

Notes

- 1) Although D. W. Freshfield had reached the summit of the Vignemale in the Pyrenees on 25 April 1874.
- 2) In his book *My Climbs in the Alps and Caucasus*
- 3) The heights of the S and N summits are today recorded as 3482m and 3478m respectively.
- 4) The leading guide on the first ascent in July 1872.

Regional Notes 1980

Tom Connor

As far as is known, all these notes refer to events which took place in 1979, unless otherwise stated.

ALPS AND EUROPE

The pattern of activity in the Alps has been much as in recent years, solo ascents and winter climbs producing some element of novelty, with the occasional new route being completed usually on faces already having several well established lines. Many of these climbs are detailed in *Mountain* and elsewhere; we just pick out some of the highlights below.

Jean-Marc Boivin soloed the N face of the Matterhorn on 5 August in 4hr and 10min, a record for the face. Not content with this, he then used a hang glider to make the fastest safe descent of the mountain. A few days previously, he had skied the E face, starting just below the head wall. Patrick Edlinger was very active in the Massif d'Oisan, soloing the N face/E col route and the central ice slope/N face of Pelvoux and the Sombardier Gully on the N face of Ailefroide. Earlier in the year, Edlinger and Patrick Berhault made a very fast winter climb of the Marmier/Mercadié route on the NW face of Ailefroide. The return trip to the Refuge Cézanne took 23hr and no bivouac gear was carried. The American solo climber Charlie Foster was active in 1979 completing an impressive list of routes: Swiss route Les Courtes; N face Aiguille du Plan; N face Grands Charmoz; N face Les Droites; Nant Blanc Aiguille Verte; Nant Blanc Pic Sans Nom. The 19 year old Seattle climber Steve Sustadt soloed the N face of Les Droites in 6½hr. Another climber specializing in solo ascents is the Italian Franco Perlotto who had 27 solo ascents in the Dolomites to his credit, beginning with the first winter ascent of the direct route on Cima Piccola as long ago as 1975. He has made first solo ascents in other regions also, eg Mont Blanc, Norway (Trollryggen) and the Hoggar (N face of Mont Adriane).

Some very fast winter climbs have been completed. On Les Droites, Berhault and Phillippe Martinez made the second winter ascent of the Cornuau/Davaille route, leaving the Argentière hut at 1am and reaching the summit at noon. They took one light sack between them and no ice pitons, preferring to belay with their iceaxes. The first winter solo of the Lagarde couloir on Les Droites was made by Bernard Muller in 6hr. He also climbed the Bonatti/Zappelli route on the Grand Pilier d'Angle in 4½hr. In the Pyrenees, 3 British climbers, Ray Harris, Pete Shone and Nigel Perry visited the Cirque de Gavarnie in winter and completed 3 ascents of steep ice routes. All gave excellent sustained climbing mainly on water ice (Scottish gradeV); the Diedre des Mystiques was particularly notable for its 3 final pitches and the ascent (probably the second) was completed in 5½hr. In the Dolomites, Czech climbers were active in winter. A party of 4 including a 20 year old girl climber made the first winter ascent of the Via degli Amici/Messner on the Civetta. Porvaznik and Valovic made the first climb of a new route on the NW face of Piccola Civetta in March, taking 7 days; Fulka and Smid made the first winter ascent of the Via dei Fodom on the Punta Civetta in 5 days. Other Czech parties made first winter ascents on Torre Alleghé and Monte Agner.

During the summer season of 1979, Polish women climbers made a number of first ascents by all female parties: E face Aiguille du Moine (Halina Kaniut and Anna Buraczewska); Bonatti route E face Grand Capucin (Irena Kesa and Wanda Rutkiewicz in 16hr); Cordier Pillar W face Grands Charmoz (Ewa Pankiewicz and Agnieszka Smolska); Migot Pillar N face Chardonnet (Kesa and Rutkiewicz).

Outside the Alps there have been reports on rock climbing from several areas. The Verdon Gorge is the scene of much activity: Patrick Berhault has been responsible for many solo climbs of hard routes, as has Jean Marc Troussier. A film of hard free climbing involving these 2 climbers and several other French climbers has been made by Laurent Chevallier and Jean Paul Janssen in the Verdon. It includes shots taken on the routes Pichenibule, Triomphe d'Eros, Necronomicon and Estemporanée and illustrates bivouacs and Tyrolean traverses. A commentary on the style and ethics of modern French free climbers is given in *Mountain 75 28*, in which Troussier illustrates his points by describing climbs at Deux Aiguilles on Montagne St Victoire. In recent years the trio of Martine and Christian Guyomar and Christian Flautcoeur have been largely instrumental in introducing new routes, 87 in the space of 6 years, many of them free climbed. They have always climbed their routes from below with no abseils or prior inspection. The cliffs saw the establishment of the first grade VII route in France. The rise to prominence of this and other similar areas has arisen from the present tendency of French climbers to seek out a new cliff and spend part of their holiday developing it. The Deux Aiguilles are covered in a new guide by Pete Livesey which is reviewed below. *La Montagne et Alpinisme 199 229* has a special feature on the Pyrenees, a series of articles covering aspects of the history, current climbing, ski-ing etc.

Recent trends in West German outcrop climbing in the Frankenjura and the Paltz are described by Kay-Uwe Zumwinkel and Richard Muhe in news items appearing in *Mountain 74 16*. In the Frankenjura the introduction of the use of cemented bolts has changed the character of climbing, and the crags are no longer regarded just as a training area. The better protection provided by the bolts has raised the standard and encouraged free climbing; the UIAA grade VII (5.10) was introduced by Kurt Albert and Wolfgang Fietz in the early 70's and free climbing has now reached the unofficial grade VIII (5.11). The Paltz has also developed in the same way, now being regarded as the hardest rock climbing area in West Germany with climbs ranging from II to IX (5.12).

In Italy, the Mello Valley (a minor valley of Valtellina in the Malino-Bregaglia-Disgrazia group) is coming to be regarded as the 'Italian Yosemite', having the best granite climbing in Italy with rock features up to 600m high. So far about 50 routes have been done, but many other possibilities still exist and the grades already go up to VII and VIII. In *Mountain 73 15* Antonio Boscacci describes the valley and 10 selected routes, several of which he helped to pioneer, with grades ranging from III + to VIII.

According to a news item in *Mountain 72 17*, the move to free climbing is occurring slowly in Austria, although it seems that for the classic routes this may merely mean a return to the style adopted on the original ascents in the 1920s and 1930s which were climbed with the absolute minimum of protection pegs. Two climbing areas much used by the Austrians are referred to, the Peilstein, 30km SW of Vienna, and the Gesäuse 250km to the W. The former is a 'klettergarten' with steep, solid limestone faces up to 100m high; there is a rule against bolting and the maximum grade so far is VII. The Gesäuse is on a much larger scale, 10km long and 1000m high, with some of the hardest climbs in Austria.

Paris-Chamonix 388 contains an article by C. Torres and D. Garnier on climbing on the Sierra de Montsec which lies about 50km S of the mid Pyrenees near Trep in Catalonia. The cliffs rise to a height of 400m, and the rock resembles the limestone of the Vercors—10 routes are briefly described. The next issue of *Paris-Chamonix (39 26)* continues the description of this area.

The following guide books have been reviewed or are noted:

French Rock Climbs Peter Livesey (Cordee, 1980, pp77, diags, £3.95) This book fills a gap, for information on the many rock climbing areas of non-mountain France has hitherto been widely scattered. Here are the whereabouts of a dozen of them, mostly limestone, with a selection of climbs, mostly unfortunately of a rather high standard. For this reason the work is not of much help to, what I would term, the average climber (though perhaps the standard of the average climber has nowadays advanced far beyond that of the reviewer).

Many other areas remain to be covered, so that there is scope for a companion volume in the future; the 'Climbers' Playgrounds' feature of this journal has mentioned several such over the last few years. *Edward Pyatt*

Pyrenees, Andorra, Cerdagne: A Guide to the Mountains for Walkers and Climbers Arthur Battagel (Gastons-West Col, 1980, £6.00)

Ski Alpin III: Alpes Valaisannes A. Pont (Club Alpine Suisse, 2nd ed, 1977, pp229, 64 photos, npq)

Val Vigezzo (Itinerari Alpini 28) B. Francese (Tamari, Bologna, 1976, pp150, maps and photos, L5000)

Valmalenco Itinerari Scetti I; Disgrazia-Vazzeda A. Gogna and L. Marimonti (Tamari, Bologna, 1977, pp143, maps and photos, L5000). Also Vol II; Bernina-Scalino (1977, pp156, maps and photos, L5000)

Ski Alpinismo in Adamello e Presanella J. Casiraghi, M. Andreolli and R. Bazzi (Tamari, Bologna, 1978, pp279, maps and photos, L7000)

Mont Blanc Range III Triolet-Verte/Drus-Argentière-Chardonnet-Trient L. N. Griffin (AC Guide Books, London 1980, pp 228, diagrams. £7.50)

Del Lago Segrino a Canzo: Itinerario Geomorphologico, Geologico e Botanico G. Nangeroni and E. Tagliabue (Club Alpino Italiano, 1977, pp69, photos, npq)

Presanella D. Ongari (Club Alpino Italiano/Touring Club Italiano, 1978, pp324, maps and photos, npq)

Randonnées a Ski Nordique dans le Massif Central Annick and Serge Mouaret (Ed Creer, Nonette, 1980)

Randonnées et Ascensions choisies dans le Parc National des Pyrenees Occidentales et ses Environs Robert Olivier (Ed Librairie Parisienne, Pau, 1980)

Randonnées dans les Pyrenees Arigeoises Michel Sebastien (Ed Deneol/Marrimpouey, Paris, 1980)

Sierra Nevada: Itinerarios de Esqui de Montan F. A. Olmedo Roelas (Ed by the Federacion Andaluza de Montana, Granada, 1979)

AFRICA

The following review of South African climbing has kindly been provided by Michael Scott.

