Glacier began. In the unsettled weather, climbing up the glacier to the foot of the north face would have been dangerous because of avalanches. After an acclimatization hike to the East Rongbuk, on September 13 I climbed with Tamding to 21,500 feet where I set up Camp II as a starting point for my alpine-style push up the face. I was roped with Tamding for this first trip to check out crevasses but made subsequent trips alone. I decided that the Japanese Couloir would be too dangerous because of the unsettled weather and the tremendous amount of new snow and opted for the Great Couloir. On September 14, I climbed to 23,500 feet for acclimatization, where I met Robert Anderson, who had attempted to solo too. He had given up because of deep snow and the approach of night. We both descended to my camp at 21,500 feet. A storm forced me to Base Camp for three days. During the rest of September and in early October, I made six more attempts up to 23,000 feet but was forced off the mountain each time by storms. My last try on the north face was on October 9. I decided to make a final attempt on the north ridge. With Tamding, we trekked to the base of the North Col on the East Rongbuk on October 11. On October 12, I climbed to the North Col and the next day to 25,600 feet on the north ridge. It was so windy that I could not set up my tent and so descended to the North Col. I spent the 14th on the col waiting for the wind to die. On the 15th. I climbed to 24.500 feet but again was forced down by gale winds. I descended to Advance Base for the final time.

ED VIESTURS

Everest Ascent and Attempts in the Post-Monsoon. Aside from the Out There Trekking Expedition described below, there was only one other successful expedition on the Tibetan side of Everest in the autumn. Eleven Koreans led by Lim Hyung-Chil sent Park Huyn-Jae and Pa Nuru Sherpa to the summit on October 6. Three expeditions failed to reach their objective: 7 Greeks led by Konstaninos Tsivelekas at 7000 meters on September 11; 7 Indians led by Amulya Sen at 8200 meters on September 30; and 9 Spaniards led by Eloy Sánchez at 8000 meters on September 18.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Everest Ascent and Tragedy. There is no restriction on the numbers of members an expedition may have on the Tibetan side of Everest. A commercial British party organized by Out There Trekking led by Jonathan Tinker consisted of 19 climbing members, four Sherpas and a research team of four Americans. It sent to the top Polish guide Maciej Berbeka and Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa on October 9 and Tinker and Babu Tshering Sherpa on October 10, but not one of its clients got to the summit. The successful climbers used a variant, climbing farther to the right and avoiding the First Step. One client was a Briton with two artificial legs, Norman Croucher, who took several spare sets of limbs with him and got to 7600 meters. A well known British actor, Brian Blessed, who has

written a book about his passion for Everest, reached 8400 meters without the help of bottled oxygen. The members were British, Polish, American, Australian, Irish, Finnish, French and Russian. American Karl Henize died at Advance Base at 6400 meters from high-altitude sickness. A one-time astronaut, aged 66, he was surely the oldest person to die on Everest. He was a member of the research party from the American space agency NASA, whose mission was to study the effects of solar radiation on human tissue for NASA's trip one day to Mars.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Everest, More on Earlier Chinese Expeditions. When the Western mountaineering world reacted with scepticism to Chinese claims in 1960 that their brave climbers had reached the summit of Everest, the authorities in Beijing did not publicly take any notice of these doubts. In fact, they took plenty and decided to launch another assault in 1967 to prove that they were as capable as anyone of reaching the summit. In preparation for the 1967 conquest, earlier climbs in 1964 and 1966 were organized. The Tibetan Mountaineering Association, which is headed by a Han Chinese but has Tibetan climbers associated with it, has launched a ten-year campaign to put Tibetans on the summits of all the 8000-meter peaks. In the spring of 1993, two TMA officials and the leader of the 1993 climbs of Annapurna and Dhaulagiri, Samdrup, came to Kathmandu. They promised to send me details of the earlier Everest attempts. The spring of 1964 expedition of about 20 climbers was led by Xu Jin. Their task was to determine the route, carry up supplies of oxygen and demonstrate skills to the 1967 selectors. Six or seven of this team reached 8100 meters. The group that went in 1966 were some 60 soldiers with no climbing experience who were ordered to the mountain by the leaders of the Cultural Revolution. Twenty were to do the climbing. The leader was again Xu Jin. They reached 7790 meters and were not capable of going higher. The Cultural Revolution took a different line and the 1967 expedition was suspended. The next Chinese effort on Everest was in 1975 when nine climbers, including the Tibetan woman Phantog, reached the top. Samdrup, who got to the summit in 1975, presented me with the list of eight men who had died on Everest. I already knew the names of three who perished in a crevasse fall during the post-monsoon Sino-Japanese reconnaissance of 1979. They were Wang Hong Bao, Nima Tashi and Luo San. The others were Wang Ji, who died in 1960 of pulmonary edema at Advance Base after climbing to the North Col; Shou Zhi Qing, who in 1964 died of a cerebral hemorrhage on the North Col; Ma Gao Shu, who in 1966 reached 7790 meters but fell to his death on the descent; Wu Zhuong Yue, who had climbed Shisha Pangma in 1964 but suffered a fatal fall at 8100 meters, in 1975; and Shi Ming Ji who died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1978 at only 5700 meters on a Sino-Iranian reconnaissance. [Miss Hawley's report has been slightly shortened —Editor.]

ELIZABETH HAWLEY