

Ecuador

Antizana Sur. Two Ecuadorians, Rómulo Pazmino and Leonardo Droira, and I made the first ascent of Antizana Sur (18,275 feet) in the Cordillera Oriental. We attempted the peak three times, reaching on the second attempt a point 100 feet below the summit after fifth-class rock climbing at 18,000 feet. The mountain has 3500 to 4000 vertical feet of ice and snow. Our route followed a gentle glacier on the northwest to camp at 16,000 feet, just below an icefall. We climbed a west ridge. The final part involved a long exposed traverse of 60° rotten snow and ice on the north face followed by a short 80° ice couloir. On August 22 we gained the summit, possibly at that time the highest unclimbed peak in Ecuador.

EDWIN BERNBAUM, *Harvard Mountaineering Club*

Altar Group and Cayambe. An expedition from Waseda University was led by Junji Miyano. On June 28 Tadashi Hayakawa and Takeo Tsunoda reached the summit of Obispo (17,454 feet), the highest in the Altar group. When they reached the upper part of the final rock tower, they found a piton which was perhaps driven by the Italians. (Although the Japanese have claimed this as a first ascent, the Italians Tremonti, Gaspard and Zardini made the ascent in 1963. — *Editor.*) From July 21 to 24, they climbed the main peak of Cayambe (18,993 feet), a sixth ascent, and second (18,950 feet) and the third (18,765 feet) peaks, both first ascents. Some topographical and meteorological surveys were done after their climbing activities. The other members were Susumu Murata, Kazutaka Aoki and Keinosuke Matsumura.

ICHIRO YOSHIKAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

Peru

Pongos and Uruashraju Groups, Cordillera Blanca. We first reconnoitered the Pongos group from the north and then from the south. Leaving the Catac-Chavín road at Lake Querococha and going up the Quebrada Cotush, we set up Base Camp at 13,600 feet at the head of the Quebrada Pamparaju. From there, by climbing to the head of the amphitheater, with two high camps on the glacier, Macario and Emilio Angeles and I made the first ascent of the lovely ice peak Pongos Norte (18,635 feet) on June 6. Because of its form and beauty, the natives call this peak Jatunllacsha (in Quechua: *jatun*=big; *llacsha*=withered one). On the southern side, entering from the Quebrada Pachacoto, we set up Base Camp at 14,500 feet at the head of the Quebrada Raria, where we had reconnoitered the year before. On August 10, from a high camp at 16,750

feet, the Angeles brothers and I made the second ascent by a new route, the south face and northwest ridge of the Nevado Pongos (18,737 feet). (First ascent by Terray, deBooy and Egeler in 1952 by the north face and southwest ridge.) We reconnoitered the Uruashraju group, departing from the town of Olleros (c. 11,000 feet) by way of Canrey-Pampa and Arhueycancha to reach Lake Collotacocha (c. 13,350 feet). From there we reached Base Camp at the head of the Quebrada Pumahuacanca at 14,150 feet. On July 29, Macario Angeles, my 15-year old son, Carlos, and I made two camps and climbed a virgin summit (c. 17,585 feet), situated above a col which separates the quebradas Rurec and Pumahuacanca. We called this "Uruashraju Chico." On July 30 Macario and I tried to follow the glacier and climb to the summit of Uruashraju (18,815 feet). We reached the south shoulder of the peak, some 300 feet below the summit in altitude and some 250 yards south from it in distance, but did not follow the ridge because of unstable cornices. The best route would seem to be the north ridge, from the Quebrada Rurec, tried in 1957 by J. Lasner and W. Dixon.

DOMINGOS GIOBBI, *Club Alpino Paulista*

Harvard Andean Expedition, Cordillera Blanca. In June, Henry S. Francis, Jr. and his wife Sharon, John S. Humphreys and his wife Alice, Stephen Pomerance and I explored new routes in the Quebrada Parón. Laguna Parón was crossed with the aid of a makeshift raft of truck inner tubes and branches; this movement took four days. For acclimatization we explored the north face of Pisco and reached a point about 1000 feet below the summit before turning to our major objective, the south face of Artesonraju. The final stage on Pisco was steep, exposed rock and snow but was doubtless possible. An easier route would lead from the Pisco-Huandoy saddle. We placed two camps on Artesonraju, the second on the south ridge within striking distance of the summit. The ridge was exposed and corniced; a notch just before the spot where the ridge ends in the face delayed us. Time did not permit a retreat to Base Camp for restocking with food, and the attempt had to be abandoned. This feasible route would be an excellent climb, but it needs more hardware and time than we had available. All except Pomerance and I had to return. We two aimed to explore the route to Aguja Nevada, whose main summit is unclimbed*, and to attempt Aguja Nevada Chica, the smallest summit (18,045 feet) on the ridge which runs southwest from it. From a camp at 16,500 feet we climbed a glorious granite ridge and then a few ice

*It appears likely that the Swiss climbed the peak just south of the main peak and some 150 feet lower.