The past year has seen an unbelievably rapid rise in grades from the established G2, through 3 grades to H2. Many of the claims have been regarded with more than scepticism, but plenty of hard climbing has been done, however rated.

On the technical side, 'Friends' have made their impact, chalk hasn't yet, and the trend to non-wearing of helmets has been tragically emphasised by some fatalities. In one case the leader wore a helmet, but not a recommended one. He died of head injuries sustained after the helmet was knocked off his head during the fall.

Perhaps the continued high cost of petrol has caused it, but a shift in emphasis away from country route climbing in the Cape to more of a crag scene on Table Mountain, has occurred. Only one significant country route in the Cape was opened during the year. The Transvaal kloofs have yet again yielded a number of new climbing areas, as well as dozens of fine hard routes in established areas. The final points of interest are the large number of schoolboys actively leading in the F grade and higher, and the large number of leader falls on low grade pitches.

Transvaal

Hanglip—Romey and Eckhard Druschke made the 3rd ascent of what they maintain is an 'absurdly named' route called Hanglip Frontal Direct. Be that as it may, Hanglip Frontal Direct is now a Super Direct. Previously the pitches on the lower tier tended to break leftwards with the rock features. A completely new start was opened by Haber, MacLennan and Ward. The new line takes a steep recess 10m right of where the fence terminates against the rockface. The new lower section is approx. 100m, G1M1. On the upper tier 2 pitches were climbed in a very prominent crack and recess right of the leaning pillar, which joins the finishing pitches of the

Frontal Direct. The aid on Vegetarian, F3M1, has been eliminated by Zangel and Haber creating an interesting G1.

Hanglip South—Druschke, Lomax and Cheesmond climbed Gambol, G1M1, eliminating the aid on the top, but not the first pitch. Lomax and Cheesmond repeated Rosemary's Baby, regrading it to mild G1. They then did the possible 2nd ascent of Naked Orange, F3A2, cutting the aid and upgrading it to G3. Lastly, they opened the steep crack-line to the left of Naked Orange, calling it Freak Out, H1.

Hanglip North—Haber and Druschke opened a Six Pitch climb, Saturday Fever, G1. Druschke, Lomax and Cheesmond did Black Widow, G1M2 2nd ascent, not managing to eliminate any aid on the 2nd and 4th pitches, but confirming the grade. Druschke and Muller climbed the first free ascent of Tarantula, G1 and an ascent of Black Widow. Tarantula was freed by Cheesmond and Christina Rotteglia, also Robertson, Seebrecht, Lomax and Gross. The route's grade is confirmed at G1. Happy Landing has received a 2nd ascent by Rotteglia and Cheesmond, and according to Cheesmond is worthy of a G1 grade. On the same weekend, Druschke, Seebrecht and Robertson did the 2nd ascent of Black Sunday, F3M2.

Blouberg—Druschke and Fatti attempted a new line to the left of Big Corner, which apparently deteriorated after a few pitches and was thus abandoned. They then returned their attentions to climbing the 2nd ascent of Last Moon, F3, which they rated excellent. At the same time Robinson and Limey climbed Moonlight Direct. Gross, Holt and Cheesmond did the 2nd ascent of Big Corner, eliminating all the aid and upgrading the route to G2. The last few pitches of this climb are beautiful crack climbing on superb rock. The same trio also did Moonlight Direct, cutting aid on the first hard pitch to four points and on the old M3 pitch to one point. They now consider it G1M1.

Krantzberg—Edelstein and Cheesmond climbed Guillotine, G1M2, eliminating the mechanical on pitch 6 and up-grading to G2. Also on Executioner they saw some action when eliminating the aid climbing, up-grading the route to G3. Previously Cheesmond, Lomax and Rotteglia accomplished not only the 2nd ascent of Desolation Row, G1, but also a speed record when a 3m long Black Mamba appeared on the same scene halfway up. Haber and Druschke opened Wages of Fear, G1M2, to the right of Vavoom. As the result of a prior bet, Lomax and Cheesmond went on to free seven points of aid used in the opening. The route is said to be harder and more impressive than any other climb at Krantzberg, and at H1 compares with the hardest route elsewhere. Prior and Fatti put up Cheetah, G1M1, just left of Tom Tom, while De Bruin, Lomax and Cheesmond did Endvoëls Aas, G3, just left of Aasvoëls End. The new face route between Black Eagle and Chukamisa climbed by Lambert and Ward has eventually been named Reprobate, F2 plus. Cheesmond, De Bruin and Lomax repeated Swift Crag, G2, in its free form, and put up a new climb starting on the right of Swift Crag, Five Finger Exercise, G2. This climb takes a vague break up the face until crossing Swift on a long traverse. It then finishes through the roofs above.

Natal

One visit by John Fantini from Australia seems to have been enough to persuade Natal climbers to differ from the rest of the country, and adopt Aussie gradings!

Cheesmond, Rotteglia and Gross climbed the SE Arête of the Sentinel in 6hrs. Very little else of note was done in the Drakensberg this season. Port St Johns in Transkei has yielded two new routes. One on Mount Thesiger called Babylon, 21; the line takes an obvious break in the centre of the face. The 2nd route Tyre, 22, is situated on the buttress known as the Pulpit on the S side of the river. Both ascents by Freer and Brummer.

Orange Free State

The Harrismitth cliffs in the O.F.S. have had the lads from Natal leaping up and down them chalking up a number of new routes. Roberts, Wallace and Haffner are responsible for Power Crack, 24. Whitelock has been active on the Lesotho escarpment and is believed to have found some amazing ice waterfall climbing—one being 300m in steeply rising stages.

East Cape

In the Cockscomb gorges, Forsythe and McKechnie climbed what they say is 'easily the hardest route in East Cape' in Pinnacle Gorge. They straightened out McKechnie's Poetry in Motion (near Magic Roundabout) adding 3 hard G pitches near the top. Moss, Forsythe and Davies opened a new 200m route, graded F3, on a huge quartzite cliff in the Eastern Cape. Moss and MacLennan climbed Dave's Direct, F2, and Rocky Horror at Bloukrans, Grahamstown, upgrading the latter route to F3. Moss and Sparrow climbed a new 300m chimney called Cats Camp, F1, in the Swartberg. Don, Dave and Joe MacLennan opened four new routes on the Compassberg, two of the routes being Fat man Agony, F2, and Lion Heart, E3, both 200m long.

Cape

Table Mountain Massif: Smithers and Forsythe completed a new route near Escalator on Fountain Ledge. They aided a dramatically undercut traverse on 'friends' and also climbed out of the coffin recess above Staircase on the right-hand side, using a 'friend' in a little rock pocket. From the Myhrr stance they climbed a steep grey wall, which was sustained with a hard G1 section.

The H-grade climbing scene has this far into 1980 seen two significant ascents. Over a period of three weeks in January, Davies and Kelfkins used a fixed prussik rope hanging down the face for protection to open Cool Cat, H2. The route is on Fountain Ledge near Escalator. It proceeds up a rather blank wall to an overhang, then uses the pitch previously traversed on 'friends' by Smithers and Forsythe. The top pitch is sustained G3. March saw the Davies brothers, Roberts and Whittaker attempting a first complete ascent of Tour de Force, H1. Dave Davies made a perfect lead in fine style on the first H pitch, however no-one was able to second him. Roberts led the top H pitch. No one person climbed all the pitches. The first continuous ascent still awaits fit arms!

Edelstein and Cheesmond have now eliminated the aid on Hot Dogger, but maintained the G2 grading. They also went on to put up Foreign Invasion, G2, on Postern between Ripcord and Boulevard East.

Natal Fever's top G3 gymnastic overhang on Postern, still gets lots of attention and has had recent leads by Kelfkins and Davies. Paper Tiger has also had several ascents this season.

Hex River Mountains: Graafland and McKirdy spent 2 weekends at Mount Superior S Face and pushed through a new line of ramps to the left of the original route, finishing at the same traverse level. Climbing was spectacular and easier than at first thought, with only one pitch possibly approaching G1. This is the only major route opened this season.

