

Stories from a 'half-life' spent in the mountains

Professor David Hopkins



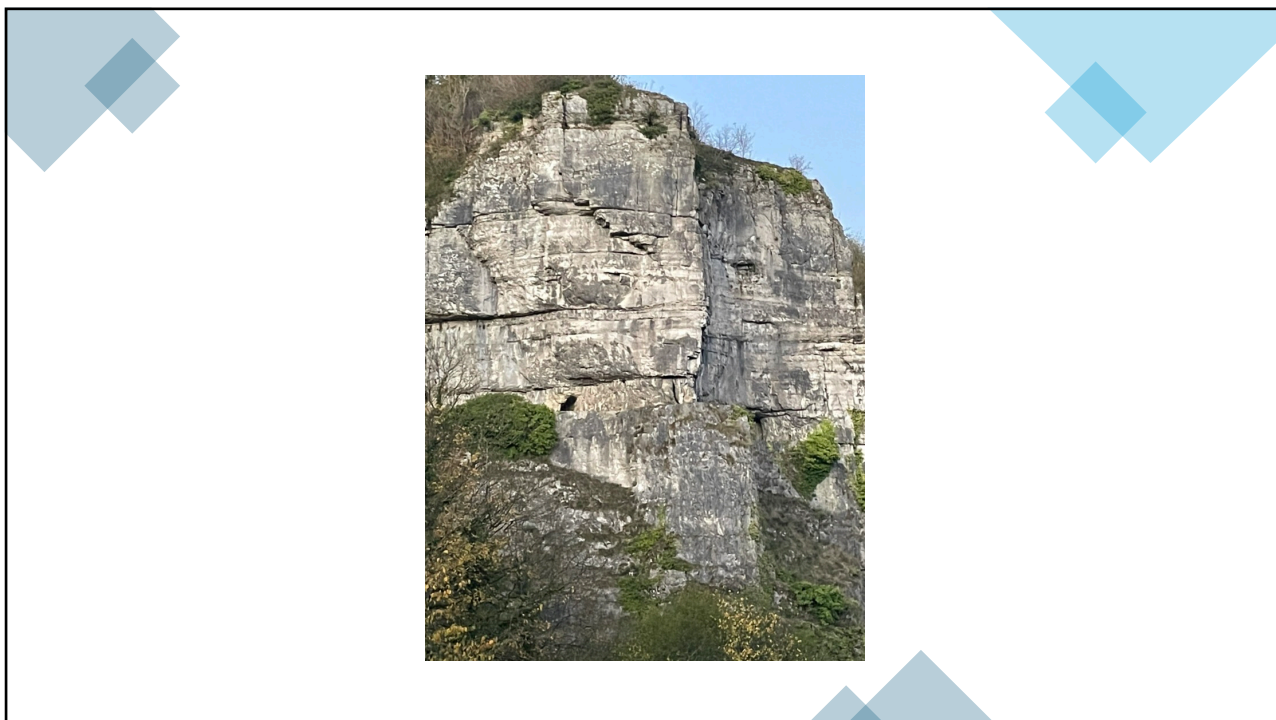
David Hopkins has been fortunate to have had two careers. One as an academic, policy maker and educational activist; and his other half-life, the focus of this presentation, as an International Mountain Guide. David's first real exposure to the mountains was as a student at the Eskdale Outward Bound School, where he was later an instructor. This formative experience began a life-long love affair with the mountains. Early climbs in the Peak District, including Stoney Middleton, led to the Alps, the rock walls of Yosemite, and then onto the Greater Ranges. In the presentation, David will talk about his early Peak District climbs, and then he will share some stories and brief cameos from five of his expeditions: to Denali (Mckinley) Alaska, 6194m; Nanda Devi, Garhwal Himalaya, 7816m; Kahn Tengri, Tien Shan, 7010m; Pokalde, Nepal 5806m; and Mt Everest, North Col, Tibet, 7033m.



Professor Emeritus David Hopkins taught at the University of Cambridge for eleven years and was then variously Chief Adviser to three Secretaries of State on School Standards, Dean of Education at the University of Nottingham, consultant to the OECD and WHO, and adviser to some 20 Ministries of Education globally, as well as practising as an International Mountain Guide. David was recently ranked, by Global Gurus, as the 16th most influential educator in the world. His latest book 'Unleashing Greatness' has just been published.

1st December, 2024, 16.00-17.15
Rock Mill, The Dale,
Stoney Middleton S32 4TF

1



2



3

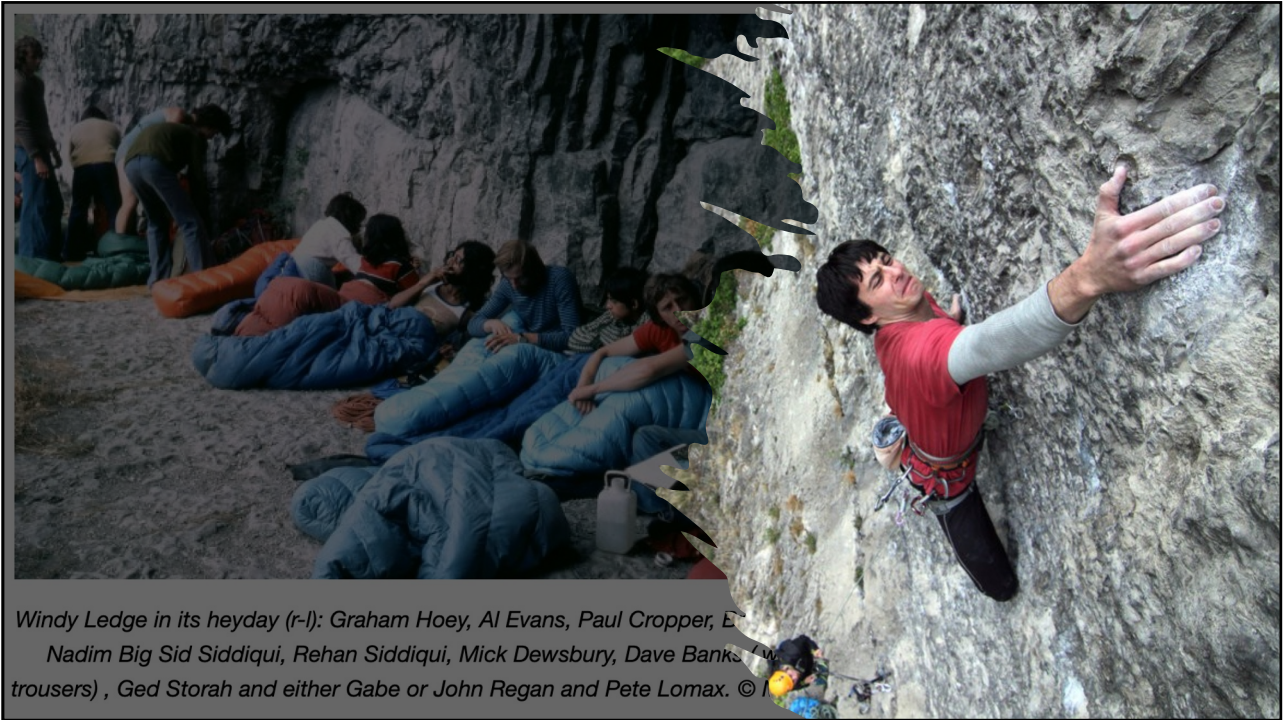
Stoney Middleton at the change of life

by Paul Nunn

Despite the dirt and starkness of the quarries, the valley retains some of its essential charm. The village, standing astride the entrance to the narrow defile with the cliffs pressing upon the crowded low buildings, has a close, warm and intense atmosphere. Every amenity, except for adequate car-parking space, is available within a hundred yards.

The collage features several images: a person climbing a cliff face on the right, a quarry scene on the left, and a view of a village nestled between cliffs at the bottom left.

