

3102m (10,177'), Cerro Eléctrico 2257m (7405'). On Hoja *Viedma* 4972-25 and 4972-30 are Cerro Solo 2121m (6959') and Cerro Grande 2751m (9025').

MARCELO SCANU, *Grupo Andino Huamán, Buenos Aires, Argentina*

Austral Summer Season in the Fitz Roy Area, 1991-2. News is beginning to reach us now on February 14 about the climbing season during the end of 1991 and the beginning of 1992. Aguja Poincenot was climbed by Argentines Máximo Schneider and Oscar Pandolfi on January 28, 1992, by Argentines Teo Plaza and Ramiro Calvo and by two Brazilians. All climbed the Whillans route. Later, Plaza climbed Fitz Roy by the Argentine route with a Spaniard. The Aguja Guillaumet was climbed by Horacio Bresba solo. The same peak was also climbed by two women from Buenos Aires. Casimiro Ferrari and two other Italians climbed the highest (north) summit of Bifida, thinking they had made a first ascent. They later learned that Swiss Peter Lüthi and Argentine Horacio Bresba had made the first ascent in 1989. There is a rumor that Italian Ermano Salvaterra climbed Poincenot by the west face, but we have no details as yet. Aside from Andy DeKlerk's and Julie Brugger's ascent of Cerro Torre, a group of Mexicans made the ascent in five days.

VOJSLAV ARKO, *Club Andino Bariloche*

Cerro Torre, El Mocho, Torre Innominata. Cerro Torre repulsed all attempts until January 28 when numerous parties reached the summit via the Maestri compressor route. This included Andy DeKlerk and Julie Brugger of Seattle. Previously, they had repeated the Piola-Anker route on the east buttress of El Mocho. After the Cerro Torre ascent, they went on to repeat the Piola-Anker route on the north spur of the Torre Innominata.

