

Krakadouw Amphitheatre in the Cedarberg mountains S of the Namaqualand desert. Krakodouw is a Bushman word meaning 'The Pass of the Women'. He was reported last October to be attempting some 'last great problems' on the Cedarberg Tafelberg, which peak was originally climbed at the turn of the century with a rope made up of bootlaces and belts! Gill Graafland climbing with Hannes Boshoff in the scenic Wilgepoort (gateway with willowtrees) Gorge made history by accomplishing the first ever (in South Africa) first ascent of a mechanical pitch by a woman. The route is graded 'F2' and M1. John Knight climbed another new line on the impressive frontal amphitheatre of the Klein Winterhoek at Tulbagh next to the lesser known Buttress climb previously put up by George Londt.



87 Camp 1 on Nosbaq looking to Asp-e-Safed. Photo: E. Roberts

Notes 1974 Asia

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From time to time it is necessary to revise our ideas of what constitutes a newsworthy item for these columns. Sooner or later we shall stop printing records of ascents of Himalayan mountains (even of Mount Everest) by standard routes, nor shall we flirt much with minor variants of route or of the nationality, age, sex and so forth of the mountaineers involved. Each year sees a huge bulk of new facts, all as important as those we once gladly published; indeed the scale of effort is so large that broader issues tend to be obscured by piled up clouds of detail—routes, names, times and so on. Accounts fade into a dull repetitive sameness.

There seems little point, too, in repeating everlastingly the heights of well-known peaks in cases where a reminder of the figures adds nothing to the context.

For what follows I gratefully acknowledge the help of: J. T. H. Allen, Michael Cheney, Luis Costa, Soli Mehta, Eric Roberts, J-P Zuanon, Ken Wilson and 'Mountain'.

TURKEY

A party from the University of Grenoble, based on the shores of the lake of Gevaruk climbed 15 new routes in the Sat Dag area (see 'Other Books Reviewed' p 291).

TRANSALAI PAMIR

In July–August 12 British climbers attended an International Meet organised by the Mountaineering Federation of the USSR, based on the Achik Tash valley on the N side of Pik Lenin. As well as numerous Russians, there were 66 Austrians, 12 French, 6 Dutch, 3 Italians, 10 Japanese, 14 Swiss, 20 Americans and 16 West Germans. During the course of the Meet, 5 Estonians, one American, a Swiss woman and 8 soviet women were killed in accidents.

Many ascents of Pik Lenin were made including first ascents of the NE ridge (British) and of a spur running from Krylenko Pass to the N spur (French); a first ascent of the N face of Peak 19th Party Conference was made by 2 Americans. (see p 89).

HINDU KUSH

Noshaq was climbed during August by a Spanish/West German party, which later failed on Asp-e-Safed. A British party, led by E. Roberts, had more luck, climbing Noshaq from a Base Camp above the Qazi Deh valley by way of the W and Central Peaks and also Khorpusht-e-Yakhi, Rakh-e-Kuchek I and II and Asp-e-Safed I by its N ridge.

KARAKORAM

Mango Gusor (6289 m) An International expedition led by Dave Nicol gave up an attempt on a difficult rock peak hereabouts after 16 pitches of very hard rock climbing.

Paiju Peak An American/Pakistani expedition was abandoned after the death of one of the Pakistani members.

Shispare (7619 m) in the Batura Mustagh was successfully assaulted by a Polish/German team led by Janusz Kurczab in July. An attempted second ascent was abandoned after the death of one of the Germans in an avalanche accident. The expedition also climbed Ghenta Peak (7090 m) (see p 223).

INDIAN HIMALAYA

Kedarnath (6940 m) was climbed by an ITBP party, led by Y. C. Khanna, during May 1974.

Kinnaur Kailash (6474 m) The first ascent of this unclimbed summit was accomplished in May by another ITBP party, led by D. S. Mallik, which approached the mountain from the NE side over very difficult terrain.

Shivling (6543 m) This, supremely difficult peak, 'calling for technical climbing skill of the highest order on both ice and rock', was climbed for the first time by yet another ITBP party, led this time by Hukam Singh, during June (for a picture—see AJ 76 158).

Nilkanth (Nilkanta) (6596 m) This shapely peak, the first ascent of which in 1961 was the occasion of considerable controversy (see AJ 68 139 and 69 145), was climbed again in June 1974 by an ITBP party, led by S. P. Shamoli.

Pharang (6172 m) A holiday party from Britain during a 7 week trip made the second ascent of this peak by the same route as used by the Japanese on the first ascent. The road ends at Udaipur, from which the Base Camp was reached by way of the Miyar and Karpat Nullas. Three higher camps were placed on the mountain. This expedition clearly demonstrates the possibilities of climbing Himalayan mountains of this scale direct from England (the fare was £204 return; they lived almost entirely off Indian food).

Swargarohini (6247 m) was climbed in October by a Canadian party, which included Charles Clarke (see p 195).

Changabang The first ascent of this most spectacular of Himalayan mountains was achieved by Chris Bonington's party in June. (see p 155).

NEPAL HIMALAYA

During the past year there has been some trouble between the Nepalese authorities and foreign mountaineering visitors. Two parties which broke their agreements about the mountains they intended to climb were fined and have been banned for a period from future mountain ventures in the country. It would seem to be of paramount importance to observe closely such restrictions as are imposed on visiting mountaineers in order to retain the broad general arrangements which at present work so well.

New compulsory insurance of Nepalese nationals who accompany expeditions in any sort of hired capacity is likely to increase the costs of expedition mountaineering. This was brought about by certain expeditions which evaded their obvious responsibilities in what are very important human problems. The result may be that expeditions will be undertaken by smaller and more nearly independent groups, which can only be a good thing from the point of view of the sport as a whole. On the other hand the mountaineer may well find himself ousted by the more general traveller who may be given preference, where the necessity arises, because of the greater wealth he will bring into the country.

