

ridge. With Tournaire and Parmentier still moving up, Chamoux made the cautious decision to bring the entire team down. We agreed that this would be the last attempt, but Parmentier insisted on staying in Camp III to try again. The last radio contact with him was on the 20th. He was at 8400 meters. Efforts to reach him on the 22nd were thwarted by a storm. At the end of September, the Spanish west-ridge party found his body at 7700 meters on the north face. Parmentier had a very small aerobic capacity (VO₂ of 37) and climbed slowly if he did not have anyone to break trail for him. However, he was taking a respiratory stimulant (Almitrine), which enabled him to stay at 8000 meters without deteriorating as fast as most climbers. On K2 in 1986, he spent six continuous days near or above 8000 meters and made it back down. On Everest he had already been at 8000 meters for six continuous days at the time of the last radio contact. Perhaps his supply of Almitrine ran out. The team did not use artificial oxygen anywhere on the mountain. I avoided pulmonary edema (previous episodes in 1981 and 1987) by using dexamethasone above 6000 meters.

STEVE BOYER, M.D.

Everest Attempt. Climbing the historic route which claimed the lives of Mallory and Irvine in 1924, the Wyoming Centennial Everest Expedition, commonly called "Cowboys on Everest," led by Courtney Skinner, fought against weather conditions resulting from the heaviest monsoon in years according to Tibetan locals. On the approach, rains caused landslides, vanished roads and washed-out bridges and delayed the arrival at Base Camp until August 25 after nearly 25 days of travel and waiting. From Base Camp at 17,000 feet, we set up three camps to Advance Base at 21,325 feet at the foot of the North Col. It took twelve days to fix the route up the col. A safe line was used up the center of the sérac field. Camp IV was set up on the col on September 21 and a few days later a group reached Camp V at 25,000 feet. Winds destroyed tents at Camps IV and V and, after several more tries, the expedition was called off on October 14. The team returned to Base Camp after 57 days on the mountain. The members were leader Courtney Skinner's brother Orion and his father Bob Skinner, Quint Barney, Bob Bohus, Peter Breslow, Doug Burbank, Jim Burnett, Julie Cheney, Sue Cobb, Carl Coy, Rick Dare, Matt Ellenthal, Mack Ellerby, Dave Frawley, Ethan Goldings, Ross Greenlee, Ted Handwerk, Sibylle Hechtel, Alexandra Hildebrandt, Sherri King, Steve Marts, Brian McLean, Dave McNally, Dave Padwa, Mark Pilon, Fred Riedman, Jim Robinson, Jeb Schenck, Anne Stroock, Brad Werntz and I.

STEPHEN GARDINER, *Unaffiliated*

Scientific Programs on the Wyoming Everest Expedition. Expedition members participated in valuable scientific programs including atmospheric chemistry sampling; geological research pertaining to the uplift history of the Everest region; demonstrating a weather forecasting model of the meteorology depart-

ment of Penn State University through the daily use of electronic mail via our laptop computer and a suitcase-sized satellite phone provided by COMSAT; and the testing of a high-altitude pressure bag for the emergency treatment of acute mountain sickness. This last device, first thought of by Dr. Charles Houston in the 1930s, is both simple and obvious. It weighs only seven pounds. The flexible fabric bag needs no artificial oxygen. It is pressurized with a foot pump to simulate a lower altitude. It was employed to good effect by expedition MDs to treat a number of serious cases of pulmonary and cerebral edema and it seems likely that at least one fatality was prevented by its use. Tragically, a French expedition to Cho Oyu on an acclimatization walk to our base area suffered the death of an experienced climber from pulmonary edema. Having left Paris eight days earlier, his ascent to 5180 meters was extremely rapid. He perished overnight quite near our simple apparatus which might have saved his life if its presence had been known.

DAVID PADWA

Everest, Kangshung Face Attempt. In the post-monsoon season, we were a small team with no support personnel or porters, although we had 43 yaks and a small group of family and friends who accompanied us to the Kharta and then the Kama valleys as far as Pethange and some as far as Base Camp before returning to civilization. The seven climbers were Andy Politz, Ed Viesturs, Dr. Gary Troyer, Jan Schwartzberg, Donnie Mims, Joe Dinnen and me. We chose a line up the left side of the buttress directly below the South Col because the right side, done brilliantly a few months before by Ed Webster and his team, was no longer an option due to daily and sometimes twice-daily avalanches. The route on the left offered an only slightly more protected line up a gully, with a traverse out onto the face itself. The climbing was steep but quite straightforward. Lying at the junction of Everest and Lhotse, one was in the path whenever either mountain avalanched. After fixing ropes and placing most of the necessary food and equipment at Camp I at 19,500 feet, we experienced a large avalanche, which carried away much of the equipment and food. Fortunately, no one was hurt. It was by then too late to try another route and time and supplies were running out. We decided reluctantly to turn back. A word to save others some of the headaches we encountered. The Chinese Mountaineering Association liaison officer spoke only Chinese. Our interpreter spoke Chinese and English and so it was not possible to speak with the Tibetans. Neither man actually went farther than the roadhead at Kharta. Also, take precautions that nothing is stolen. The yak drivers seem to have developed a help-yourself attitude toward gear, clothing, food and fuel.

RICHARD W. TYRRELL

Everest Attempt by a New Route. Canadian Barry Blanchard and I attempted a new route on the north side of Everest without fixed rope, camps or supple-