

of 1951, while vacationing in Canada with my mother and sisters Tilda and Margaret, Dad met Henry Hall at Amethyst Lake in the Tonquin Valley. It was this chance meeting that led to Dad's joining the American Alpine Club. He always considered his membership to be a particular honor and took special joy and pride in participating at meetings.

Dad passed his love for the mountains on to his children and grandchildren. I still vividly remember climbing the Allalinhorn, Alphubel, Zinalrothorn and Matterhorn during a spell of spectacular summer weather in 1949. The following summer, we visited the Dolomites and climbed the Torri Grande and Inglese, and Punta Fiammes. He climbed Mount Rainier with his son-in-law Eckart Colzman. In winters, we skied in Vermont or St. Moritz. He attended many Alpine Club of Canada summer camps. Hans Grosser remembers climbing Mount Edith and the south face of Yamanuska with him in the mid 1950s.

A man of values, with a true sense of integrity and right and wrong, a member of the old guard, a gentleman, the last of his generation—this is how his grandchildren eulogized him. And it is the way many of us remember him. He was gentle and kind, thoughtful, considerate and generous. Above all, he inspired us and taught us to love the mountains, a gift for which we are grateful. And it is in this spirit that his memory lives on.

DIETER VON HENNIG

PIERRE BEGHIN
1951-1992

Another of the world's foremost mountaineers has lost his life in the Himalaya. Pierre Beghin, the Frenchman who during the last decade broke the barriers of the impossible, was killed on October 11 on the south face of Annapurna when a rappel anchor pulled out. Engineer by profession, he worked in the Division de Nivologie of the CEMAGREF in Grenoble as an expert on snow problems and avalanche protection.

Born in 1951, Pierre excelled in rock and ice climbing, extreme skiing and high-altitude mountaineering. In the Alps, he made many bold climbs, solo and in winter, including the first winter ascent of the Bonatti route on the Grandes Jorasses from December 25 to 29. In the Andes, from July 20 to 24, 1978, he climbed the 1966 Paragot route on the north face of Huascarán Norte—with a broken shoulder and alpine-style.

His high-altitude experiences in Asia started in 1974 with an attempt on the Uli Biaho Tower in Pakistan. His outstanding stamina and determination at high altitude were well recognized. The list of his accomplishments is long and distinguished. We mention only a few. On October 7, 1981, he completed the ascent of the virgin, rocky west face of Makalu. On October 17, 1983, he became the first Frenchman and the first solo climber to ascend Kangchenjunga. Doubtless his two most exceptional feats were the 1989 five-day traverse of Makalu via the south face and west ridge, three-fourths of which he did solo, and

his 1991 ascent with Christophe Profit of K2, via the northwest ridge and the north face, linking the Polish and Japanese routes.

Pierre wrote dozens of interesting articles. Recently, he had a regular monthly page in *Montagnes Magazine*. He faithfully reported all his expeditions in full articles or notes in the *American Alpine Journal*, which he stated "stood in the key position of all overseas mountaineering literature." He published a number of mountain books, often illustrated with his own excellent photographs. The most outstanding was perhaps his last: *Hautes altitudes: Voyage dans l'oxygène rare*. He leaves his wife Annie, who has received much sympathy from all corners of the world.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

It is unusual to have obituaries in the *American Alpine Journal* for other than members of the American Alpine Club. However, the mountaineering community is poorer because of the loss of both Pierre Beghin and Wanda Rutkiewicz in 1992. (See also below.) The Editor remembers vividly walking into the French camp below the Uli Biaho Tower in the Karakoram in 1974 with Bob and Gail Bates and my wife Ann and the warm welcome given to us four ancient American sextegenarians by Pierre Beghin and his companions. Pierre and I kept close in contact over the years and the *American Alpine Journal* and I have benefited enormously from his warm friendship.—*Editor*.

WANDA RUTKIEWICZ

1943-1992

The mountaineering world suffered in 1992 the loss of the greatest woman climber of all time. Wanda Rutkiewicz was last seen when she chose to bivouac alone several hours below the summit of K2 during the attempt to climb her ninth 8000-meter peak. She was preëminent not only for her own accomplishments but equally for her championing of women climbers in the high mountains of the world. More than anyone else, she accomplished ending the male monopoly on climbing on the highest peaks.

Born as Wanda Blaskiewicz on February 9, 1943 in Lithuania, she moved with her family in 1947 to Wrocław, Poland. She began climbing in the Tatras in 1961 and rapidly sharpened her outstanding skills. In 1970, she married and thereby acquired the name of Rutkiewicz, by which we have known her. Both this marriage and her second ended in divorce.

I shall not attempt to give a complete list of her mountain successes. Her first ascents of 7000-meter peaks took place in 1970: Pik Lenina and Noshaq. In 1975, Wanda organized and led the Polish Women's Gasherbrum Expedition, to which she did add several men. Since 1964 Gasherbrum III (7952 meters, 26,089 feet) had been the highest unclimbed summit. With Alison Chadwick