

and a detailed survey of the main, largest ice-tongue on the western side of Antisana and one farther north. On August 6 Emerson and Johnson attempted an ascent of Antisana (first ascent by E. Whymper with J. A. and L. Carrel, March 9, 1880.—*Editor.*) in the company of members of the Club Nuevos Horizontes in Quito under the leadership of Sr. Jack Bermeo, who climbed the mountain in 1952. Bermeo's previous route up the northwest face was followed, but it was found that a schrund 100 to 200 meters below the rounded summit was now impassable, a substantial snow-bridge having disappeared. It might still be possible to climb the mountain by a long traverse to the eastern side and the end of this schrund, which is fully 30 feet wide. The western glaciers are all severely crevassed.

PETER J. GRUBB, *Oxford University Exploration Club*

Cambridge Ecuador Expedition. The Cambridge Ecuador Expedition spent eight weeks in Ecuador between June and August. The geographers, John Russell, John Stone and Peter Hopley, carried out a land-use survey in the vicinity of Baños, a small town situated at 5800 feet on the Pastaza River where it cuts a deep gorge through the eastern Andes, in its course to the Amazon. The zoologists, Tony Wright and Bill Erasmus, were collecting Chiroptera and small rodents for the British Museum; they brought back eight different species of bat and a variety of small rodents as well as the parasites associated with them. They did some of their collecting at Baños but also ventured into the interior Oriente to Puyo. From there they canoed down a tributary of the Amazon to Canelos. Another part of the geographers' programme was the ascent of Tungurahua (16,693 feet), an active volcano, though at present quiescent, rising to the south of Baños, which it has devastated on several occasions. The recognized route is up the north face which is relatively straightforward. The final 1500 feet are snow-capped and very steep. Climbing conditions are at their best from October to May during the dry season. Our stay, however, coincided with the wet season, but luckily a week of fine weather came to our rescue. As we had had little mountaineering experience, we were fortunate in having as our guide Jorge Montalvo, who has ascended Tungurahua no less than 20 times and so probably knows it better than anyone else in the world. At five A.M. on July 21 we set off from Baños to climb the 7000 feet to the camp. There we met Jorge, who with two Yugoslav students had that day been foiled in their summit assault by high winds. As the mist cleared, spectacular views over the Andes were unveiled. To the east, the distant Oriente jungles and to the west, Chimborazo were a magnificent sight at sunset. After a 4:30 start we shortly reached the upper vegetation limit,

and then began the tiring climb on cinders and ashes—up two steps, slip back one. Since I was finding breathing the rarefied air particularly difficult, regretfully I returned to camp for they wanted to reach the summit by 10:30 and start down before the noonday sun started melting the snow. On crampons and roped, they gradually made their way to the summit. Unfortunately soon after dawn a thick mist came down and their view from the summit was completely masked. They could not even see across the larger of the two craters, but they were warmed by the heat and smoke rising from the bubbling fumaroles, which melt most of the snow around the crater.

JOHN F. A. RUSSELL, *Christ's College, Cambridge University*

Peru

Climbs above the Quebrada Ulta, Cordillera Blanca. On June 28 the Californians, Henry W. Kendall, Carl Heller, Ernst Bauer, John Lomart and Dave Brown, were joined in Carhuás by their Peruvian porters, Macario Angeles, Octaviano Zuñiger and Pablo Morales, and moved up the Quebrada Ulta to establish Base Camp. By July 2 they were camped at 14,000 feet near the lake below Chekiacraju. The whole party made the second ascent of this 17,342-foot peak the next day. (First ascent by Ayres, Ortenburger, Whitmore, Macario Angeles in 1958. See *A.A.J.*, 1959, 11:2, p. 180.) From this camp they reconnoitered an unclimbed, unnamed peak and found the route to the summit ridge. On the very day they were to set up Camp II, Bauer came down with congestive heart failure and had to be evacuated. After a short delay, the camp was established, but Heller came down with apparently the same ailment and the attempt was abandoned. The climbers then turned to Chopicalqui (20,998 feet) in hopes of reaching the west ridge from the Quebrada Ulta and of joining there the route followed by the two successful parties, who had ascended from the Quebrada Llanganuco (also, but less correctly, spelled Yanganuco). Deep powder snow and steep slopes complicated the ascent, but Kendall, Heller and Bauer finally established themselves in camp near the west ridge. Steep slopes and bottomless powder snow defeated the first attempt to climb higher well below the summit. Two days later in poor weather they reached the summit cone. The slope climbed by the American party in 1954 had avalanched off, leaving an overhanging ice wall. They then tried to ascend a vertical ice wall down the ridge on the south side, but because the ice was so rotten that ice pitons would not hold, they had to turn back from there, only 100 yards from the top. During the last three days in the region, they reconnoitered a route on the Nevado Ulta. Though