

## SOUTH AMERICA

## Venezuela

*Pico Bolívar, Northwest Buttress.* On February 5, 1983, Jaime Bautista, of the Club Andino Venezolano, made the first ascent of the "pilar noroeste" of Bolívar (5002 meters, 16,410 feet), highest point in Venezuela. On March 3, 1984 César Pernaleté and I accomplished the second, which can be described as a route with mixed difficulties on rock, snow and ice. Rock was found to be of poor quality. Other local climbers and I have been ascending most of the pinnacles and aiguilles that form Bolívar's complex ridges. Thus, *picos* Miranda, El Carmen, Anzil, La Reina, Caribay, Murachi and others have been climbed more than once.

JOSÉ BETANCOURT, *Club de Andinismo de la Universidad de los Andes, Mérida*

## Peru—Cordillera Blanca

*Huandoy Este, East Face and Ocshapalca, South Face, Solo.* In July, I made two solo ascents. The first, the south face of Huandoy Este, probably was not a first due to its proximity to the Pisco Base Camp, although I saw no signs of previous ascents. I followed the main obvious gully line in the center of the face which reaches the east ridge 150 feet below the summit. It involved 60° to 70° ice climbing with occasional short mixed sections in the bottom part. The upper parts were steep, rimey flutes, requiring exciting steep chimneying and bridging. The descent was something of a problem. I descended a short way down the north ridge and made several short rappels and seemingly endless down-climbing on the east face. The face is a huge, loose, mostly rock wall and not a good place in warm weather. The second route I soloed was definitely not new, but it was the first solo. I climbed the obvious gully system on the south side of Ocshapalca which ends just west of the summit.

ALEX LOWE

*Huandoy, North Face, and Chacaraju, South Face, Solo.* After acclimatization and an attempt on Ocshapalca frustrated by bad weather from August 4 to 9, on August 12 I left the Laguna Parón at 4000 meters at two P.M. At 5:20 I was at the lake below Huandoy and at the foot of the face of Huandoy at 5450 meters at 10:30. Climbing through the night, I made the first solo ascent of the French route on the north face of Huandoy to reach the summit (6355 meters, 20,850 feet) at five A.M. on August 13. I was back at Laguna Parón at 1:30 P.M. On August 17 I left the Llanganuco Lakes at 3895 meters at six P.M. and was at the foot of the south face of Chacaraju at 5400 meters at eleven P.M. I climbed the Richey-Brewer route, reaching Chacaraju's summit ridge at 5990

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 Ocshapalca 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

Chacaraju by the Mark Richey route only to the top of the face; they did not climb the ridge to the summit.

JAMES BARTLE

*Rurec and Other Ascents.* Our expedition of the National Polytechnical School, Quito, took place between July 13 and 27. Our primary objective was Huantsán by the Rajucolta valley, but the unfavorable snow conditions of the season of 1984 forced us to abandon above our first camp at 17,000 feet. We devoted ourselves then to Huantsán's neighbors. With deep and unstable snow we climbed Huamashraju (5406 meters, 17,737 feet) the 21st and Yahuarraju (5675 meters, 18,618 feet) and Rurec (5700 meters, 18,701 feet) the 24th. A woman, Margarita Arboleda, with M. Andrade, R. Galárraga, leader, and M. Varea, participated in all climbs.

REMIGIO GALÁRRAGA, *Escuela Politécnica Nacional, Quito.*

### Peru—Cordillera Huayhuash

*Yerupajá, Sarapo and other Peaks; Siula Grande West Face Attempt, Cordillera Huayhuash.* Piet-Jan Bindt, Ger Friele, Egbert Veen and I set up Base Camp near Jahuacocha on July 1. After acclimatization climbs on Cerro México and Rasac's east face, from a glacier camp between Rasac and Yerupajá on July 7 Veen and I climbed Yerupajá's west face. We left camp at midnight, climbed and descended the partly bare-ice face in 12 hours, unroped, probably one of the fastest ascents of the mountain. After some days' rest, Veen and I climbed P 5716 (18,747 feet) on the ridge north of Tsacra Grande from the east. We descended by traversing the summits in a northerly direction. Two days later Friele and Veen climbed Yerupajá Sur's west face in one day. We walked via Huayllapa to Sarapococha in three days. Base Camp was at 4500 meters. It took several days to establish a camp on the glacier at the foot of the west face of Siula Grande; a big, dangerous sérac belt caused this delay. On July 22 Veen, Friele and I climbed Sarapo (6143 meters, 20,155 feet) by its northwest face, following a line just right of the rock buttress. The last part was difficult because of steep ice gullies and unstable flutes. On July 24 Friele and I tried the unclimbed west face of Siula Grande. We climbed the first icefield in darkness. At sunrise we reached the mixed terrain. After some desperately steep rope-lengths, some of them overhanging on ice and rotten rock, we had to give up. Pitons could not be removed because the rock loosened and whole sections fell out. We quickly ran out of material. After some eight hours we were back at the foot of the face. The west face remains one of the most challenging objectives in the Huayhuash.

GERARD C. VAN SPRANG, *Koninklijke Nederlandse Alpen Vereniging*

*Yerupajá, First Completely Peruvian Ascent.* On July 8 Rodrigo Callupe, Victorino Basilio, Félix Vicencio, Magno Camones, Alberto Simangas and Mario Mazuelos reached the summit of Yerupajá, the first completely Peruvian group to do so, although the summit had been reached in 1983 with a foreign expedition by Alberto Callupe.

JAMES BARTLE

*Jirishanca Chico and Ninashanca.* Italians, E. Rosso, G. Lanza and E. Contini, climbed the southeast face of Jirishanca Chico (5427 meters, 17,805 feet) by a new route on the southeast face, which went up 1000 feet of icefall and then up 1650 feet of steep mixed ice-and-rock face. The alpine-style climb was completed on August 2. They then turned to Ninashanca (5607 meters, 18,396 feet), where they made a new route on the left side of the south face. They first climbed a 1500-foot-high icefall to reach a plateau behind the east ridge of Rondoy. They climbed couloirs with angles of 75° to 90° up the south face of Ninashanca and reached the summit on August 7.

*Rasac Central, West Spur.* A. Antola, F. Ferraresi and A. Mantero made a new route, the west spur of Rasac Central (5617 meters, 18,429 feet) on August 5. From an average of 50°, the climb had passages of 70°.