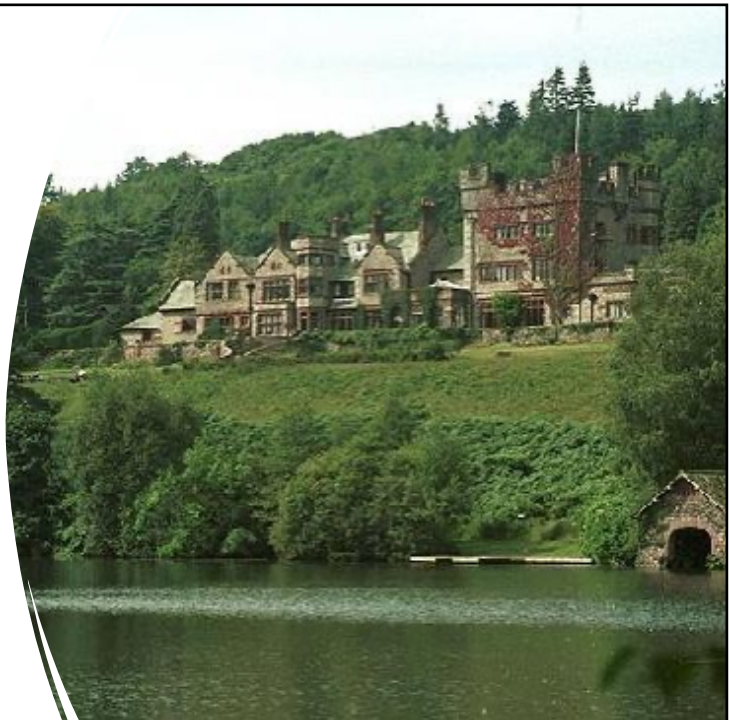
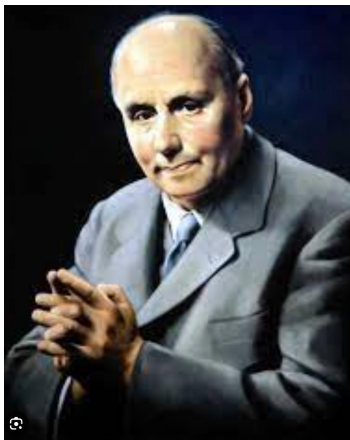
4



Windy Ledge in its heyday (r-l): Graham Hoey, Al Evans, Paul Cropper, E...
Nadim Big Sid Siddiqui, Rehan Siddiqui, Mick Dewsbury, Dave Banks (w...
trousers) , Ged Storah and either Gabe or John Regan and Pete Lomax. © I...

5

Outward Bound Eskdale



6

The World's Greatest Outward Bound Course!



