

3 after four days of climbing. On the summit he found Jean-Marc Boivin, Dominique Marchal and Jean-Franck Charlet, who had been waiting for three weeks for proper weather for a hang-glider descent. Boivin and Marchal did make the descent in hang gliders that weighed about 60 pounds each.

*Aconcagua.* A Mountain Travel group was successful in climbing the Polish Glacier route on Aconcagua (6960 meters, 22,834 feet). The summit was reached on February 9 by John Balut, Bruce Klepinger, leader, John Pratt, Mike Skreiner, Thomas Vaughan, and me, assistant leader. Other expedition members were Anthony Battelle, Henry Bergner Jr., and Norman Croucher. Croucher is a well known British climber who has made many ascents without legs; he lost both of them below the knee in a train accident. He was doing well on Aconcagua when one of his prosthetic legs broke. Getting about on one leg and forearm crutches, Norm cut up a duffel bag and made knee pads and a canvas skirt. Solo, he proceeded to crawl up a nearby peak of 17,000 feet. After several days he reached the top, slept up there and then slid down on his ingenious canvas padding

PETER CUMMINGS

*Aconcagua, North Face Variation.* On January 22, 1982, from a high camp at 20,500 feet on a rock outcrop north of the Polish Glacier, Marty Hoey, George Dunn, Dick Bass, Frank Wells, Chuck Goldmark and I attempted a direct variation up the glacier. Due to unfavorable ice conditions, however, we traversed off the glacier to the north. From the 21,300-foot level, Hoey and Dunn made a partial girdle traverse to the north, and climbed a steep 1000-foot snow face before completing their new variation on the normal route to the summit. The next day Bass and I climbed to the summit via the Polish Glacier. As we were without bivouac gear, a sudden storm on the descent complicated our return. Dunn, who stayed behind the others, was of great assistance in directing us toward camp through the blowing snow and whiteout conditions.

JAMES WICKWIRE

*Quéhuar and Azufre, Northern Andes.* An expedition of the Club Andino Mercedario, San Juan, comprising ten Argentinian mountaineers, several Argentinian and Japanese cameramen and the American scientist Johan Reinhard, returned to Nevado Quéhuar hoping to dig out traces of pre-Columbian occupancy that members of the same club had discovered in a previous expedition in 1974. On that occasion, the climbers had located the partial remains of the mummy of a boy some ten years old, which they could not extract because of the ice. The 1981 expedition approached Quéhuar from the village of Santa Rosa de Pastos