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HOMETOWN U.S.A.: Boulder, Colo.

# Sherpas peaking in the Rockies

Hardy mountaineers from the Himalayas are making new conquests in the U.S.

DAVID KELLY

And few have capitalized on it more than 38-year-old Pemba Sherpa.

"When I came in 1990 I was the only Sherpa in town," he said, sitting inside Sherpa's Adventurers Restaurant, which he owns, along with an international trekking company.

"I remember as a boy standing in my village eating a raw potato and carrying a farm animal," he said. "Now I own my own airplane."

Back in Nepal, where he has helped build bridges and medical facilities, villagers bombard him with requests to come to Boulder.

"I want to help, but I can only do so much," he said.

At his popular restaurant, diners ask his advice on



DAVID KELLY FOR THE TIMES

**ENTREPRENEUR:** Pemba Sherpa's Adventurers Restaurant has become a popular eatery. At least 100 Sherpas are thought to be living in the Boulder area.

climbing and trekking. Ice axes decorate walls, and mountaineering books sit on shelves. Photos of Sherpas who conquered Mt. Everest hang in the lobby, including one of his chef, Jangbu Sherpa.

But as much as he loves Boulder, there's one thing he can't abide.

"Many people still think a Sherpa is just a porter, but it's an ethnic group," Pemba Sherpa said. "I hear that so many times that I no longer

even feel insulted. They just don't know."

Now they do.

Kelly writes for The Times.

## Sherpas Adventurers Restaurant & Bar

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