

longer climbable. (See photos.) The entire northeast ridge could be climbed but it would take a long time.

REINHARD PÖLTNER, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Allpamayo, Kitaraju.* Our expedition was composed of Wally Barker, Rick Hanners and me. From Base Camp at the confluence of the Quebradas Arweigocha and Santa Cruz, on July 20 Barker and I unsuccessfully attempted Kurikashjana. On July 29 he and I bivouacked on the west col between Allpamayo and Kitaraju and woke at two A.M. under a full moon. The snow at the base of the southwest face of Allpamayo was deep and it was work to get to the bergschrund. Instead of crossing the schrund and proceeding up the Italian route as we had intended, we were disoriented and ended up too far right. We crossed several flutes and continued right until we came to a main channel in midface in which we climbed directly to the summit ridge on superb conditions. We bivouacked on the summit and descended the north ridge. After a resupply in Huaraz, we had six days of bad weather. Peter Millar and Jim O'Neill established themselves at our camp. They left for the west col of Allpamayo on July 15. I followed them the next day. The weather broke and together we made an enjoyable climb of the north face of Kitaraju. Two days later Millar and O'Neill climbed the southwest face of Allpamayo behind two Frenchmen. I watched as the accident occurred. (See below.)

STEVE CONNOLLY, *Dead Boys Mountaineering and Ammo Club*

*Kitaraju, Allpamayo, Southwest Face and Tragedy.* Peter Millar and I made Base Camp at the junction of the Quebradas Arweigocha and Santa Cruz. After several days, we camped in the Allpamayo-Kitaraju col. On July 18 we enjoyed a climb on the north face of Kitaraju with Steve Connolly. After a day's rest, Millar and I bivouacked at the base of the southwest face of Allpamayo. A cold night kept us in our bivouac sacks longer than expected, allowing two French climbers, Serge Beriol and Bernard Lay, to beat us onto the route. We gave them a bit of a head start before starting up the face 100 meters behind them. A bend in the flute we were climbing prevented our seeing exactly what happened and probably saved our lives. One of the massive ice towers below the summit collapsed either under its own or the lead French climber's weight. All we heard was a roar and seconds later the flute was filled with blocks of ice. The face is so steep near the top that the ice avalanche passed over us as we hugged the face and tried to make ourselves as small as possible. After the slide stopped and the debris cleared, I looked up to find one of the French climbers hanging upside down ten meters from me. He must have been killed instantly. As his rope was still taut and

