

me. Unfortunately, Day had to leave the expedition early. Along with geological and glaciological studies, one of our major aims during our ten weeks in Greenland was to attempt the first British ascent of Lauper Bjerg (2580 meters, 8465 feet), first climbed by Swiss in 1938. After skiing 100 kilometers from Tasilaq Fjord, just south of the Arctic Circle, Raeburn, Topping and I reached the peak early on July 26. We decided to attempt a new route from the northeast, involving 1300 meters of ascent, long and committing, but technically straightforward. We skied to the foot of the climb that same day and made steady progress over mixed ground to the top of the subsidiary northeast spur, where I decided to return, allowing the other two to continue faster. Two abseils and scrambling down loose rock allowed Raeburn and Topping to work onto the northeast face. Unfortunately, when they were only 25 meters from the east ridge and a few hundred meters from the summit, they were hit by an avalanche. Both had only minor bruises, but after twelve hours on the mountain, they decided to retreat. By August 4, we had safely returned to Base Camp on Tasilaq Fjord.

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## MEXICO

*Cerro Blanco.* Steve Grossman, Peter Noebels and I made a new route on the western portion of the broad south face of this gigantic rock formation on January 1. The peak can be seen from the rural town of Peñón Blanco. The pillar is to the left of the south promontory, very distinctive in shape and reddish in tone. The rock is superb with fine slab climbing and some interesting shallow face cracks. (III, 5.9.)

FRED BECKEY

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Ecuador

*El Obispo, 1986.* The first Venezuelan expedition to the Altar group was led by Luis Troconis. We shouldered supplies to the traditional Base Camp south of El Obispo. On December 25, 1986, we placed two tents at 4900 meters and the following morning we set out in two teams for the summit (5319 meters, 17,450 feet). C. Pernalette and N. Rojas made a new variant up the southwest ridge, while Troconis, Dora Ocanto and I made the second ascent of the Calvario variant on the normal route. An Ecuadorian team led by M. Purúncajas climbed our route right behind us. We did not reach our tents until six A.M. the next morning while the Ecuadorians bivouacked on the wall. On