

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*.

valley. From the Condor Nest, the route went straight up to the ridge and followed this to the southwest summit (19,751 feet), which we reached on July 7. The ridge to the main summit was a kilometer long and looked not good at all. We had fixed ropes from Advanced Base to the Condor Nest and for four rope-lengths above.

HARALD EKIENSEN, *Norsk Tindeklubb*

Vallunaraju, First Ascent of North Ridge. Beryl Howarth, Vicki Thompson, my wife Lucille and I set out on July 5 from camp in the Llaca valley and climbed along the base of the cliffs as they curved upwards, then broke out onto open moraine and eventually ascended the snout of the glacier and then easier snow slopes, where for the first time we had a view of our objective. To our surprise the north ridge of the peak was completely cut off from our glacier by a rock wall. We had expected easy access to the col between Vallunaraju and Ocshapalca and were attempting to gain 4500 feet in one day. We headed for the lowest point in the rock wall and found a way through the lower sections. We were soon amongst steep mixed climbing and finally had a short ice step before plugging up snow slopes to the col. Though there were few difficulties between us and the summit, Lucille and I were twice forced onto the steep eastern slopes by double-edged cornices before reaching the top (18,655 feet) at 1:30. Beryl who had no crampons, and Vicki had stopped where we traversed onto the eastern slopes for the second time.

ROBERT RYAN, *Unaffiliated*

Ishinca and Urus. A light Italian expedition was composed of Santino Calegari, leader, Carlo Nembrini, Graziano Bianchi, Andrea Facchetti and Giuliana Pergo. On August 11, along with the Peruvian Emilio Angeles, all five climbed Ishinca (18,143 feet) by the normal southwest ridge. On August 17 Nembrini, Bianchi and Calegari climbed the long east ridge or Urus (18,012 feet). An attempt on Tocclaraju failed because of bad weather.

Palcaraju Este and Copap Group. Although our expedition was away from Switzerland from May 22 to September 11, we climbed for only five weeks. We were Pierre-André Jaunin, Lucien Rentchnik, Michel Duport and I. After three weeks struggling with the Customs in Lima, we got to Huaraz and then left Vicos on June 19 for a two-day march up the Quebrada Honda to Base Camp at the foot of Chinchey at 13,600 feet. Our attempt on Chinchey during ten days of bad weather failed on July 1 in two feet of new snow and high winds some 500 feet below the summit. We turned to Palcaraju Este when the good weather returned and all four got to the summit (20,046 feet) on July 12. The principal difficulties were on the glacier that separates Toclliaraju from Palcaraju. We finished our climbing in the Copap group, where we climbed the