

*Manaslu Attempt and Tragedy.* In March, China cancelled my Shisha Pangma permission and I obtained a permit for the northeast face of Manaslu. We were Jim Sutton and I from the United States and Spaniards Javier Iraola, Albino Quinteiro, José Melón and Santiago Suárez. Having departed on April 4 from the roadhead town of Gurkha, we arrived on April 10 at Base Camp at 3850 meters. Camp I was established on April 14 at 5000 meters on the glacial snowfield below Manaslu's northeast face and the north peak. Camp II was placed on April 17 at 5500 meters on the lower north peak slopes and Camp III on May 1 just past the avalanche-prone traverse of the mid-height north-peak slopes. On May 6 and 7, Camps IV and V were set up at 6300 and 7280 meters just above Naika Col and at the lower edge of the great summit plateau. On May 7, Iraola, Quinteiro and Suárez were traversing under the plateau at 7100 meters when Suárez fell to his death. After locating and burying the body at 6400 meters, the surviving Spaniards and I descended to Base Camp. No further summit attempts were made.

KEITH BROWN

*Manaslu Attempt.* We were Americans Andy Lapkass, Peter Nichols, Chris Treese, Jim McEachern, Ken Thorp, Steve and Ron Matous and Pete Athans, Britons Paul Moores, Alan Burgess and I, although I live in the United States, and Sherpas Dawa Nuru and Pinzo. We climbed in small independent groups of two or three at the speed and rate of ascent which suited the particular individuals. On September 30, we set up Base Camp at 14,300 feet. This is a low Base Camp; Spaniards, Austrians and Japanese all had theirs at 16,300 feet, where we erected a large tent for a storage dump on the way to Camp I on Naika Col at 18,300 feet. There is no real climbing to this point, just a straightforward glacier; it took between 3½ to 4 hours from Base Camp. The route above the col steepens and then crosses a 600-foot-wide open gully, which, although threatened from above by crumbling ice cliffs, only avalanched once in any proportions. The route then follows a series of four step-like bumps up to Camp II at 20,500 feet. One step involved 250 feet of steep snow-and-ice climbing, but the Spaniards had already fixed rope on it. There was a 15-foot aluminum ladder spanning a small crevasse, which opened at an alarming rate of eight inches per day. By the end of the expedition, it spanned a 16-foot hole. The weather during the whole of September had been horrible. We were told it snowed for 23 out of 26 days, building up a dangerous windslab above Camp II. We approached it warily—but not warily enough. Three Sherpas working for the Austrians, tailed by Andy Lapkass, broke a deep trough to 22,000 feet. Andy returned a little in advance of the others and saw them cut a 500-foot-wide slab which carried them 1000 feet. Luckily the threesome came to rest on top of the debris and were only shaken. Andy then went back up and effected a rescue back down to Camp II. Although the weather had cleared, we had very high winds above 22,000 feet. During the third week of October, Paul Moores, Lapkass, my twin Alan and I went up to Camp III at 23,150 feet, sandwiched above and below ice cliffs. After

a foul, windy night, we were forced to descend. A few days later, Dawa, Nichols and Treese went to Camp III but given the ferocity of the wind, they decided not to sleep there. Nobody went back to that height again. After another week of waiting in Camp II, we abandoned the attempt. We left Base Camp on November 6.

ADRIAN BURGESS

*Manaslu Attempts via the Northeast Face in the Post-Monsoon.* Two Austrians, a Swiss and a German led by Austrian Horst Frankhauser reached 7300 meters on October 10 with bad weather and threatening avalanches. Spaniards Carles Gel, Víctor Marín, Joan Colet and Ong Chu Sherpa were also unsuccessful. They established Base Camp at 4750 meters on September 5. Between September 19 and 29, they made three alpine-style attempts, but their high point was 6000 meters. Bad weather and avalanche danger kept them from climbing higher. On October 4, four Japanese led by Masaaki Fukushima turned back in high winds at 7350 meters.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Manaslu Attempt.* A six-man British team led by Mark Dixon attempted the southwest face of Manaslu. They gave up on October 20, after reaching 7000 meters.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Editor, Himavanta, India*

*Himalchuli West.* Ours was a commercial expedition operated jointly by Himalayan Kingdoms Limited (England) and High Country Expeditions (New Zealand). It comprised nine clients, British Mark Vallance, Graham Hoyland, Bill Bennett, Norwegians Jon Gangdal, Bjarne Schmidt, Australians Philip Segal, Campbell Mercer, New Zealander Chas Turner and from Hong Kong K.K. Woo, and guides Australian Paul Bayne, New Zealander Russell Brice and me. Himalchuli West (7540 meters, 24,738 feet) was booked at very short notice following the closure of the Tibetan border, which prevented access to Changtse, our original objective. It was selected on account of its comparable height with Changtse and its supposedly low technical difficulty. The latter was incorrect and we encountered considerable difficulties both on rock and ice on a long and arduous route. We were also hindered by a good deal of bad weather. We succeeded in climbing the whole southwest ridge and making the second ascent of Himalchuli West. Base Camp was established at Meme Pokhari at 4600 meters on May 9. Two or so hours above Base Camp we reached the ridge crest at 5400 meters. The ridge runs for three kilometers until it abuts the main mass of Himalchuli. Along its length lay eleven pinnacles of varying size and difficulty. Camp I was placed on the ridge at 5500 meters on May 16 and Camp II at its end at 5700 meters on May 25. The climbing proved increasingly