PLATE 68

*Photo by Leigh N. Ortenburger*

**Santa Cruz from the Southeast in  
1958.**

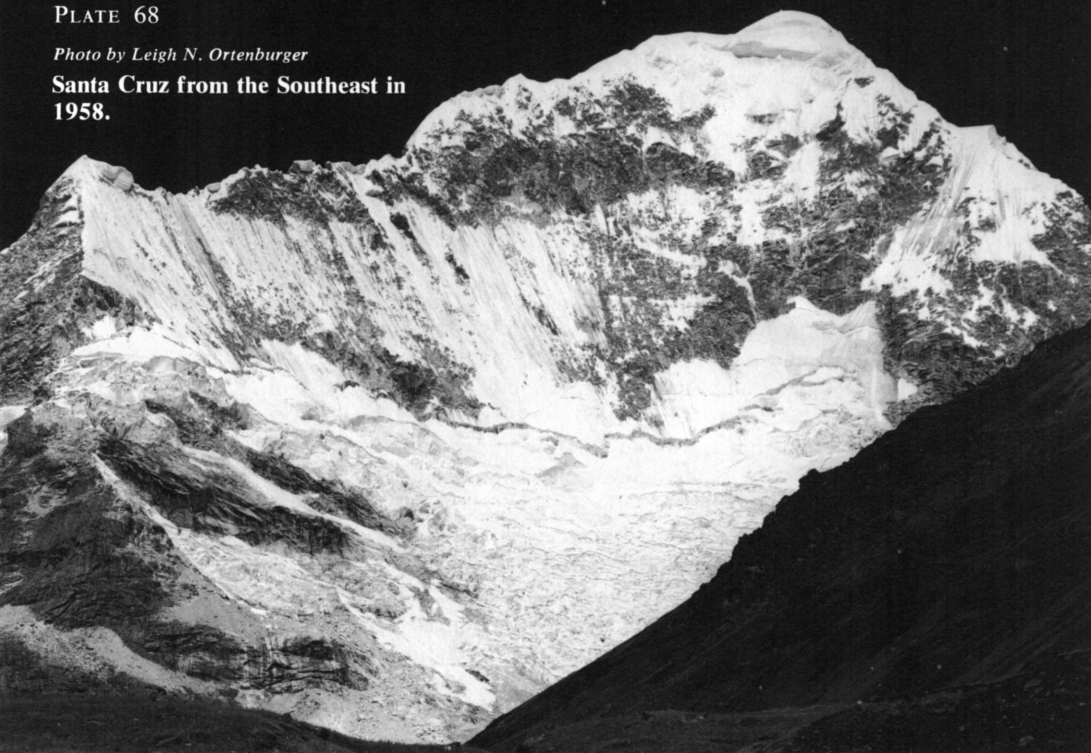
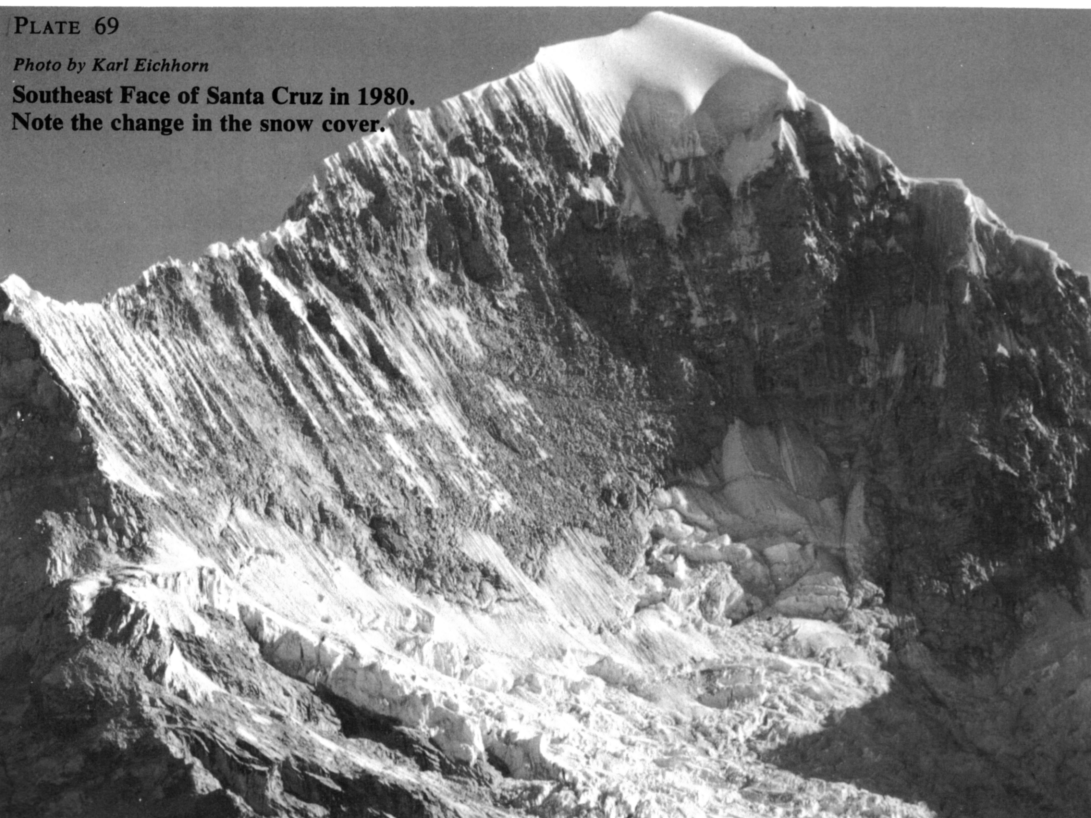


PLATE 69

*Photo by Karl Eichhorn*

**Southeast Face of Santa Cruz in 1980.  
Note the change in the snow cover.**



leading toward the summit, we continued up the face in hopes of finding the second climber. We did not see his actual position until the following day, after we had descended the western edge of the southwest face. He was hanging 300 meters below his partner in the adjacent flute. Several attempts to rescue the bodies were made by helicopter but were abandoned as too dangerous.

JAMES O'NEILL

*Alpamayo, Southeast Face, 1979.* In the first week of July, 1979 Dave Jenkins and I climbed up the glacier at the foot of the southeast face of Alpamayo. We found 500 feet of fixed rope near the base of the face left a month before by Yugoslavs, who had made the first ascent of the face. We started into the gully system in the center of the face below the summit, mainly ice with an occasional rock step. At 19,000 feet we found an ice cave that led into a small ledge where we bivouacked, having arrived early in the day around two P.M. The next day we continued up a gully in the center of the face, passing several rock steps and tunneling through and climbing over successive cornices to break onto the east ridge less than 100 vertical feet from the summit. We saw no further signs of the Yugoslavs above the last fixed line 3000 feet below. (They followed the Yugoslav route except for the last thousand feet, where the American route kept a more direct line to the summit.—*Editor.*) We descended the north ridge, crossed under the northeast face and over the east col and back to Base Camp, arriving there at six P.M.

RICK L. WYATT, *Unaffiliated*

*Quitaraaju, Alpamayo, Chacaraju Este.* After our climbing in the Cordillera Huayhuash (see that section), Bas Grenigt had recovered considerably and together on July 14 we climbed the north face of Quitaraaju. On the 17th we ascended Alpamayo's southwest face, a fantastic climb up and down tottering flutes and fragile cornices. We were so enthusiastic that two French and two Americans decided to follow our route. In the following week we heard the tragic news that the French had fallen to their deaths. Our main objective was Chacaraju Este by its south face. There have been three successful ascents of the peak, two by different south-face routes. Ours followed essentially the same line as Jaeger's in 1978 but near the top we kept straight up and he bore right to emerge from the face directly onto the summit. We started the climb on July 26 despite my upset stomach, which had been bothering me for some days; it improved as we climbed. Bas led and we reached 17,225 feet and bivouacked in an ice cave. We were surrounded by shaky flutes and gigantic sérac walls; the summit cornices hung over us 2500 feet higher. The next morning the difficulties increased quickly and we soon got to