Drakenstein Mountains: Gross and Graafland did North by North West—1 point of aid and one bivouac. Gross and Hilton Davies climbed Renaissance on Du Toit's Peak in 12hrs and free-climbed the crux G2M4 pitch. Gross led every single pitch and said he was feeling pretty strong. The next day the route was done by De Bruin, Cheesmond and Druschke, who took the now usual G2 bypass to the crux, instead of attempting a repeat of Gross's effort. The trio went on to do Thunderbolt Direct free-climbing all the pitches except the first, up-grading the route to G3. The same route was also climbed by Edelstein and Smith. Schoon, Du Preez, Howe-Ely and Marais put up a good line of about 200m of F2 climbing on Huguenot Buttress in Du Toit's Kloof. In Duiwelskloof Hell's Angels, 400m of F1, had a 2nd ascent by the De Bruin brothers, Scott and Marais. They improved a few pitches. Smithers and Wood climbed Spectre at Banhoek, using 'friends' to start the mechanical section. De Bruin took a party on the 2nd ascent of New Dimensions in Donker Kloof. They reported this long F3 climb worthwhile in spite of 2 falls caused by loose blocks. Hilton and Dave Davies attempted the Super Direct on the Klein Winterhoek Amphitheatre. They felt it needed bolts, so baled out. The whole wall is impressive, overhanging and blank, and is bound to receive a lot of attention in future. Moss and Jamieson did Millstone Wall on Molenaarsberg, with an enforced bivouac.

Cedarberg: Smith, Edelstein, Cheesmond and Manson opened a G3 route to the right of Gorilla Grooves at Krakadouw with one rest on a point of aid. The main development continued to be at the Wolfberg, however, where Scott and Smithers did a free ascent of Day of the Jackal and thought the F3 traverse on to the jug ramp more serious than the bottom G1 traverse over space. They also climbed Satisfaction Guaranteed at G1 and were not very satisfied. The F3 entry to the groove is rotten, and the top layback is of poor quality. They went on afterwards to open a new line, left of Eclipse, which has a sensational hand traverse left to avoid overhangs, and an exposed wall is climbed above that, which is Quite Something. Du Preez and Schoon opened a new line to the left of the big Central Overhang, by traversing spectacularly on the lip of a smaller overhang next to the main one. Moss, Morrison, Zangerl and Scott also did a good line beyond the Pinnacle, with an F2 crux of 35m of overhang crack on jams.

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In East Africa, the 1979/80 season saw a lot of activity on the Diamond Buttress of Mount Kenya (5199m). Iain Allan and Ian Howell made the first ascent of a centre line named Equator (V1,A2), taking 3 days with 2 bivouacs. Visiting Spanish climbers Miguel Gallego and Miguel Gomez added another route on the Buttress later when they climbed Mediterranean (V1,A2), to the left of Diamond Buttress Direct. Two Czech climbers, Zdislav Drlik and Petr Plachecky, climbed all the new routes mentioned in Allan's article in *Mountain 67* between the Bailey/Phillips route and the Howell/Allan route in 30hr of climbing. They followed up with the first ascent of the Czechoslovak Route (V + ,A4), on the N face of Point John. Later Plachecky soloed a new route Quo Vadis (V1 - ,A1), to the left of the previous line on the N face. A new

route was then soloed on the right side of the W face of Batian (V + ,A1) by Drlik, which is now established as the classic hard line on the mountain. On the Buttress Original Route, Americans Geoff Tobin and Bob Shapiro made a completely free ascent, eliminating the tension traverse; they assessed the climb as 5.10 +. Elsewhere, at Embaribal attention has concentrated on the Rift Valley crag—further details are given in *Mountain* 73 17.

Montagnes 21 82 has an article by Christian Recking on the Hoggar which gives brief descriptions of 7 of the massifs and other more general information on access etc.

The following guide book is noted:

Atlas Mountains Morocco R. G. Collomb (West Col Productions, 1980, pp131, photos and maps, £6.00)

ASIA

PAMIRS

Russian, Polish, Yugoslav and Czechoslovak parties were responsible for a variety of new routes in 1979. A Polish expedition led by Janusz Maczka established a new extremely hard route on the E face of Liap Nazar (5974m), up a prominent rock pillar dubbed 'one of the most serious rock problems of the Pamir'. It involved 70 pitches, 40 of them V and VI, all free climbed in 5 days, the summit being reached on 6 August. The party's activities were halted at one point by stone avalanches. On the 3000m SW face of Peak Revolution (6974m) 2 teams, one Russian and one Czech/Russian, climbed different routes in July 1979.

KARAKORAM

Beginning in late March 1980, Galen Rowell, leader, Dan Asay, Ned Gillette and Kim Schmitz made a 435km ski traverse of the Karakoram in 42 days, setting off carrying 50kg packs. They ascended from Khapalu through Goma, up the Bilafond Glacier to the Siachen Glacier. There they turned W and travelled along 4 of the longest glaciers in Asia, the Siachen, Baltoro, Biafo and Hispar Glaciers, which lie almost end to end. To connect the Siachen to the Baltoro, they had to traverse the W face of Sia Kangri at 6860m, travelling almost entirely on Nordic skis, except for an occasional rappel from ice seracs. Porters were used only to get to the snow line. One cache of food was placed midway at Askole, the only village, near the central part of the route. The final section up the Biafo and down the Hispar was done in 8½ days.

Baltoro Kangri (7312m) A British expedition made an ascent and ski descent from an ice cave on the Conway Saddle, via the 1963 Japanese route. Six members reached the summit at 2 pm (Dr Peter Alston, Harry Rankin, Jess Stock, Ian Gray, Phil Ham and Brian Hall). The first 3 then skied down to advance base camp, which they reached at 9 pm. This was the highest mountain yet skied from its summit. (see p.198).

Gasherbrum I (8068m). Frenchmen Maurice Barrard and Georges Nabaud made the first ascent via the SW ridge using no oxygen or porters in true alpine style. Their first attempt took them to the summit of Gasherbrum I South via the S arête. To climb the main peak, a traverse was made on cross country skis across the 6km plateau at 8000m, and the summit was reached at 1.30pm on 15 July 1980. They used cross-country ski boots with super gaiters and crampons on top.

Mitre Peak (6486m) This mountain was climbed solo by Yvan Ghirardini on 2 June 1980, after difficulties with bad weather.

Nanga Parbat (8124m) A British expedition consisting of Adrian and Alan Burgess, Graham Drinkwater, Jon Jones, Randy Morse and Paul Moores was unsuccessful in reaching the summit in July 1980, due to sickness and bad weather. However, the Burgesses and Moores climbed the Rupal face reaching a height of 8000m.

Off Belay 50 4 contains an article by John Roskelley on the planning, organizing and transporting of a Karakoram expedition which gives a lot of useful information to anyone contemplating a venture of this kind.



100 Nanga Parbat (Photo: P. Moores)

KASHMIR

Bagirathi II (6497m) and **Bagirathi Parvat** (6527m). A Czech expedition made the first ascents of these mountains in 1979 from the Gangotri Glacier.

KISHTWAR

A Polish expedition, led by Krzysztof Losinski, visited the Kijai Nullah Valley in 1979. This is one of the less well known areas of the Kishtwar because the approach is difficult. They made a number of first ascents; 3 members left the main party to attempt Arjuna, 2 of whom disappeared on a reconnaissance. The third member, wife of one of the missing men, eventually had to make the dangerous descent on her own; she fell several times during the 10 day journey and was eventually rescued by a local hunter.

GARHWAL

Rishi Kot (6222m) A Polish expedition made the first ascent of the NW face of this mountain in September 1979. The 1500m face is technically difficult, has a 60–70° angle, without possibility of bivouacs. The alpine style ascent took 16hr and Karolczak and Pawlowski spent the night on the summit (reached at 10pm) before descending to base camp.

Brigupanth (6772m) The 1980 Women's Expedition to the Gangotri Glacier made the first ascent of this mountain—there were 5 Americans, one New Zealander and 2 Indian women led by Arlene Blum. Nancy Goforth, Susan Coons and Penny Brothers reached the summit on 19 June after 3 nights in a bivouac at 6400m due to deep snow over hard ice.

NEPAL

Everest (8848m) A Polish expedition led by Andrzej Zawada made the first winter ascent in February 1980. Leszek Cichy and Krzysztof Weilicki made the successful attempt, after 2 previous failures, setting out for the summit from the South Col in violent storms and snow at temperatures of -50°F, and reaching the summit at 14.40hr on 17 February. More details of this outstanding achievement are given in *Mountain 74* 13 and in *Himavanta 12* 68 (September 1980). In May 1980, another Polish party, again led by Zawada, succeeded in climbing the

South Pillar between the SW Face Route and the S Col Route. Andrzej Czok and Jerzy Kukuczka reached the top on May 19. The route did not present great technical difficulty apparently, most of the climbing being on snow fields to the right of the pillar.