Nowadays every individual carries a heightened responsibility on behalf of mountaineers everywhere; in such a situation the sins of the few may well be visited on the many.

Kanjiroba A Japanese party led by Eiji Kamei made a new route to this summit during April by way of the S face and the E ridge.

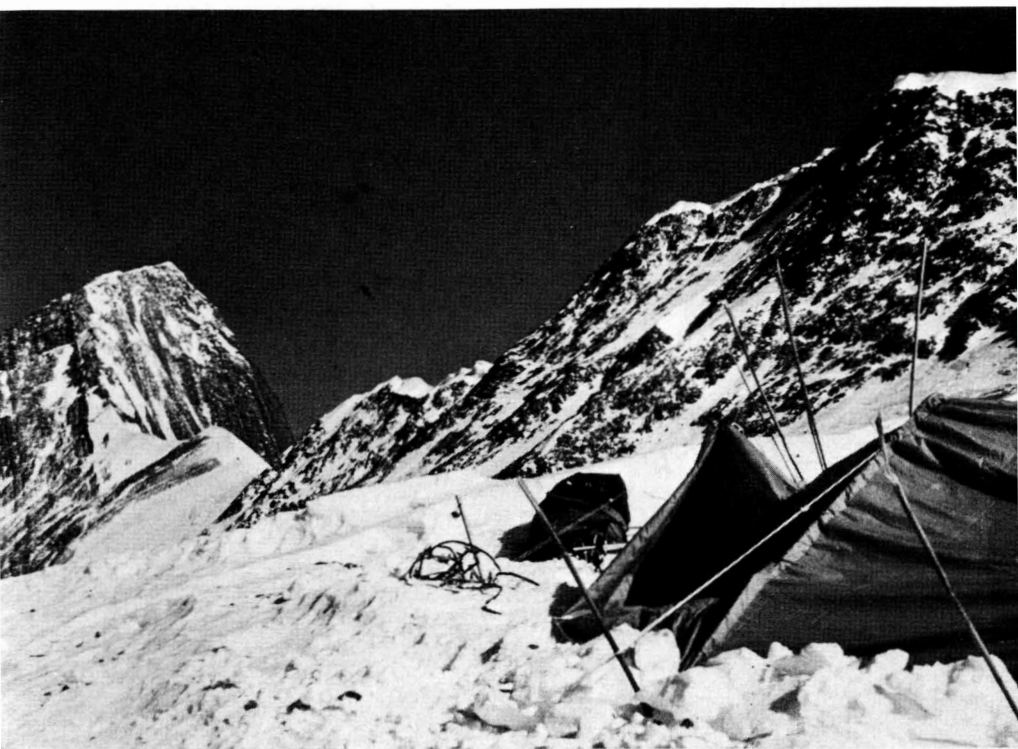
Dhaulagiri IV Disaster overtook a British (RAF) expedition, led by Wing Commander R. Bird, which was abandoned after 3 Sherpas were swept away by falling ice. This mountain remains unclimbed.

Tukuche was climbed in April by all 4 members of a Japanese team.

Annapurna South A Japanese party, led by Tsunio Susuki, failed in an attempt on a new route via the SW ridge.

Annapurna I—East Summit (8091 m) was climbed for the first time in April by a Spanish group led by J. M. Anglada.

Annapurna II A German expedition which set out to climb this mountain was summarily recalled by the authorities after diverging to climb Annapurna IV to get a better view of their route.



88 Camp 4 with Annapurna II left. Photo: U. Kamm

Gangapurna was climbed in May via the German E ridge route by a Japanese party led by Toshio Moshi.

Lamjung Himal (6983 m) Three parties from a British Army expedition, led by Capt M. Burgess, reached this summit (first ascent) in April/May by way of the SE ridge (see p 37). The peak was climbed again in October by 2 groups from a Japanese expedition led by Yasuo Abe.

Manaslu This predominantly Japanese mountain was scaled by an all-women party. A member of a second assault team disappeared on the mountainside (see p 94).

Taweche (6542 m) was climbed by 3 groups from a party of Chamonix guides under the leadership of Yannick Seigneur. Since permission had not been given by the Nepalese authorities for this attempt, the leader was fined and banned from Nepal for 5 years.

Shartse (7002 m) was climbed by an Austrian expedition during a reconnaissance of the E ridge of Lhotse, on which it is a subsidiary peak.

Everest In the pre-monsoon period a 16-man Spanish expedition failed on the South Col route because of continuous high winds.

A serious accident occurred in the post-monsoon period to a party of Chamonix guides attacking the W ridge, when the leader Gérard Dévouassoud, and 5 Sherpas were overwhelmed by an avalanche. The expedition was abandoned.

Pumori This summit was reached in October by 2 members of a Japanese team (led by Hiroshi Fujita) by a new route on the W face.

Makalu During May a strong Austrian team, led by Wolfgang Nairz, failed on the S face route attempted by the Yugoslavs in 1973, turning back some 300 m below the highest point of the previous year.

An International expedition also failed on the same climb in October.

Kangshungatse (Makalu II) (7640 m) An attempt by a Dutch party on the S ridge failed at 7200 m.

Jannu During May a Japanese party led by Mikio Kawese repeated the French route of 1962 on the S ridge.

Kangbachen This previously unclimbed summit was climbed in May by its NW face by a Polish party led by Piotr Młotecki (see p 29).

Later in the year (Sept/Oct) 3 groups from a Yugoslavian expedition also reached the summit.



89 Nevado Huascaran North. Photo: L. Gaetani (See South America p. 269)