*Nevado Rasac, East Face Variant.* Ecuadorians F. Espinoza, M. Purúncajas and H. Torres, from Ambato, made on August 3 a variant on the east face of Rasac (6040 meters, 19,817 feet) by keeping to its rock wall. They had to bivouac just below the top during the descent.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

*El Toro, East Face.* The east face of El Toro was climbed by Swiss, who reached the summit on June 20. They fixed some rope on this 3500-foot face. The climbers were Lucien Abbet, Patrick Delale, Jean-Pierre Frossard, Pierre-Antoine Hiroz and Stéphane Schaffter. They made 37 rappels on the descent.

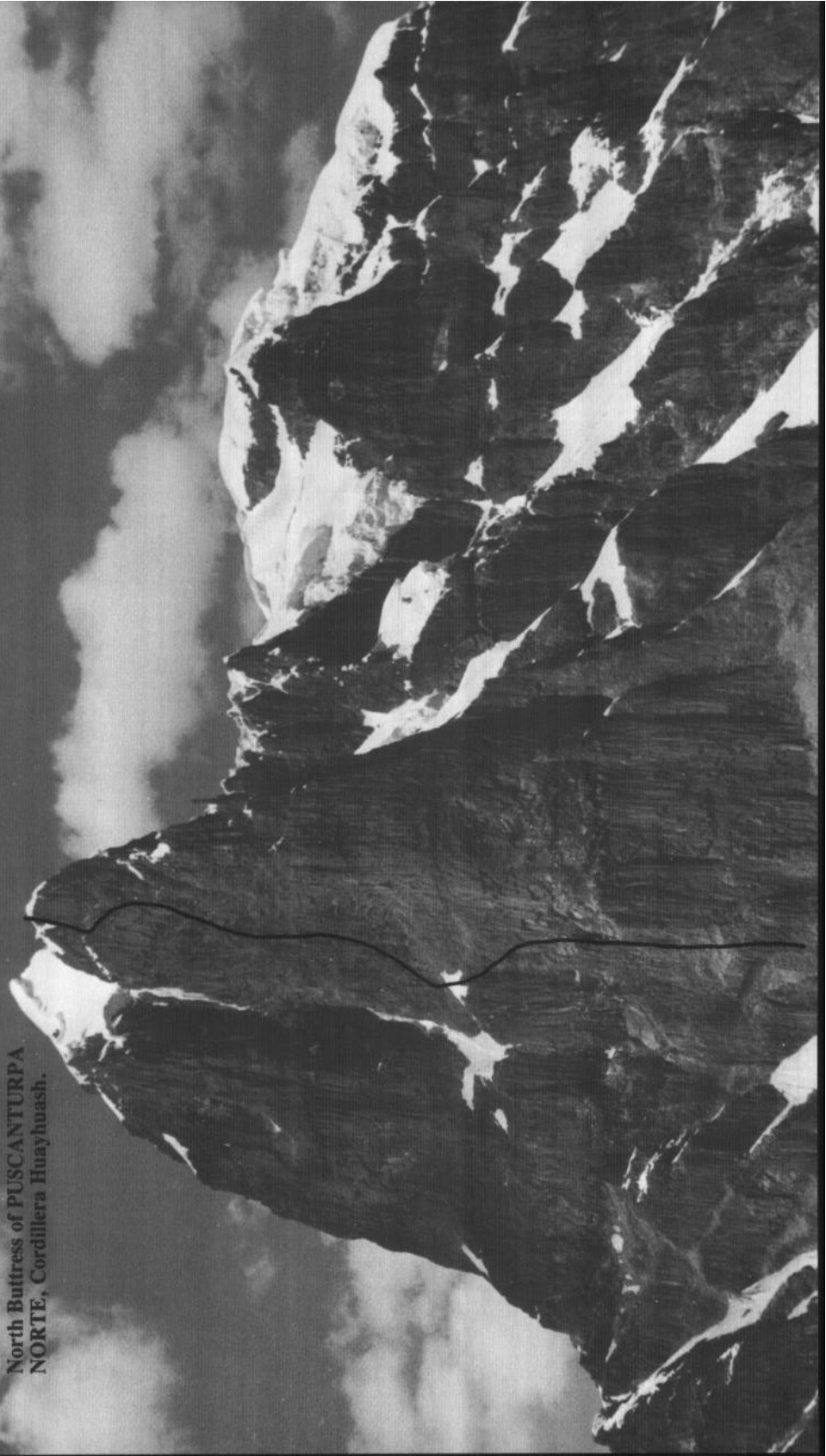
*Huayhuash Traverse Attempt.* A very strong French team of leader René Desmaison, Michel Arizzi, Xaxier Chappaz, René Ghilini, Jacques Fouque and Christophe Profit had hoped to traverse the Cordillera Huayhuash from Rondoy over Jirishanca and other peaks to Yerupajá, more than 12 miles and of extreme difficulty at high altitudes. The plan was foiled by very bad weather. However, Desmaison, Ghilini and Profit did climb the west face of Yerupajá from 5100 meters in a single day.

*Puscanturpa Norte, North Face.* Our expedition was composed of Graziano Bianchi, leader, Corrado Brustia, Felice Boselli, Osvaldo Antonietti, Silvio Mondinelli, Gino Mora, Ambrogio Veronelli, Sergio Zambra, Mario Valsecchi and me. Bianchi was returning after an attempt in 1974 and an ascent in 1975 of

PLATE 55

*Photo by Graziano Bianchi*

**North Buttress of PUSCANTURPA  
NORTE, Cordillera Huayhuash.**



the northwest face of Puscanturpa Norte (A.A.J., 1975, page 165 and A.A.J., 1976, page 489, both with photos). We left Lima on August 1 and traveled to Surasacho by bus. We walked to Lake Viconga and crossed the Cuyoc Pass to get to Base Camp at 4600 meters on August 4. We reconnoitered the next day. On August 6 we placed Camp I at the foot of the wall at 4750 meters and climbed the first 200 meters of the face. On the 7th we placed Camp II on a shelf at 5035 meters and climbed another 80 meters. The bottom and middle sections were of quite good compact dolomite rock. The weather turned bad. On August 11, Antoniotti and Mondinelli climbed to Camp II and some 150 meters beyond. On August 12 they reached the summit (5621 meters, 18,441 feet) at 4:30 P.M. The last 50 meters of rock were loose blocks. On August 13 Bianchi and Mora also reached the summit.