The magnificent winter climb of Everest was followed by another outstanding feat, Messner's solo climb in August via the N Col and NE ridge. The climb was made in the monsoon period, this being the only time available, but Messner was able to time his ascent for one of the stable periods of weather which occurs at that time of year. He took 3 days, from 18 to 20 August, after an acclimatization period. Messner was beaten by a few months by Yazuoh Kato, who became the first non-Sherpa to climb Everest twice. The ascent was made without artificial oxygen.

A large Japanese expedition also climbed Everest from the Tibetan side; Yazuoh Kato made the summit solo on 3 May by the NE ridge and was later followed by Takahi Osaki and Tsuneoh Shigehiro via a direct route on the N face, finishing by the Hornbein Couloir on 10 May.

It was reported that a British body was found high on Everest by a Chinese climber in 1979, and this led to the speculation that it might have been either Mallory or Irvine who disappeared in 1924, or else the lone eccentric Maurice Wilson who attempted the mountain in 1935. However, the body was dressed in green down clothing, which was not generally used by British climbers till after the war. It is known that clandestine attempts have been made since the war and it may be that the body is the result of an accident which occurred on one of these. Since 1921, at least 49 people have been killed on Everest, 16 on the N slopes and a further 16 above cefall level on the S and W sides.

Mountain 76 is almost entirely devoted to various aspects of Mount Everest. Besides the news of Messner's solo ascent, it has articles by Chris Harris on the geology of the mountain, by Pete Boardman entitled 'So you're an Everest climber', by G. O. and N. Dyhrenfurth on Everest (part of their series on mountains in the Himalaya), and an historical summary of events in the mountain's history.

Lhotse (8511m) Nicholas Jaeger, the well known French solo climber, disappeared during a solo attempt on the extremely difficult S face. He initially tried a direct route which he abandoned at 6000m because of avalanches. He then tried a route towards the Lhotse Spur and was last seen on 28 April at about 8000m.

Kangchenjunga (8597m) A Japanese expedition led by Matatsuga Konishi climbed a new direct route on the N face, to the right of the route taken by the Anglo/French party in May 1979 (*AJ 85* 224). Fixed ropes had to be used on the rock band on the centre of the face; after overcoming this difficulty they made 2 lightweight forays to the summit. No artificial oxygen was used.

Dhaulagiri (8167m) An international party consisting of Alex MacIntyre (UK) Rene Ghilini (France) and Wojciech Kurtyka and Ludwick Wilczyzyski (Poland) climbed the E face in a 3 day push in May 1980. The climb was made in almost continuous blizzard, spindrift and electrical storm with very poor bivouac sites. They gained the NE ridge on 9 May and retreated down it to Base Camp, returning a week later to reach the summit on 18 May. A large Swiss expedition was climbing the NE ridge at the same time and put 17 people on the summit.

Ganesh V (6934m) A joint Japanese/Nepalese expedition made the first ascent on 21 April (2 Japanese and 3 Sherpas) and the second on 22 April (4 Japanese and 4 Sherpas), by a route on the NE ridge and across the N face to the NW ridge. A French party climbed Ganesh IV on 11 October 1980 via a new route on the SSW spur; they were led by Michel Feuillarde and put 3 men on the summit.

Makalu (8481m) An American party (Roskelley, Kopczynski, Momb and States) successfully climbed the W pillar of Makalu on 15 May 1980, after 43 days effort, including the walk-in, without Sherpa support or artificial oxygen. Ultimately, Roskelley made the summit alone at 15.30 hr and returned to Camp IV 5 hr later, after descending 1½ hr in the dark.

Makalu II (Kangchungtse; 7640m) In October 1979, a German party climbed a new E ridge route from the N col, 8 climbers and 8 Sherpas reaching the summit.

Ama Dablam (6856m) A 6 man Japanese team climbed a new line on the N face in November 1980, all reaching the summit. A New Zealand party was also successful on the N ridge, Russel

Price and Paddy Freaney reaching the summit on 18 October followed by Rob Hall, Graham Elder and Bill King on 21 October—their route was similar to the 1979 French route.

Langtrang Lirung (7245m) A 6 man Japanese expedition led by Iwao Otsuka climbed this mountain on 26 October 1980, all members reaching the summit by a new route on the S ridge.

Baruntse (7220m) A Spanish party climbed a new route, the E ridge, on 27 April 1980, Jeronimo Lopez (leader), Javier Escartin and Lorenzo Ortas and the American Carlos Buhler reaching the summit at 13.30hr.

Fang (7629m) An Austrian expedition led by Joseph Mayerl made the first ascent of Fang via the W ridge. It was the highest unclimbed mountain in Nepal.

Some accident statistics for pre-monsoon expeditions to Nepal in 1979 are given in Himavanta XI 7 105. There were fatal accidents in 6 expeditions out of 21; these involved 7 foreigners and 3 Sherpas, a total of 10 out of the 201 foreign climbers and 83 Sherpas involved. It has been suggested that Sherpas are at greater risk than their employers, but these figures do not bear out this idea. Since 1949, when Nepal was first opened to foreign climbers, 178 including 118 foreigners died on expeditions up to the end of 1978—the largest group is Japanese, 43 in number. Japan provided the largest number of teams in the period also so one might expect them to head the accident statistics, although the note suggests that their 'kamikaze' approach has something to do with this. Everest took the largest toll, 25 in total of whom 18 were Sherpas. Dhaulagiri claimed 22 lives in the same period.

SIKKIM

Simvu (6816m) An Indian expedition led by Major Pushkar Chand climbed the major peak of the Simvu Massif E of Kangchenjunga in May 1979. It is believed that only the lower of the other 2 summits had been climbed before.

Siniolchu (6892m) A very large Indian expedition (43 members) climbed this mountain, 18 members and a Sherpa reaching the summit. The team consisted of young climbers prepared for the ascent by Sonam Gyatso Mountaineering Institute at Gangtok. Only 2 previous ascents had been made, in 1936 and 1937.

CHINA

China is now opening its border to climbers from other parts of the world. The obvious attraction is the ascent of Everest from the N side, and some evidence of this interest has been outlined above. Various expeditions are being arranged to other areas as well, and on p7, Michael Ward describes a 40 day reconnaissance in the area of the Kongur in the Pamir, near Kashgar 50 km from the Russian border. Kongur, at 7719m is the highest unclimbed peak in China. The peaks specifically open to foreigners are:

Kongur, Kongur Tiube and Muztagh Ata (Kunlun Xinjiang); Xixabamba (Shisha Pangma or Gosainthan) and Qomolungma (Everest) (Himalaya-Tibet); Gongga (Minya Konka) (Hengduan-Czechwan); Anyemaqen (Amne Machin) (Qinlin-Qinghai); Bogda Ola (Tianshan-Xinjiang).

Permission will also be given for 'sister peaks' of Qomolungma and Shisha Pangma although none of the information to hand defines these. Information can be obtained from the Chinese Mountaineering Association in Peking. According to them, more than 100 expeditions had asked for permits by mid-1980, although only 30 parties had been granted permission at that time. Chinese officials have visited Nepal to learn about handling foreign expeditions. It is hoped that regions in Tibet and Xinjiang may eventually be opened to mountain trekking.

Off Belay 51 41 contains the tentative regulations issued by China for foreign climbers including the prices for registration fees, porterage, food, lodging etc. These seem to be high—thus an American expedition to Gongga was estimated to cost the participants £10,000 per head, not including air fare to Peking.

Mountain 76 14 contains an extensive news report by Alan Rouse and Ken MacTaggart on the current situation in China; Rouse was a member of the reconnaissance party to the Kongur region, and also calls attention to the high cost of expeditions to China. The Chinese are unlikely to look with favour on the small-scale parties which are the current trend, because they will not

bring the much needed large amounts of foreign exchange to the country. A number of the expeditions already arranged are listed. *La Montagne et Alpinisme* 121 343 also contains an article on mountaineering in China by Jean-Claude Marmier.

We have had news of American expeditions to Gongga; 2 parties attempted the mountain in September and October. Andrew Harvard, Louis Reichardt, Jed Williamson, Henry Barber, Gary Bocard and Lance Owens from Advanced Base at 4600m ascended the left side of the first icefall, establishing Camp I below the second icefall at 5125m. Three routes were unsuccessfully attempted through this unstable icefall. It was abandoned in favour of the SW face to the left. Williamson and Reichardt tried 2 different routes on the face, reaching 6000m but avalanches down both led to a third alternative farther left. The same pair and Harvard climbed a snow-and-ice rib to reach the double-corniced SW ridge at 6250m. This route would have taken many days and almost continuous snowfall and serious avalanche hazards led to abandonment of the attempt. The NW ridge, by which the Americans Terris Moore and Dick Burdsell had made the first ascent in 1932, was tried by a second group. They established Camp I at 5500m on the buttress leading to the ridge. Yvon Chouinard, Rick Ridgeway, Kim Schmitz and Jonathan Wright had ascended to the ridge at 6000m with gear. They were 50m above Camp I when they triggered a wet-snow avalanche. They fell 500m, going over two 10m to 15m cliffs. Wright was killed, Schmitz had 2 crushed vertebrae, Chouinard broke ribs and Ridgeway was only bruised. The climb was abandoned.

