

The expedition travelled 1000 miles from Calca to Chiquián by truck, and after a three-day march reached Caruacocha on August 16, just as a fortnight of bad weather commenced. A direct route to the foot of the northeast buttress on Yerupajá (21,759 feet) was made by fixing ropes on an intermediate 1000-foot *rognon*, but thereafter the route was deemed too dangerous as it had to cross an extremely unstable icefall. Camp II was finally placed at 17,000 feet and the position used to study other possible routes. The easterly spur of the buttress falls to a col, above which rises Peak 5660 (18,570 feet). This peak would ordinarily present few difficulties, but the mild condition of the wet season completely softened formerly good snow; though a rock route, which involved a short 20-foot overhang surmounted by artificial aid at 17,700 feet, brought us onto its difficult snow and rock summit ridge, we turned back when the lead man's ice axe broke. The weather never again permitted access. However it was fairly certain that no practical route to the summit of Yerupajá lay that way. From the east side, the best chance remains the northeast spur of the eastern ridge, which will not be easy, though it is not excessively steep. The route is capped by two ice roofs, and then at 19,500 feet the difficulties really commence: almost a mile of ice ridge with two enormous breaks. Yerupajá from this side remains a stupendous mountaineering problem. We returned to Chiquián on September 2.

MALCOLM SLESSER, *Scottish Mountaineering Club*

*Second Argentine Expedition to the Cordillera Huayhuash.* This group was sponsored by the Federación Argentina de Esquí y Andinismo. The first Argentine expedition to this region had, in 1958, been the first to reach Yerupajá's south summit (21,378 feet) at the cost of severe frost-bite. The group this year hoped to climb the difficult west face of Yerupajá, which rises in some 2750 feet from the Glaciar TAM to the ridge between the main and south summits, and to climb on to the main summit (21,759 feet), which had been reached only by Maxwell and Harrah in 1950. (*A.A.C.*, 1951, 8:1, pp. 22-32.) At the same time they would reconnoiter the Rasac and Tsacra chains and study the breaks in the moraine dams of Lakes Solterahanca, Jahua and Rasac. The members were Jorge Peterek, José Luis Fonrouge and Carlos Comesaña of the Centro Andino Buenos Aires and Anselmo Weber, Antonio Bachmann and Manolo Puente Blanco of the Club Andino Bariloche. Supplies were carried from Chiquián to Base Camp on Jahuacocha. Since time was short and they had no porters, they decided to divide; Peterek and Weber headed for Yerupajá, Fonrouge and Comesaña were to reconnoiter, and the other two carry out the scientific work. The first try on Yerupajá was carried out on June 17 and

18, past Solterahancacocha up the Glaciar TAM to 18,375 feet, where they dug a snow cave that was to serve as High Camp. On the 18th they began the ascent of the west face, which was steep and laborious. They reached 19,350 feet but clouds and wind drove them back down to Base Camp. They returned to the cave on the 20th with light loads. On the 21st they began the assault with as light bivouac equipment as possible, too light as it turned out. It took them nine hours to climb the steep hard snow and ice to 19,700 feet, where they bivouacked belayed to ice-pitons on a shelf they dug out of the precipitous ice. Here a grave accident happened: the pressure kerosene stove exploded, not injuring the climbers but making it impossible for them to prepare liquids. On the 22nd in cloudless weather they continued the ascent, traversing upward toward the col between the peaks, hard work at this altitude. At dusk they halted at a terrace formed by chunks fallen from the cornice some 650 feet above them. They felt that the intense cold (c. 5° to 15° F.) would prevent the cornices from falling on them from above. Unable to melt snow, thirst became difficult to stand. The night was also torture because of inadequate equipment. On the 23rd they continued climbing, reaching the northern end of the col at about 21,150 feet, but climbing through the cornice was delicate. Once on the ridge, they could see the whole east face of Yerupajá down to Carhuacocha and the valleys that drain to the Atlantic. They continued along the ridge, now on the crest, now below the cornice on the extremely steep slope that falls to the Siulacocha. Thus they climbed until at 21,245 feet they were blocked by a *verglas*-coated rock wall. They were already higher than the south summit. To attempt this without rock pitons, to risk another bivouac on the face and to spend another day without liquids was too risky. They had to return, spending the night in the snow cave before descending on the 24th to Base Camp.

