

meters at 5:30 A.M., also a first solo ascent. I did not continue to the summit because the knife-edged ridge was badly corniced. A second attempt on Oshapalca was also stopped by bad weather.

JOAN QUINTANA, *Centre Excursionista de Catalunya*

*Huascarán Norte, Canine Ascent.* From August 27 to 30, José Ignacio Ramírez and I ascended Huascarán Norte via the Garganta. Two dogs from Musho accompanied us during the whole ascent and got to the summit with us on the 29th. It was surprising to see with what sureness and strength they moved on the ice, between the crevasses and ascending short walls of ice, which were often very steep.

JERÓNIMO LÓPEZ, *Spain*

*Chacaraju Oeste.* Swiss Xaver Bongard, Pierre-Alain Romagnoli, Frenchman Philippe Edouard Beaud and I set out at four A.M. on June 26. (They were to climb between the Yugoslav and the 1979 Yves Astier routes.—*Editor.*) We traversed with headlamps to the west of our 16,400-foot camp to the foot of the 2700-foot-high south face of Chacaraju. The first rope-length was vertical ice but luckily ended in a belay niche. We then traversed perilously on overhanging ice and rock to continue below another step; this pitch took an hour and a half. We then climbed 350 feet of 60° deep powder snow to reach extremely difficult pitches which took us up some 1300 feet of ice. We climbed through a storm at nine P.M. until we found a hole in the ice in which to spend the night. On the morning of June 27 the weather changed and we climbed in clouds. We found the most difficult pitch of the climb 150 feet above the bivouac: 65 feet of rock covered with four inches of ice and snow. After six hours of effort and numerous leader falls, one climber made it over this section and we could continue. We climbed on in bad weather and at nightfall carved a small snow cave where we could cook and sleep. The bad weather continued on June 28 but we kept on up the last part of the face. The last two rope-lengths were on vertical ice below unstable cornices. We finally bivouacked on a flat place on the ridge top. On June 29 the weather continued bad and so we decided to descend from there without climbing the final 150 feet to the summit. We rappelled down the face all day. At five P.M., on the 15th rappel, the rappel picket broke and all four of us fell 350 feet onto the glacier, miraculously all unhurt.

HUGO COLONIA, *Club Andinista Cordillera Blanca, Peru*

*Chacaraju, South Face Attempt.* On August 21 Alberto García and Francisco José Escolar of Spain and I as guide climbed the south face of Chacaraju. We climbed between the 1978 Richey-Brewer and the Jager routes to the top of the face. We broke trail from camp at 5200 meters to the foot of the wall on August 21. We set out at 3:45 on the 21st and crossed the bergschrund at five A.M. The first 200 meters were of 50° hard snow. The next 200 meters were of

60° to 70° hard snow and ice, the last 80 meters being verglas-coated rock. The next 100 meters were 70° to 90° ice and the last 100 meters to the crest were of extremely difficult mixed climbing and 75° to 90° ice. After reaching the ridge crest, we did not continue along the ridge to the summit because of bad weather.

WALTER SILVERIO, *Asociación de Guías de Montañas del Perú*

*Artesonraju, Ski Descent.* The ski descent expedition to Artesonraju consisted of Peter Werschkul, Jack Leaven, Doug Greene and me. In 1978 Patrick Vallençant first skied this peak by the same route. I was the first American and second person to do so. On May 28 Werschkul, Leaven and I left a 17,000-foot bivouac to climb the south face. The snow was thigh-deep. At 19,200 feet, 500 feet below the summit, a large fracture extended horizontally across the whole face where the slope changed from concave to convex. We decided it was too dangerous to proceed higher. It took me 35 minutes to ski 1700 vertical feet on the 50° to 60° slope. I then skied the rest of the way to our 17,000-foot bivouac site. The next day I skied down to our Advance Base at 16,000 feet.

KIM ANDERSON, *Unaffiliated*

*Notable Ascents in the Cordillera Blanca, 1984.* Aniela Tukoiszewska and Ewa Szczesniar from Poland climbed Handoy Norte by its east ridge between July 5 and 8. They ascended from the Pisco-Huandoy Este Glacier, taking the couloir which is between Huandoy Norte and Huandoy Este to get to the col between these two peaks and then went to the summit from there. American Steve Monk and Swiss Xaver Bongard climbed the Pirámide de Garcilazo on August 10 by the direct southwest face. Pierre-Alain Romagnoli and Bongard climbed Pisco's south face on June 7, followed on June 13 by American Franc Marics and me. On June 16 Romagnoli and Bongard climbed the west face of Alpamayo. Bongard made a solo ascent of the south face of Ocshapalca to within 65 feet of the top on June 8.

WALTER SILVERIO, *Asociación de Guías de Montañas del Perú*

*Huantsán, Western Summit and Other Peaks.* In July John Tarver and Kevin Starr climbed to the western summit of Huantsán up the north-facing ice slope between the main and west summits. They set out from the Laguna Tambillo in the Quebrada Rajucolta and climbed below the ice cliffs to the base of the west face. They then ascended twenty pitches of 55° ice and snow to the col and up to the western summit. They bivouacked once near the top of the ice cliff. They considered the route to the main summit too dangerous. They descended the slopes on the south. In August Tarver and Chris Hassig climbed the southwest face of Alpamayo in two hours from the bergschrund, unroped until the last ten meters. That same day Tom and Mike Carr also climbed the southwest face of Alpamayo by a longer flute. This same pair also climbed the south face of