

Oregon Man Among Party to Attempt Everest

By JAMES J. DOYLE
United Press International
Leaders of the first U.S. attempt to climb Mt. Everest are hopeful that the Sino-Indian border conflict will not stop next year's expedition.

A group of 19 Americans, a British transport officer and a Nepalese liaison officer under the leadership of a California film producer plan to launch the assault on the world's highest mountain next May 1.

"The Indian ambassador to the United States has assured us that unless the Sino-Indian fighting gets very much worse it won't conflict with our expedition," the leader, Swiss-born Norman Dyhrenfurth of Santa Monica, Calif., said.

"And our own state department so far sees no reason to think the fighting will affect our plans."

Assemble in Katmandu

The expedition will assemble in Katmandu, Nepal, Feb. 14 and will begin the 175-mile hike to the Everest base camp. Some 15 tons of equipment will be borne on the backs of 500 native porters. The expedition also will have 36 high-level native Sherpa porters.

Deputy leader William Siri, a University of California at Berkeley physicist, said successive camps will be established at levels of 17,800 feet, 21,500 feet and just under 26,000 feet.

A final assault party will leave the last camp (south col) and climb to 27,000 feet where it will spend the night. The next day it will try for the 29,121-foot summit.

"We're confident, but not overly confident, because weather conditions can defeat the strongest teams," Dyhrenfurth said. "Near the summit are winds up to 90 miles an hour and temperatures can drop 40 degrees below zero."

Third to Conquer

If successful, the Americans would be the third expedition known to conquer Everest. Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay of Sir John Hunt's British team were the first in 1953, followed in 1956 by a Swiss group.

Red China claimed that one of its expeditions reached the top in 1960, leaving behind a plaster bust of Red leader Mao Tse-tung. Siri said other mountaineers doubted the claim because an Indian team that was on the mountain at the same time was forced to turn back because of a violent storm.

Siri said it was impossible to determine now who among the 19 Americans will stand atop Mt. Everest if the expedition succeeds.

"We hope to get at least two to the top," he said, "but who they will depend on their physical condition and the weather."

Soviet Couple Has 101st Anniversary

Moscow (UPI)—Mr. and Mrs. Shakhbadov of Azerbaijan have entered their second century of wedded bliss, Moscow Radio said Saturday.

The Soviet couple celebrated their 101st wedding anniversary recently, according to the broadcast. Both are 117 years old, and they married when they were 16.

The Shakhbadovs have 11 children and nearly 100 grandchildren, the report said.

Britishers Find Way to Quit Army

London (UPI)—Some British servicemen have found a novel way to get back into civilian life. The London Daily Herald said today.

Under British law, servicemen who announce plans to run for parliament must be discharged.

This year the number of men in uniform who have filed for election plans is up to about 20, the Herald said, adding "it is high time to stop servicemen tiddling themselves out of the forces."

Twin Girls Increase Family Total to 20

Salem (UPI)—Twin girls born Thursday at Silverton hospital increased the membership of the Ben Scherer family to 20—including 18 children.

The Scherers live on a farm about six miles east of here. The family includes one other set of twins, Bobby and Becky, 4. Oldest of the Scherer children is 21, and all live at home.

EX-OREGONIAN DIES

Tacoma (UPI)—Robert P. Oliver, 57, a former long-time resident of Klamath Falls, Ore., died here Friday during a business trip. Oliver was president of the R. P. Oliver Ltd. Oil Development Co. of Billings, Mont. Services are planned Tuesday in Billings.

"If they are held too long on the south col by bad weather, some might be weakened by lack of oxygen, exposure, dehydration and loss of sleep."

Likely Candidate

A likely candidate for the final assault, Siri said, is Luther G. Jerstad, University of Oregon speech instructor. A veteran climber at 26, Jerstad

was invited to join the expedition last July when a senior Mt. Rainier guide withdrew, leaving a vacancy.

The obvious danger doesn't bother the blond, blue-eyed teacher. "I'd rather climb Everest than drive the Los Angeles freeway," he said.

Brains are a prerequisite for being a member of the assault team. Five members have PH

D's, two, including Jerstad, have M.A. degrees, and almost every one of the others has a B.A. degree. Dyhrenfurth, a producer of documentary films, formerly headed the motion picture division of the theater arts department at UCLA.

Total budget to finance the expedition now is about \$268,000, donors include industry,

the National Geographic Society and the federal government. The latter is providing grants in exchange for scientific information collected on the mountain.

Plans to Write Book

Author James Ramsey Ullman, at 54, the oldest man in the party, plans to write a book on the adventure. He is not on the assault team.

Siri will study the deterioration of the body at high altitudes. Dr. James Lester, clinical psychologist from Berkeley, Calif., will study the personal reactions of the team members. Dr. Richard Emerson, sociologist from Cincinnati, will observe the expedition as a social unit, and Dr. Maynard Miller, East Lansing, Mich., glaciologist, will study

the Kumbhu Glacier.

If the team succeeds in climbing Everest and weather permits, it will make assaults on nearby Lhotse (27,890 feet) and Nuptse (25,850 feet).

"We'll have to be lucky to do that," Dyhrenfurth said. "But we're certainly going well prepared. This is the strongest American team ever to set forth in the Himalayas."



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