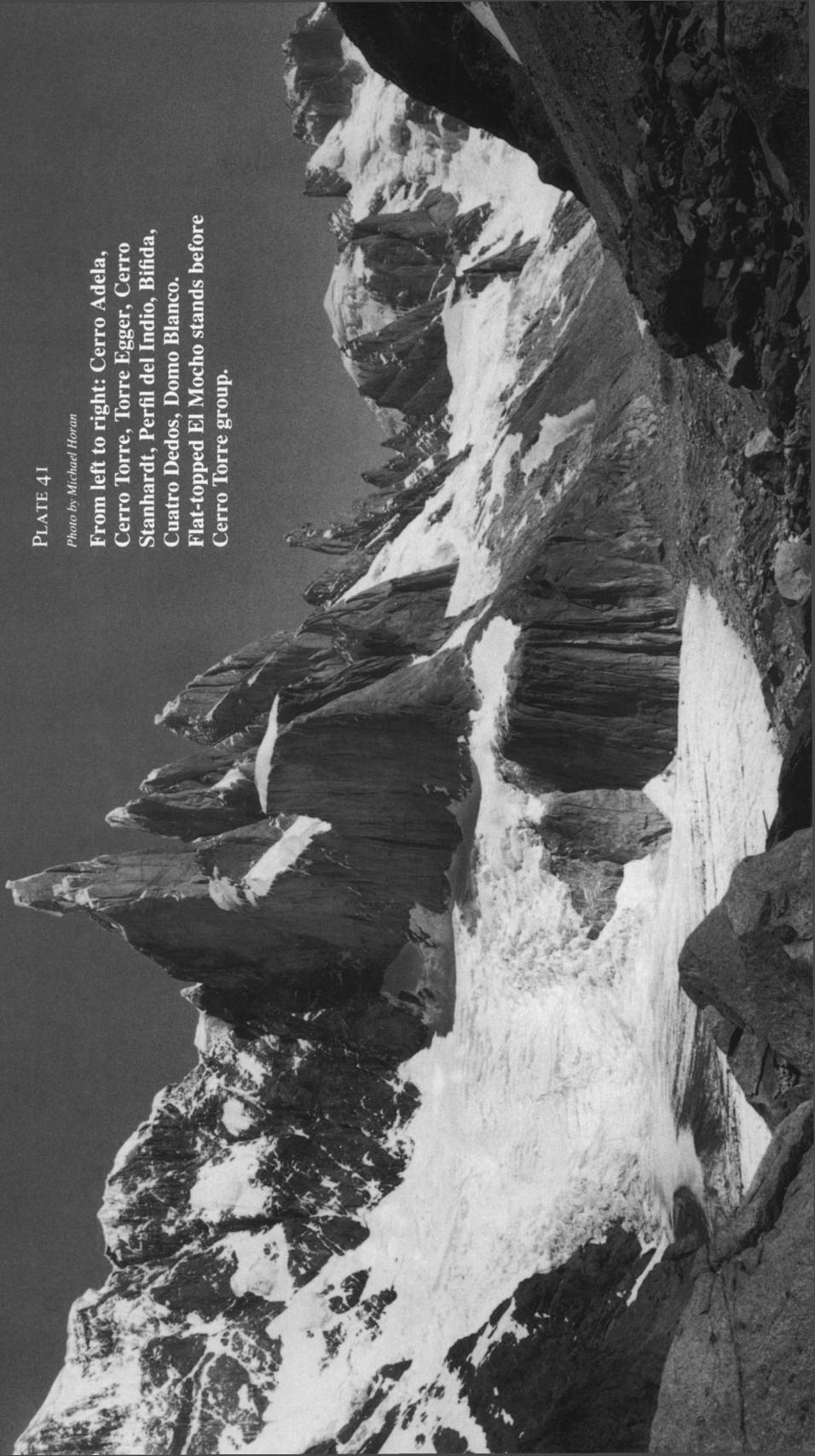
TODD SWAIN, *Unaffiliated*

El Mocho, Aguja Poincenot and Cerro Torre, 1991-2. Steve Gerberding and I arrived at Campo Bridwell in the Torre valley on November 22, 1991. That same day, we made two carries, set up camp and finally got to sleep at three A.M. the following morning. At eight A.M., the sun spurred us into action. We immediately headed up the glacier and made a cache under El Mocho. The next day was also fine and we carried more gear and bivouacked on the shoulder of El Mocho. The following day was also beautiful and we made our first foray to Cerro Torre's south face. After studying the face through binoculars from various angles, we found our hopes of climbing a new route on this 6000-foot-high face dashed. We continued to the base of the face to confirm the desperate nature of the cracks. The amount of drilling required immediately made our decision easy to abandon the attempt before we wasted our entire stay. Since we were already in the area with equipment in hand, we set our sights on the beautiful unclimbed south face of El Mocho, the Half Dome look-alike next to

