

Gran Trono Blanco, possibly one of the finest lines of its length in the Cañón Tajo. Henri Agresti, his wife Isabelle and Tom Gordon have subsequently repeated the route. The south face is flanked by a gully which provides the usual access route to the cliff. In the center of the face is a 200-foot right-facing chimney high above the gully. A vegetated shelf begins directly below the chimney and continues to a small tree-choked gully at its right end. From the top of the gully, four pitches lead to the base of the chimney. A large ledge above the chimney furnishes a comfortable bivouac spot. A black-stained crack (A2) leads 200 feet higher to the skyline. This is almost all of the aid; the rest is clean and moderate free climbing. Above the aid section, a large ledge system was followed to a low-angle ramp which afforded an exit to easy climbing two pitches below the summit. Skyhooks and small wired nuts were very useful. NCCS IV, F9, A2; 13 pitches.

THOMAS BIRTLEY, *Unaffiliated*

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Colombia

*Colón, Bolívar, El Guardián and Loma Cebolleta, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.* Peter Devine, David Mainer and I, of a mountain climbing and spider collecting expedition of five, climbed Pico Colón (18,947 feet), and Pico Bolívar (18,943 feet) on January 10 and 11. I climbed alone Pico Nieve de Naboba (ca. 17,500 feet) and on January 15, Devine and I ascended El Guardián (17,340 feet). A 15,500-foot rock pinnacle on the south ridge of La Reina was climbed for the first time by Devine and Mainer. I visited alone the northeast slopes of the range and climbed all the major peaks of the upper Loma Cebolleta group (ten peaks ranging from 12,650 to 13,840 feet). In March I climbed several 6000-foot peaks near Atanquez. I urge all climbers to stay away from the Sierra Nevada for another year. All three tribes of Indians have joined to keep out foreigners. The Colombian army has stepped in to keep the Indians under control and they are keeping out all foreigners.

JOHN A. KOCHALKA, *University of Vermont Outing Club*

*Mountaineering in Colombia.* I visited the central Andes of Colombia, ascending some peaks previously climbed a number of times. An exploration of Nevado Quindío (5400 meters in official maps) revealed that there are indeed five rock peaks, locally called Cordillera (range) del Quindío. The two towers to the east seem to be glaciated. But height is only around 4900 meters. The Quindío peaks, as well as Ruiz, La Olleta, Santa Isabel, El Cisne and Tolima belong now to the new Parque Nacional Los Nevados. On Ruiz (5320 meters, 17,454 feet)

climbs are taking place every weekend, with the help of a road through the park that leads to the 4790-meter-high (15,715 feet) ski lodge built by the Colombian Corporación de Turismo. As for other ranges, the threat posed to climbing expeditions by Kogi Indians in the Santa Marta range seems to have vanished. The "Resguardo Indígena" (Bureau of Indian Affairs) at the town of Valledupar was designated to protect both Indians and tourists, according to information I received in Bogotá from local climbers (December 1974).

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

*El Guardián, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.* On October 16 Padre Giuseppe Ferrari and I climbed El Guardián by its west ridge. Also on the expedition was Giorgio Pettigiani.

GIUSEPPE AGNOLOTTI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

### **Peru—Cordillera Blanca**

*Huascarán.* Fourteen expeditions with 71 climbers attempted Huascarán in 1974, of which 47 reached either the south or north summit. Katra, Milne and Andrews' second ascent of the ANZUS route of the east face is covered in Katra's article. Italians Danilo Saettone, Costantino Piazza, Tullio Vidoni and Emilio Detomasi made a fine new route, the northwest ridge of Huascarán Norte. Members of the Explorers Club of Pittsburgh, Iacovino, Patsiga, Bogel, Kobus, Max and Hoffman on July 11 and Colucci, Westfall and Niedra on July 13, a group from the Freelance Alpine Research Team<sup>1</sup> and seven Mexicans climbed the normal route of Huascarán Norte. Three Germans, Americans Seibel, Dunn, Cager and Romano, and four Swiss (see below) climbed Huascarán Sur by the normal route. Americans Mike Rourke and Curry Slaymaker, German Horst Ullrich and Australian Murray Johns climbed Huascarán Sur on September 10 and Huascarán Norte on September 12. One fatality occurred when the American Ted Limp slipped and fell. His companion, Gail Wilts, survived the fall.

*Huascarán Norte, Northwest Ridge.* Our party, Danilo Saettone, leader, Tullio Vidoni, Renzo Zaninetti, Gian Luigi Sterna, Emilio de Tomasi, Renato Andorno, Piero Soster and I, set up Base Camp on July 5 not far from the usual normal route to Huascarán above Mancos and Musho. We crossed the track of the 1970 avalanche, which gave us some difficulty, and placed Camp I at 17,400 feet on the northwest ridge. We followed the ridge to the summit rock barrier, placing Camp II at 18,700 feet. The long snow ridge with large cornices was difficult and

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<sup>1</sup> Norma Viault, Diana Dee, Gail Wilts, Janet Nicholson, Steve Rodgers, Don Hudson, Ted and Tom Limp.