7



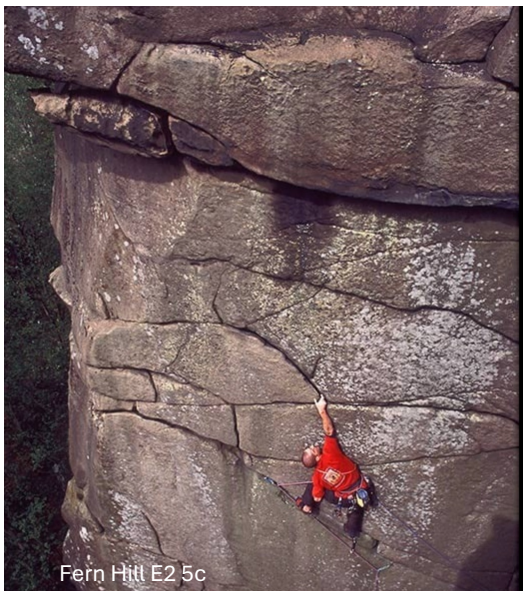
8



Early Days on Grit - Stannage

- Gritstone is always a hard tutor – Paul Nunn

9



Fern Hill E2 5c



Valkyrie HVS 5b

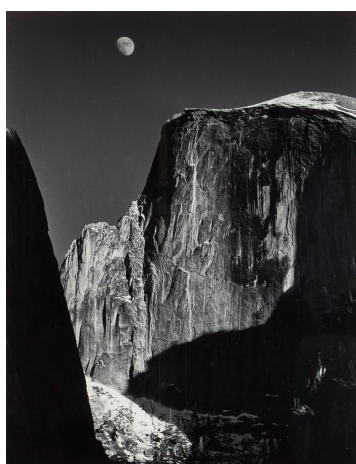
10

Yosemite

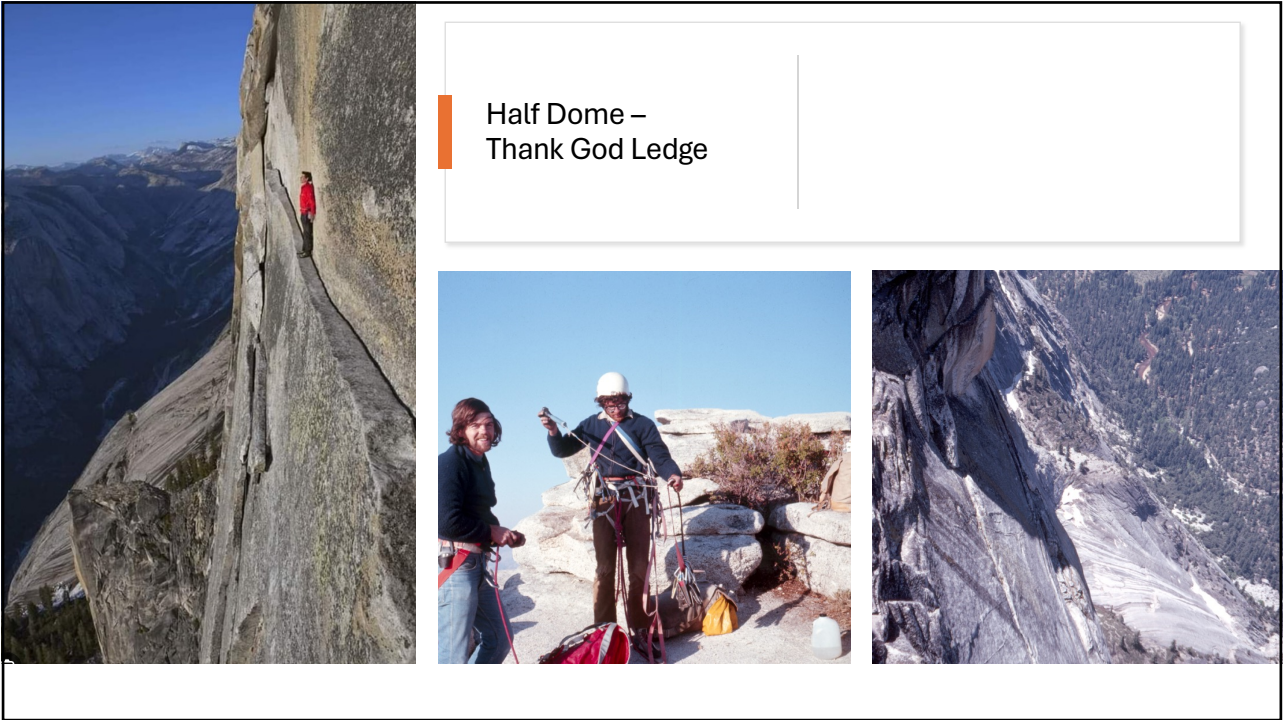


11

Northwest Face of Half Dome



12

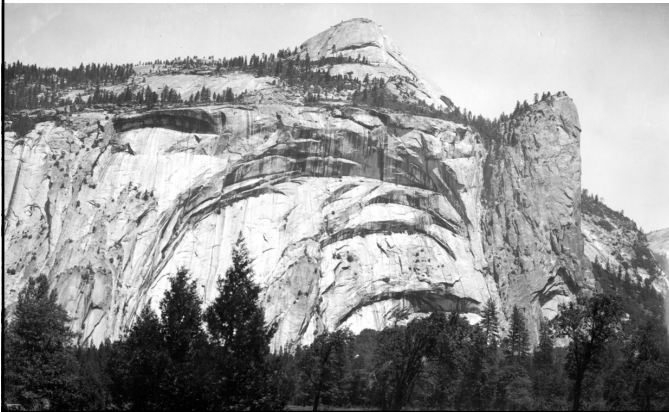


13



14

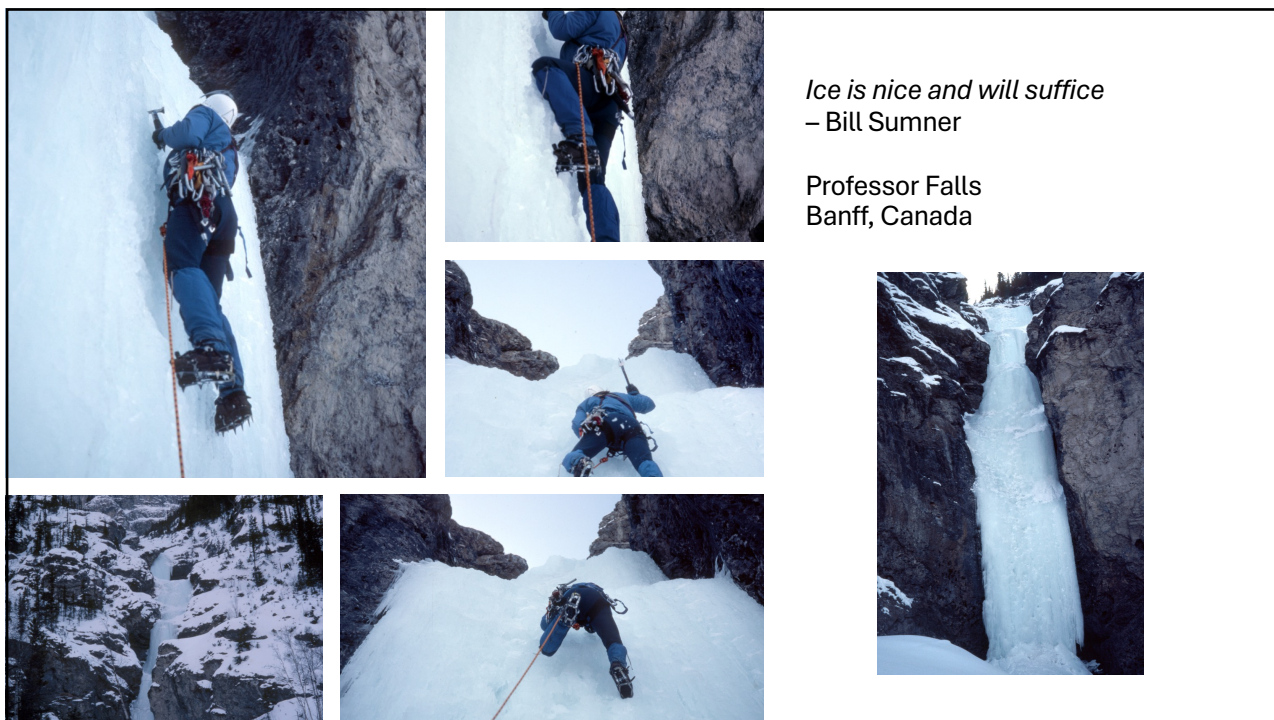
**The Royal
Arches**



15



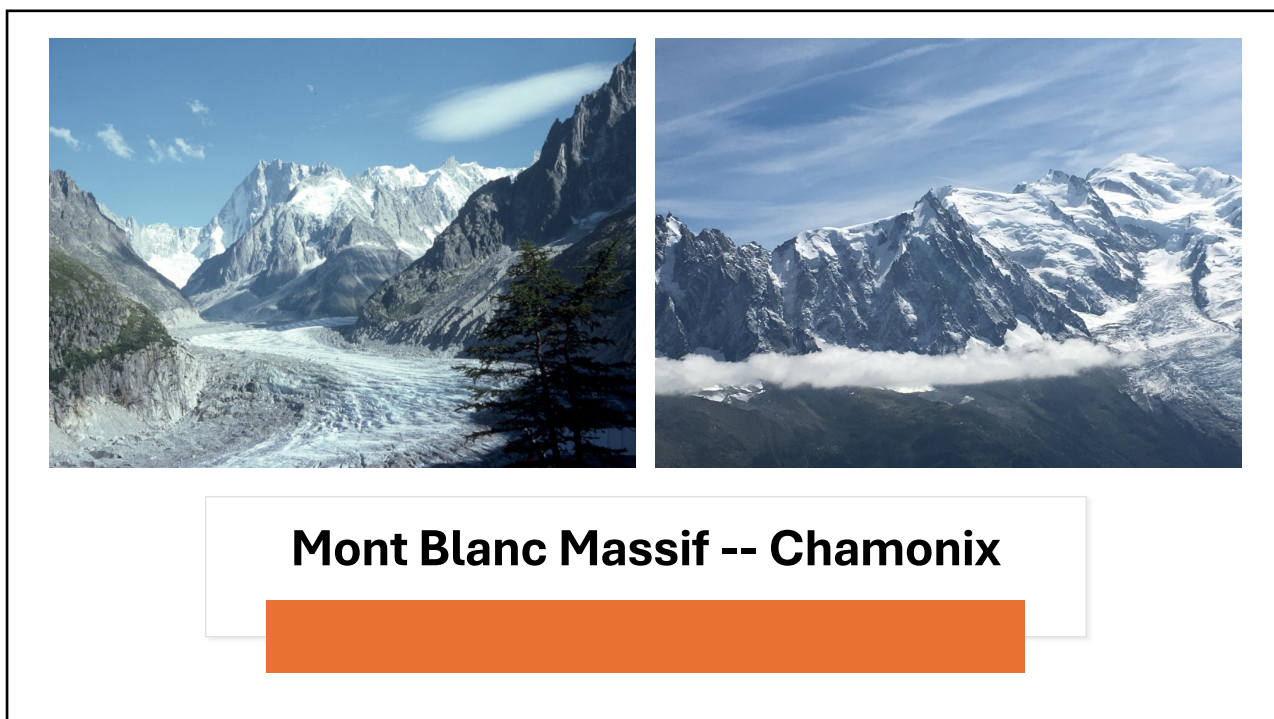
16



Ice is nice and will suffice
– Bill Sumner

Professor Falls
Banff, Canada

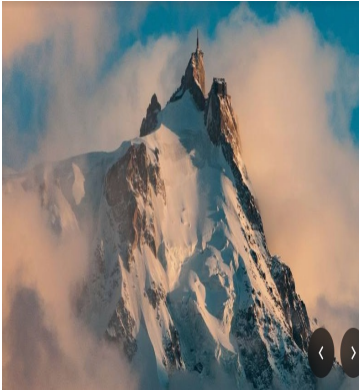
17



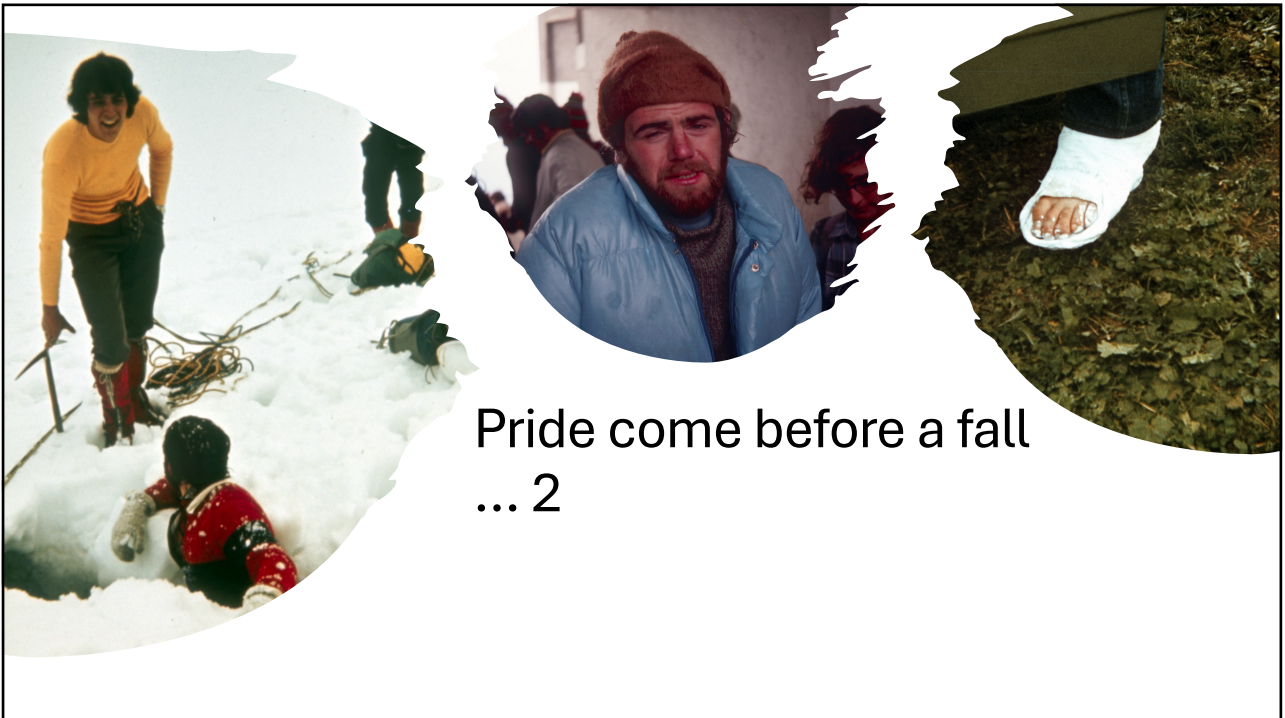
Mont Blanc Massif -- Chamonix

18

Pride come before a fall ... 1

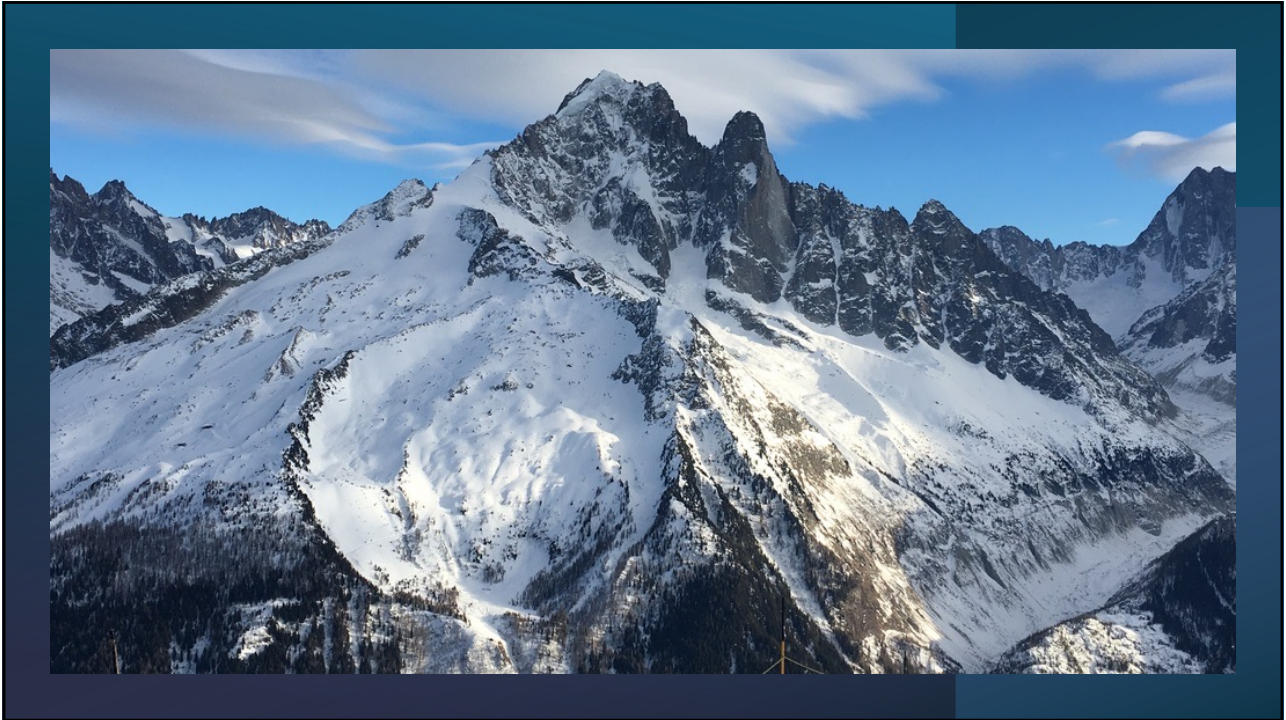


19





Pride come before a fall
... 2

20

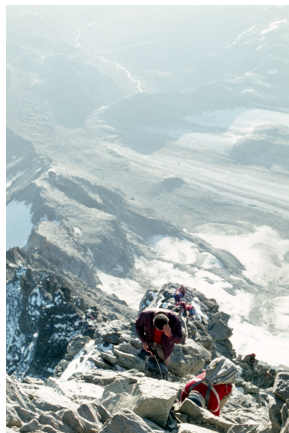


21

North Face of the Aiguille Dru



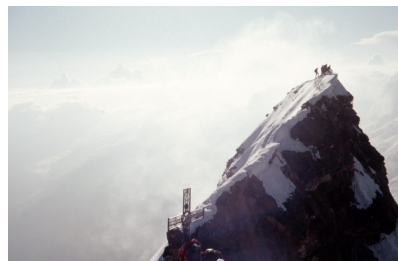
22



Matterhorn

23

Matterhorn Summit – 4,478ms





24

So, inevitably, onto the Greater Ranges -
The Expeditions and their stories

- **1978 – Denali, Alaska, 6194m**
- **1978 - Nanda Devi, Garhwal Himalaya, 7816m**
- 1980 - Mexican Volcanoes – Popocatepl 5452m, Ixtaccihuatl 5286m and Orizaba 5700m
- 1981 - Ecuador Volcanoes - Cotopaxi 5911m and Chimborazo 6310m
- 1983 - Kusum Kanguru, Nepal, 6356m
- 1986 - Peak Lenin, Pamir 7134m
- 1987 - Mt Kenya North Face, 5199m
- **1992 - Kahn Tengri, Tien Shan, 7010m**
- **1993 – Pokalde, Nepal 5806m**
- 1995 – Pokalde 5806m, Imja Tse 6160m, Lobuje 6119 and Gokyo Ri 5483m, Nepal
- 1999 - Helambu Circuit, Nepal
- **2004 – Mt Everest, North Col, Tibet, 7033m**



25

Denali (Mckinley)
6194m
Alaska

26

Talkeetna

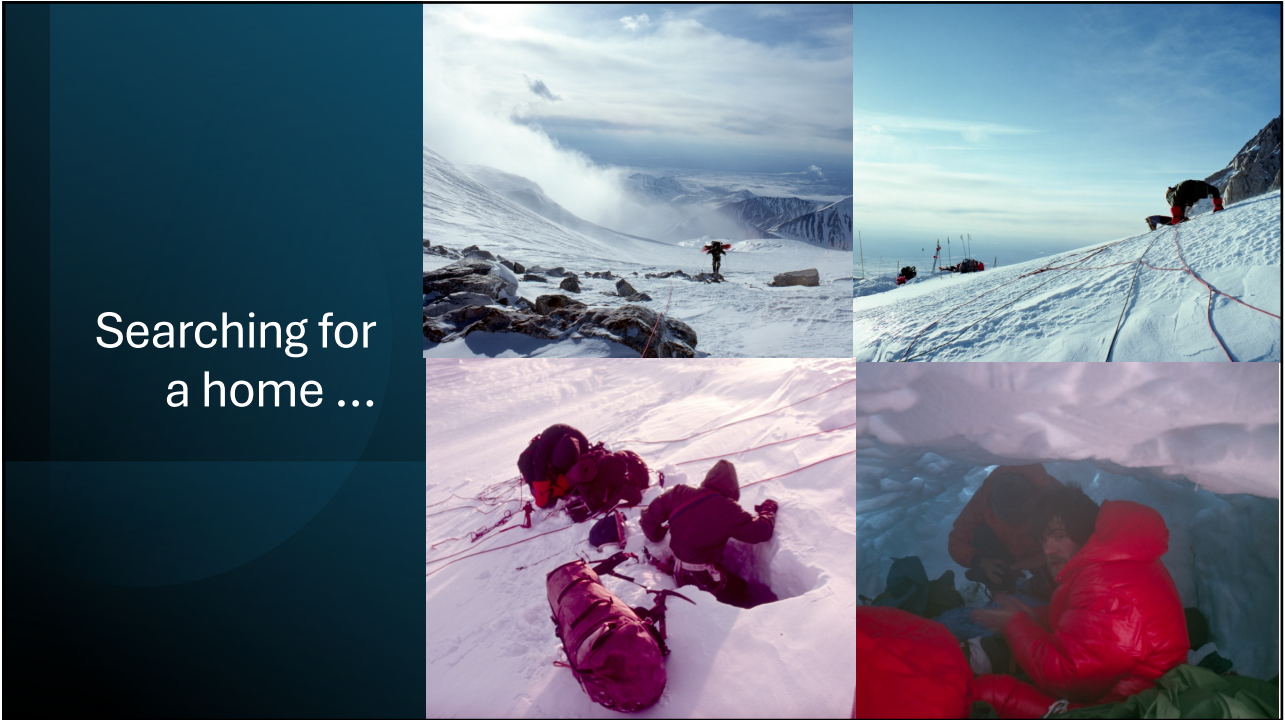


27

Loneliness ...



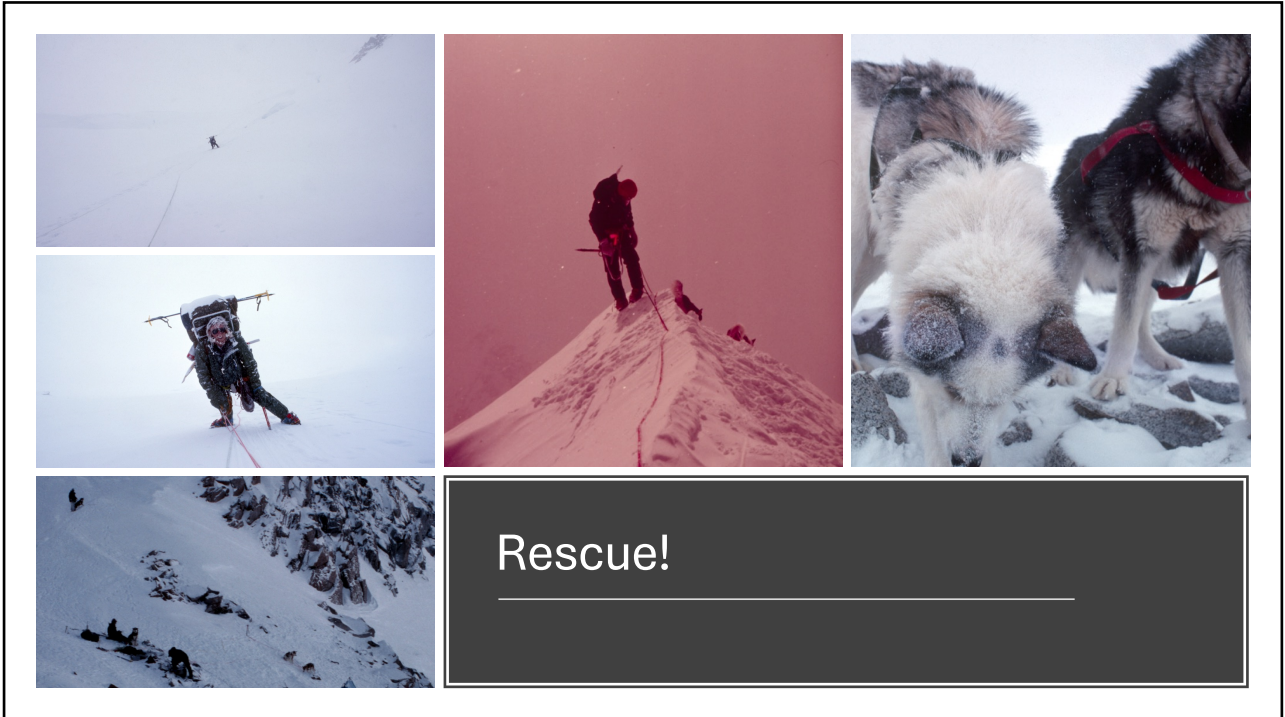
28



29



30



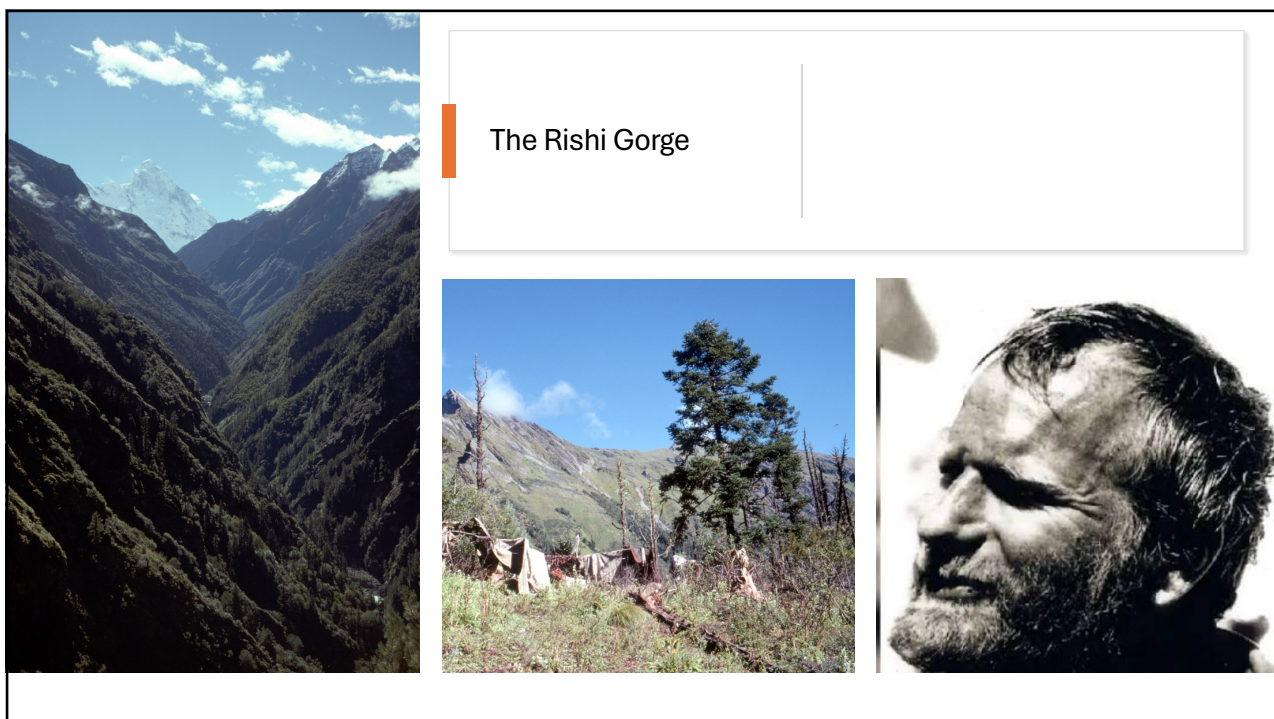
31



32



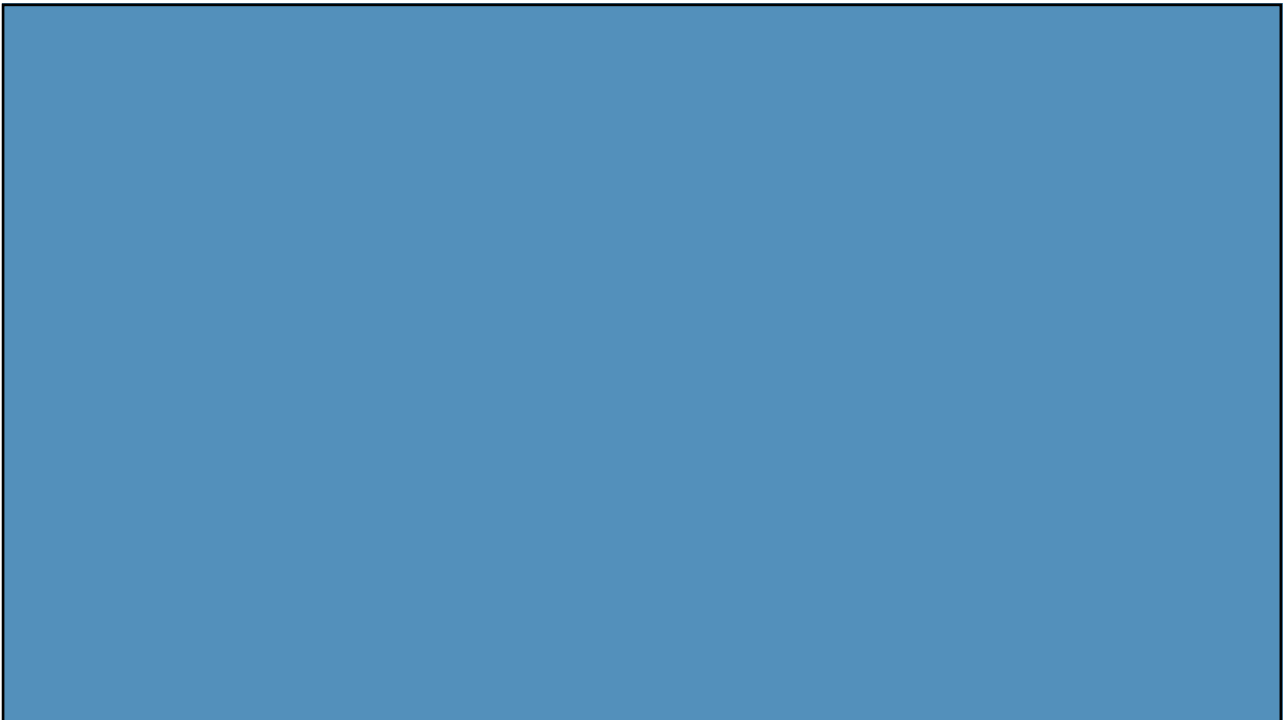
33



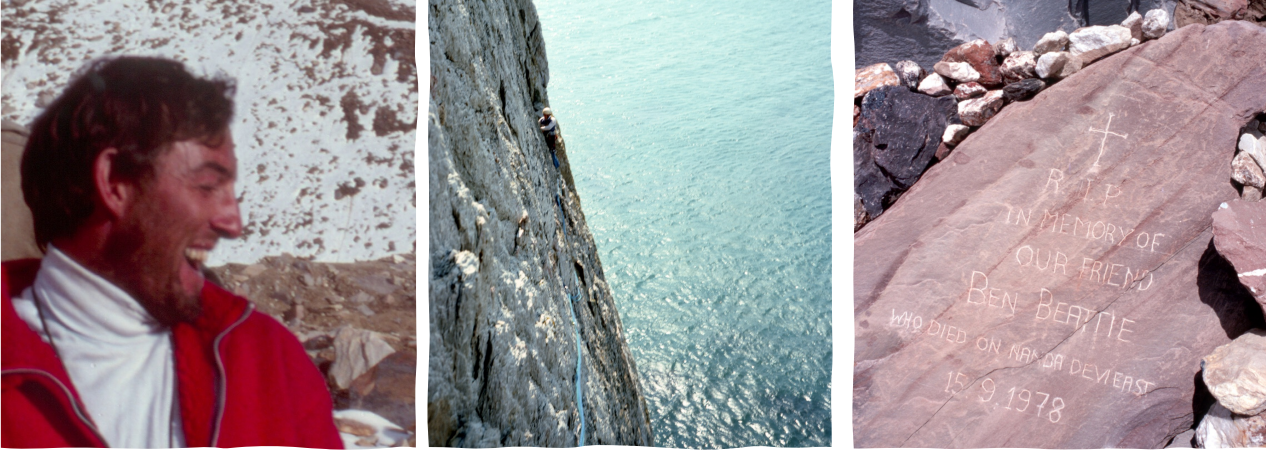
34



35



36

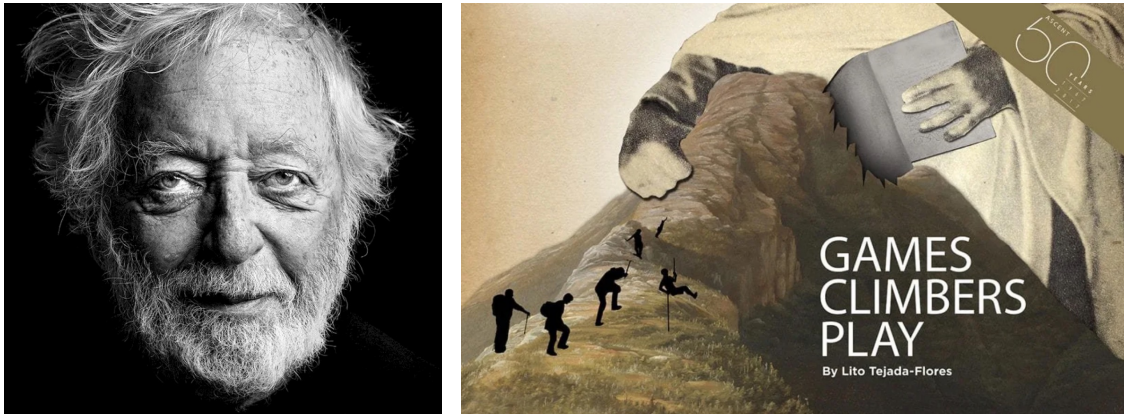


Ben Beattie

... the application of alpine-style techniques to major Himalayan objectives is a difficult, dangerous and committing business, far more so than we had imagined.

David Hopkins in the American Alpine Club Journal, 1979

37



"We need people who dream impossible things, who maybe fail, sometimes succeed, but in any case, who have that ambition."

— Emmanuel Macron

