

face of Pumori. On May 7 they went to the foot of the face and decided that the danger of falling séracs was too great. The next day they left Base Camp.

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

Pumori, East Face. On October 25, Sherpas Sundare, Ang Dorje and Nima and I got to the top of Pumori. We made the climb directly from Base Camp. With five Sherpas, I had fixed 1500 meters of rope for my seven clients, but not one of them could get beyond 6300 meters.

MARC BATARD, *Club Alpin Français*

Pumori, Japanese Southwest Ridge Ascent. This large expedition marched up the mountain in true Himalayan style with four camps, 3000 meters of fixed rope and four Nepalis accompanying them. The result was that eight Japanese and a Nepali got to the summit just before the big snowstorm. The summiters were Etsuji Ksaneko, Tomihira Tsakeda and Arjun Tamang on October 12, Fumiaki Goto, Fumihiko Kogure and Yoji Ogama on October 13 and leader Yoshiio Ohashi, Hisao Hoshino and Toru Yamato on October 14.

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

Pumori, German Southwest Ridge Ascent. All four members reached the summit. On October 24, the successful climbers were leader Jürgen Knappe and brothers Peter and Rainer Bolesch. Two days later South Tirolean Josef Anton Holzer, who had been ill at the time of his teammates' ascent, climbed to the top. They had two camps above Base Camp. The Japanese were difficult people to share the route with. In fact, according to them, the Japanese had been given permission for a different ridge but were on the southwest ridge by the time this team arrived at Base Camp. They fixed a vast amount of rope, but they cut out small sections before leaving the mountain. At Base Camp, they opened unused gas cylinders, which caused fumes to enter the Europeans' tents and made them sick.

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

Ngojumba Kang II. The members of our expedition were Edin Alikalfić, Zdenko Anić, Mario Bago, Nives Boršić, Davor Butković, Željko Gobec, Jerko Kirigin, Boris Kovačević, Branko Ognančević, Branko Puzak, Mario Rodeš, Branko Šeparović, Vojislav Vusić and I as leader. We climbed the south face and south ridge. We established Base Camp on October 15 at 5200 meters on the lateral moraine of the Lungsampa Glacier. The next day we improvised a cable lift to raise equipment 200 meters up onto the glacier. On October 17, Advance Base was placed at 5350 meters seven kilometers up on the edge of the Ngojumba icefall. That night a snowstorm began which lasted

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Photo by Darko Berljak

Ngojumba Kang II.



till October 20 and dumped a meter and a half of snow at Base Camp. On October 27, Camp I was set up at 5950 meters. We had fixed 200 meters of rope on the rock below the camp. The weather was beautiful, but the wind and deep snow caused difficulties and it was not until November 2 that we placed Camp II at 6500 meters. Camp III was established at 6950 meters on November 7. Progress was slowed by huge crevasses below the final face. On November 10, Kovačević and Puzak climbed the face both in deep snow and on hard ice, which was of 50° to 65°. They set up Camp IV at 7200 meters. On the 11th, they reached the summit of Ngojumba II (7743 meters, 25,403 feet). From the same camp on November 13, Butković and Alikalfić got to the top while Ognančević gave up at 7500 meters. (The Croatian climbers thought they had made the first ascent. They did make a new route and the second ascent. The first ascent was made by Japanese in the pre-monsoon period of 1965, when they first thought they had climbed Ngojumba Kang I. They later acknowledged they had gone to the slightly lower summit, Ngojumba Kang II.—*Editor.*)

DARKO BERLJAK, *Planinarski Savez Zagreba, Yugoslavia*

Cho Oyu Attempt. Matt Baker, Ney Grant, Ron Reno, Kirk Swanson, Dr. Rich Gerhauser and I as leader, accompanied by Base Camp helpers Sue Baker, John Bell and Mona Livingston, attempted the so-called traditional “southwest” ridge route from Nepal, which is in actual fact the northwest ridge. Only one high-altitude Sherpa was employed above Base Camp. We established Base Camp at Kangchung (5200 meters) on April 12. Advance Base at 5950 meters was occupied on April 22, close by the Chilean camp. A commercial expedition from Europe with over 20 members, which had approached from the Tibetan side, was also there. Camps I, II, III and IV were established at 6400, 6800, 7200 and 7600 meters on April 25, 27, 29 and 30. At Camp IV, Swanson and Grant were joined by two Chileans; another Chilean pair had reached the summit a couple of days earlier. Bad weather stopped a summit attempt on May 1 and continued bad weather forced a descent to Camp II on May 2 and to Base Camp on May 4. No subsequent summit attempt was made since most of our supplies had been removed from Advance Base on the Tibetan side by unknown persons. On April 25, having carried to Camp I, I was confronted by Chinese army and police officials, who confiscated the Nepalese climbing permit and my passport and prevented me from climbing higher. I descended to Base Camp to report on the political border difficulties now developing over the route. Apparently a border re-alignment moved the border south to the Nangpa La and the natural drainage divide between the two countries. This puts the original ascent route and the Messner variation in Tibet. Future climbing parties attempting the mountain from Nepal via the Thame valley and the Nangpa Glacier may experience similar difficulties. It is also possible that a Chinese customs post is being constructed at or near Dzapama and the border may be patrolled during the climbing season. Possibly