PLATE 41

Photo by Michael Horan

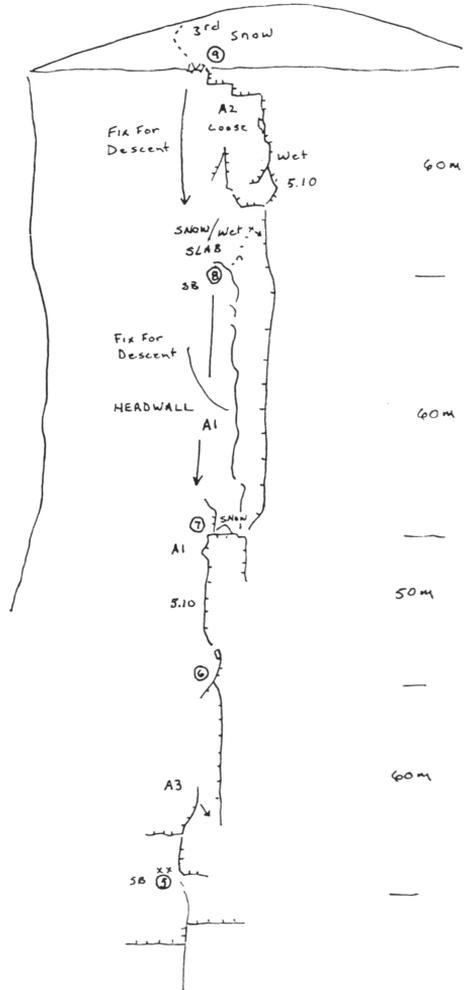
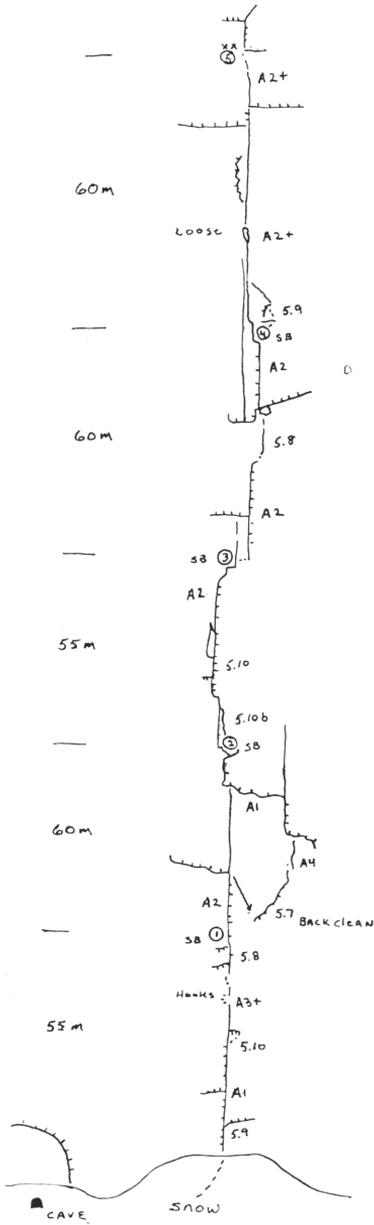
**From left to right: Cerro Adela,
Cerro Torre, Torre Egger, Cerro
Stanhardt, Perfil del Indio, Bifida,
Cuatro Dedos, Domo Blanco.
Flat-topped El Mocho stands before
Cerro Torre group.**



EL MOCHO - SOUTH FACE

BACK TO THE FRONT VI 5.10 A4

First Ascent: Jay Smith Steve Gerberding
1-2-92



AGUJAS POINCENOT SW FACE (1200m)