General Items

The Himalayan Club News Letter (vol 33, 1980) contains a compilation by Harish Kapadia of 1979 Himalayan expeditions and less complete lists covering selected areas for the earlier years 1976, 77 and 78. Of interest is the supplementary list of the climbs made by the India-Tibet border police about which little has been heard previously. Detail is still scanty but reveals that they have been responsible for 15 first ascents since 1970, most outstanding perhaps being Saser Kangri I (7672m) in 1973.

Volume XXXV of the Himalayan Journal (1976—1978) celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the Himalayan Club. The opening article is a history of the club over these first 50 years written by John Martyn and is followed by a paper by Trevor Braham which besides reviewing the past also looks forward to the Club's future.

Mountain (73 30 and 74 37) has published 2 long articles by Tsunemichi Ikeda (translated by Kanji Takamasu) on climbing in Japan; this is essentially the history of the leading Japanese mountaineering club, Sangakudoshikai, and one of its leading members, Masatsuga Konishi.

We would like to thank Mike Cheney and H. C. Adams Carter for kindly providing material for these notes.

AUSTRALASIA

AUSTRALIA

As usual a considerable amount of detailed information is given in the pages of *Mountain* (72 and 76) about recent activity of note. In the Mount Arapiles region the pace has slackened off slightly due to the absence of Kim Carrigan overseas. The best recent new route was led by a visiting Californian, Mike Graham; Ride like the Wind (26) has only 4 runners, 2 of them bolts, in a long and sustained lead. He was followed by Mark Moorhead, who with Rod Young has recently been responsible for a large proportion of the new routes in this area.

One of the most newsworthy items concerning Australian climbing is perhaps the 'annexation' of the famous sea stack, Balls Pyramid, off the New South Wales coast by a group of climbers calling themselves the Pyramid Committee. According to a letter in *Mountain* 72 17 from the Committee, the Pyramid is not officially part of Australia, but has recently been the subject of interest by the State of New South Wales and a Sydney electrical retailer and 'business climber', Dick Smith. The Committee evidently feel that access to the rock is likely to be threatened and have decided to pre-empt other attempts to take it over, including surrounding waters to the distance of 8km. It is believed that the Australian constitution would need to be amended before the Pyramid could be included within the boundaries of Australia, and so far Canberra has shown no interest. The Committee are seeking the support of climbers worldwide, and wish to raise money to manage the area.

We have received the first 2 copies of the Australian climbing publication *Rock*, edited by Chris Baxter, which first appeared in 1978. The objective is (to quote the editorial) to produce

'A good quality, annual publication to which Australian climbers can turn for a picture of the exploits of their fellows at home and abroad: something of a local *Ascent*'. It is good to have a journal which gives the flavour of current Australasian climbing activities which otherwise tend to be reported rather briefly in the UK. The second issue, for instance, contains an article by Kim Carrigan describing the 12 climbs graded 25 and above on Mount Arapiles and which ranks 14 climbs graded at 24; the author is of course the principal creator of these very difficult routes and is thus ideally qualified to write about them. One wishes this publication every success and hopes that it is able to keep going on a regular basis, serving as it does basically a rather small audience at a time when publication costs are rising dramatically, as this Journal is finding to its cost.

NEW ZEALAND

The 1979 winter season saw the first winter ascent of Mount Cook's E ridge by Colin Monteath, Greg Mortimer, Steve Anderson and Richard Schmidt. The S face of Mount Hicks received 2 more new lines in winter, the most impressive being by visiting Californian Tobin Sorenson and local Nick Craddock who put up 2 ice gully lines to the right of the original Left Hand Buttress route. By and large however, the weather was disappointing and the impetus of the previous year faltered. In the 1980 summer season, a group of Yugoslav climbers visited New Zealand to climb in the Mount Cook region, and the weather was good enough for them to complete 8 routes in the first part of February. Benkovic and Vidmar climbed the celebrated 2000m Caroline Face of Mount Cook on 20 February.

NORTH AMERICA

ALASKA/YUKON

Two new routes were climbed on the S side of Mount McKinley in 1980. Jack Roberts (USA) and Simon McCartney (UK) found a fresh line to the left of the Cassin Ridge. A Czech party were successful on a line between the American Direct and the Japanese S Buttress; they met steep blue ice and rock pitches of IV—V. The face involved 1700m of roped climbing with poor bivouac possibilities in the lower sections. The route was climbed by Orolin, Petrik and Bakos (Czechoslovakia) and Philip Johnson (UK). The entire climb was filmed.

The Roberts/McCartney climb was completed by Roberts despite incredible problems and is described in some detail in *Mountain 75* 14 where a letter by McCartney is reproduced; he grades the climb VII A2 5.9 Scottish grade 5. It began on 8 June and was done in alpine style—the face is about 2700m, so this meant that insufficient food could be carried. McCartney suffered badly from altitude sickness and finally had an attack of cerebral oedema, and the pair had to bivouac at 5900m, unable to go back down to lose height. Roberts decided eventually to leave via the summit to get help. Fortunately, at this point 2 friends, Helms and Kandiko, arrived as Roberts was leaving and were able to give some help so that eventually McCartney and Kandiko decided to continue for the summit. This proved to be more than McCartney was capable of at this stage, and the pair were forced to return to their campsite. Roberts and Helms had gone to find help but were not successful since it appears that there is no organization for rescue on the S side of the mountain, although Army helicopters are able to reach these altitudes. Kandiko and McCartney had thus to descend on their own for 7 days down the Cassin Ridge and eventually joined up with an American party who helped them descend further. They were eventually able to call the Park Services radio operator to say that rescue was no longer required. McCartney had now spent 20 days on the mountain and was suffering from trench foot; both suffered a fall into a crevasse which broke McCartney's wrist. Before a rescue could be organized, the weather closed in and another 3 days elapsed before a number of volunteers from Kahiltna were able to take the pair out on a sledge.

Glenn Randall, Pete Athens and Pete Metcalf (USA) made the first alpine style ascent of the S face of Mount Hunter (4442m), via the SE spur. The first ascent in 1978 required an airdrop of supplies on to the summit and a total of 144 days climbing time. On the second ascent, only 6 days supply of food could be taken and the climb took 13 days. The route is similar in difficulty to Deborah's N face or to the Infinite Spur on Foraker. Also on Mount Hunter, Billy Ireland (Northern Ireland) and Ulf Bjornberg (Sweden) climbed the previously much attempted N buttress for the first time at the beginning of July. In May, British climbers Roger Mear and Stephen Bell climbed a new route on the SE face of Mount Huntingdon. In the Kichatna Spires, Randy Cerf and George Schunk made the first ascent of the W face of Mount Jeffers. Two days

were spent fixing the first 6 pitches, then after a day of waiting for better weather, the pair climbed the remaining 19 pitches, some as hard as 5.10 and A3, to the summit. They descended by the original Robbins route in a total of 54hr.

A traverse of Mount St Elias has been made for the first time. George Bolling, Kelly Creamer, Dick Dietz, Rob Leitz and Chris Pizzo from Colorado landed by helicopter at 1500m on the S ridge, climbed twice previously in 1946 and 1948. The summit was reached in 15 days of which 4 were spent sitting out poor weather. The night of 24 June was spent on the top of the mountain; the party then split, Pizzo and Leitz descending via the Abruzzi Ridge to complete the traverse, the remainder going back down the S ridge.

Off Belay 52 brings an article by Larry Fahlberg on the Brooks Glacier Peaks in the Mount McKinley National Park; these lie to the NE of the main massif, and are much less frequently visited than McKinley itself or the ranges to the S. This largely seems to result from the difficulty of access, which requires an approach along the Park road, a 20 mile hike including a crossing of the frigid waters of the McKinley River and mosquito infested tundra. The largest peak is Mount Silverthrone (4030m) situated at the head of the Brooks Glacier and others of note are Mount Brooks, Mount Mather, Wedge Peak and Pyramid Peaks.

Climbing 57 is largely devoted to climbing and the politics of climbing in Alaska. The first article is entitled 'Freedom versus Regulation: the National Park Service in Alaska', and consists of 2 parts, one by Robert Gerhard, the Park Ranger, and the other by Doug Buchanan of the Alaska Alpine Club. This is a part of the controversy over land use in Alaska which we briefly mentioned last year (*AJ 85* 226). Since then many thousands of words have appeared in print in American journals and magazines on this topic, and the pages of *Mountain* have also given considerable space to the problem. The up-to-date situation is not known, but there is no evidence that the protests are having any real effect.

A summary of mountaineering in 1979 in the Mount McKinley area appears in *Off Belay 49* 29, prepared by Gerhard. The year saw 149 expeditions involving 680 climbers tackling the mountains in the Park, of whom 398 were successful. Of these about $\frac{1}{3}$ were foreign expeditions including 18 Japanese and 8 German parties. Trash left by mountaineers still decorates the popular routes on Mount McKinley—Gerhard feels that all climbers should make a commitment to bring down all equipment, eg fixed ropes and spare food wherever possible.

