

### Peru-Cordillera Blanca

*Huascarán Norte, North Face, Women's Ascent.* A Polish-Czech women's team completed a new route on the extreme right side of the north face of Huascarán Norte, between the French (Paragot) spur and the Italian northwest ridge. In the lower section the route ascends ice slopes of 60° to 65° with a few stretches of 80°. Afterwards it is mixed terrain and steep rock of UIAA grade V. All the crux pitches were above 6000 meters. The climb was made in one alpine push from July 6 to 14. From June 23 to July 5 they had carried supplies to 5000 meters. This aided in acclimatization. The team consisted of Czechs Blanka Danihelková and Zuzana Hoffmanová and Poles Amalia Kapłoniak, Ewa Panejko and Ewa Szcześniak. On July 16 Monika Niedbalska from Poland made a solo ascent of Huascarán Sur. In late July she, accompanied by Szcześniak and Peruvian Hugo Colona, repeated the route on the north face of Tsurup with 60° ice and mixed terrain up to 80°.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Huascarán Nordic Ski Descent.* During July, Jimmy Katz and I made the first nordic (cross-country, three-pin) ski descent of Huascarán. We encountered very difficult snow conditions but made the complete descent from the summit. During acclimatization, we made what was probably the first nordic descent from just beneath the summit of Tocllaraju in white-out conditions. We ascended the standard route on Huascarán, making several camps. From camp at 6100 meters on July 14 Katz and I were summit-bound with a pre-dawn start. By the glow of headlamps, we skirted snow bridges crossing giant crevasses. We passed icefalls in the light of dawn and then followed a seemingly endless summit slope. Inadequate oxygen has a telling effect and we took six hours for the 2000-foot climb. The summit was clear, windy and cold. After a half-hour stay, we skied off the top. On the upper slopes horrendous breakable crust forced us to make tight turns down the beaten path of ascent. After making jump turns down two 45° sections with foot-deep heavy snow, we returned to our high camp. The following day we donned heavy packs, which complicated the 5000-foot ski descent to the base of the glacier. The most difficult skiing of the entire descent was at 18,500 feet where short 40° ice slopes had to be run between large séracs. Eight days were spent on the mountain.

JOHN HARLIN

*Huandoy Este, North Face.* Our Croatian expedition was composed of Diana Brenko, Ruziča A. Kiš, Miroslav A. Kiš, Branko Puzak, Davor Butković, Branko Ognančević and I as leader. We set up at the Pisco Base Camp at 4600 meters on June 4. After several acclimatization climbs, on June 12 Butković, Ognančević and Puzak started on a partially new route\* on the north face of

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\* In 1982 Leigh Ortenburger and party started up the buttress itself. The two routes came together where the Croatians reached the central buttress. The two routes then were the same in the central section. The Croatians kept up straight after the bivouac and Ortenburger traversed to the right to the ridge and so the Croatians were on new ground from the bivouac to the summit.

Huandoy Este, from 5500 to 6050 meters. The first pitch was 100 meters to the right of the distinct central buttress, up a snow slope to a distinct chimney, up it and along a snow slope left to the central buttress. They continued through varied terrain to a distinct yellow band, which they reached after seven hours to bivouac at 5850 meters. The next morning they traversed left to a distinct chimney, climbed it and an ice corridor and finally got to the summit after five hours. They rate it between UIAA IV and V + . They descended the same route, leaving rappel pitons and slings in place.

DARKO BERLJAK, *Zagreb Mountaineering Association, Yugoslavia*

*Ranrapalca, Southwest Face, and Other Climbs.* A party from the Klub Wysokogórski Warszawa was led by Włodzimierz Rudolf. Ryszard Kolański and Tomasz Kopyś made the first ascent of the southwest face of Ranrapalca on June 29. In eight hours they took a direct line via the center of the 1000-meter-high face (UIAA V rock and ice of 45° to 70°).<sup>\*</sup> There was a continuous danger of ice- and rockfall. The crux was above the third snow patch in the upper face. The same pair completed ascents of Palcaraju's south face direct on June 24 and Pucaranra's west face on July 2. From July 12 to 15 these two made a traverse of Huascarán Norte and Sur, ascending the first by the superb Barrard route and descending from Huascarán Sur by the Garganta route.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Tocllaraju and Ranrapalca.* Carlos Buhler, Sharon Wood and I set up camp in the Quebrada Ishinca in early June. We made several acclimatization climbs, including Urus Oeste and Ishinca. We stayed away from the normal ridge climbs on other peaks in the area because of huge snow accumulation and avalanche danger resulting from unseasonal precipitation during the latter part of May. However, Canadian Sharon Wood made two significant ascents. On June 4 she soloed the west face of Tocllaraju and two days later she soloed the north face of Ranrapalca. Both climbs were made in less than 4½ hours from camps at 17,500 feet on the adjacent glaciers.

RONALD J. ULRICH

*Milpocraju, West Face, Tsurup, Southwest Face, and Pisco Oeste, South Face.* Our expedition was to make a filmed ascent of a major peak in the Cordillera Blanca. The film will be presented for the *Mick Burke Award*, 1985. We established Base Camp on June 1 at the head of the Quebrada Cayesh. Reconnaissance and acclimatization climbs were then carried out. The northwest ridge of Cayesh, which was originally considered, was badly out of condition; we were stopped by vertical meringue ice. We climbed a major and unclimbed route

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<sup>\*</sup> In 1971 Norwegians climbed on the left of the face and then up the southwest ridge.—*Editor*.