JUDGEMENT DAY VI S.11 A1

First Ascent - 1-28-92 JAY SMITH & STEVE GERBERDING

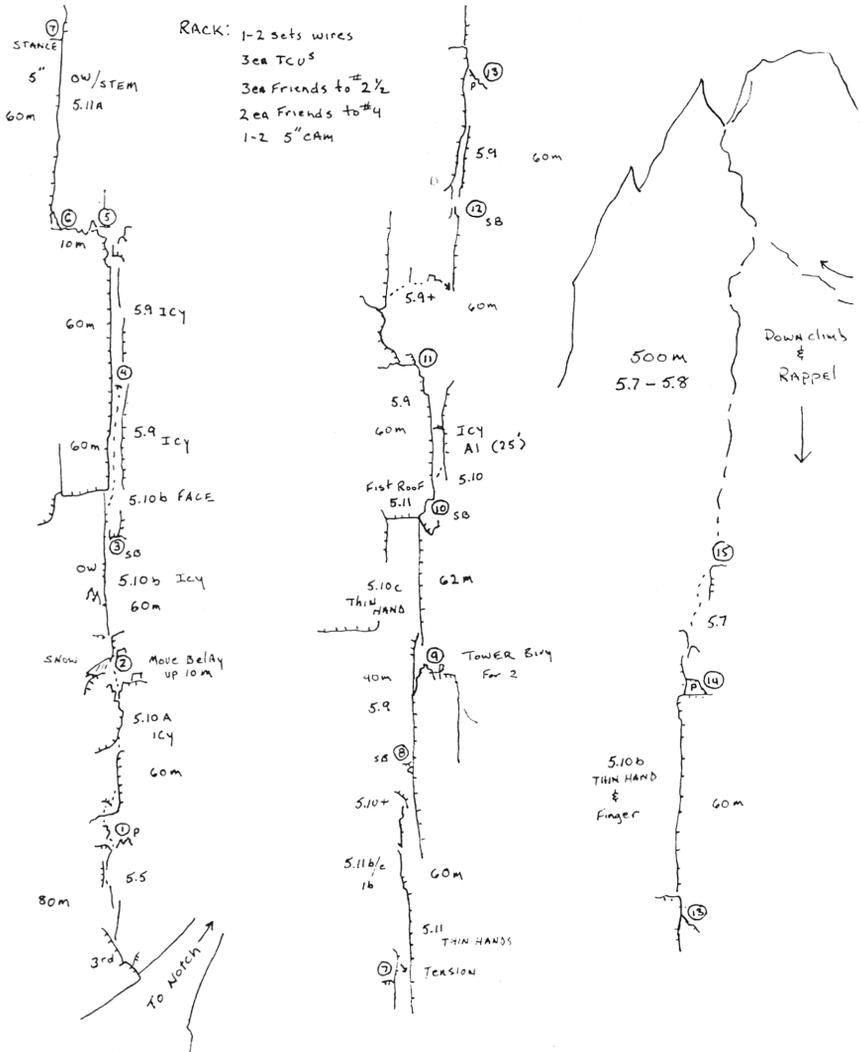
