

a nearly successful attempt on the north ridge of the unnamed point at the northern end of the Pumasillo massif. In August we moved to the Cordillera Real in Bolivia.

KATHY PHIBBS

Ausangate, Southeast Ridge 1980. With Peruvian Erasmo Aparicio, I made a new route on Ausangate, the southeast ridge. This 500-meter-high snow and ice ridge and face averaged 50°. We belayed in the upper portion because of bad snow and ice conditions. From a camp at the top of the face, we climbed two pitches of moderate ice and cornices to reach the easy but soft-snow-covered summit ridge. We completed the ascent in three days in June 1980 round-trip from our Base Camp in the meadows of Pampacancha. The route is probably the easiest and most straight-forward route to the top of Ausangate. The difficulties were in the 1000-foot snow-and-ice face at the top of the spur (50°) and one patch of steep ice (70°) on the ridge. The original route on the south face looks long and complicated. The routes on the north are more difficult. We were fortunate to have been able to reconnoiter the mountain and acclimatize well during a three-week Mountain Travel trek around the mountain, which I helped lead.

STEVEN R. BREWER

Salcantay, Northeast Face Direct. Our expedition consisted of Theo Dowbenka, Rudolf Friedhuber, Martin Klein, *Austrians*, and Elmar Fries and I as leader, both *Germans*. We started from the village of Mollepata. Base Camp lay at 14,925 feet on the north slope near the top of the Palcay Pass. We spent two weeks to acclimatize. From June 30 to July 3 we attempted the northeast buttress which ends on the upper part of the northeast ridge ("Kasperek Ridge"). After bivouacs at 16,325, 17,775 and 19,200 feet, the last in an ice cave just below the ridge, we were turned back by bad snow and dangerous cornices on the summit ridge. On July 5 we crossed two passes on the east slope of Salcantay above the Palcay valley. The next day after a bivouac at 15,750 feet on the American-French route of 1952, we climbed to bivouac at 19,425 feet in a crevasse. On July 7 we left the first-ascent ridge and traversed right to climb the face direct by a new route to the snow saddle between the south and main summit. We all five climbed the south ridge of the highest point of Salcantay (6271 meters, 20,574 feet). On July 18 Dowbenka and I climbed Chopicalqui in the Cordillera Blanca by its west ridge.

HERBERT ZIEGENHARDT, *Bayerische Naturfreunde, Germany*

Ispa Riti, Southeast ridge, Cordillera Carabaya. Travelling by car from Santiago, a Chilean group reached the base of Allin Capac's sister

