

punctuated by several dozen big crevasses. They gave up the attempt on December 5 at 6100 meters.

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

*Annapurna Winter Attempt.* Our Canadian-American expedition was an unsuccessful attempt to make the second winter ascent of Annapurna by a new route on the eastern end of the south face. We were Ken Reville, Julien Marceau, Steve and Don Adamson, J.C. Laverne, Emilie Seneult, Dan Walsh, Pemba Norbu Sherpa and me. We reached Base Camp on November 15 but could not officially begin climbing until December 1. We spent these first days acclimatizing on Tent Peak (5663 meters, 18,580 feet), sorting gear and reconnoitering Annapurna's south glacier. On November 20, we established an Advance Base. Our route required going up the center of the glacier to an icefall that gave access to the wall directly below the east ridge of Khangsar Kang or Roc Noir (7485 meters, 24,556 feet), which is part of the east ridge of Annapurna. We then proposed to traverse the east ridge to the summit. Reville, Pemba Norbu and I did most of the climbing, reaching Camp II at 20,000 feet on the wall on December 7. On December 11, we retreated in a storm to Advance Base and the next day to Base Camp. While going down, Reville, Steve Adamson, Laverne and Pemba were avalanched but were able to extract themselves with little trouble. It was decided to abandon the climb because of the weather conditions, diminishing resources and a lack of commitment by most of the members. The difficulties up to the high point were objective dangers in the icefall, 5.6 rock and grade-3 ice.

JAMES CUNNINGHAM

*Annapurna South Face Ascent and Tragedy.* On December 20, Noboru Yamada, Yasuhira Saito, Teruo Saegusa and Toshiyuki Kobayashi reached the summit of Annapurna, completing the first winter ascent of the south face and the first ascent of the mountain by Japanese in the winter. This was the seventh 8000er for Yamada. During the descent, two fell to their deaths, Kobayashi at 7900 meters and Saito just 20 meters above Camp IV, their highest camp at 7400 meters. It seems likely that their falls were caused by fatigue. They had followed more or less the 1970 Bonington route. A second summit bid planned for December 22 was cancelled after their teammates' falls.

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*Hiunchuli, Southeast Face, Winter Ascent, 1986.* Chris Watts and I departed a tea lodge at 10,800 feet on December 3, 1986 and toiled for five hours up steep grass slopes to set up camp on the moraine at 13,500 feet. True Camps I and II were placed below the rock band of the north glacier at 15,500 and 17,500 feet on the 4th and 5th. On December 6 we set up Camp III at