ARISTIDE GALBUSERA, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Rosario Norte, Sarapo Oeste, Ancocancha Este and Other Peaks.* On July 20 Peter Leeming, Cedric Marsh, William Patterson and I packed our gear onto four burros and set off on our two-day walk from Cajatambo to Base Camp at 4300 meters on the southwest corner of Laguna Jurau. Our first objective was Rosario Norte. We walked slowly up the Ruri Lelle and bivouacked at 5000 meters. The north ridge proved to be composed of extremely shattered rock and we turned back. The next day, July 25, Marsh and I left for the east ridge, a relatively straightforward snow climb except for a problematic rock step. We reached the summit of Rosario Norte (5596 meters, 18,350 feet) at 12:15 P.M. Patterson and Leeming went up the Jurau Glacier to investigate a possible ascent of Trapecio while Marsh and I planned a visit to the Ancocancha region on the west side of the Quebrada Seria. We two climbed to the foot of the long east ridge of Ancocancha Este. On the third day we got high but not to the summit. On our return to Base Camp we found that Patterson and Leeming had found the snow too deep on the west-southwest buttress of Trapecio but on July 28 had climbed P 5297 (17,379 feet) between Trapecio and Quesillo via some old fixed ropes on the west face. We then all headed for Sarapo Oeste (5567 meters, 18,266 feet), an apparently unclimbed satellite of Sarapo. We bivouacked at Sarapoqocha, below our peak's west ridge. On August 2 we four traversed around the west ridge and climbed by two different routes on the steep ice of the north face. Marsh and I opted for a new route up P 5297. We climbed a steep iced gully with little protection. This brought us to below a huge umbrella-shaped cornice. A long traverse right found us a break in the cornice and we got to the Trapecio-P 5297 col. Half an hour of scrambling brought us to the summit. Marsh and I then hoped to climb Ancocancha Este. From a bivouac at the foot of the east ridge, we reached our previous high point. We floundered through powder snow to reach a point above a large col below the summit. Beyond the col, the snow was avalanche-prone. A windslab parted from the line of our footprints. We reached the narrow domed summit (5600 meters, 18,373 feet) at 11:50 A.M. on August 8. This may have been a first ascent. The last

climb, which all of us made, was of Rasac (6040) meters, 19,817 feet) by its east ridge on August 13. I made a small 20-minute diversion to climb to the top of Seria Norte (5860 meters, 19,226 feet) on the descent.

MARK LOWE, *North London Mountaineering Club, England*

### Southern Peru

*Salcantay, East and South Ridges, 1983.* Yugoslavs arrived at Base Camp south of Salcantay on June 7, 1983. On June 12 Tine Bucik, Slavko Frantar, Vanja Matijevič and Lado Vidmar started up the south ridge while brothers Niko and Slavko Novak headed for the east ridge. The latter two made a variant at the beginning of the New Zealand route and reached the summit on June 14, 1983. This route ascends the southeast face and joins the east ridge halfway up. They descended the Polish route, which follows the whole east ridge to its base. The south-ridge group took the Japanese route. On June 12 they got to 17,225 feet. The next day bad weather and technical difficulties prevented their gaining more than 800 feet. On the third day, 65° to 75° ice and difficult rock led them to the crux, a 130-foot-high vertical ice step. They bivouacked on the top of this. They reached the summit on June 15, 1983 and also descended the Polish route.

FRANCI SAVENC, *Planinska Zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*

*Colque Cruz Group, Cordillera Vilcanota.* Our expedition from Nürnberg was composed of Werner Scharl, leader, K. Scharl, R. Ilg, F. Rollenmiller, K. Sieland, H. Wolf, R. Sporer, H. Stiegler, W. Zinsmeister, K.H. Thiele, H. Sauer, H.W. Büttner and me. All were first ascents except where noted. We made the following ascents. Colque Cruz I (6102 meters, 20,020 feet; 5th ascent by new route) by Ilg, Zinsmeister, August 21, west-east traverse; Colque Cruz II (6050 meters, 19,850 feet) by K. and W. Scharl, Rollenmiller, Funke, Büttner, Thiele, August 22, via north face and west ridge; Colque Cruz VI (Nevado Zapata; 5970 meters, 19,587 feet; 5th ascent) by Wolf, Stiegler, Sporer, Sporer, Sieland, August 17, via northeast ridge; Nevado Cruz (5900 meters, 19,357 feet) by Zinsmeister, Ilg, August 20, via west-east traverse; Caracha (5800 meters, 19,029 feet) by W. Scharl, Funke, Ilg, Zinsmeister, August 17, via west ridge and by Ilg, Zinsmeister, August 20, via west-east traverse; Kiru (5720 meters, 18,767 feet; 3rd ascent) by Sieland, Sauer, Sporer, August 24, via north ridge; Ancahuacán I (5500 meters, 17,045 feet) by Sauer, Sieland, Sporer, August 25, via northeast face; Incaichuni Central (5458 meters, 17,908 feet, 4th ascent, new route) by W. and K. Scharl, Rollenmiller, Funke, Büttner, Thiele, August 12, via west ridge; P 5420 (17,782 feet) by Sieland, Ilg, Sauer, Sporer, Büttner, via northeast face; Hiscachani I (5400 meters, 17,717 feet) by Wolf, Stiegler, Sauer, Sporer, Sieland, August 12, by west face; Huiscachani II (5440 meters, 17,848 feet) by K. and W. Scharl, Rollenmiller, Funke, Ilg, Thiele, August 14, via west face; Huiscachani III (5420 meters, 17,782 feet) by Ilg, Funke, W. Scharl, August 14, via south

ridge; Payachata Central (5400 meters, 17,717 feet; 4th ascent, new route) by Sieland, Sauer, August 20, via northwest face and ridge; Incaichuni Oeste (5250 meters, 17,225 feet; 9th ascent) by whole party minus Funke, August 11, via west ridge and by W. and K. Scharl, Funke, Büttner, Rollenmiller, August 12, via southeast ridge, a new route; Parioc Este (5200 meters, 17,061 feet; 3rd ascent, new route) by W. Scharl, Funke, via northeast couloir; Huarani (5200 meters, 17,061 feet) by Wolf, Sauer, Sieland, Sporer, August 13, via south ridge; P 5150 (16,897 feet) and P 5100 (16,733 feet) by Wolf, Sauer, Sieland, Sporer, August 13, via south-north traverse; Parioc Oeste (5150 meters, 16,897 feet) by Funke, W. Scharl, Thiele, August 28, via northeast side; Parioc Central (5100 meters, 16,733 feet) by Wolf, Stiegler, August 20, via north side; Parihuachana I (4900 meters, 16,076 feet) by Thiele, Rollenmiller, August 13, via north side, by W. Scharl, August 15, via east side, and by Sieland, Sporer, August 21, via traverse; Parihuachana II (4920 meters, 16,142 feet) by Thiele, Rollenmiller, August 13, via north side, by W. Scharl, August 15, via east side, and by Sieland, Sporer, August 21, via traverse; Parihuac III (4920 meters, 16,142 feet) and Parihuac IV (4820 meters, 15,912 feet) by W. Scharl, August 15, by east side and northeast ridge, and by Sieland, Sporer, August 21, via traverse and northeast ridge; Huayruruni (5100 meters, 16,733 feet) by W. and K. Scharl, Büttner, Zinsmeister, August 10.