CANADA

The 1980 Canadian Alpine Journal (63 3) has an interesting article by Glen Boles concerning the exploits of Don Forest who has climbed all the 51 peaks in the Canadian Rockies which exceed 11000ft (3350m). The mountains are spread over an extremely wide area, from Mount Harrison in the Kootenays to Mount Whitehorn NW of Mount Robson, a distance of 275 miles; many have difficult and extremely tedious approaches. So this equivalent of Scottish 'Munro bagging' requires considerable dedication. The task was commenced in 1963 and finished in August 1979 at the top of Lunette Peak—Don Forest is the first person to have achieved the feat of climbing all 51 peaks.

Recent issues of *Off Belay* have contained a history by William Putnam of climbing in the Canadian Rockies.

AMERICA

Mountain 72 16 gives a review of the current state of very hard climbing, ie at the 5.12 level, in the Yosemite region. Grand Illusion, Sugar Loaf, has not had a second free ascent and is thought to far exceed any other climb in difficulty. It is supposed to be very much harder than the Phoenix which is rated 5.12d or 5.13a which therefore makes it of an exceptional order of difficulty. Fingers at Sugarloaf (5.12 +) by Hudon and Jones has repelled many attempts at a second ascent. The third ascent of the Phoenix by Bill Price was outstanding for its style, with no falls, lowering off or aid of any sort. Jones and Hudon made the first climb of Razor's Edge, a longstanding problem with one yo-yo, rating it 5.12c. In less than a week Jim Collins and Tony Yaniro managed to climb nearly all the 5.12 routes in the Valley, with few or no falls. The feeling seems to be that the state of 5.12 is now as 5.11 was a few years ago, as predicted by Hudon and Jones in *Mountain 66/67*. On the big walls, speed ascents of El Capitan came into popularity again. Yablonski and Leshner did the Shield in 48hr; this was accomplished by doing a 5.10 A1 climb (Freeblast) in the dark. Pacific Ocean Wall has had ascents in 5, 4½ and 4 days.

At Joshua Tree, free solo ascents have been the trend, with Yablonski and Bachar being the prime movers; the former's Leave it to Beaver was perhaps the most impressive. However, it seems that many of the harder routes (5.11 and upwards) are repeatedly top roped before they

are free soloed, and disputes are common about priorities on new routes. At Tahquitz Rock, Gibb Lewis and Charles Coles have added new 5.10 and 5.11 routes.

In Colorado, Alex Sharp and Dan Hare have been prominent in climbing new lines at both Eldorado Canyon and Boulder Canyon. Well over 100 new free climbs in the 5.10 to 5.11 grades have been done in the Boulder area. *Mountain 74* 15 and 76 17 give further details. In the Garden of the Gods, several new 'soft rock' sandstone climbs have been done and a new guidebook (called *Soft Touch*) has been produced. Up-gradings of climbs have sometimes to be made because key holds break off. Peter Gallagher and Peter Williams have put up some new routes in the South Platte Wilderness, which they later freed. In the Black Canyon of the Gunnison River, Earl Wiggins made an outstanding solo climb, after returning from a 6 week trip to Yugoslavia, of the Scenic Cruise (IV 5.10 +) on the North Chasm View Wall. He took only 1½ hr on a climb which normally takes 10-12 hr on roped ascents. The climb is 600m long with the crux at mid-height, and is one of the most audacious solo climbs yet done in the USA. Ed Webster and Bryan Becker started off on a second attempt on Hallucinogen Wall (VI 5.11 A5), probably the hardest climb in Colorado. However, they found that Bruce Lella and Ken Trout were already 6 pitches above them; this pair were surprised in their turn to discover the cache of gear left by Webster and Becker on their first attempt. In due course the 2 parties combined; the climb became something of an epic and after 8 days Trout abseiled off and returned to college. Two days later, the others had to retreat to get more food and on their return were joined by Jim Newberry. The climb continued in atrocious weather, including a 1½ day snow storm, and had by this time attracted considerable publicity. It was finally completed after 18 days (from 29 April to 15 May).

In Utah in remote Taylor Canyon, Ed Webster and Steve Hong made the first free ascent of Moses, a 200m Wingate sandstone spire in one day. It is probably the longest and hardest free climb on any of the sandstone spires in the SW. 'Friends' were used for protection in the parallel sided cracks.

Mountain 73 20 contains a brief article by Harvey Arnold on the Shawangunks, which includes a list of 32 recommended climbs graded from 5.2 to 5.13. *Climbing* has a series of 3 articles entitled 'Fifty Years of Granite State Climbing', by Michael Macklin, which gives details of the history and current state of climbing in New Hampshire.

We would like to thank H.C. Adams Carter for kindly providing material for these notes.

The following guidebooks are noted:

A Climbing and Hiking Guide to the Wind River Mountains Joe Kelsey (Sierra Book Club, 530 Bush St, San Francisco CA 94108, pp400, illustrations, maps and diagrams, npq). **Climbers' Guide to the Olympic Mountains** (Olympic Mountain Rescue, 1979, The Mountaineers, 719 Pike St, Seattle, WA 980101, pp237, \$7.95 paper back) A revised second edition.

Climbers' Guide to the Kankakee River State Park Matt and Andrew Nicodemus (M and A Nicodemus, 1030 Maple Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60202, 1979, pp26, 8 illustrations and 2 maps, npq).

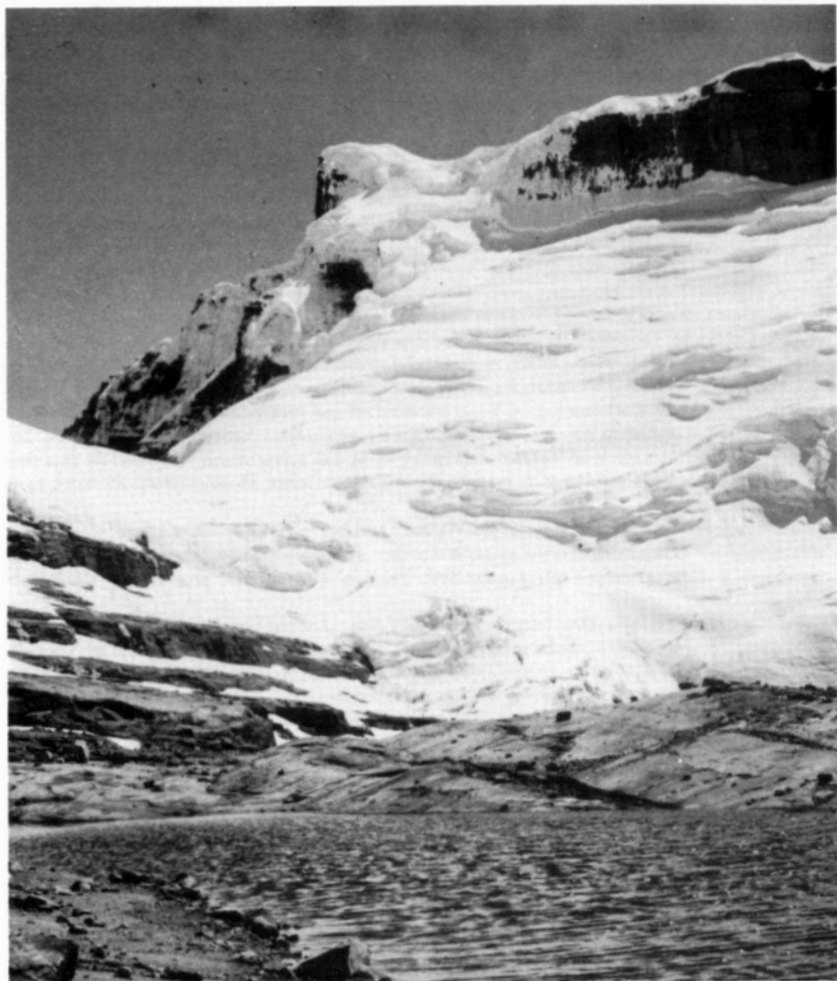
SOUTH AMERICA

The following review of South American climbing has been kindly provided by Evelio Echevarría.

The same trends that characterized the 1979 Andean year—fewer expeditions undertaking somewhat less ambitious climbs and a large number of repeat ascents—have also been the characteristic for 1980. Perhaps it should also be added that mountain trekking in the Andes has been sharply on the increase.

VENEZUELA

To commemorate the 44th anniversary of the first ascent of Pico Bolívar, highest mountain in the country, José Betancourt made on 4 April 1980 the first solo climb of the N. face. The same Betancourt, with Gustavo Gómez, made on 19 Febr, 1980 the first ascent of the S. face of an unnamed mountain ca. 4450m high belonging to the central district of the Sierra de la Culata (north of Mérida city) and some 6 km from the town of Mucuchíes. The attractive name of "Pico Mistajá" was assigned to the mountain, Mistajá being a legendary Indian heroine. It has now become apparent that some of the steep, albeit short, rock walls in the Culata peaks are offering local climbers a new playground.