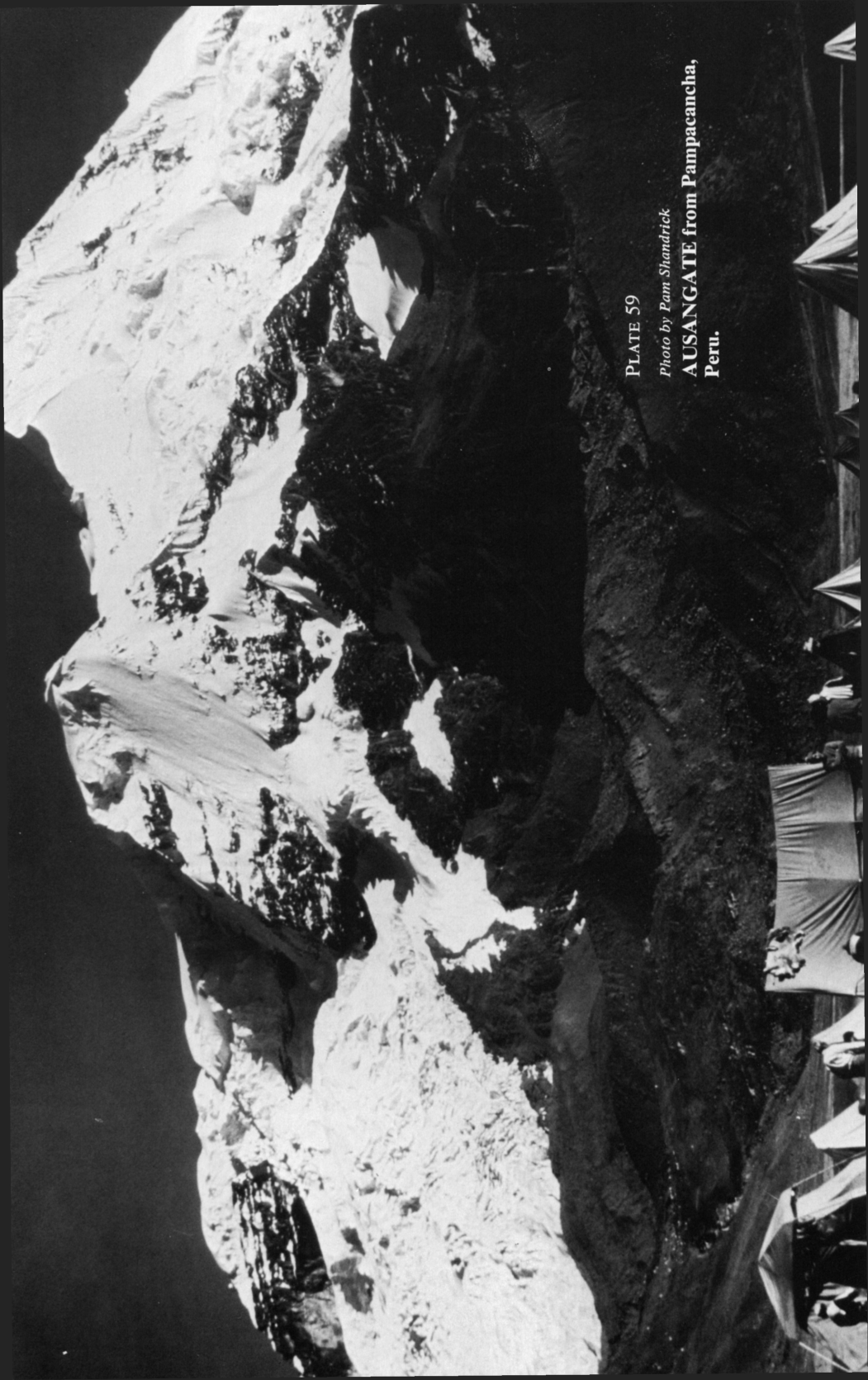


PLATE 59

Photo by Pam Shandrick

**AUSANGATE from Pampacancha,
Peru.**

peak, at times called Ispa Riti (5723 meters, 18,776 feet). A base camp was placed at 4200 meters in the Antajahua valley and a high camp at 5200 meters on the ice. The peak was ascended via the southeast ridge by G. Cassasa, D. Delgado, G. Naccicio and A. Neira on Aug. 2, 1980, a new route. History of previous ascents to this peak is uncertain.

HUMBERTO BARRERA, *Club Andino de Chile, Santiago*

Bolivia

Bolivia, 1980-1981. There was a lot of trash this year. Fifty large parties climbed out of the Tuni Condoriri valley and *Huayna Potosí* and *Illimani* had such herds on them that their normal routes became trenches, fine lines dotted with rubbish, zigzagging toward their summits. Most visitors to Bolivia stuck to these well worn lines, but U.S. climbers Kathy Phibbs and Ross MacFarlane repeated a classic, the west ridge of *Huayna Potosí*. I sprained my ankle. I also climbed a great pinnacle called *Huyustus* and a fearfully loose business I named *Pared de los Huesos* for the bone-white color of its shattered quartzite. In late 1980, John Greenough and I did the south arête of *Torre Escondido* and a dark granite pillar we call *Costilla Negra*. I did some snow trudes and also did some good routes. These latter included: *La Muesca—November, 1980*. It was an audacious solo, if I say so myself. It went right of center up the most massive pillar of *Khala Cruz* into an ice-clogged chimney—*La Muesca—The Slot*. The lower half of the pillar gave easy Teton-style climbing to a setback, wet from the melting ice packed into the chimney above. One might characterize the climbing within the Slot itself as desperate but not hard—dirty ice and vertical, wet granite, rather unstable. I finished in wet EBs and a blizzard, dramatic but harmless, and lost two toenails a week later. Advice: Wear boots. *Greenough's Ridge—December, 1980*. Greenough is off to Kenya next week and he wants a climb to remember. The south ridge of P 5342 looks like such a route, a spine of grey ice this time of year, a line I've had my eye on since Betcher and I saw it a year ago. (P 5342 is the peak west of the old mule trail over the glacier from Agencia Palcoco to Mina Fabulosa. It probably first was climbed by Austrian peak baggers in the middle 70's.) We walk up the old mule trail into a clear dawn, something rare in late December and I hope the weather holds, but it doesn't, and soon after we reach the ridge, we are climbing in a benign mist the color of the ice. How do you describe a climb like this? It is a new route. So what? New routes are a dime a dozen and practically anything can be climbed if something doesn't hit you. The important thing is that we have a good route and we do it neatly, toepointing and flatfooting up the bosses of good grey ice, just difficult enough to be engaging. I neatly drop a rock on John near the summit but do no