Meanwhile Fonrouge and Comesaña had made a number of ascents: Rasac Norte (5617 meters or 18,429 feet) on June 15 and 16 by the Quebrada Rasac and the west glacier; Tsacra Chico Norte (5513 meters or 18,088 feet) on June 18 and 19 from the end of the Quebrada Rasac and via the glacier; Tsacra Grande Norte (5716 meters or 18,754 feet) on June 21 and 22 from a camp in the Quebrada Huacrish and up the west glacier; Ancocancha Sur (5560 meters or 18,242 feet) on June 23 and 24 from a camp at Puncos and then up the west ridge (also Bachmann); Ancocancha Norte (5647 meters or 18,527 feet) from the previous camp and then up the steep west face and up steep ice. The first three climbs were first ascents; the last two were second ascents, having been climbed a few days before by the Germans, whose tracks were still visible. (Actually Ancocancha Norte or as the Italians called it, Ancocancha

Central, was probably a third ascent, since the Italians had climbed it on July 9 on the heels of the Germans. — *Editor.*)

MANOLO PUENTES BLANCO, *Club Andino Bariloche*

*Attempt on Siulá Chico, Cordillera Huayhuash and Climbs in the Cordillera Blanca.* A German expedition from Munich was led by Horst Wels and consisted of Dr. Rudl Fürst, Hubert Schmidbauer, Helmut Salger, Werner Lindauer and Ulla Staudacher. In the mountains they were joined by the Argentine José Fonrouge, who had been there with an Argentine expedition. Early in June they set up their Base Camp on the shore of Carhuakocha at 13,000 feet. From a high camp Salger and Lindauer made the first ascent of Nevado Bavaria (18,375 feet). Lindauer, Fürst and Fonrouge made the third ascent of Jirishanca Chico (18,045 feet). They attempted to climb Siulá Chico (20,555 feet), perhaps the highest unclimbed summit in Peru. The route lay apparently over the summit of Siulá (20,841 feet). With two bivouacs, all the Germans climbed most of the 3000-foot-high northeast face, but conditions were so unfavorable that they turned back 350 feet below the summit of Siulá. A fire destroyed most of their food supplies and so they were forced to leave the Huayhuash. After restocking, they entered the Cordillera Blanca where they made a number of ascents, none of them new: Ishinca (18,373 feet) by the west face by Lindauer, Salger, Fonrouge, Schmidbauer and Staudacher; Ishinca Chico (17,881 feet) by the same climbers; and Ranrapalca (20,217 feet) via the north face by Lindauer, Salger and Fonrouge.

*Tsacra Grande, Cordillera Huayhuash.* An Italian expedition from Bergamo, led by Annibale Bonicelli, climbed a number of peaks in the Huayhuash. Leaving Chiquián on July 20 they headed into the mountains and set up Base Camp in the Quebrada Seria at 15,000 feet on July 25. They placed Camp I at 16,000 feet on the slopes of Tsacra Grande and Camp II at 17,700 feet in the col at the foot of the east ridge. From there the mixed rock and ice were of the greatest difficulty and during the first three days of July the route was carefully prepared and fixed with ropes. On July 4 Santino and Nino Calegari, Dr. Piero Nava and Piero Bergamelli climbed to the summit (18,944 feet). The next day Bonicelli, Mario Curnis and Carlo Nembrini repeated the ascent. The Italians claim that this was a first ascent. On June 30, 1954 the Austrians Siegfried Aeberli, Waldemar Gruber, Heinrich Klier and Wastl Mariner climbed very close to the summit but did not stand on the highest point because of dangerous cornices. The Austrians considered this a first ascent, and clearly say so on page 175 of *The Mountain World* 1955. The Italians