

Far-Eastern Nepal

Calendar 2020
Images of a bygone era by Toni Hagen



A traditional Limbu house near Taplejung. The house is made of stones using mud mortar, with locally available wood and roofing thatch, has corncobs hanging to dry under the eaves.



A group of porters ascend Milke Danda, with the Arun Valley far below. The three peaks of Chamlang (left), Baruntse (centre) and Makalu form the backdrop. With no other mode of transport available, portering was the principal form of transportation in the hills of Nepal. Porters carried heavy loads of supplies on their backs and, in many cases, walked barefoot even in snowy conditions.

January 2020

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



A settlement of Walungs in Olangchung Valley in northeastern-most part of Nepal. Walungs, both men and women, are seen wearing their traditional *bakkhu* and *docha* shoes. In the background are houses built of stone, very typical of mountain communities in this part of Nepal.

February 2020

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		



Two Thudam girls operate the *ghatta* (water mill) to grind food grain into flour at Thudam village, located in the trading route between Tibet (Tingri) and the Arun Valley in Nepal.

March 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Men, women and children attend *bhater* – a traditional Limbu wedding feast, in Phidim, Panchthar. The meals are served in a *tapari* – a plate fashioned out of leaves of the *sal* tree.

April 2020

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	



Sherpas in a group dance in the village of Chaurikharka, Solukhumbu. In the traditional Sherpa dance, both men and women make a semi-circle with their hands clasped behind each other's backs and stomp their feet.

May 2020

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



A peasant in a Rai village walks towards his barn built on wooden piles, raised about five feet from the ground and accessible via a wooden ladder through a front verandah. The walls were made of bamboo and topped with a thatched roof. The barns were occasionally used for shelter by people also.

June 2020

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	



A local carpenter at Thudam village near the upper Arun Valley uses the *khukuri* to cut and carve wood as he smiles at the camera.

July 2020

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



A woman in Topke Gola walks her yaks to the high pastures to graze. Yaks were an essential socio-economic part of the lifestyle in far-eastern Nepal. They provide milk and wool and also serve as a means of transport.

August 2020

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Suspension bridge made of *choya* (bamboo splints) in a side valley of near the Arun River. Such bridges were fragile and prone to breakage. Despite the risks, people used the bridge in their daily life as there was no other way to cross rivers.

September 2020

TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	



A group of Limbu men dance to the sound of *chyabhrung* – drums made from animal skins – to mark a wedding ceremony in a village near Phidim.

October 2020

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Roadside traders at the weekly *haat bazaar* in the main trail between Taplejung and Dharan. Daily essentials like food items, trinkets, bangles and spices were sold in such markets.

November 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THE	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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Tashi Sherpa, one of Toni Hagen's assistants, buys potatoes from the local Lhomi at Kimathanka village in Sankhuwasaba near Tibetan border. Potato is one of the few cultivable crops in the Himalayan region of eastern Nepal and contributes a great deal to the local economy.

December 2020

TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



January



February



March



April



May



June



July



August



September



October



November



December



Toni Hagen
(1917-2003)

Toni Hagen, Kanchenjunga.

Swiss geologist Toni Hagen first came to Nepal in 1950 as part of a technical assistance team sent by the Swiss government. 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 making him the original 'UN expert' in the country. He spent nearly a decade travelling 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 Royal Nepal Academy awarded him the Birendra Pragyalkankar, the highest recognition give 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.



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