

a crevasse. During the approach, on July 19 Dennis Rankin, Jim Colgan and I climbed the Serpent (5905 feet; Grade III) by the northeast ridge and an attempt on Tent East Peak (6657 feet) by Tom Hand, Tim Cashman and George Garrett was stopped by bad weather and darkness on the summit ridge. The five Aiguilles between Base Camp and the Hermelnbjerg were all climbed: N° 1 and N° 2 (4790 and 5085 feet; both Grade II) by Griffin and Billane on August 8, N° 3 (5020 feet; Grade IV) by Rankin and me on July 27, N° 4 (5807 feet; Grade VI) by Rice, Hand, Rankin and Shay Nolan on August 9, and N° 5 (5742 feet; Grade IV) by Rice and Milnes on August 4. The trip finished with a desperate walk-out down the shore of the fjord in bad weather by Billane, Rankin and Rice, when the boat to collect us failed to arrive.

JOSS LYNAM, *Irish Mountaineering Club*

Anglo-Danish Trans-Greenland Expedition. On April 21 John Anderson, Erik Hjelmar, Sven Poulsson and I left Kulusuk on the east coast on the first stage of a 720-mile sledge journey across the inland icecap. From the air strip at Kulusuk we commenced a 125-mile dog-sledge journey with ten dog teams northwards over the frozen Denmark Strait to the head of the fjord, Kangerdlugssuatsiaq. The Greenlander dog drivers returned to Kungmiut and we began a 55-mile man-hauling sledge trip up the Glacier de France and Paris Glacier to the Inland Ice. Considerable difficulties were encountered on the lower section of the glacier, but Camp 12 was established on the margin of the Inland Ice three weeks after leaving Kangerdlugssuatsiaq. We headed north-west across the Inland Ice on the 435-mile traverse to Nugssuaq on the west coast, which was reached 30 days later, thus completing the longest man-hauled sledge traverse ever made across the Inland Ice. We carried out a programme of weather observations and made a detailed study of snow surface formations for the Danish Geographical Institute.

DEREK FORDHAM, *London Graduate Mountaineering Club*

MEXICO

Sierra Juárez, El Gran Trono Blanco, East Face. Through the eastern escarpment of Baja's Sierra Juárez runs Cañon Tajo, largest of all the Juárez canyons. In Tajo's upper reaches is a granite wall known as El Gran Trono Blanco, a 1600-foot high block set between the north and south forks of the canyon. Starting on January 23, 1972, Karl Karlstrom, Scott Baxter, and I ascended a fine, natural, non-direct route on this wall which went nearly all free. The right side of the east face is slashed by several right-leaning fractures, contrasting to this are several less pronounced crack systems leaning left. Our route starts up a ramp rising from the central base and ending high on the north buttress.

Several hundred feet of easy rock on this ramp leads to an obvious bush-topped slab (halfway up the wall) from which climbing begins in earnest. From the slab-top we ascended the left of two parallel cracks (A3) ending as a niche which gives access to a ledge running left. From the end of the ledge, many fine pitches of free climbing lead along a left-trending crack system which leads to the top. This is a tremendous route with less than 200 feet of direct aid. Protection was with nuts, the only exception occurring on the aid pitch where a few pitons were used also. NCCS IV or V, F9, A3.

LEE DEXTER, *Unaffiliated*

SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia

Pico Daniel, Sierra Nevada de Cocuy. Two Swiss, François Petitpierre and Jean Antolin, entered the Sierra Nevada de Cocuy through the town of Cocuy in late December, 1970. They made the second ascent of Pico Daniel (17,222 feet). (First ascent by Augusto Gansser and Georges-Henri Cuénet in 1939.) The next day they made the first ascent of a peak of about 16,400 feet which lies on the ridge between Pico Daniel and Pan de Azúcar* east of the Laguna de la Sierra. A full account appears in *Die Alpen*, third quarterly, 1971.

Peru — Cordillera Blanca

Ranrapalca, Southwest Ridge. After having faced the Customs bureaucrats of Callao, we split into two groups. Five of us packed the equipment we brought in the plane and went beyond Huaraz to reconnoiter. The last two of us hired a customs-broker, but even with him in daily action, it took us two weeks and a lot of *soles* to get our things. Finally on June 16 we had seven men and 1500 pounds of baggage at Base Camp at 14,400 feet. We were Trond Aas, Birger Hammeraas, Erik Boehlke, Knut Bjerger, Ulf Geir-Hansen, Per Gren and I. We had no leader. Burros carried things to Base Camp from Huaraz. It took a week to set up Advanced Base Camp (17,400 feet) at the lowest point of the southwest ridge. Two days of reconnaissance convinced us that it was impossible to follow the ridge dead on and so we traversed into the southwest wall, hampered by heavy new snow. During the first week four climbed, one man stayed in Advanced Base and two more rested at Base Camp. The route climbed straight up a steep rib in the face back to the ridge. As it grew longer, we had to make another camp, the Condor Nest, at 19,200 feet near the top of the rib. It was in two snow holes beautifully placed with a drop of 8000 feet into the Palcacocha

*The name Pan de Azúcar seemed to be locally unknown when I was there. At least six different hillsmen told me it is "Nevado del Pulpito". — *Evelio Echevarría.*