

between 7484 and 7512 feet, including the highest on the peninsula. The other members of the group, of whom nearly all climbed a number of peaks, were Dr. Francesco Cavazzuti, Clemente and Laura Maffei, Walter Avogadri, Dr. Enrico Bellotti, Gilberto Bertolani, Lodovico Gualandi, Flavio, Riccardo and Ugo Lorenzi, Enzo Giovanazzi, Heinz Steinkötter, Gianfranco Miglio, Michele Ongari and I as leader. In all we climbed 40 peaks, of which 32 were first ascents.

ARTURO BERGAMASCHI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

MEXICO

El Gran Trono Blanco, Northeast Face, Sierra Juárez, Baja California. A new climb via the pillar on the northeast face was begun by Rob Dellinger, Brian Gregory and me. Four pitches were fixed during some exhilarating free and aid climbing on good cracks. During the return hike early the next morning, for the final push on the long route, Rob slipped and pierced his hand badly with a century plant. We pulled the gear off and returned to urban society and medical help. The successful climb was done about two weeks later by Lincoln Stoller, Mike Warburton and me, in April. A new start was made about 300 yards north, but the middle and upper portions of the route were planned to be the same. The ascent was done in 1½ days, without bivouac. There was some excellent free climbing and occasional aid. I recall one frustrating pitch, which should have been done directly but was gained by a traverse from a chimney, and finally ended using three ropes (in sequence) for leading. The rock was excellent; the only drawback was some bush on the central portion. A cold wind hit us on the summit crest, and fresh snow greeted our return hike to the car (very unique for April).

FRED BECKEY

SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia

Sierra Nevada de Cocuy, Southern Peaks. I used the upper valley of La Cueva to tackle several peaks in the southern half of this range. On December 23, 16-year-old Mateo López, a local hillman, and I, reached a point some 120 feet below the top of Nevado Gorro Blanco (5047 meters, 16,560 feet), where we retreated for lack of proper equipment to finish the climb. On December 26, I made the 7th (?) ascent of Nevado Pan de Azúcar (5174 meters, 16,975 feet) and on the 31st, the first of Nevado del Chiflón (5050 meters, 16,568 feet), together with Arturo López, also of La Cueva. The last is a rock-and-ice

peak located on the west ridge of Nevado Banco Ancho. I also did my best to collect from the locals mountain names, to replace the existing nomenclature assigned by visiting expeditions. The following new names (or rather, old names, since they have been in use for more than 200 years) have been submitted to the Instituto Geográfico Agustín Coddazzi, chief geographical authority in Colombia; names previously used by climbers are in parentheses: Nevado de Güicán (Ritacuba Norte), Alto Ritacuba (Ritacuba Blanco), Pico Los Portones (El Picacho), Pico Corrales (San Pablín Norte), Nevado Banco Ancho (San Pablín Sur), Pan de Azúcar (Concavito), Pico Los Portales (Pico Daniel Trumpy), Pico Pulpito (Pico Toti Gansser), Campanario (Campanilla Grande), Nevado del Pulpito (Pan de Azúcar) and Campanilla (Campanilla Chica).

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

La Reina, South Face, Pico Ojeda, Northwest Face and Pico Colón, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. Jim Wells and I spent from December 29 to January 21, 1977 in the high-peak region, Base Camp being east of Laguna Naboba. We spent nearly a week traveling from San Sebastián. The problems with the local Indians are considerably worse. One must deal with the right parties and stay inconspicuous. On January 8 and 9, 1977 we climbed the south face of La Reina. We followed the middle of three ridges onto the south face. Where the ridge merged with the face, we traversed up and right across snow to the summit. This rather easy route has very loose rock. On January 13 and 14 we climbed the northwest face of Pico Ojeda. We began on steep, good rock in a slight recess reached by climbing the left side of a narrow icefall descending from the southwest ridge. Easier rock led to a chute of water ice in the center of the face. We continued up the center of the face on ice and rock, passing just under and left of a frozen waterfall. A corner left of a blank section took us to easier rock and some 500 feet of steep snow between the north and west ridge. The final rock pitch took us past a large cornice. On January 18 and 19 we climbed the north face of Pico Colón. The route is generally parallel to and east of the prominent north buttress. A bit of aid was needed on the steep rock above the bergschrund to reach an ice ramp. After several hundred feet on the face just left of the buttress, we climbed an ice chute until we could get to a couloir, which reaches the snowfield below the summit. We believe all were new routes. All climbs were done clean.

WILLIAM MCKINNEY

Ecuador

Fraile Oriental and other peaks. In December, 1975 three Ecuadorians made the first ascent of "Fraile Oriental" (c. 17,000 feet), an