

Wojciech Szymański and there were also two Czechoslovaks and a German doctor. The Polish climbers first made acclimatization climbs on the normal northeast face route and on the third climb got to 7100 meters. They then turned their attention to a new route on the southeast face in what they hoped would be an extremely light, brief, alpine-style climb. The enormous difficulty of the line they tried and the snow conditions forced them on May 20 to abandon the attempt after three days at 6800 meters. They then thought of an ascent of the northeast face, but a big snowstorm blew up on May 21 and lasted for three days, by which time their supplies were nearly used up and the climb was over. They are convinced that their new route can be climbed but it would be best done in the winter when avalanche danger is minimal.

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

*Manaslu*. A 10-member Austrian expedition led by Arthur Haid climbed Manaslu by the normal northeast-face route. On October 7, from Camp IV Johann Etschmayer, Walter Hauser and Sonam Lhakpa Sherpa reached the summit.

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

*Manaslu Attempt and Tragedy*. A 15-member Japanese expedition to the east ridge of Manaslu was led by Seigo Matsushima. On October 27, Shinja Furukawa, Hiroshi Kokub, Hitoshi Kudo and Ichigi Kudo reached 6500 meters and descended. The next day Ichigi Kudo suddenly toppled over while eating supper at Base Camp. He was unconscious and died three hours later. His death and the great difficulty of the route above 6500 meters on the big rock pinnacle led the team to decide to abandon the climb.

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*Himlung Himal Attempt*. Our party consisted of Steve Tenney, Bob Rosso, Kirk Bachman and me as leader. We had little information about the peak, knowing only that the summit had been reached once, by Japanese via the east ridge from the glacier above the Larkya La in 1984. Two other attempts, one in winter, were by the same route. Our attempt was by the south ridge. We left Kathmandu on April 3 and reached Base Camp at 13,700 feet on the Himlung Glacier on April 11. Fresh snow made moving up the glacier to the foot of the south face difficult. We cached food and fuel at Advance Base at 14,400 feet on April 15. We then explored the Ratna Icefall and left equipment and fuel at 16,400 feet. On April 18, we climbed back through the icefall and bivouacked at 17,000 feet on the south ridge. After a heavy snowfall we determined that the ridge would require more time and gear than we had and so we moved left to the "Wishbone Couloir." After spending all day climbing the couloir, at dark we still had not found a suitable bivouac site. We climbed a few pitches in the

dark to reach the western spur of the south ridge and pitched camp at 18,500 feet. April 20 was spent fixing lines over a very difficult traverse. We spent a second night at a pinnacle bivouac and the following day climbed to the top of the western spur. The climbing on cold, brittle ice and steep rock was of high standard. The next morning we reached the actual south ridge. Because of the difficulty and the condition of one of the members, we descended from a high point of 20,050 feet. It took two days to get back to Base Camp on April 23. We hope to return to finish this beautiful route next year.

KEVIN SWIGERT

*Chulu West, Southwest Face.* On October 14, Dawa Lama Sherpa and I climbed the southwest face of Chulu West by a *direttissima*. From a camp at 4300 meters, we made a reconnaissance toward the glacier at the base of the face. We found the glacier full of séracs and open crevasses that could hardly be crossed. The only alternative was to cross the face from right to left above the glacier. Delayed by morning fog, we did not set out until three A.M., crossing first easy but unstable scree, then mixed terrain and finally 50° firm snow and somewhat spongy ice. The first two-thirds was subject to rockfall. At 6100 meters the slope lessened to 45°. Then at 6300 meters, as we climbed up the right of the sérac wall, the angle steepened to 70° or 80° for some 30 meters before it eased so that we could walk to the summit (6419 meters, 21,059 feet). We arrived at four P.M. The descent was complicated by the wind on the steep east-northeast ridge and then at the foot of the summit pyramid until we found a couloir sheltered from the wind.

CARLO STRATTA, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Annapurna II Attempt.* This two-man Japanese team, Kunihiro Kondo and Kazuo Yamamoto, attempted the south face of Annapurna II with no fixed camps or Sherpas. They gave up on October 13 at 7500 meters because of the dangers of the route, which included falling ice, and strong winds.

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*Annapurna IV Attempt.* An expedition of three Swiss, two Germans and an Austrian, led by Austrian Harald Navé, got no higher than 5700 meters on the normal route, the northwest ridge and northwest face, of Annapurna IV. Heavy snowfall resulted in severe wind-slab avalanche danger. Navé and the three Swiss, Fridolin Herger, Daniel Schaer and Heinz Inderwildi, reached the expedition's high point on April 23 and then descended to Base Camp the next morning when a new snowstorm began, thus ending the climb.

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*Annapurna IV, North Ridge Attempt.* Our expedition was composed of Curt Hewitt, Bob Wilson, Craig John, Ken Bures, Jean Ellis, Al Chambard,