CHRISTIAN FUNKE, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Ausangate, Northwest Face Attempt, Cordillera Vilcanota, 1982.* On pages 206 and 208 of *A.A.J.*, 1984, an ascent of Ausangate's northwest face was described. A photograph of the route appears on page 207. In *Lo Scarpone* of July 1, 1984, an account appears of a previous attempt made on August 9, 1982 by Fausto De Stefani, Luigi Mignocchi and Carlo Santus. They reported that this route, entirely on ice, had two 25-foot overhangs at 17,400 feet. The face averaged 65° to 70°. They reached the top of the face but did not climb the final 900 feet to the summit.

## Bolivia

*Cordillera Real and Cordillera Occidental.* My wife Ria and I were in the field from August 3 to September 14. We first climbed in the Cordillera Real from the valley of Río Palcoco and Laguna Khunu Kkota. Base Camp was at 4800 meters at the tongue of the glacier northeast of the lake. We made the following climbs: P 5342 (17,526 feet) by the northwest rock ridge and Pura-purani Thojó (5416 meters, 17,770 feet) by the northeast ridge connecting it to P5342, both on August 11; P 5396 (17,704 feet; north of P 5396) by the south snow ridge on August 12; P 5398 (17,711 feet; north of P 5396) by the northeast ridge on August 13; and Catanani (5468 meters, 17,940 feet) by the rotten-rock south rib to the snow south ridge on August 14. Some of these may have been climbed by the Bavarian Naturfreunde in 1969. The weather was usually bad.

It snowed every day and we had deep new snow. We then jeeped to the Cordillera Occidental in the south near the Salar de Uyuni. From San Pedro de Quemes on August 22 we climbed Cerro Caltama (5385 meters, 17,667 feet) from the south to the high points on the east and west crater rims. From Laguna Cañapa on August 25 we climbed 6000 vertical feet to Cerro Caquella (5950 meters, 19,521 feet) from the west up steep snow to the summit on the southern crater rim. On August 27 we ascended also 6000 vertical feet from Chiguana by the southeast slopes and south ridge to the summit of Cerro Luxsar (5510 meters, 18,078 feet). On August 31 we climbed Cerro Chiguana (5278 meters, 17,317 feet) up the northwest slopes. The climbing is wearying with great distances and differences in altitude. We returned to the Cordillera Real and made a final climb of Condoriri (5648 meters, 18,531 feet) by its south ridge on September 9.

ANTON PUTZ, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Illimani, West Ridge, Illampu, Northwest Face, Huayna Potosí, West Face.* Janez Zupanz and I spent two months in the Cordillera Real. After acclimatizing by climbing Condoriri and Alpamayo Chico, we climbed the west ridge of Illimani Norte (6402 meters, 21,004 feet). It took three days, May 25 to 27, to climb the 6000-foot-high route under unfavorable conditions. Some pitches were of 65°. On June 6, after severe approach problems, we made what local information claims is a new route on Illampu. From a bivouac at 17,400 feet we climbed the northwest face on its right side to join the southwest ridge at 18,975 feet. The first pitch was 75° and the rest 50° to 60°. We followed the southwest ridge to the summit (6367 meters, 20,890 feet), which we reached after six hours of climbing. We descended the southwest ridge that same day. [This route is far to the right of the Yugoslavian route reported in *A.A.J.*, 1984, pages 210-1. The previous route was on the left side of the face and emerged on the ridge to the left of the summit as viewed from below.—Editor.] On June 15 we climbed the west face of Huayna Potosí on its right side in ten hours.

ALEŠ ROTAR, *Planinska Zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*

*History and Relative Heights of Tiquimani's Three Peaks.* Tiquimani, one of the finest peaks in the Cordillera Real, has long posed a problem for Andean historians. Two fundamental questions have gone unanswered: which is the true summit, the west, central, or east peak? and who made the first ascent of the mountain? Recent research provides some answers: the true summit is the west peak; and Friedrich Fritz and Wilfrid Kühm made the first ascent in July 1940. This ascent, undoubtedly the best rock climb undertaken in Bolivia up to that time, was a fine achievement, especially so since Fritz and Kühm climbed unroped. An account written by Fritz appeared in the obscure and long-defunct *Boletín de Ski y Andinismo* of the Club Andino Boliviano ("Un Problema de Roca," No. 4, 1946, pages 10-11). Germans, resident in La Paz, Fritz and Kühm ascended the mountain from the north, accompanied part of the way by

