

Ang Dawa Tamang, Lhakpa Tamang and I climbed a steep ice spur for 400 meters to join the sharp, corniced northwest ridge and reached the summit (6981 meters, 22,904 feet). This was the German first-ascent route.

GIANCARLO CONTALBRIGO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Bhrikuti, First (?) and Second (?) Ascents.* There had been some question as to whether Bhrikuti (6364 meters, 20,879 feet) in northern Mustang had been successfully climbed before a joint British-Nepalese expedition, led by Elaine Brook and Lhakpa Sherpa, set out for it this autumn. Japanese claimed the first success in 1982 by three separate summit parties, but the leader of an unsuccessful French team four years later said that he had seen their photos and was certain that they had not reached the highest summit. In any case, it was not the British members who went to the top via the southeast ridge on October 22 but three Sherpas, Lhakpa, Ang Zangbu and Ang Kitar. The Britons, who were feeling the effects of altitude remained in Base Camp except for the doctor, who went to Advance Base. On November 3, a French expedition led by Bertrand Doligez also followed the southeast ridge to the summit. Those who got to the top were Doligez, Jean-Pierre Bourgeois, Patrick Blanfune, Jean-Marc Pillot, Frédéric Simond and Sherpas Ang Tendi and Mingma Tenzing.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Bhrikuti Winter Attempt.* Romolo Nottaris and three other Swiss attempted to make a winter ascent of Bhrikuti by the southwest ridge, but they were able to reach only 5500 meters on November 30.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Manang Mountaineering School.* The 11th course began on August 13. This year there were three Nepalese instructors: Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa, Ang Tsering Sherpa and Musul Kazi Tamang. We Slovene instructors were Alenka Jamnik (f), Darja Jenko (f), Tomaz Azman, Bojan Pograjc and I. The course was attended by 26 Nepalis, two Chinese and one Syrian. The first part, given in six days in Kathmandu, included theory and rock-climbing practice. The practical course in Manang took 20 days. One day was spent practicing on the Gangapurna Glacier, three days were for the ascent of Naur Peak and four days for ascent of Chulu Far East.

MARCO ŠTREMFEJL, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

*Annapurna IV Attempt.* Our members were John McMenamin, Heather McComb, Ruth Gemperlein, Jim Tweedie, Base Camp Manager Pat Ballard and I as leader. Bad weather and deep snow severely hampered our efforts. Upon arriving on March 30 at Yak Kharak in the Sabje Khola valley on the northwest

side of Annapurna IV, we encountered deep snow that extended down to 3800 meters which prevented our mule caravan from carrying loads higher. From a low Base Camp there, with a small porter contingent we were forced to ferry loads for five days to Advance Base at 4650 meters. On April 4, this was occupied on the south side of a high rock ridge on the Sabje Glacier. Crows were a problem to food and everything had to be securely covered. The campsite had obviously been used by other expeditions judging from the debris in the area. From Advance Base, it was an hour's hike to the foot of the icefall leading to the dome on the northwest ridge. It took several days to fix the route to Camp I. We had to rebreak trail each morning in new or drifted snow. Two caches were set up along the way. Again crows were a problem. Camp I was set up on April 17 on a small ledge in the icefall. Above Camp I, the route became steeper and a long section of hard 50° ice had to be crossed. We got only to the site of Camp II because on the night of April 20 our tent at Camp I was destroyed by an avalanche. One member was in the tent at the time, but he was not injured. We then abandoned the expedition because of dangerous conditions and lack of time.

RICHARD SALISBURY

*Annapurna IV Attempts.* A student from Osaka, Japan, Koichi Sugiyama, with Kami Tshering Sherpa, climbed to 6480 meters via the northwest ridge. They gave up on September 7 due to adverse weather. A South Korean Buddhist monk, Rim Jong-Bum, with five Sherpas, also was unsuccessful, reaching 7000 meters on October 9 on the same route before strong winds forced a retreat. Serbs led by Milenko Savić got to 6500 meters also on the northeast ridge before having to abandon the attempt.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Annapurna III, Post-Monsoon Attempts.* There were two unsuccessful expeditions to Annapurna III (7555 meters, 24,787 feet) after the monsoon. American William Bancroft and a companion got to 4730 meters on the southeast buttress in September 30. Japanese led by Morimasa Ohtani attempted to get to the south ridge from the south and reached 6800 meters on October 13.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Gangapurna Attempts.* There were two unsuccessful expeditions to Gangapurna (7455 meters, 24,457 feet) in the post-monsoon period. Eight Spaniards were led by Francisco José Palacios. After getting to 5900 meters on the north face on October 17, they turned to the north spur in order to reach the north ridge, where they got as high as 6400 meters on October 24. Three Swiss led by Hans Rauner climbed the north spur to the north ridge but could not get above 7200 meters, which they reached on October 23.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY