

made a special expedition to establish Koonka's height, but after he had taken his observations he refused for some entirely unaccountable reason to divulge them. Perhaps some slip had occurred in his calculations and he was unwilling to dwell upon the error." On the Roosevelts' map the legend said: "Prepared by E.J. Raisz of Columbia University. All the country between the Szechuan Basin of China and the Irrawaddy Basin is mountainous and most is unsurveyed . . . the altitudes were determined by barometer."

Next, Carpe drew my attention to the preceding month's issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*, that of February 1930. Its leading article, by Joseph F. Rock, distinguished botanist of the Arnold Arboretum, bore the caption: "Seeking the Mountains of Mystery. An Expedition on the China-Tibet Frontier to the Unexplored Amne Machin* Range, One of Whose Peaks Rivals Everest." Again I was astonished. Was this Amne Machin yet *another* unsurveyed range whose highest peak might also be in a class with Everest? Checking back we saw that indeed it was. For the Roosevelt brothers' "Mount Koonka" rose at the headwaters of the Yangtze River, while the leading sentences of Rock's article stated: "After dangerous, difficult months, I reached the headwaters of the 2,000-mile-long Yellow River and the towering, unexplored range of the Amne Machin." The Yellow River, not the Yangtze. Unserved after Rock it still must be, for at the end of his article he wrote: "Not being supplied with a theodolite, I could not take the actual height; but from other observations . . . we stood at an elevation of nearly 16,000 feet, yet in the distance rose still higher peaks, another 12,000 feet of snow and ice . . . I came to the conclusion that the Amne Machin towers more than 28,000 feet."

We read further into Rock's *National Geographic* account. "That it fell to my lot to reach this region was due to a chance encounter, back in 1923, with that famous British explorer, Gen. George Pereira . . . I met the English traveler in Yunnan. He had then recently completed his now historic march from Peking to Lhasa, and during our visit, he told me of an amazing landmark passed on his westward journey — the great snow-capped Amne Machin Range, which he saw from a distance of more than 100 miles. Very likely he remarked, the Amne Machin, when surveyed, might prove higher than Everest."

A year and a half and two Alaskan expeditions were to pass before I again found myself in The Explorers Club library. By now a member myself, I was examining with Carpe and other older members the realities of a proposed expedition organized specifically to search for the world's

Actually Rock here used the variant spelling "Amnyi Machen" which subsequently dropped out of use.