

## CORRESPONDENCE

Pre Vert  
La Combe  
CH-1359 Rances  
Switzerland  
Tel. (024) 459 1650

Mr. Harish Kapadia  
72 Vijay Apartments  
16 Carmichael Road  
Bombay 400 026  
India

30th January 2000

Dear Mr. Kapadia,

The initiative that you took to spend a couple of weeks in Darjeeling\* meeting the Sherpas who still reside there will result, I much hope, in a Survey that would be of great interest not only to early HC members but to all present readers of the HJ.

So far as I know HC records of the Sherpas, which were instituted by H. W. Tobin with the founding of the Club in 1928, were maintained as one of the chief occupations of Tobin's successors as Hon Local Secretary in Darjeeling. When Tobin left in 1934, George Wood-Johnson took over, then J. W. Kydd in 1936-7. Between 1938-40 Mrs. H. P. V. Townend, as Secretary of what was then the Eastern section of the HC at Calcutta, did sterling work looking after the interests of the Sherpas and keeping their records up to date. In 1950, when the HC got going again properly, Ludwig Krenek as HLS Darjeeling in 1949-50 compiled a Sherpa Porters Register containing 175 names (including Ang Tsering b. 1910) which, for the first time, was published in the HJ (XVI 1950-1 pp. 121-133). From 1951-55, Jill Henderson as the Club's local Secretary, 'mothered' the Sherpa community in Darjeeling, and fought tooth and nail to ensure that their interests were protected.

But by then a big change was on the way with the opening up of Nepal, the migration of Sherpas to the new centre for expeditions in Kathmandu, and the dissolution of the Club's activities in Darjeeling

---

\* Photos and details of 'The Sherpa Gathering' appear in *The Himalayan Club Newsletter* No. 53.

as a recruiting agency for Sherpas. Of course a few Sherpas never left Darjeeling, such as Tenzing, Pasang Dawa, even Angharkay who stayed until the end of the 1950s; and many others, encouraged by the establishment of the HMI. It would indeed be interesting for the HJ to publish a current review of the size of the Sherpa community who still reside in Darjeeling, providing a picture of their present activities; and whether any of the older men have passed on their profession to their descendants, as many well-known families of Alpine guides have done in Switzerland.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,  
T. H. Braham

**THE HIMALAYAN CLUB**

P.O. Box 1905, Mumbai 400 001, INDIA.

12th November 1999

Mr. O. S. Hong, Leader  
Mr. Namil Kim, Sub-leader  
1998 Korean Mukut Parvat East Expn.  
C/o. Seol Metrocity Mountain Federation Rescue Team  
No. 301 WooSung B/D, Sangsu-dong 271  
Mapo-gu, Beoul, Korea.

Dear Sirs,

**Correction in H.J. Vol. 55, p. 93  
1998 Korean Mukut Parvat East Expedition**

Harish Kapadia has passed on your message, dated 4.11.1999 received by him through post.

I am glad to find that the issue has been now resolved. The Korean party had climbed in 1998 a peak which was lower and some distance away from the Mukut Parvat East, which was climbed by N. I. M. Expn. in 1999.

The peak climbed by your expedition may be termed as Mukut Parbat East-II, The height of this peak could be around 7000+m. There is no confirmed data available on this point at present.

A note on this subject of the ascent of Mukut East is attached, which will be published in the *Himalayan Journal* No. 56, next year.