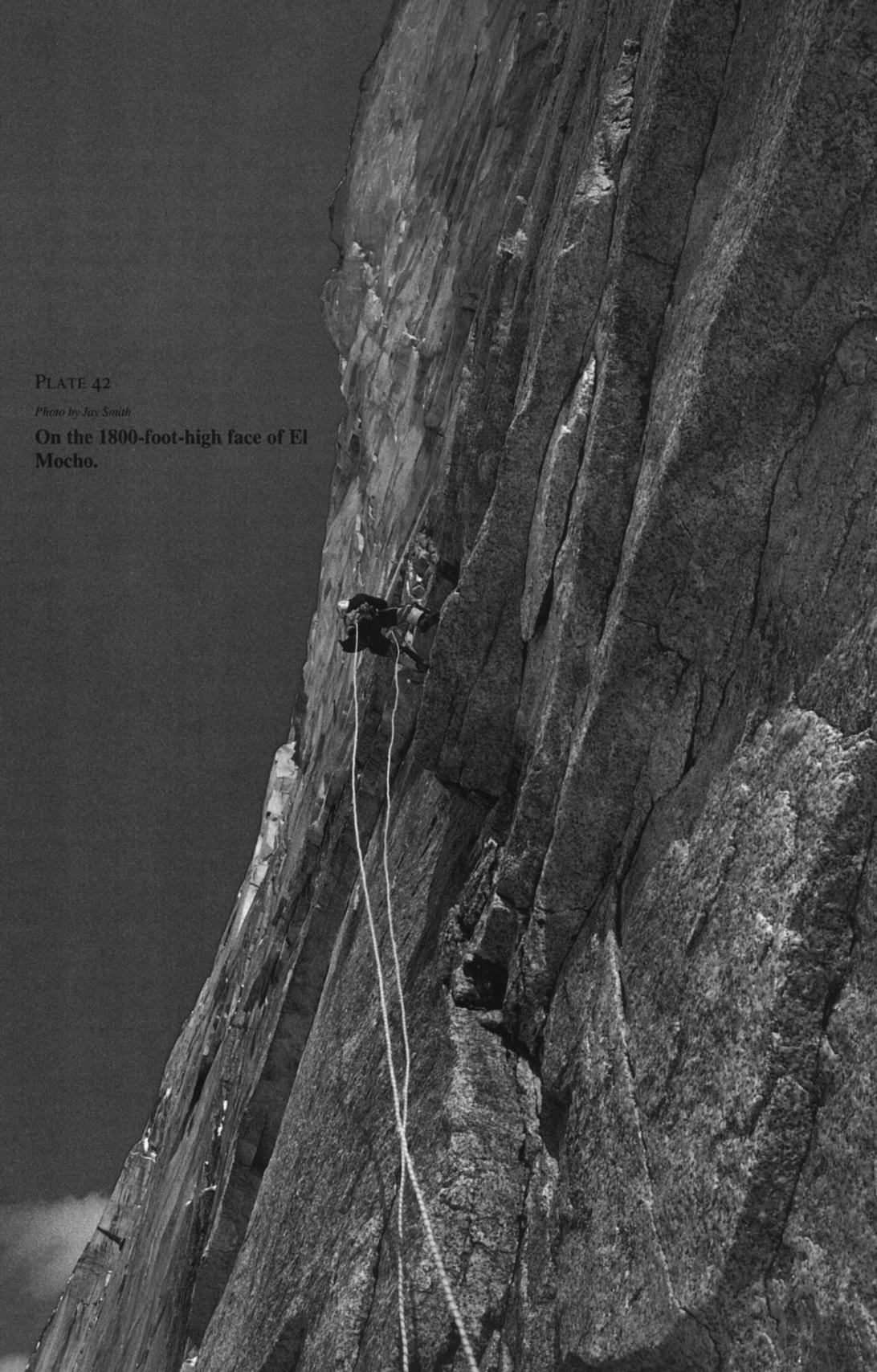
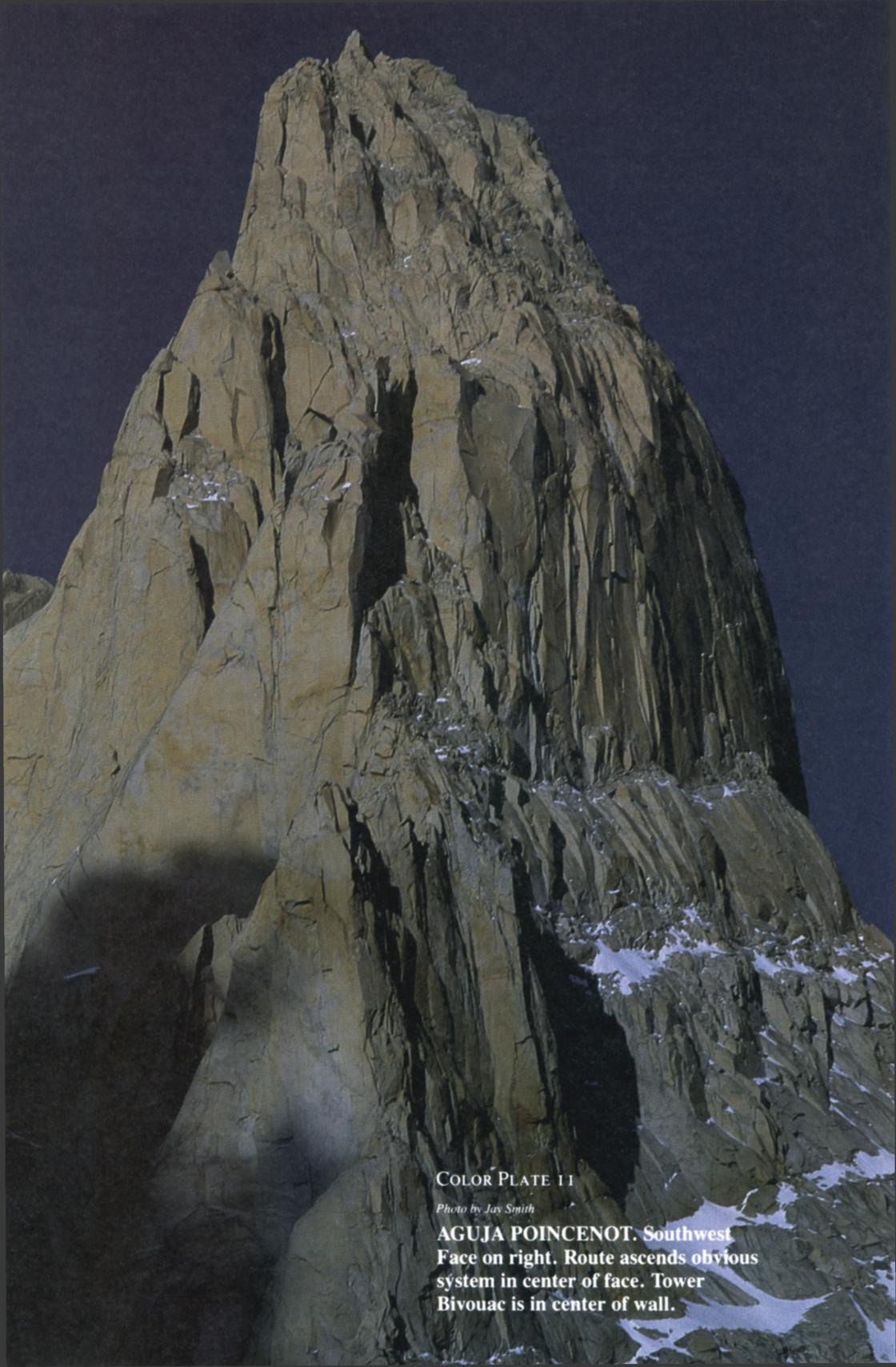