GAMES CLIMBERS PLAY
By Lito Tejada-Flores

1. The bouldering game
2. The crag climbing game
3. The continuous rock-climbing game
4. The big wall game
5. The Alpine climbing game
6. The super-Alpine game
7. The expedition game

38



1985 - A decision with consequences ...

39



BMC
Ski Mountaineering
Courses and
Haute Route

40

		<h2>BMC Alpine Mountaineering Courses</h2>

41

		<h2>And there is always time for skiing ...</h2>

42

Khan Tengri, Kazakhstan – 7010m

The World's most beautiful peak – Anatoli Boukreev



43

The Tien Shan

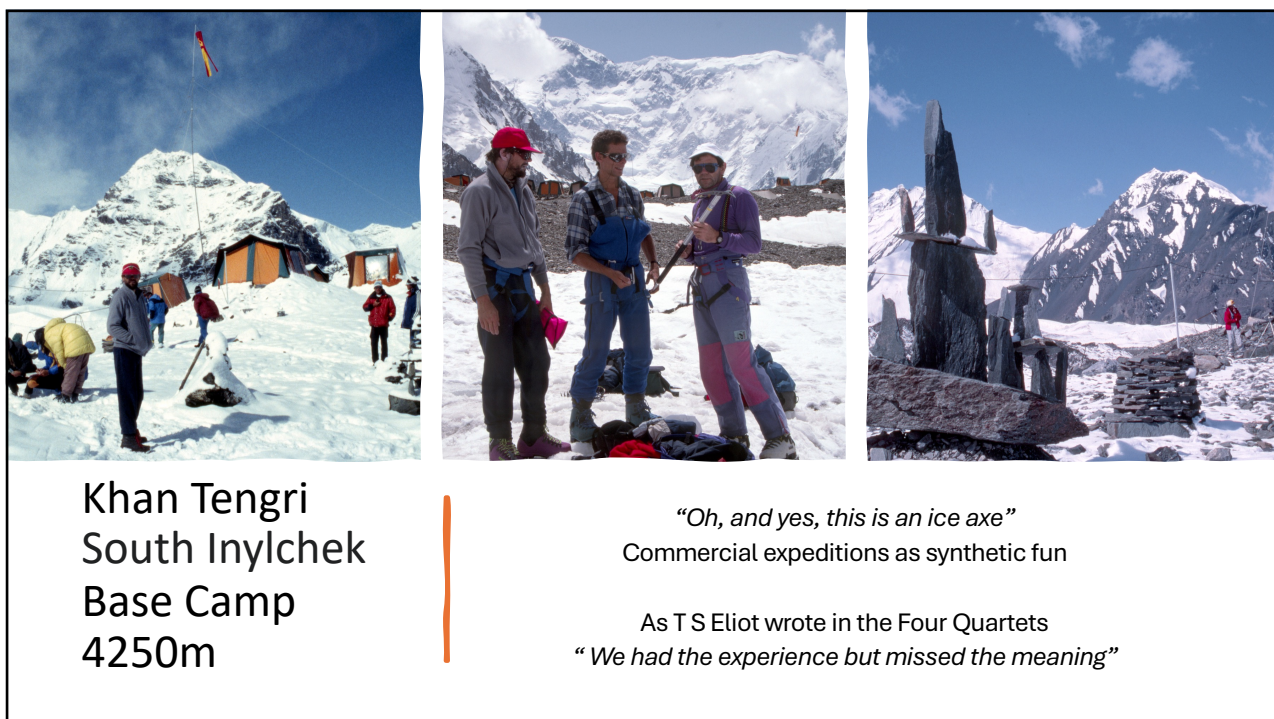


44



Arriving at the helicopter graveyard ...