Friedrich Ahlfeld and Rolf Böttger. The account seems to describe an ascent to the west peak. Kühm, an accomplished alpinist, later made the first ascent of Condoriri. He disappeared on Illimani in 1941 while attempting the first traverse of that mountain. Fritz, a teacher at the German school in La Paz, remained a leading climber in Bolivia throughout the rest of the 1940's. The next reported attempt on Tiquimani took place in 1956 by Bolivian mountaineers. The attempt, more along the lines of a reconnaissance, was briefly mentioned in *Revista Andina* (No. 83, Jan.-June 1956, page 35). Not until 1963 did mountaineers again visit Tiquimani, and they came in force. In April, a Bolivian Army expedition led by Major Acero ascended the central peak. The little that I have been able to gather about this expedition was summed up in a couple of lines in the *A.A.J.*, 1964, page 219. However, the doubts expressed there concerning the Bolivian climb have never been supported by hard evidence, to my knowledge. In June and July 1963, members of a South African expedition led by D.R. Reinecke ascended all three peaks of Tiquimani (see his article "Climbing in Bolivia," *Journal of the Mountain Club of South Africa*, vol. 66, 1963, pages 57-68; or the book by Margaret Griffin, *Tiquimani*, Stellenbosch: Kosmo Pub., 1965). Near the summit of the west peak, the climbers were surprised to find a large wooden cross and during the descent they came across an old rope draped over the rocks. Apparently, Fritz and Kühm left these behind in 1940; or perhaps unknown climbers who came after the Germans were responsible for these artifacts. To find out more about these curious discoveries, I got in touch with Malcolm Griffin, a member of the 1963 South African expedition who reached the summit of both the west and east peaks. "My memory of the cross is rather vague," he says, "but I think it was two pieces of wood lashed together with wire or perhaps a nail. The summit we were on was five meters higher than the cross and twenty meters distant, but the cross may be on the true rock summit and the rest just ice. The rope was old hemp, definitely about twenty years old at the time and in places buried under tons of ice. It could not have belonged to the team of Major Acero. I retrieved a bit of this rope and posted a piece to Dr. Fritz at an address in Germany given to me by the Club Andino Boliviano, asking him to identify it, but had no reply. I still have the rest." Fritz makes no mention in his account of a cross. Concerning a rope, he says only that he and Kühm never took their rope out of the rucksack during the ascent to the summit. The problem of the true summit of Tiquimani has now been solved. In 1963, Malcolm Griffin took measurements with an Abney Level from the two summits that he was on: "From the east summit the west showed an elevation of  $1^{\circ}20'$  and from the west and the east showed a declination of  $1^{\circ}55'$ . I cannot account for the  $\frac{1}{2}$  degree difference but I don't think the margin of error could be so great as to put doubt on which is the higher." The central peak showed a declination of  $0^{\circ}30'$  from the east peak and a declination of  $2^{\circ}45'$  from the west peak. The west is clearly the highest, followed by the east and central. The central peak, although being the lowest, offers the most difficult climbing, however. The ice wall on the central peak ascended by Harold Hill and Jimmy Mills presented a greater challenge than anything else encountered by the South African expedition.

### Chile—Northern Andes

*Cerro Doña Inés, Pre-Columbian Ascents.* Although it had been ascended several times in the last few decades, no traces of pre-Columbian ascents had been reported for this well known peak, located some 30 miles north-northwest of the mineral area of Potrerillos, in Atacama Province in northern Chile. In March 1983, E. Baeza and J. Duran, of the recently formed Club de Montaña de Atacama, located on the top (5070 meters, 16,634 feet) an Inca altar, stone walls and several fireplaces.

HUMBERTO BARRERA, *Club Andino de Chile*

*Volcán Copiapó, pre-Columbian and Modern Ascents.* This prominent volcano (6072 meters or 19,922 feet) is located on the Chilean-Argentinian border and west of the Ojos del Salado. In 1937 it was ascended by members of the Polish expedition that saw on the summit platform several constructions probably built by Indians. The peak was ascended several times afterwards but no examination of those constructions was made. In January 1980 an expedition of the Club Andino de Chile, Santiago, carried out a preliminary survey. Three years later, in 1983, a large civilian-military group of ten people including a woman, Cecilia Leal, climbed to the summit and completed a survey of findings, which were later analyzed by archaeologist Angel Durán. The climbers located several terraces, one of them with a retaining wall, fireplaces and an altar.

HUMBERTO BARRERA, *Club Andino de Chile*

### Chile—Central Andes

*Tupungato and Tupungatito, First Winter Ascents.* The Spanish mountain guide and ski instructor at Farellones, Chile, Fernando Garrido, had attempted Tupungato in the winter of 1981. He succeeded in the same endeavor on October 16, 1984. He approached the mountain (6550 meters, 21,490 feet) by way of the Río Colorado valley, northeast of Santiago and mostly on skis reached the Vega de los Flojos, classical Base Camp for Tupungato. From this place he made the first ski ascent of Tupungatito (5640 meters, 18,504 feet) on October 10. He then ascended to the Portezuelo (gap) del Tupungato (c. 15000 feet) and carrying no tent, to save weight, he climbed to about 17,400 feet, where he had to abandon his skis. He continued and placed a bivouac on the north side of the mountain, at about 18,000 feet. On October 16 he reached the top of Tupungatito, finding there a Chilean and an Argentinian flag left by previous parties.

HUMBERTO BARRERA, *Club Andino de Chile*

### Argentina—Northern Andes

*Cerro de las Cuevas. Ancient and Modern Ascents.* Searching for the legendary Inca "city" of Aconquija, an expedition of the Club Andino Mercedario

(San Juan, Argentina) travelled to Concepción in Tucumán Province, reached the junction of the rivers Jaya and Las Pavas and, emerging from the forest, climbed the eastern slopes of the Nevados de Aconquija, a range that contains several peaks between 16,000 and 18,000 feet. The "city" itself was located at a height of 4300 meters (14,108 feet) and it was formed by two sections which are locally called Pueblo Viejo de Abajo and Pueblo Viejo de Arriba. The climbers believe that at its peak this Inca complex may have had 500 to 1000 inhabitants. Cerro de las Cuevas (5000 meters, 16,404 feet), on whose slopes the constructions are nested, was ascended by Antonio Beorchia (leader), C. Delgado, A. Graffigna, J. Garcés, D. Olivares, J. Oro and a woman, María Storico on July 23. The flat summit itself was surrounded by an elliptical wall, which contained several habitations. Traces of at least one modern ascent to the lesser peak, some 40 meters lower, were found. The well known archaeologist Juan Schobinger stayed behind several days at Pueblo Viejo to study its ruins and the ceramic pieces found.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

*Nevado Cajón, Pre-Columbian and Modern Ascents.* The "Momia de Los Quilmes" was possibly an Inca mummy found between 1920 and 1924 in some unknown place near Cafayate, in Salta Province, northern Argentina. The mummy itself is presumably lost but Argentinian mountaineers believed that it had been extracted from an Inca burial in some high Andean peak near Cafayate. Antonio Beorchia, head of the Centro de Investigaciones Arqueológicas de Alta Montaña, San Juan, organized an expedition to locate the burial ground of the now legendary mummy. Other expedition members were J. Garcés, G. and J.P. Oro, A. Rugna and F. Salgado. From local hillmen Beorchia learned that the mummy had been found on the summit of Nevado Cajón and that at least two previous different parties had ascended that peak to sack its Indian remains. The Beorchia expedition then ascended the mountain (5468 meters, 17,940 feet). A bone, possibly human, was found on the summit itself and some 150 feet below, walls and bundles of firewood. It is assumed by the Argentinians that the mummy had been indeed a sacrificial offering of Inca origin.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