PLATE 42

Photo by Jay Smith

On the 1800-foot-high face of El Mocho.





COLOR PLATE II

Photo by Jay Smith

**AGUJA POINCENOT. Southwest
Face on right. Route ascends obvious
system in center of face. Tower
Biviouac is in center of wall.**

Cerro Torre. We figured we could make the climb in two days and then move on to the larger peaks. We dug a snow cave at its base and cached our gear as we greeted our first storm. Several weeks later, after two partial days of fixing rope, we were well established. The climbing had been difficult: A3 and A4 in bottoming cracks requiring hooks, birdbeaks, questionable nuts and dicy free climbing off poor protection while the face ran with water and a continuous bombardment of ice and snow added to the excitement. After 1½ months, on January 2, 1992, we finally summited. We had left Base Camp at three A.M. and arrived at our cave at ten o'clock. After digging it out from eight feet of snow, it was noon. However, we decided to go for it or perhaps wait weeks for another chance. Under threatening, though calm, skies, we arrived on the summit at 1:30 A.M. in total darkness. The 1800-foot-high route was completed in nine stretched 60-meter pitches, with all fixed ropes left in place on the final headwall to facilitate the descent down this very overhanging section. By eight A.M., we were back on the glacier with the route totally cleaned of all but rappel anchors. The following two days, we ferried loads across the valley to the foot of the southwest face of Aguja Poincenot. This 1200-meter-high face had been climbed by Argentines to three-quarters height several years before. In 1968, Argentines José Luis Fonrouge and Alberto Rosasco climbed a route on the far left side. We chose a difficult, direct route up the center. On January 14, we departed Base Camp at four A.M. in promising weather. By the day's end, we had made a carry to the start of the route, fixed three ropes and descended to an exposed bivouac at the foot of the initial slabs. Dawn was ominous. Storms seemed imminent. We returned to Base Camp late in the evening. Then it cleared. We again raced up to the face only to be greeted once more by blustery squalls, but this time we swore to remain at the foot. Extreme cold and wind grounded us all the next day. By the next morning, we scrambled for shelter under a large boulder in 100-mph winds where we were pinned down for two days, unable to cook or get out of our bivouac sacks for fear of being blown away. During a lull on the third day, we made our escape. On January 24, we again made our alpine-style attempt on Poincenot and climbed to half height by ten P.M. to the only bivouac ledge on the face. The climbing had been fantastic, all free except for one short tension traverse to change crack systems on the vertical headwall of the central band of the wall. In gusty wind, Steve and I fashioned tiny wind breaks on our two independent 2x4-foot ledges. By morning, we were in a full Patagonian tempest and I was unable to communicate with Steve, 15 feet away, for more than 18 hours. We endured a second day in our exposed perch before the wind died enough for us to get out of our bivouac sacks for a brew of warm cocoa and a discussion. We had precious little food, fuel and water. The next day was either up or down. By six P.M., the weather was much better and so we ate our last micro portions of food and I cast off for the summit. At the end of the 200-foot pitch, the winds were back and so I rappelled back to the bivouac with the rope rigged for retrieval. The skies cleared. The oncoming next front out on the icecap to the west stood still and the evening sky glowed pink with promise. Climbing by eight A.M. in calm, cold, clear conditions, we