45



Khan Tengri
South Inylchek
Base Camp
4250m

“Oh, and yes, this is an ice axe”
Commercial expeditions as synthetic fun

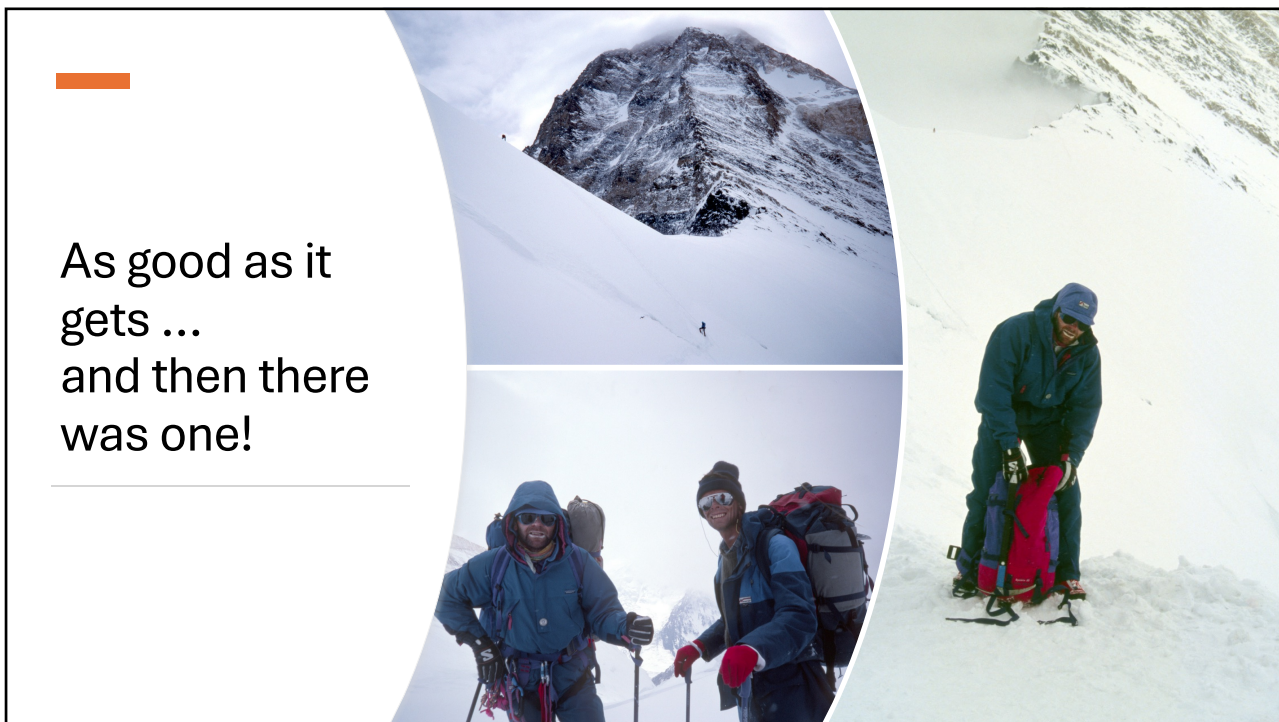
As T S Eliot wrote in the Four Quartets
“We had the experience but missed the meaning”

46



To the Snow
Caves at
6000m

47



As good as it
gets ...
and then there
was one!

48

On the Ridge



49

Does it always need to end this way?

Valery Nikolaevich Khrichtchatyi ([Russian](#): Валерий Николаевич Хрищатый; December 23, 1951 – August 4, 1993) was a Kazakh mountaineer. He made more than forty ascents above 7,000 meters (23,000 feet), including a string of hard winter firsts in the [Pamirs](#) and [Tien Shan](#). He climbed [Everest](#) by a new south pillar route, [Kanchenjunga](#) without oxygen and with only one [bivouac](#), and a new route on the west side of [Dhaulagiri](#) (8,172 meters).



50



MacIntyre

Pokalde, Nepal 5,806m

Sarah, the Duchess of York, was the patron of the MacIntyre "An Everest to Climb" expedition to Mount Pokalde in Nepal in 1993. The expedition included four mentally disabled mountaineers and reached the summit of Pokalde, which is 5,800 meters tall. The expedition was the subject of a television documentary directed by Matt Dickinson for Carlton.

51



Flying into Lukla

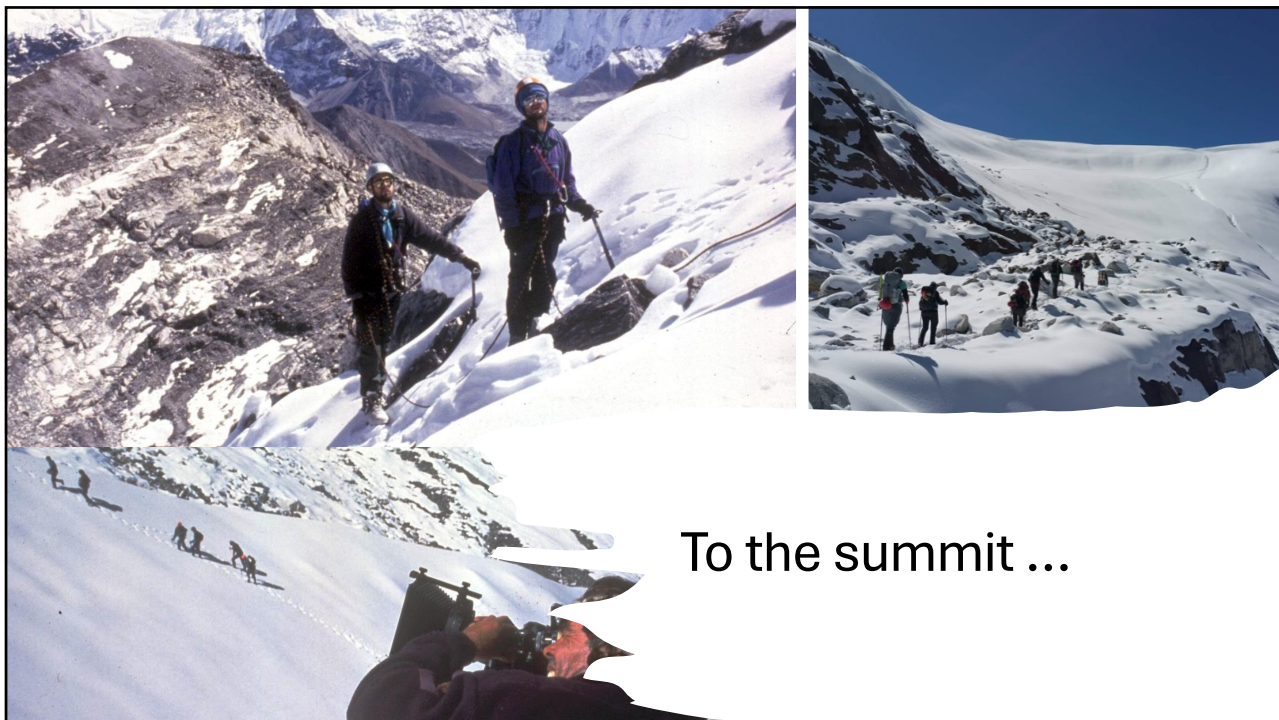
52



53

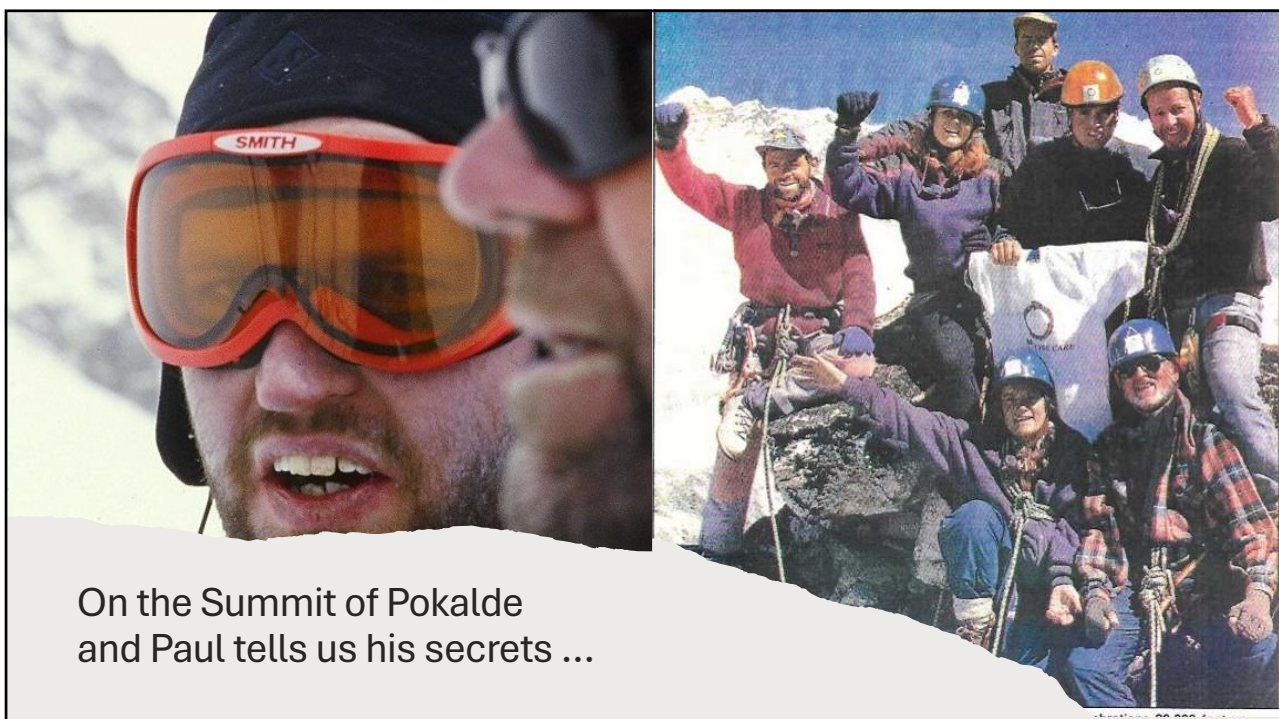


54



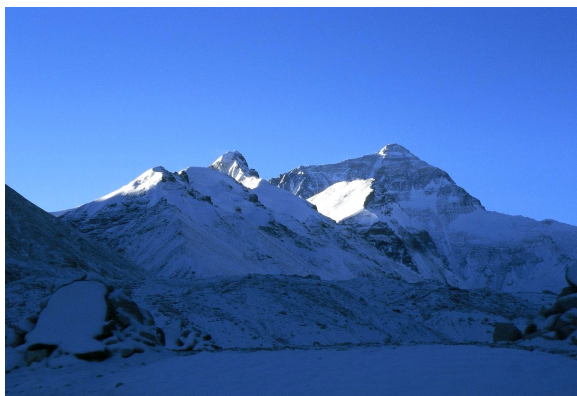
To the summit ...

