



Silhouette of porters crossing the suspension bridge over the Kali Gandaki River at Tatopani along the historic Kali Gandaki trail. Suspension bridges such as this made life easier for porters along all the major hill trails. The problem of maintenance (right) was often solved using local resources and a little ingenuity. The peak in the background is Nilgiri (7061 m).



Hill men crossing the river in a long dugout. The boatmen are perhaps the Bote, who traditionally made a living by ferrying goods and people across rivers. They were often licensed by the local authorities on the payment of an annual fee.

JANUARY

2008

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
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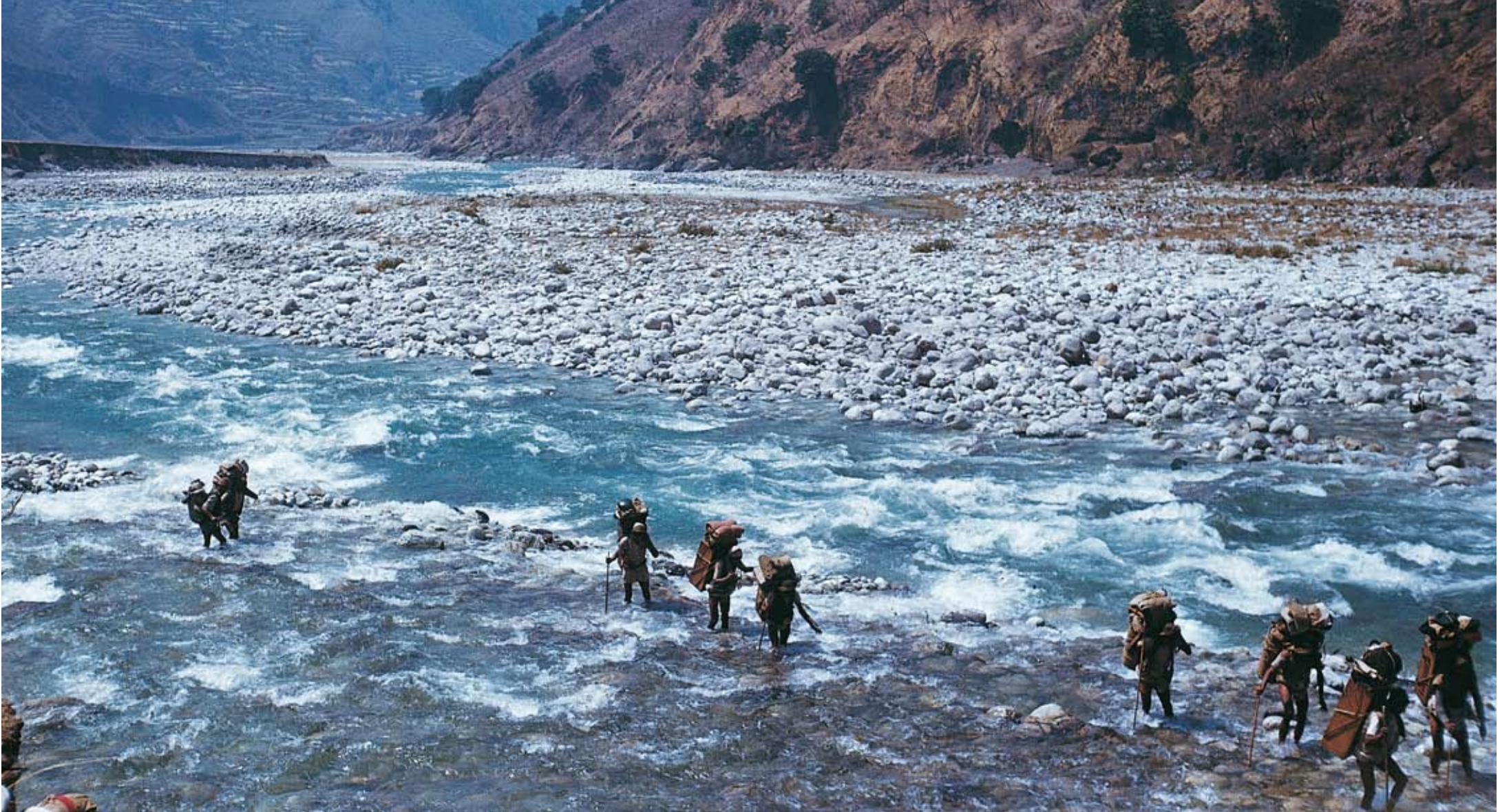


A suspension bridge with hand rails made entirely of bamboo. The span is supported by a wooden pillar on the right. The bridge rests on rocks at both ends.

