

rocks were terrestrial lunar replicas. He had become the villagers' friend and hoped that they would maintain their skill in the construction and use of their kayaks for hunting seals so he started and provided the prizes for a long-distance kayak race. After his death the race was taken over by the Umanak Kommune. I started a memorial fund and got nearly \$3000 for the race. We went to live in the village, to hand over Drever's research hut and boats, to see the race, and to conclude our long University link with the village. We were based on the hut for eight weeks. We did some climbing. In late June we travelled 30 miles by boat through the melting pack ice to the entrance of the Nerderlit valley on Akuliaruseq. We camped five miles up the barren valley where we reascended the beautiful Snepyramiden with its tragic past (*A.A.J.*, 1962, p 250), made three first ascents by mixed snow-rubble routes, and failed on a precarious flakey pinnacle below the summit of a "huge tottering scree heap." In late July we were on the popular Upernivik Island. We reached eight summits: our best new route was a 2300-foot *difficile* rib on the southwest face of "Scorpio" (1850 meters or 6070 feet). Our main objective was to reascend P 2105 (6907 feet), "Great White Tower" and the highest mountain on the island, and to rename it in Greenlandic as Harald's Peak. We camped in the heart of the island ten miles from the sea. Three tiny tents perched on a moraine overlooking a broad snowfield and surrounded by jagged rock peaks. Our hill was a slender pale rock spire at the apex of two long ridges. We followed the south ridge, traversing difficult pinnacles on good rock, crossing steep slopes of loose glassy ice marbles, mounting rock stairways to the final summit block. I stood alone on the top of Aaraliup qáqâ (Harald's Peak). I had a strong sense of ultimate fulfilment.

PHILIP GRIBBON, *Scottish Mountaineering Club*

## MEXICO

*Gran Trono Blanco.* On March 29 and 30, Paul McLaughlin and I completed the second ascent and first clean ascent of the intimidating south wall (*A.A.J.*, 1976, p. 477). We used the one and only fixed piton, a baby angle driven  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch for the tension traverse on the tenth pitch, and request that it be left fixed with its two rusty carabiners: they make cleaning this pitch much easier. Also, two hooks were used on this pitch, a Logan Skyhook, and a flat Leeper. Many small wired nuts were used on the pitch above the big, sloping ledge, particularly #3 and #4 wired stoppers. Be advised that the F9 free climbing on the two pitches above the big ledge cannot be avoided with aid. A 165-foot rope is required. In December, 1976, Ed Connor and I made the first clean ascent of the Happy Hooker (*A.A.J.*, 1975, p. 154) in two days.

This will come as no surprise to the seven or eight previous parties, who used only a few pins on the aid pitch above the bivvy ledge. Shortly after our ascent, Dale McCauley and Dan Curley climbed the route clean in a day, realizing Tom Birtley's original prediction. Now the bad news. The Happy Hooker is regarded by many San Diego climbers as the most enjoyable route on the Throne. It follows, unfortunately, that it gets the most abuse. In an epic that will surely become known as the Rape of the Happy Hooker, a party of four took four days to climb it, adding seven bolts to the original four. Their intention, apparently, was to free the route adding bolts where needed for protection. But they succeeded in freeing only thirty feet more than had been done on previous ascents. Two bolts were placed for a bivvy because they missed the ledge by three pitches the first day. Two more were placed for a belay on the seventh pitch for reasons that have not yet been made clear. At least one bolt was placed on a section which had already been climbed free without one several times. Plans have been made to remove all seven bolts and to patch the holes with epoxy and sand. This decision was made with the unanimous consent of everyone who could be contacted who had climbed the route. It is hoped that this action will discourage other parties from such blatant disregard for precedent.

JOHN K. VAWTER, *W-town Hardmen*

*El Chancero, Northwest Face, Sierra Juárez.* On April 30 Steve Eddy, Mark Meng and I climbed El Chancero's dome-like northwest face. The name, meaning "The Jester," reflects the agony and frustration of reconnaissance by more than one party. In direct sight from the summit ridge off El Gran Trono Blanco, the prominent inviting formation has been noted for some years, but plotting its location and approach "roads" has been vexing. Rough wood-cutter roads were the reason for one car being towed out of the area. Two hiking reconnaissances located the dome. The route finally climbed was much shorter than anticipated, but of marvelous bubbly rock. (NCCS II, F7.) There are other opportunities in the nearby canyons, but approach problems magnify as one descends from the pinewoods plateau. On one search for El Chancero, Greg Bender and I found time to make the first ascent of a noteworthy tower northeast of Laguna Hanson, about midway between the lake and the dome.

FRED BECKEY

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Colombia

*Ruiz-Tolima Group, Central Cordillera.* Paul Monohan, Mickey Nowak, Ollie Wallock, and I on January 3 climbed Nevado de Quindío,