

leading toward the summit, we continued up the face in hopes of finding the second climber. We did not see his actual position until the following day, after we had descended the western edge of the southwest face. He was hanging 300 meters below his partner in the adjacent flute. Several attempts to rescue the bodies were made by helicopter but were abandoned as too dangerous.

JAMES O'NEILL

Alpamayo, Southeast Face, 1979. In the first week of July, 1979 Dave Jenkins and I climbed up the glacier at the foot of the southeast face of Alpamayo. We found 500 feet of fixed rope near the base of the face left a month before by Yugoslavs, who had made the first ascent of the face. We started into the gully system in the center of the face below the summit, mainly ice with an occasional rock step. At 19,000 feet we found an ice cave that led into a small ledge where we bivouacked, having arrived early in the day around two P.M. The next day we continued up a gully in the center of the face, passing several rock steps and tunneling through and climbing over successive cornices to break onto the east ridge less than 100 vertical feet from the summit. We saw no further signs of the Yugoslavs above the last fixed line 3000 feet below. (They followed the Yugoslav route except for the last thousand feet, where the American route kept a more direct line to the summit.—*Editor.*) We descended the north ridge, crossed under the northeast face and over the east col and back to Base Camp, arriving there at six P.M.

RICK L. WYATT, *Unaffiliated*

Quitaraaju, Alpamayo, Chacaraju Este. After our climbing in the Cordillera Huayhuash (see that section), Bas Grenigt had recovered considerably and together on July 14 we climbed the north face of Quitaraaju. On the 17th we ascended Alpamayo's southwest face, a fantastic climb up and down tottering flutes and fragile cornices. We were so enthusiastic that two French and two Americans decided to follow our route. In the following week we heard the tragic news that the French had fallen to their deaths. Our main objective was Chacaraju Este by its south face. There have been three successful ascents of the peak, two by different south-face routes. Ours followed essentially the same line as Jaeger's in 1978 but near the top we kept straight up and he bore right to emerge from the face directly onto the summit. We started the climb on July 26 despite my upset stomach, which had been bothering me for some days; it improved as we climbed. Bas led and we reached 17,225 feet and bivouacked in an ice cave. We were surrounded by shaky flutes and gigantic sérac walls; the summit cornices hung over us 2500 feet higher. The next morning the difficulties increased quickly and we soon got to

the first vertical ice walls. The ice was excellent. We reached the snowfield and set up our second bivouac at 18,375 feet early in the afternoon. It took three hours to chip out an ice cave. Unfortunately Grenigt dropped his sleeping bag and spent a miserably cold night. In the morning we climbed the fishbone-like ribs of the wall. Initially the formations were 10 meters wide but toward the top they were less than a meter wide. We climbed mostly between the fragile flutes, hoping the ice blocks would not crash down. Getting onto the summit was risky. Vertical ice blocked the route on all sides. It took two hours of hard work to dig away the overhanging obstacles. We made the descent by 250-foot rappels on a 5-mm rope. In less than two hours, just before dark, we were back at our bivouac hole. On August 7, I ascended Huascarán and descended to the Garganta on skis.

RONALD NAAR, *Koninklijke Nederlandsche Alpenvereniging*

Santa Cruz, Southwest Face and West Ridge. Jean-Marc Lang, Bruno Douillet and I climbed the southwest face and upper west ridge of Santa Cruz. (This route coincided with Wells' only in the very upper part.—*Editor.*) On August 4 we started up the left side of the face, which averages 70°. We bivouacked halfway up below the rock bands, some 1500 feet up. The next morning we traversed left toward the west ridge and followed up the ridge to the summit, which we reached at two P.M. We rappelled down the entire face from ice screws, bivouacking on the descent at the same place where we had slept on the ascent. It took four hours to reach there. I froze my feet in a pair of plastic boots and have had part of my right foot amputated. On August 25 Lang soloed Huascarán, taking only 15 hours from the edge of the snow to the summit and back.

PASCAL SOMBARDIER, *Montagnes-Magazine, Grenoble, France*

Committee for the Protection of the Environment of the Cordillera Blanca. This Peruvian committee has been formed in order to combat the deterioration of the trails, campsites, woods, lakes and glaciers of the Cordillera Blanca and the Cordillera Huayhuash. Climbers and trekkers have in the past few years become increasingly careless in casting off their garbage, in building campfires with the very scarce and rapidly depleting wood of the region, in general in taking little care to be sure that they will not do anything that will harm the pristine beauty of the region. The initial expenses of the committee in its efforts to protect the environment have been underwritten by the Sierra Club Foundation, but it is hoped that in the future each climber, trekker or tourist in the region will make a voluntary contribution of a minimum of \$2.00. Provision for