FEBRUARY

2008

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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MARCH

2008

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
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Porter crossing a makeshift bridge of tree poles tied together and resting on rocks on either side. Floods often sweep away such bridges during the monsoon, but can be easily replaced.

APRIL

2008

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
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An entirely novel ride on 'rafts' made of inflated buffalo hides somewhere in western Nepal on a major river's approach to the Tarai plains. The 'buffalo rafts' are tied together to avoid being swept away by the current.

MAY

2008

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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A porter crossing a raging Himalayan torrent on an indigenously built suspension bridge in the eastern mountains. The bridge is anchored to poles fixed on large rocks on either side. V-shaped tree branches, ropes and vines hold the poles that are used for stepping at the base.

JUNE

2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
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A hill woman crossing the river in a *tuhin* (indigenous ropeway) made entirely of local material. The thick rope is probably made from the fibre of babiyo (*Eulaliopsis binata*) or hemp (*Cannabis sativa*), and the basket is made of bamboo. The small ropes tied to the basket on either side are pulled to induce movement.

JULY

2008

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
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A hanging bridge built entirely of indigenous materials over a glacier-fed Himalayan river. The bamboo matting at the base provides for safety and stability. The holding capacity of the bridge is low as indicated by the porters awaiting their turn on the far side.

AUGUST

2008

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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A man and his goods-carrying *jhopa* (cross between yaks and cows) on a wooden bridge in the trans-Himalaya region. The cantilevered timber stacked one atop the other at both ends support the span in the middle.

SEPTEMBER

2008

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
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A porter balances himself while crossing a *phatke* (literally 'jump-over') bridge over a swift hill stream. The poles rest on the rocks on either end.

OCTOBER

2008

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
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A lorry with a wheel stuck in a temporary culvert on one of minor rivers in the Tarai. All the helpers are hill men, recognisable by their dress. Background shows a preponderance of simal (*Salmalia malabarica*) trees that normally grow in tropical riverine areas. Dugouts are often fashioned from the trunk of simal trees.

NOVEMBER

2008

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
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An improvised raft is used by members of the Bote community to ferry a hill couple across a large river somewhere in the Inner Tarai. The vegetation on the sides is tropical with an abundance of sissou (*Dalbergia sissoo*) trees.

DECEMBER

2008

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
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JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



Toni Hagen would often swim across placid waters ferrying his more important belongings on his air mattress.



APRIL



MAY



JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER

Swiss geologist Toni Hagen (1917-2003) first came to Nepal in 1950 as part of a technical assistance team sent by the Swiss government to help with the tentative steps at introducing western-style development. That was an era when foreigners had to seek government permission to travel outside the Kathmandu Valley. As the geologist in the Swiss team, Hagen was allowed to go around the countryside, an experience that whetted his desire to see more of this 'unknown' land. Thus began a relationship with a country that grew into a close friendship over the course of half a century.

Toni Hagen was later taken over by the United Nations to conduct the first geological survey of Nepal, making him the original 'UN expert' in the country. He spent nearly a decade doing that during which he travelled more than 14,000 km on foot. His explorations took him all over Nepal and he saw the country like no one else had before him, and very few have since. Hagen's experience of those early days, his geological findings and his views on the society and economy of Nepal have been documented in *Nepal: The Kingdom in the Himalaya* (4th ed, Himal Books, Kathmandu, 1998). Hagen's colour photographs in the book for the first time exposed the social diversity and varied landscape of Nepal. This was a landmark book which introduced Nepal to the world and to Nepalis themselves.

With time, Hagen became deeply involved in the study and practice of development in Asia and elsewhere. But he always kept a keen interest in what was happening in Nepal. He continued to critique Nepal's path to progress and never faltered in his belief that socioeconomic advancement was not possible without genuine democracy achieved through decentralisation. For his contribution to scholarship on Nepal, in 1984 the then Royal Nepal Academy awarded him the 'Birendra Pragyalkar', the highest recognition given by the Nepali state to foreign scholars.

The Toni Hagen Foundation Nepal was set up in 2000 to continue the work begun by Toni Hagen long ago to promote an understanding of the Himalaya and its geography, among Nepalis themselves and in the outside world. This calendar is part of the same attempt and contains pictures taken from the 1950s by Toni Hagen. The slides from the Toni Hagen collection were made available by his family

Calendar © Toni Hagen Foundation Nepal



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