

meters of rope as they climbed a rock ridge to gain an easy snow ridge at 6400 meters, but the summit was still too far and they had to return. More details and a photograph appear in *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 112.

*Naimona'nyi (Gurla Mandhata).* The Japanese part of the joint expedition, of which I was the mountaineering leader, passed through Urumchi and reached Kashgar, where we met the Chinese part on April 11. We went through Yarkand, crossed the Kunlung Mountains and went over the Tibetan plateau. Then we reached the source of the Indus River via Shiquanhe and went along the river. We established our "Base House" at Sukan at 4600 meters on the north of Naimona'nyi. This approach march was carried out with six jeeps, twelve trucks and a bus. We established Base Camp at the tongue of the Zaromalangpa Glacier at 5600 meters on May 2. Camps I, II, III and IV were made at 6100, 6720, 7240 and 7420 meters on May 3, 11, 16 and 25. At 7:40 A.M. on May 26 Japanese Yoshiharu Suita, Kozo Matsubayashi, Toyoji Wada and Kiichiro Suita, Tibetans Cirenuoji and Jiabu, Chinese-Korean Jin Junxi and Chinese Song Zhiyu started from Camp IV to reach the summit at 11:45. A second climbing team of five Chinese including one Tibetan, Yang Chiu-hsui, Chi Mi, Ch'en Kien-Chün, T'sao An and Pao Te-shing, also succeeded in reaching the top on May 28. After the ascent, the expedition made scientific surveys in geology, geo-physics, glaciology, high-altitude medicine, hydrology, social science, human geography, etc. On the return journey we visited Kailas and went along the Yal-Tsango River to reach Lhasa via Shigatse. The journey was 3000 kilometers from Kashgar to Lhasa via Manasarowar Lake. Although the altitude of the mountain has been given as 7728 meters, a new Chinese survey shows that it is 7694 meters (25,243 feet). Though the mountain has previously been called Gurla Mandhata, the Tibetan is Naimona'nyi. *Naimo* = herbal medicine; *na* = black; *nyi* = heaped-up slabs. The meaning is therefore "the mountain of heaped-up slabs of black herbal medicine."

KATSUTOSHI HIRABAYASHI, *Doshisha University Alpine Club, Japan*

*Mount Spender or Chongtar Attempt.* Mountain Travel obtained a permit for the first American expedition to the Chinese Karakoram. We were Jim Bridwell, leader, Sergio Fitch-Watkins, Dr. John Allen, Pauline Green, Dr. Paul Kustra, Barry Rosenbaum, James Vavrina and I as expedition doctor. Using camels to transport our gear, we approached Mount Spender (also called Chongtar; 7330 meters, 24,049 feet) from the Yarkand River near Mahza. The peak lies just west of K2. We started walking on September 5. We crossed the Aghil Pass on September 8 and reached the Shaksgam River, an awesome desert gorge surrounded by unclimbed snowy peaks. Younghusband crossed this pass in 1887 and Shipton in the 1930s. On September 11 we reached the snout of the Sarpo Laggo Glacier at 4000 meters. We carried all our own loads beyond here. On September 15 we moved to Advance Base on the glacier at 4350 meters. We then turned up a dry valley into the basin labeled North Chongtar Glacier on the

Italian Baltoro map. We occupied Camps I and II at 5000 and 5500 meters on September 18 and 20. On the 21st a reconnaissance to 6000 meters allowed us to select a route along Spender's west-southwest ridge. A six-day storm then followed. Finally, on September 26, Bridwell, Rosenbaum and I set out on a light-weight effort to gain the top. We placed camps at 5900 and 6400 meters. Without an altimeter, we erroneously thought ourselves higher. On September 29 we headed for the top. In the afternoon we reached 7000 meters and realized the summit was too far along the ridge to be attained before nightfall. We retreated quickly to meet our camel drivers at Base Camp on October 3. We had superb views of the north faces of K2 and the Mustagh Tower. The Crown (7265 meters; above the Skamri Glacier) was being attempted by a Japanese party while we were on Spender.

PETER CUMMINGS, M.D.

*Celestial Peak, Southeast Ridge, Solo.* On August 5, I made the second ascent of Celestial Peak by a new route, climbing the southeast ridge in three days. The climb was 26 rope-lengths. Seventeen rappels down the east face brought me back to the ground. I experienced rain on eight of the 23 days I was in the Zhong Ping valley. Local people and previous expeditions indicate that September and October have more settled weather. During my stay two Japanese teams attempted the main summit of Siguniang but both were stopped well short of serious climbing due to bad weather and lack of experience. The route is seen on Plate 16, page 44 of *A.A.J.*, 1984. It is the ridge facing the camera between light and shade.

KEITH BROWN

*Yulong Shan Attempt.* Yulong Shan (Jade Dragon Mountain) is the predominant peak in a compact mountain group in northern Yunnan Province. The peak has an unofficial height of 5600 meters and is readily accessible from the nearby city of Lijiang. In fact its setting overlooking Lijiang reminded team members of Huaraz, while the scale of the peaks themselves also seemed Andean. Yulong Shan has been attempted twice: in the 1930s by a New Zealand team, and in 1984 by a Japanese group. Our climbing team this October 1985 was Bob Schneider, Brock Wagstaff, Brett Bernhardt, Dave Chick, Steve Russel and myself. We reached Base Camp in a couple of hours from Lijiang. From here we followed the Japanese approach to the east side, and in a matter of days were at a glacier camp. Our original thought had been to attempt a route on the east face, but closer acquaintance persuaded us to try the easier looking north ridge. A four-man group established a route almost to the col between Yulong Shan and Pyramid Peak, and the next day Schneider, Wagstaff and I reached the col and set up a bivouac. From here it is a one or one-and-a-half day round trip to the summit. Up to this time the weather had been rather unpleasant in the afternoons. Now it got really nasty, forcing a retreat in foul conditions. It snowed for