*Luracatao.* The volcanic peak of Luracatao (5850 meters, 19,193 feet) was climbed on August 19 by Luis Aguilar and Cristián Vitry, of the Club Amigos de la Montaña, Salta, Argentina. The peak is located about 42 miles almost due west of the summer resort of Cachi, in the Salta province. The climbers ascended first the forepeak (c. 18,400 feet) and were astonished to find near it a large lake, frozen, probably the second highest body of water in the world (after the well known one in the crater of Licancabur volcano, a peak on the Chilean-Bolivian border). A bivouac was necessary and the summit reached the next day, a first ascent.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

### Argentina—Central Andes

*Aconcagua, First Female Ascent of the South Face.* In January my wife Titoune and I climbed the south face of Aconcagua by the French route, using the Messner finish. This is a superb climb on a par with great classics like the Eiger North Face, El Capitan and the easier long free routes in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. We spent five nights on the face which included 24 hours of waiting out bad weather and avalanches 300 meters from the top. An acclimatized team could easily climb this 3000-meter face with two bivouacs or less, but the great attraction of the climb is that it can be done in less than three weeks from USA to USA, no small concern to gainfully employed technical climbers. Here are some tips which might facilitate the climb. A permit is required and must be obtained in Mendoza at a location which seems to change yearly. Going without it involves a serious risk from the police or military. Mules are helpful to get from Puente del Inca at 9000 feet to Plaza Francia Base Camp at 13,000 feet and can be arranged on the spot. The lower section of the wall has many old and frayed lines; we felt that any advantage of using Jümars was greatly outweighed by the likelihood of the ropes breaking; the rock is only 5.8 anyway! The sérac band separating the middle snowfield from the rock varies from year to year and ranges from moderate snow ramps to 80° ice. We rested two nights on the snowfields to help our acclimatization. The summit is a full day from here and so it is smart to get a good rest and then go for the top and avoid a bivouac on the final icefields, which are swept by avalanches in bad weather. The descent is entirely non-technical and is roughly 30 miles (one day) to Puente del Inca.

JOHN BOUCHARD

*Aconcagua, Normal Route, Youngest Person to Ascend.* On February 14, Tony Martin, Berkeley Tilton, Richard Garrett, and Ron Garrett reached the summit of Aconcagua by the normal route, the northwest ridge. The ascent was special in that Richard Garrett, at 14 years of age, became the youngest person to climb Aconcagua. After resting two days at Plaza de Mulas Superior, camps were placed at 16,000, 18,000, and 19,800 feet (Berlin). Each camp was occupied two nights for acclimatization. The summit was reached from Berlin in approximately eight hours. The Gran Canaleta was almost completely void of snow which made scrambling up the last few hundred feet to the summit an ordeal of sliding and slipping on loose rocks.

RONALD C. GARRETT, *Talkeetna, Alaska*

*Aconcagua, South Face.* Sharon Wood and I have just returned from what strikes us as an extraordinary experience. We climbed the French route on the south face of Aconcagua from December 17 to 22. All we can say is that Robert Paragot, who led the first ascent, is an amazing man! We found the route very challenging. I believe that Sharon is the second woman to have climbed the face.

CARLOS BUHLER

*Aconcagua, South Face.* The Polish woman, Wanda Rutkiewicz, along with the Swiss Stéphane Schaffter succeeded in making the ascent of the south face of Aconcagua by the 1954 French route from January 16 to 19, 1985. They were trapped for a day 1000 meters below the top by the weather. The climb was difficult both from a technical and a psychological standpoint. They had rock of UIAA V difficulty and much steep ice with vertical or overhanging sections. There was rockfall and avalanche danger. On the first day Wanda was caught in a powder-snow avalanche but not dragged off her holds. The bivouac sites were very bad. They reached the summit at five P.M. and descended the normal route, reaching Base Camp, 10,000 feet lower that same day! Rutkiewicz is the third woman to have made the climb and the first European. She was preceded by Titoune Bouchard and Sharon Wood.

JOZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Cerro Bonete.* Seven mountaineers from Mendoza and Buenos Aires explored and climbed in the area forming the provincial boundaries between Mendoza and San Juan in January. From the railroad station of Punta de Vacas they went into de Matienzo valley where they used as a base a hut intended for glaciologists. In two groups they ascended four peaks, three of which were christened after Argentinian climbers that have perished in climbing accidents: Cerro Ulens (4920 meters, 16,142 feet), Cerro Castro (5150 meters, 16,897 feet) and Cerro Frías (4875 meters, 15,993 feet). The fourth peak was known as La Flaca (4900 meters, 16,076 feet). The entire group then entered the valley called Cajón del Rubio and climbed Cerro Alma Blanca (5170 meters, 16,962 feet). On its lower peak they found a tin box left by a Brazilian party that had climbed it in 1957. In the second part of their program they crossed a pass located in the north rim of Cajón del Rubio and descended to the Volcán River. It took them two days to place camps on the flanks of the fine square ice peak of Cerro Bonete (5281 meters, 17,327 feet), which was subsequently climbed in two groups: by the south face and by the southwest gully and ridge. Except for the lower summit of Alma Blanca, all these were first ascents. Members were Marcelo and Liliana Aguilar, Alberto Bendinger, Guillermo and Daniel Burrieza, Osvaldo Brandi and Pedro Friedrich.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

*Maipo, First Ski Ascent.* The route for this, one of the very few ski ascents accomplished in the Andes, started at the military Refugio Cruz de Piedra, continued through Vegas del Yaucha, los Paramillos and on to a second hut called El Cilindro, built near the big lake of Diamante for scientific purposes. The two participants of this expedition, Daniel Alto and Rodolfo Grispo (Club Andinista Mendoza), reached the summit of Volcán Maipo (5290 meters, 17,356 feet) at seven P.M. on September 27. Due to the late hour, they had to bivouac at the base of the mountain.

LUIS A. PARRA, *Club Andinista Mendoza*

*Cerro Pabellón, Second Ascent.* As a final celebration of a climbing course given during February by the Club Andinista Mendoza, nine mountaineers including several women made the second ascent of Cerro Negro or Pabellón (6152 meters, 20,183 feet), which had been ascended in 1969 by an Argentinian-Japanese group (*A.A.J.*, 1970, pages 174-5). The expedition reached the eastern base of the mountain on muleback and from the Refugio Real de la Cruz the ascent was accomplished with three high camps.

