

and I. This July we got to a point about 425 feet below the north summit of Ranrapalca (19,948 feet). Our high camp was at the usual place, on the northeast ridge at about 18,000 feet at the foot of the first really steep face. It was with great difficulty that we found our way through the lower sérac barrier, which required placing four pickets and two étriers. We had to climb a 200-foot ice chimney in the heaped-up séracs. Above it was less broken, but we still had to cross two other séracs. There was little snow to there, less than in August 1973. On the other hand, the final part was terribly dangerous because of the instability of the snow, abundant and unconsolidated. Snow pickets offered no protection. We descended *en rappel* and found that all our fixed ropes had been melted out by the heat of the sun. We left Ranrapalca, knowing its defenses better.

JACQUES COFFIN, *Club Alpin Français*

*Pucaranra, West Ridge.* A strong Italian expedition climbed a difficult new route, the west ridge of Pucaranra (20,168 feet). We were Renato Binaghi, Elio Boreatti, Dr. Emma Cucchi, Eugenio Porro, Antonio and Gianni Rusconi, Andrea Sioli, Gianbattista Villa and I as leader. We ascended the Quebrada Cojup to place Base Camp at 14,575 feet. On July 6 we moved along the glacier up to Camp I. On July 9 we got to the col between Palcaraju and Pucaranra at the foot of the west ridge, where we placed Camp II the next day at 18,075 feet. The narrow ridge was very difficult with cornices, ice, unstable snow, snow mushrooms. We worked for some days, preparing the route up to and over a rock tower. On July 20 both Rusconis, Villa, Porro, Boreatti and I left Camp II to push past the fixed ropes to the summit. By sundown we had not yet made it, but the bivouac tent had wormed its way out of a pack and had fallen off the mountain. We had a cruelly cold bivouac at 19,750 feet before pushing on to the summit (20,167 feet) the next morning.

RINO ZOCCHI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Chopiraju Oeste, Kimarumi.* On June 24 Jeff Lee, Merle Wheeler, Pat Weidman, Dick Webster and I entered the Quebrada Quilcayhuanca and set up Base Camp at the opening of the Quebrada Cayesh the next day. On the 26th all but Jeff began a climb of Chopiraju Oeste (17,962 feet). It was to have been an easy, straightforward ascent of the west ridge. Because of an unusually dry season, the ridge was so broken by crevasses that we dropped over to the north side and spent a long day in more technical climbing than we had anticipated. By nightfall we were still a few hundred feet below the top and bivouacked. Next morning we reached the summit at nine. Our total time on the mountain was 37 hours. This may have been the first ascent of the north face. On June 30 all but Weidman climbed Kimarumi (17,910 feet), also known as

"Minas." We attempted the west ridge of San Juan but were frustrated again by crevasses. We finally tried a northern ridge which would have placed us high on the west ridge, but bivouacs would have been necessary and so we backed off. On July 4 Weidman, Webster and I made another ascent of Kimarumi. We moved our camp to the base of the col between Chinchey and Pucaranra. On July 13 we made an attempt on the upper south ridge of Chinchey. We traversed from the col to the south ridge and climbed to within 200 feet of the summit but were turned back by cornices. Two days later we climbed the northwest face but were hit by a whiteout, snow and hail at 20,200 feet. We spent the remainder of the day feeling our way out.

CURTIS W. STARK

*Caullaraju Group and Santa Cruz, South Face and Southwest Ridge.* Our expedition from the Tegernsee Section of the DAV was in the Cordillera Blanca from July 18 to September 14. We were Sepp and Hans Gloggner, Fritz Niedermaier, Alfred Müller, Walter Janner and I as leader. We first climbed in the Callaraju group in the southern part of the range. We had Base Camp at 15,750 feet in the Quebrada Huicsu, from which we made the following day climbs: Queñuaracra (17,562 feet) via north face on July 25 by S. Gloggner, July 27 by Müller, P. Gloggner and July 29 by Janner, S. Gloggner (scree and then 40° snow slopes); Condorjitanca (17,690 feet) via southwest ridge on July 27 by H. and S. Gloggner, Niedermaier and July 28 by Müller, P. Gloggner (rotten rock to three rope-lengths of 50° ice to reach the summit ridge); Condorjitanca Chico (17,585 feet) via south-north traverse on July 28 by Müller, P. Gloggner (traversed from main Condorjitanca); Callaraju (18,656 feet) via northeast ridge on July 30 by S., H., and P. Gloggner (*Nieves penitentes* on the northeast face kept us on the rock ridge); Brasil (18,491 feet) via northeast ridge on July 31 by Janner, H. Gloggner (scree slopes to the long, flat summit ridge); Huicsu (17,838 feet) via west face on July 31 by Niedermaier, Müller, S. and P. Gloggner (a glacier walk gradually steepening to 40°), The expedition's main objective was the untouched south side of Santa Cruz (20,476 feet). We approached from Cashapampa through the Quebrada Santa Cruz to the Quebrada Paccharuri. It took 1½ days to reach Base Camp at 14,400 feet in alpine meadows. The approach to the foot of the face was by a wildly contorted glacier. We did two routes: 1. The southwest ridge from August 10 to 12 by S. and P. Gloggner and Niedermaier. We bivouacked at the foot of the wall at 17,725 feet. The next bivouac was at the only possible spot at 20,000 feet. We climbed the southwest face for 1000 feet, 55° to 60° ice with one rotten rock band, to reach the southwest ridge at 18,700 feet. We then followed this 40° ridge to the summit. 2. The south face from August 11 to 14 by H. Gloggner, Janner and Müller. They bivouacked