101 *The N side of El Concavo, Sierra Nevada de Cocuy (Photo: E. Echevarría)*

COLUMBIA

A Polish expedition spent almost a month in the Sierra Nevada de Cocuy (Cordillera Oriental) opening a number of new routes on the more attractive peaks of this range. New routes are: Nevado del Pulpito, 5210m, via NE buttress, Nevado de Cóncavo, 5268m, via right part of the N face; Nevado Ritacuba Negro, 5389m, NE ridge; Pico Blanco, 5092m, a second ascent, via W buttress; Pico del Castillo, 5123m, NW buttress. In the Cordillera Central, the same expedition ascended the W face of the Pico Norte del Huila (ca. 5300m), in mid March.

ECUADOR

Taking advantage of the new 'Refugio (hut) Whymper', placed at around 5000m on the S slopes of Chimborazo, a Swiss expedition opened a new route on the ample S face of the mountain (6267m), via a glacier tongue and fairly steep slopes leading to the central summit (probably the Glaciar Sur of Ecuadorian maps). But the main events in Ecuadorian mountaineering for the last 20 or so months have taken place on the massif of El Altar, the country's most imposing mountain. In Jan 1979 B. Beate and R. Terán made the first ascent of 'Fraile Central' and on 28 Sept 1979, seven climbers made also the first of 'Fraile Occidental' (both names unofficial). Both peaks are about 5150m high. Other Ecuadorian ascents in the same mountain are the second of Canónigo (5260m) and the fourth of Monja Grande (ca 5300m).

PERU

Cordillera Blanca. Three Frenchmen were successful on the SW face of Nevado Santa Cruz, 6241m (which the German explorer of the Cordillera Blanca, Phillip Borchers, had described as the most beautiful peak in the range). One of the climbers suffered frostbite and had a part of the right foot amputated. On Artesonraju (6025m) Gerard Chartriaux climbed alone to the summit and descended the SW face on skis. The SW face of Nevado Alpamayo (5947m) was ascended by Austrians on 15 July and a 7-man French party climbed the N ridge of the E peak of Huandoy (6070m) and traversed to the main one (6395m), but due to bad weather had to abandon its project of traversing the remaining 2 summits of the massif (which is locally called Tulparaju, or 'The herd').

An Irish group ascended as training Curicachacajana (5510m) and then climbed the N face of Nevado Caras II (6020m). While descending from the summit of Artesonraju (6025m), a member of the expedition, Tom Hand, fell to his death.

Other very noteworthy enterprises are the first ascent of Nevado Huascarán (6769m) by a Spanish expedition integrated by José Paytubí and other Catalonians, who climbed the mountain up the sérac barrier that descends on the NE side, ie, opposite to the standard or NW route; and a Dutch pair, Bas Grenigt and Ronald Naar, opened a new variation of the S face route on Chacaraju Este (6001m).

Cordillera Huayhuash. One of the very few exploratory expeditions in the Andes for 1980 was an Italian enterprise in the S section of the Cordillera Huayhuash. Seven men from Friuli climbed probably all but one of the peaks at the head of the Ularaca valley, making in all 10 ascents (some of which had been however accomplished previously by Poles). A new route was also opened by the Italians on the SE ridge of Huacshash, 5644m, and on the S face of Pariaucro Chico, 5330m. Three Austrians climbed again the N buttress of Jirishhanca Norte (6015m) and two Frenchmen plus a German, the middle buttress of the W face of Nevado Rasac (6017m).

Cordillera Vilcanota. A German party successfully climbed Chimboya (or Cayancati V), 6010m, via the SW ridge on 15 July and Italians under Nino Calegari, the ESE ridge of Cayancati I, 6035m (3 ascents of this route, on 6, 12 and 13 July). On Ausancati, 6372m, highest in the Vilcanota, Basques climbed the SE spur, which they had reconnoitred in 1977.

A strong Yugoslavian expedition, 11 man strong under Lačgen Marjan, spent a month in the Jatunhuma group and accomplished some of the best technical ascents of the 1980 Peruvian season, among which that of the S face of Nevado Pachanta, 5727m, on June 8, by K. Rok and M. Stanko. Ten other peaks of varying calibre were also climbed.

Cordillera Carabaya. A party of 9 organised by Dr Paul Roberts (AC) and consisting of Dr Phyllida Roberts (AC), David Roberts, Ashley Greenwood (AC), Rosemary Greenwood, Philip Solt, Norman Gubbey, Basil Humphrey, and Cecily Haussmann (MAM) spent the second half of July 1980 in the Cordillera Carabaya in SE Peru. The approach was by lorry from Macusani to about Kilometre 20 on the Ayapata road where it comes close to the S of a big lake. Thence 1½ hours walk enabled them to establish camp at 4600m in a valley SE of Chichicpac. This area appeared to be virtually unexplored by foreigners and was unmarked on any of the simple sketch plans of previous expeditions. From this camp Greenwood and Solt climbed 2 peaks to the NE of Chichicpac, believed to be the first ascents, and named them Snow Dome 5240m and White Cap 5390m, the first a glacier ascent and the latter mixed rock, snow and ice, approached from the N. The same pair also climbed Chichicpac 5650m by the S and then W facing glaciers. Camp was then moved to the N/S valley which splits the range between the Allincapac and Chichicpac groups, in which previous parties have been based. From there Japuma 5540m was climbed by Roberts, Gubbey and Humphrey and also by Greenwood and Solt. The latter pair also climbed a peak of 5340m which was cairned and was taken to be either Mid Peak or End Peak as marked on the sketch map of the Keele University Expedition of 1965, and first climbed by them. Weather and snow conditions were perfect throughout. Llama transport was available in the first valley and porters in the second. By way of training the party had walked the Inca trail from Chillca to Macchu Picchu.

BOLIVIA

Six Italian mountaineers under O. Campese climbed in the Soral group, mapped by an Imperial College expedition (*AJ* 1960, pp175-81, & map). Peaks ascended were the Soral mountains (5630m and 5430m), Salluyo, 5808m, Chaupi Orco, 6044m, and Soral Oeste again, by the N face, a new route.

Michael Kelsey, an American climber from Utah, made the first known solo ascents of Chearoco (6127m) and Chachacomani (6074m), in the Cordillera Real (8 and 9 June). The SW ridge route was used in both cases.

CHILE

Northern Andes. A very large Chilean trekking group ascended Nevado de Putre (first reported ascent), 5835m, and Parinacota (6330m), both located E of Arica. An accident claimed the life of climber Felipe Tello.

J. Reinhard and Father J. Sarracino ascended Nevado Paniri (5940m) located SE of the mountain town of San Pedro de Atacama and made a sketch-map of the Inca ruins previously found by Chilean climbers around the summit crater. They ascertained that there are 5 groups of ruins, with wood bundles inside each construction. One of the houses had a wall 1.80m high.

A total of 31 mountaineers belonging to five different regional *asociaciones* (branches) of the Federación de Andinismo de Chile entered from the town of La Serena into the Pastos Largos region and explored the valleys of Tilito, Guanacos Helados, La Cortadera and Los Tilos. Between 17 and 25 Feb. these climbers made the first ascents of El Tilo, 4265m, El Tilito, 4204m, El Despitado, 4208m, El Colorado, 4302m and Guanaco, 4550m.

Central Andes. Local climbers (from Rancagua) made the first ascents of Alto del Azufre (4550m), Cerro Violeta (4250m) and Cristal del Azufre (4150m), all located near the Argentinian border E of San Fernando town. The Austrian W. Bertsch and the Chilean Gino Cassasa (see also FitzRoy, below) made the first ascent of the dreaded S face of El Altar, 5220m, long believed too dangerous to be ascended because of the extremely poor quality of the rock. The climbers, however, declared it to be rather easy, with only the last 40m of 6 (ED) (16 March, 1980).

ARGENTINA

The Austrian variation of the S face route of Aconcagua was repeated by 2 Americans, who reached the summit on 14 March. At a height of 6800m, the third member, Briton H. Granfield, perished in a fall when he unhooked his rope in a change-over.

PATAGONIA

Chilean Gino Cassasa and Austrian Walter Bartsch made another ascent of the American route of FitzRoy (20 Feb, 1980). After 2 previous attempts and 9 days of waiting, they reached the summit (3375m). Also on FitzRoy, 5 Frenchmen under Jean Afanassieff made the first ascent of the N face (27 Dec, 1979). Four bivouacs were used and technical difficulties were rated as UIAA (V, A2). Weather was bad throughout the expedition.

The main event in the Patagonian year, besides the new route on FitzRoy, was the second ascent of La Fortaleza ('The Fortress'), which after its first climb in 1968 had been attempted a number of times. Gastón Oyarzún and Eduardo Parvex, (both of the mountain club of the state's university) reached the summit on 8 Feb. They followed the British route. The expedition lasted in all 38 days.

