

*Illiniza and Chimborazo.* A large party of German and Austrian mountaineers, members of a European conducted tour, ascended the twin peaks of Illiniza (17,278 and 16,700 feet) in mid-November. They were accompanied by several Ecuadorian climbers of the Grupo Montaña. A few days later they also ascended Cotopaxi and Chimborazo, by the usual routes. On November 6, Chimborazo (20,563 feet) had also been ascended by the normal route by three Mexican climbers of the Cruz Roja de Puebla, accompanied by the Ecuadorian Edmundo Pazmiño. (Information from *El Comercio*, Quito.)

*Sangay and Monja Chiquita and Taburnáculo, El Altar Group.* Our group was led by Erich Griessl and composed of Günter Hell, Rudolf Lettenmeier, Sepp Rieser and me. We left Munich on December 26, 1970. From Quito we reached the Indian town of Alao by the Río Bamba. After a four-day march we stood at the foot of Sangay. We climbed this active volcano on January 8, 1971 in doubtful weather by its 35° southeast slopes. The November, 1970 earthquake had changed the lava course and opened a new route. We were on snow from 14,450 to 16,750 feet, above which we climbed on volcanic ash to the summit (17,463 feet). We reached the huge horseshoe of El Altar in a two-day approach. From Base Camp at 14,450 feet we used the first good weather on January 16 to make the first ascent of the Monja Chiquita (16,667 feet), climbing its very corniced west ridge. It took several days to climb the 65° northwest face of Taburnáculo I (16,995 feet), which we completed on January 19. This summit is next to Monja Chiquita. After more bad weather, on January 25 we climbed Taburnáculo III (16,831 feet) by its 45° sérac-covered southeast face. This is the third summit beyond Monja Chiquita. After not being allowed access to Antisana Norte by an *hacienda* owner, we settled for an ascent on January 29 of Chimborazo by its northwest slope.

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*Fraile Grande, El Altar Group.* The Italian Dr. Marino Tremonti has now completed his fourth expedition to the Altar group, two of which were in 1972. With Ferdinando Gaspard, Claudio Zardini, Armando Perron and Sergio Lorenzi, he attempted the Monja Grande in the middle of the year. They were stormbound for 18 days, from June 28 to July 15, in Camp II some 1300 feet below the top and eventually had to give up the attempt. Dr. Tremonti with Armando Perron and Lorenzo Lorenzi returned in late November. They quickly set up Camps I and II, the latter at the foot of the Fraile Grande (c. 5200 meters or 17,061 feet). On the first good day the two guides made a fruitless reconnaissance of the east-northeast ridge. On December 1 all three attacked the northeast ridge, which had three vertical steps and unconsolidated mushrooms of ice. After extremely difficult snow and ice climbing, they completed the first ascent.