third bivouac was just above this. We then climbed for two days on ice and mixed terrain to get to the final rock band at 7650 meters, at the top of which we joined the Polish route. The 160 meters of rock band between bivouacs 5 and 6 was of V to V + difficulty. From our bivouac at 7800 meters to the middle summit of Annapurna (8061 meters, 26,447 feet) took us until 12:30 on October 3. We returned to 7800 meters for our seventh bivouac. We settled on reaching the middle summit since the main summit is only 30 meters higher and at some distance. On October 4 we descended first along the Polish route and then by the great couloir between our route and the Polish one. From 7800 to 5900 meters we descended on 80-meter rappels, almost always anchored by a single point.

ENRIC LUCAS, *Unió Excursionista de Catalunya*

Annapurna, First Ascent of East Ridge and Traverse. Our members were Frank Tschirky, leader, Dr. Bruno Durrer, Norbert Joos, Ueli Bühler, Fritz Hobi and me, all guides. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II and III on September 17, 19, 27 and October 2 at 4300, 5700, 6500 and 7100 meters, the