LUIS A. PARRA, *Club Andinista Mendoza*

### Chilean—Argentine Patagonia

*Fitz Roy, North Face.* A Polish expedition climbed a new route on the north face of Fitz Roy between the Casarotto buttress and Afanassieff's route. They were Piotr Lutynski, Wiesław Burzynski, Mirosław Falco-Sasal, Michal Kochanczak and Jacek Kozaczkiwicz. They set up Base Camp at the Piedra del Fraile and a high camp at the foot of the north face. They were twelve days on the ascent, eight days on the final push and two more on the descent. They reached the summit on December 24 at three P.M. They were lucky in having an unprecedented stretch of good weather.

LUCIANO PERA, *Club Andino Bariloche*

*Fitz Roy.* Scott Backes and I climbed Fitz Roy by the American Route. We arrived in Base Camp on January 2. After 42 days and four unsuccessful attempts we climbed the route in 2½ days from Base Camp. We reached the summit at three P.M. on February 12. Four French climbers reached the summit six hours later and bivouacked on the descent. The descent took six hours and 18 rappels and we reached our ice cave below the col at dark. It took another five hours to descend to Base Camp in deteriorating weather. This was the first period of clear weather longer than 24 hours since December.

SCOTT COLE

*Aguja Mermoz, Northwest Face, Second Ascent.* Raúl Storino, Guillermo Raynié and I made the second ascent of Aguja Mermoz by the northwest face. From Base Camp at Piedra del Fraile we went to our first bivouac at the foot of the rock bands on which we fixed 650 feet of rope that same day. We climbed on February 11 the 3500 vertical feet in 22 pitches to the summit and descended a short distance for a second bivouac. On the third day we made 19 rappels and returned to Base Camp.

ALBERTO TARDITTI, *Club Andino Córdoba, Argentina*

*Cerro Torre, Fitz Roy, Aguja Guillaumet and Aguja Poincenot, 1983.* In October 1982 Ermanno Salvaterra and Elio Orlandi failed by 100 feet to complete the Maestri route on the east buttress of Cerro Torre when the weather

turned bad. They returned in 1983 and with Maurizio Giarolli, Salvaterra completed the climb on October 25, 1983. They bivouacked twice on the ascent and once more on the descent. On November 26 Salvaterra, Giarolli and Orlandi made the fourth ascent of the Super-Couloir of Fitz Roy, making a new variation by climbing directly for the summit from the great chockstone. On December 2 Salvaterra, Ginella Paganini, Orlandi and Argentine Jorge Tarditti climbed the Aguja Guillaumet by the southeast couloir. On December 7 Salvaterra, Giarolli, Tarditti and Orlandi ascended the Aguja Poincenot by the Whillans route on the southeast. Orlandi and Tarditti made a new variant, climbing the west face from the shoulder.

*Cerro Torre, Maestri Route.* Italians Elio Orlandi and Livio Rigotti climbed the Maestri route on Cerro Torre. They reached the summit, in two days, alpine-style, on December 14 and spent a third on the descent. They had arrived in Argentina on November 12.

LUCIANO PERA, *Club Andino Bariloche*

*Cerro Torre.* On January 23, 1985 Manfred Lorenz and Hans Bärnthaler reached the summit of Cerro Torre by its southeast ridge, the Maestri route. Details are lacking.

*Poincenot, Saint Exupéry and Attempt on Cerro Stanhardt.* The Swiss Martin Moosberger and Thomas Wüschner climbed Aguja Poincenot by the Whillans route on November 11 and got to the summit of Saint Exupéry by the Italian route on December 6. On November 17 they reached a point only 100 meters from the summit of Cerro Stanhardt in an attempt to make a new route on the east face.

VOJSLAV ARKO, *Club Andino Bariloche*

*Gorra Blanca Ascent and Attempts on Fitz Roy, Cerro Torre and Other Peaks.* My husband Gino Buscaini and I climbed the whole of the Supercouloir of Fitz Roy on December 6 but because of bad weather we had to rappel off the next day. The weather that followed was lovely but too hot. It foiled an attempt on Cerro Torre from the Continental Icecap on the west. There was bare ice and falling ice. On the way back to Base Camp at Piedra del Fraile, we made on December 18 what was probably the third ascent of Gorra Blanca. Two other attempts on Fitz Roy, this time by the Chouinard route were driven back by rockfall and falling ice. We then turned to the San Lorenzo group, where we made the first ascent of Cerro Penitentes (2930 meters, 9613 feet) on January 22, 1985 by way of the north glacier. We then made three easy first ascents: Cerro de los Pedreros (2250 meters, 7382 feet), Cerro de las Aguas Seltas (2280 meters, 7480 feet) and Pirámide Bella Vista (2100 meters, 6890 feet). We found a cairn on the summit of Cerro de los Cónderes (2250 meters, 7382 feet), which lies north-northeast of Cerro Hermoso.

SILVIA METZELTIN BUSCAINI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Cerro Mayo.* Our expedition from Bergamo was composed of Mario Curnis, Sergio Dalla Longa, Carlo Ferrari, Antonio Magnanoni, Dr. Annibale Bonicelli, Nicola Nava and me as leader. We arrived at Base Camp at only 200 meters at the head of Mayo Fjord of Lago Argentino on November 27. We ascended the badly crevassed Mayo Glacier and pitched two tents at the foot of an impressive unnamed tower on December 6 as bad weather continued. On December 12, taking advantage of a break in the weather, Curnis, Dalla Longa, Ferrari and Magnanoni climbed steep ice to the foot of the final wall. At 1730 meters, still 300 meters or so from the summit, they were barely missed by a huge avalanche and retreated. Feeling the tower was too dangerous, on December 14 the same four climbed to bivouac at 1650 meters on Cerro Mayo's south face. On the 15th they got to a col at 1750 meters on the west ridge, which they followed to the summit (2450 meters, 8038 feet). Cerro Mayo had been climbed in 1931 by Padre De Agostini by the easy opposite side. Ours was the second ascent and by a difficult new route.

PIERO NAVA, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Paine Oriental or Paine Chico.* After being frustrated by bad weather in their attempt on a new route on the Torre Central del Paine, Italians S. Della Longa and G. Iezzi climbed the southeast ridge of Paine Oriental or Paine Chico (2460 meters, 8071 feet) on January 5. This not very difficult climb was not a first ascent but Italians had not previously done it.

