

*Lixin and Changste.* It was reported that a group of Italians climbed two 7000-meter peaks last spring. Claudio Bastrntaz reached the top of Lixin Peak (7113 meters) on May 13 while his partner, Dando Pignataro, stopped at around 7000 meters. On May 18, the two set out from Everest's Advanced Base Camp for the North Col. A little before the Col Pignataro decided to descend. Bastrentaz continued alone up the southeast ridge of Changste (7580 meters). (*High Mountain Sports* 158)

*Lobuche Kang II, First Ascent.* A Swiss party from Neuchatel established Base Camp at 5300 meters. Camp I was above the difficult 400-meter-high serac barrier at 5750 meters, Camp II was at 6300 meters on the col between Lobuche Kang I (7367 meters) and II (7072 meters). Heavy snow and dangerous crevasses complicated the route. The steep and not easy east ridge (55° ice) was fixed with 1000 meters of rope (800 meters in vertical rise). All members of the team were able to reach the virgin summit (7072 meters). Members of the team were: Heinz Hiigli (leader), Carole Milz (deputy leader), Christian Meillard, Andre Muller, Simon Perritaz, Thierry Bionda, Andre Geiser, Doris Liischer, Pierre Robert and Dominique Gouzi. Labuche Kang I was first climbed in 1987 by a joint Sino-Japanese expedition.

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*Lhakpari, First Ski Descent.* An expedition guided by Andy Broom (Out There Trekking) reached the summit at 11 a.m., September 22, via the west ridge. All skiing was randonée except Philip Ponder, who made the trip on a telemark system with three-pin bindings, perhaps the highest anyone has skied up and down on them. Some of us used poles with self-arrest hand-grips. As the final summit ridge got steep, icy and exposed we removed our skis and went to the configuration of a self-arrest pole in one hand and an ice axe in the other.

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*Cho Oyu, Various Ascents in the Post-Monsoon.* Thirteen teams attempted Cho Oyu, and all were successful via the Standard Route from the west side in Tibet. Most of them were commercially organized. A total of 75 men and two women summited from September 11 to October 13. On that date, the famous, indestructible Ang Rita Sherpa, who is about 48 years old, became the first person to make four ascents of Cho Oyu. He is best known as the only person to have summited Everest nine times. He has been to the