55



On the Summit of Pokalde
and Paul tells us his secrets ...

56



And so, 10 years later to
Everest North Col
7033m



57



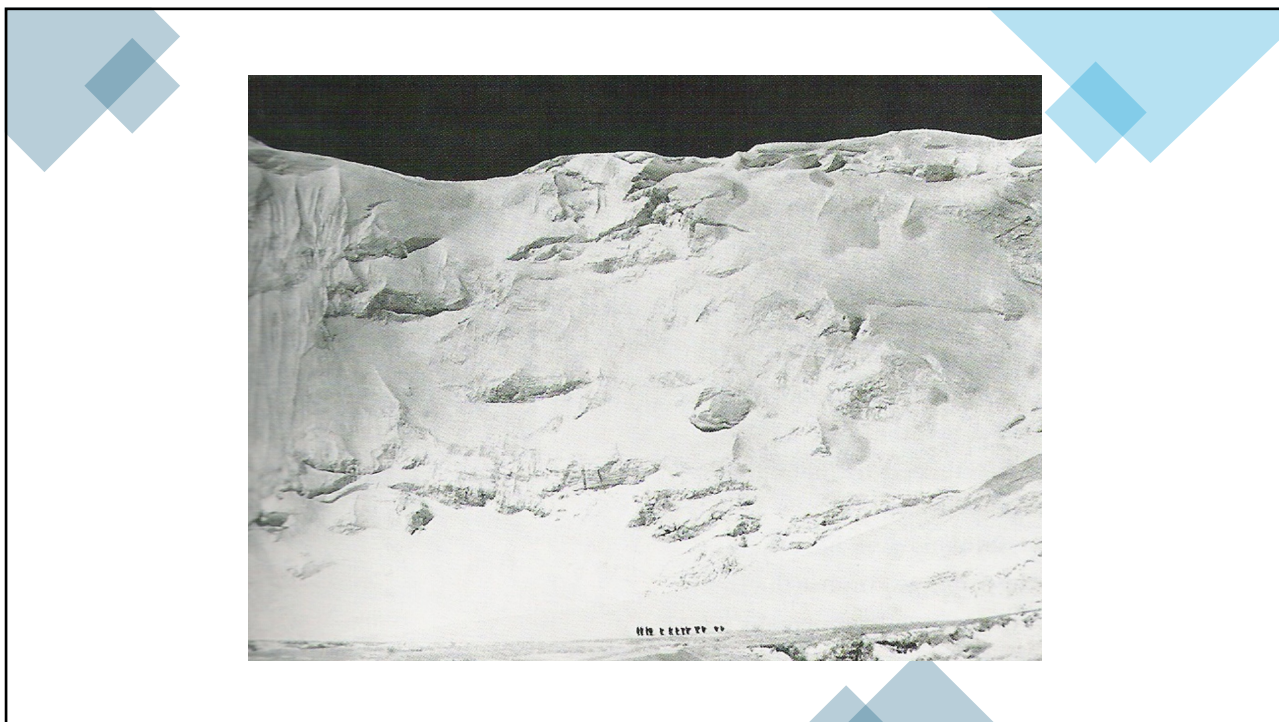
Preparations and then to the
Rongbuk Monastery

58

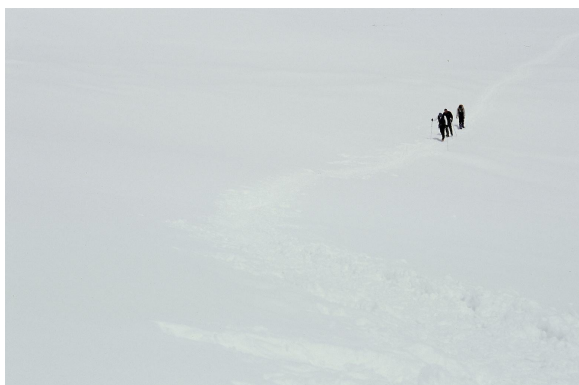


Onto Advanced
Base Camp, 6400m

59



60



Crossing the glacier
– an early start



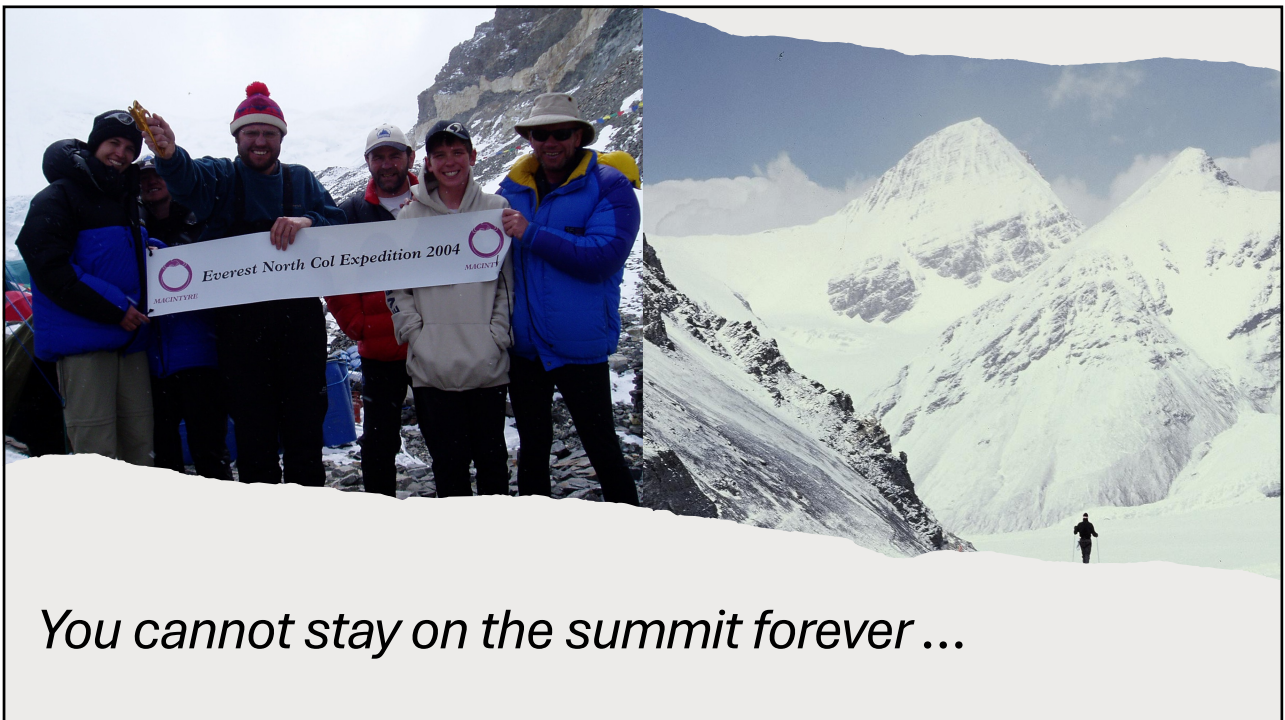
61



62



63



64

Rene Daumal - Mount Analogue



You cannot stay on the summit forever:

You have to come down again....

So why bother in the first place?

Just this: What is above knows what is below,

But what is below does not know what is above.

One climbs, one sees, one descends, one sees no longer.

But one has seen.

There is an art of conducting oneself in the lower regions by the memory of what one has seen higher up.

When one can no longer see, one can at least still know.

65



66