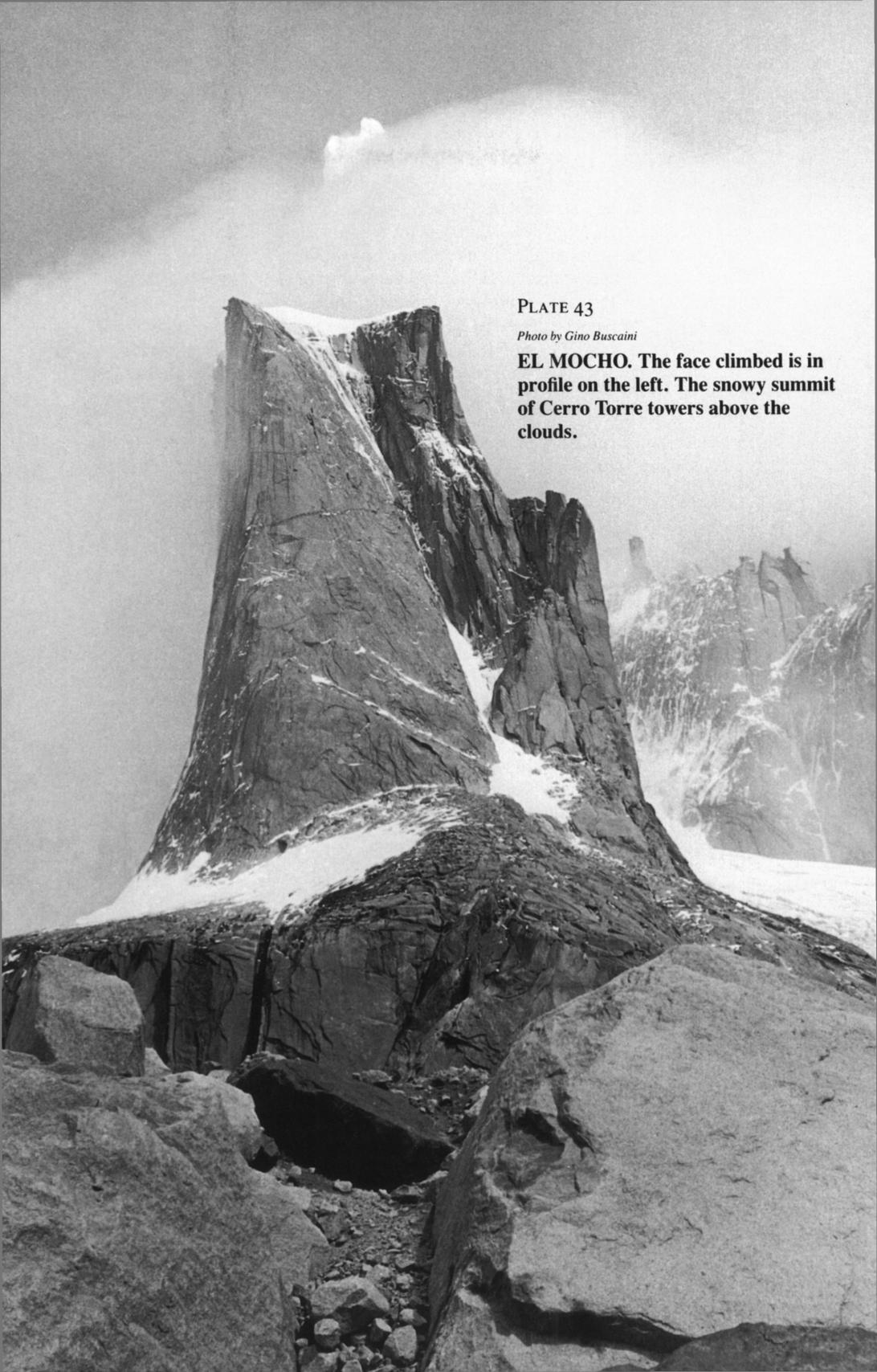


PLATE 43

Photo by Gino Buscaini

EL MOCHO. The face climbed is in profile on the left. The snowy summit of Cerro Torre towers above the clouds.

ascended 800 feet of 5.10 to 5.11 with only 35 feet of aid through an icy section. From there on, we climbed roped but not belaying up the remaining 1600 feet to arrive on the summit at four P.M. We were back down twelve hours later. With only two weeks remaining, we focused on the Maestri Route on Cerro Torre. Six teams had been attempting the route over the last two months. Only Mexicans Carlos Carsolio and Andreas Delgado had been successful and they had spent two nights out without stove or bivouac gear through life-threatening storms. On February 17, we climbed the initial ice pitches to the snow cave on the shoulder, some 3000 feet below the summit. A day and a half of storms followed, leaving the wall covered with fresh snow, but by afternoon the weather was perfect and the walls were rapidly drying. At four A.M. on February 20, we set off for the summit and were on top by ten P.M. We were followed by an Argentine, a Brazilian and a Spaniard who joined us at 11:30. Twelve hours later, we were all safely back at the snow cave as the first clouds began to enshroud the Torre once more.

JAY SMITH

Cerro Adela Central, Southeast Face, Winter Ascent. Because of the war in Slovenia, my climbing partner was unable to leave our country to join me. I therefore modified my plans and headed for Cerro Adela instead. I believe I was the only climber in the region. Actually in mid-winter I found the weather stabler and less windy. The glacier approach was very dangerous when done solo. On July 5, I took seven hours to climb the 1200 meters of ice and mixed terrain. There were two pitches of 70° to 80° ice but the big problems were cornices. I descended the ridge to Adela Sur and then took the delicate ridge to the pass between Adela Sur and Cerro Nato and down the steep side of Adela Sur. Two other different routes had been done on the face previously. Giancarlo Grassi and M. Rossi in 1986 climbed a route well to the left of mine to the summit of Adela Sur. In 1987, Sebastián de la Cruz climbed solo a route which I crossed twice, having started to the right of his route and also finishing to the right of his.

PETER PODGORNIK, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

Aguja Guillaumet West Face, Solo, 1990. With my wife Rosanna, I arrived on November 24, 1990 at Base Camp at Piedra del Fraile. I wanted to climb the west face of Aguja Guillaumet over a new route for the first 600 meters where I planned to join the Argentine route. On December 7, 1990, Rosanna accompanied me to the foot of the face. I planned to climb fast against a possible worsening of the weather and so climbed primarily not self-belayed. I did have five pitons, some Friends, a 90-meter rope for rappelling, crampons and ice axe, for despite the smooth rock, the final part might have ice. I took no bivouac gear, counting on climbing through the night, which at that latitude is very short. At five P.M., after seven hours of climbing, I had ascended the 1100 vertical