Castillo del Paine (ca. 2400m), a fine rock peak situated in the Cordón (massif) Olgúin and N of the Paine group, was ascended for the first time by F. Arias and F. Rivera in mid February; the same pair made the 2nd ascent of Cerro Cota (2000m).

On Torre Egger, Italians Bruno di Dora and Juliano Giongo climbed the impressive and dangerous couloir on the SW face which had been tried unsuccessfully before by British and American parties. The climb was made late in the season in February/March 1980, and presents considerable objective danger due to stone and icefall.

The following guidebooks are noted:

Practical Guide and Routes of Ascension on Mount Aconcagua Luis Alberto Parra (Parra 1979, Guiraldes 246, Guaymallen, 5519 Mendoza, R. C. A, Argentina, pp15, 7 photos, \$12.00US postpaid).

Peruvian Trail Guides: Cordillera Blanca North: Cordillera Central: Cordillera Huayhuash. J. Bartle (Rocky Mountain Books, 1979, 106 Wimbledon Crescent, Calgary, Canada, \$3.00).

The Southern Cordillera Real—Mountaineering and Ski-ing in Bolivia R Pecher and W Schmiemann (Plata Publishing Ltd, Switzerland, 1977, 14 sketch maps and 16 photos, npq)

Reise und Trekkingführer für Bergsteiger Peter Rotter (Verlag Rotter-Späth, Munich, 1979, pp254 in German, 76 b & w photos, 42 sketch maps and drawings, DM 18.80)

Trails of the Cordilleras Blanca & Huayhuash of Peru J. Bartle (Editorial Grafica PPSA, Lima, 1980, pp160, illustrations, maps, US\$7.95)

Backpacking in Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador Hilary & George Bradt (Nimrod Press, Boston 1979, pp128, illustrations, maps US\$6.95)

Backpacking and Trekking in Peru and Bolivia Hilary & George Bradt (Nimrod Press, Boston, 1980, 3rd Edtn, pp136, illustrations, maps, US\$7.95)

Backpacking in Chile and Argentina plus the Falkland Islands Hilary Bradt and John Pilkington (Bradford & Binglew, Danvers, USA, 1980, pp144, illustrations, maps US\$7.95)

POLAR REGIONS

As usual, the *Canadian Alpine Journal* (Vol 63) contains a number of accounts of expeditions to Arctic Canada. The AAC held an Alpine Climbing Camp in Baffin Island in 1979, as described by E. Whalley (63 29), which explored the area of mountains near Ayr Lake some 40km to the W of the Clyde River. The region had not been visited much before and some 30 first ascents were recorded of mountains of around the 1500m mark. Heights were read with 2 aircraft altimeters thought to measure accurately to 3m. Kevin O'Connell (63 70) gives some weather data for Baffin Island, gathered in May 1979, which is presented in the form of pressure and temperature graphs over a 25 day period. This was collected while he was a member of the above party—he was also responsible for the height measurements. Other reports on visits to the Eastern Arctic Mountains appear in 63 107-109, and largely deal with other expeditions to Baffin.

Montagnes 13 80 has an article by Giles Bordessoule on a solo 700km ski traverse of Spitzbergen, made carrying his gear on a small sledge which he towed behind him. In *Montagnes 14 71*, he discusses the equipment used on his trip.

Off Belay 48 33 contains a list of the highest mountains in Antarctica which is reproduced below:

<i>Mountain</i>	<i>Metres</i>	<i>Feet</i>
Vinson Massif	5139	16860
Vinson Massif II	ca 5100	ca 16730
Mount Tyree	4967	16290
Mount Shinn	4686	15750
Mount Gardner	4676	15375
Mount Epperly	4606	15100
Mount Kirkpatrick	4511	14800
Mount Markham	4350	14270
Highpoint of Icecap	4300	14100
Highpoint of E Antarctic Icecap	4270	14000
Mount Sidley	4220	13850
Highpoint of the S Princess Martha Icecap	4200	13780
Mount Andrew Jackson	4190	13750
Mount Ostenso	4179	13710
Mount Nansen	4176	13700
Long Gables	4150	13620
Mount Miller	4145	13600
Mount Giovinetto	4087	13400
Mount Wade	4069	13350
Mount Lister	4014	13200
<i>Highest Active Volcano</i> Mount Erebus	3725	12450

BRITISH ISLES

As usual, the climbing scene in the British Isles is exhaustively covered in the pages of *Mountain* and *Crags* and readers are referred to these publications for detailed accounts.

A number of articles have appeared which give up-to-date views and news on climbing in particular localities. Graham Desroy writes in *Mountain 72 26* about the ascent of 3 hard new

climbs on the sea cliffs at Fairhead in Northern Ireland. In *Mountain* 75 38, Mick Fowler describes the exploration and first ascent of Breakaway (170m, hard XS, 5c), at Henna Cliff at Morwenstow in North Cornwall. In the same issue of *Mountain*, Graham Little describes recent climbs on Cioch na h'Oighe in the Isle of Arran; he lists 9 selected routes in approximate order of difficulty. An article by various authors in *Crags* 22 22 reviews ice climbing in the winter of 1979/80 in North Wales, mid-Wales and Glencoe. *Off Belay* 49 4 has an article by Doug Teschner which gives a brief guide to climbing Scottish ice for the American climber; it is interesting to see an overseas view of local conditions and possibilities.

The last 4 years have seen a unique and gruelling combination of yachting and climbing—the Three Peaks Yacht Race. The yachts start from Barmouth and sail to Caernarvon and then on to Ravenglass in Cumbria and Fort William on the W coast of Scotland. At the ports of call, 2 members of each crew have to climb Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis respectively entirely on foot from the point of landing. The race involves 350 miles of sailing, 70 miles on foot with 11176ft of climbing and lasts 5 or 6 days. Becoming the winner largely depends on ones performance at sea, but nevertheless, some of the best fell runners are now taking part including Joss Naylor.

The following guidebooks have been received or are noted:

Scrambles in Snowdonia Steve Ashton (Cicerone Press, 1980, pp144, photos and diagrams, waterproof binding, £3.95). We have remarked previously in these columns on the need to split British climbers' guidebooks into 2 series—one for experts, the other for performers of only modest standards. Neither group would wish to carry around descriptions of routes in which they have no interest whatsoever.

The expert is already well catered for, and now at last comes a start on the other series. Routes are divided into 3 categories—1) those offering scrambling, where difficulties are easily avoided, 2) those lacking easier alternatives, where a rope will be useful and 3) those involving easy standard rock climbing, where a rope and some experience will be necessary. Route quality is further indicated by a star system. There are short notes on the whereabouts of some of the climbers' crags.

It will be interesting to see how this works out in practice. There seems no reason why it should not be successful, opening up new possibilities for a class of climber not previously served by the literature.

Devon New Climbs 1980 Pete O'Sullivan (R. D. Moulton/Royal Navy and Royal Marines MC, 1980, pp48, 4 diagrams, £1.30). A guide to be used in conjunction with Bob Moulton's 1978 Devon guide and Pat Littlejohn's guide to S Devon.

Lundy Rock Climbs Robert Moulton (Royal Navy and Royal Marines MC/BMC, 1980, pp128, 9 maps, plans and diagrams, £3.50). A third edition of this guide, the previous edition having appeared in 1974.

Northern Limestone—Rock Climbs in the Peak, Volume 4 Chris Jackson (Peak Committee, BMC, 1980, pp224, 31 drawings, 10 photos, £3.95). One of 9 guidebooks in this series, covering the central Peak area approximately defined by the triangle Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith and Stoney Middleton. It is essentially an updated replacement for the guide originally written by Graham West and Paul Nunn.

Great Langdale Mike G. Mortimer (Fell and Rock Climbing Club, 1980 npq) Part of the 6th series of 'Climbing Guides to the Lake District'.

North of England: Eden Valley, North Lakes Limestone etc Stewart G. Wilson and Ronald J. Kenyon (Pointer Publications, 1980, £3.50).

Winter Climbs in the Lake District R. Bennett, W. Birkett and A. Hyslop (Cicerone Press, 1979, pp80, diagrams and photos, £2.95).

Buttermere and Eastern Crags I. Roper, E. M. Grindley and G. N. Higginson (Fell and Rock Climbing Club, 1979, pp208, diagrams and photos, npq).

Aran—Cader Idris Climber's Guide Supplement 1980 J. Sumner (West Col, 1980, pp64, diagrams, £2.60).

Glencoe and Glen Etive—Rock and Ice Climbs K. V. Crockett (Scottish Mountaineering Trust, 1980, pp264, diagrams, photos and maps, £7.95).

Dalkey Rock Climbs S. Young (Federation of Mountaineering Clubs of Ireland, 1979, pp111, photos and maps, npq) This is the 6th edition of this guide, the last appearing in 1974.

Black Cuillin Ridge—Scrambler's Guide S. P. Bull (Scottish Mountaineering Trust, 1980, pp112, diagrams and photos, £2.95).