*Corrections and Additions to Accounts of Chilean-Argentine Patagonia in A.A.J., 1984* With the climbing season in the Southern Hemisphere coming close to publication date, it is now necessary to add to and correct what was published last year. The American route on Fitz Roy was climbed not only by Swiss Anker and Wüschner as stated on page 219 of *A.A.J.*, 1984 but also on February 5 by Swiss Marco Pedrini and Romolo Nottaris and on February 12 by Americans as noted above and Frenchmen J.F. Lemoine, J.M. Boucansaud, Pierre Faivre and Yves Astier. Unfortunately, Annie and Denis Pivot did not reach the summit as stated in *A.A.J.*, 1984. The Tarditti mentioned on page 216 was an Argentine, Jorge Tarditti. On page 219 it was Carlo Alde (not Adi) with those who climbed Cerro Murallón. The Italians reached the summit on February 14 after having first fixed 500 meters of rope and then spending four days on the face in the final assault. The new route climbed on Aguja Mermoz by the Yugoslavs, noted on page 219, was to the top of the left side of the face and not to the summit. Therefore it cannot be counted as the second ascent of the peak.

VOJSLAV ARKO, *Club Andino Bariloche*

## Tierra del Fuego

*Tierra del Fuego Climbing and Kayaking.* From January to March Paul de Mengel and I explored Tierra del Fuego. Starting at Puerto Hambre, a roadhead

just south of Punta Arenas, we kayaked across the Magellan Straits, through the Aqualisman Channel and along Cockburn Canal to reach the shore east of Sarmiento. We failed to attempt Sarmiento because of its scale and the weather. We climbed two small mountains south of Seno Agostini and failed on a 6600-foot peak that lies between the other two. We were totally self-contained, carrying alpine climbing gear, filming equipment and food for two months.

ALAN HUGHES, *Wales*

*Cordillera Darwin Traverse.* Eight students of the Universidad Austral of Punta Arenas accomplished in February, 1983 the first complete traverse of the Cordillera Darwin, the principal and by far the most complex mountain massif in the Chilean portion of Tierra del Fuego. The expedition started on the north coast, with a landing place at the Seno (fjord) del Almirantazgo and dragged its four sleds loaded with supplies for the next 20 days. The students climbed the main glacier, which they named after their university, where they located remains of an old airplane crash. They descended toward Puerto Williams, on Beagle Channel.

HUMERTO BARRERA, *Club Andino de Chile*

*Attempt to get to Antarctica.* In December Canadians had hoped to fly to Antarctica to climb the Vinson Massif. They started with the same plane used by Bonington and the Americans in 1983 but they had British pilots. After difficulties about landing at the Esperanza Base, for which they had permission from the Argentine government, they landed instead at Río Gallegos. The Argentine authorities there took the pilots into custody because they were British and thus the expedition ended.

VOJSLAV ARKO, *Club Andino Bariloche, Argentina*

## SOUTH ATLANTIC

*Royal Bay and Ross Glacier Area, South Georgia.* Our team, David Craw, Peter D. Johnstone, Alan J. Knowles and I, was accompanied by a film crew, Bev and Rob Brown. We were landed at Royal Bay in early November and collected on Christmas Eve. We climbed the following peaks between 2000 and 3000 feet around Royal Bay: Mount Krokisius, Binary Peak, Pirner Peak, Neighbour Peak, Coffin Top, Mount Burley, Mount Fagan and Broken Peak; and around St. Andrews Bay: Mount Skittle, Szielaska Icecap and two unnamed peaks beside the Cook Glacier. Four first ascents were made of these peaks of 3000 to 5000 feet around the Hindle Glacier: unnamed northern outlier of Smokey Wall by Knowles and Johnstone, unnamed peak between Hindle and Weddell Glaciers by Craw and Knowles and two smaller peaks on the Hindle-Weddell divide. The Hindle Glacier, never previously visited, was explored and

surveyed. We made ski crossings of the Weddell Glacier and of Ross Pass and the first ascent of two unnamed peaks between the Cook and Heaney Glaciers. Geological work was carried out on all trips away from the Royal Bay base. The film crew recorded expedition activities, the local wildlife, old whaling activity and the influence of the recent conflict on the island. During a stopover at Grytviken the team also traversed the Petrel Peaks and Mount Hodges.

IAN M. TURNBULL, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

## ANTARCTICA

*English Coast and Eastern Ellsworth Land, 1984-5.* On December 11, a seven-person U.S. Geological Survey party, including Pete Rowley, *leader*, Karl Kellogg, Tom Laudon, Dave Lidke, Mike O'Neill, Janet Thomson and me, flew from McMurdo Station to FitzGerald Bluffs on the English Coast. We completed a geological reconnaissance of the English Coast and in late January, 1985 made a 270-mile snowmobile and ski traverse southeastward to the Bahrendt Mountains of eastern Ellsworth Land. In addition to the geological work, first ascents were made of several prominent peaks: Schwartz Peak via the east face and south ridge by Kellogg and me on December 27; Mount Thornton, a large snow dome capping an extinct volcano, via the south face by Kellogg, O'Neill and me on January 13, 1985; Mount Rex via the north ridge by Lidke, O'Neill, Rowley and Thomson and via the east face by me on January 15. In the Bahrendt Mountains, Lidke and I made the second ascent of the northwest ridge of Mount Chandler and I climbed the easy south ridge of Mount Suggs, both on January 26. The summit of Suggs was a 10-foot-high mushroom whose top I reached via several exposed moves on its southwest corner. On January 5 Kellogg and I attempted Mount Benkert, an 1800-foot ice-plastered volcanic spire, which rises directly from the frozen sea near Spaatz Island. We climbed 50° snow granular ice on the north face to the crest of the west ridge. Benkert's lower west peak is home to nesting snowy petrels; as we worked along the narrow ridge crest, these beautiful, all-white birds swooped past us. About 150 feet below the summit, we were stopped by a fantastically corniced section of the arête. Benkert is easily the most impressive peak in the entire southern Antarctic Peninsula. Its first ascent will be a real prize, though the approach is formidable. On February 4 we were picked up at FitzGerald Bluffs and returned to McMurdo Station after 56 days in the field.

WALTER VENNUM

## ASIA

### Bhutan

*Jichu Drake or Tsherim Kang Tragedy.* Our 13-man expedition left Italy on August 21. We were flown in a small plane of the Bhutanese Airline to Paro at