San Lorenzo Ascents. We, a team of three Germans (Sebastian Thallo, Lorem Konastand and I) reached the top of San Lorenzo by the Agostini route on January 21. One week later Sebastian Thallo and I made the third ascent from the east ridge (South African route) in only 10 and a half hours without rope, encountering steep snow and ice. We had a four-week period of good weather and climbed most of the other mountains around basecamp, such as Cerro Hermoso, Las Dos Picos, Cerro Penitentes, etc.

HANS HOCKMAYER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

TIERRA DEL FUEGO

Monte Sarmiento, West Peak. The twin peaks of Monte Sarmiento had been climbed only once before. Italian expeditions made both ascents, the first in 1956 (East Peak) and again in 1986 (West Peak). With the objective of new routes on both peaks, our team was composed of Stephen Venables (British), Tim Macartney-Snape (Australian), John Roskelley, Charlie Porter and me. Taking a roundabout route, we spent six days in Porter's 50-foot sloop *Gondwana*, reaching the Sarmiento area from Puerto Williams on the Beagle Channel. After securing the boat in a sheltered cove on an arm of the Cockburn Channel on April 13, we explored different approaches to the mountain for several days in foul weather before finally deciding that the Southwest Face of the West Peak offered the best possibility. After two camps were established on the mountain, we were ready for a summit dash on April 21. But two separate accidents thwarted our plans. The first mishap occurred when a sudden wind gust blew me off a ridgecrest. I managed to arrest the fall but badly sprained an ankle in the process. A day later, while traversing a patch of ice, Porter was blown off his feet in almost the same spot. He suffered more serious injuries when he dislocated and broke a bone in his shoulder after jabbing his arm in a crevasse to stop the fall. After the entire team retreated to basecamp near the beach, Porter chose to sail directly across the Strait of Magellan to Puerto Bulnes, the nearest roadhead from Punta Arenas, where he could receive medical treatment. I accompanied Porter, as our only means of transportation was about to disappear. He piloted his boat in considerable pain with his arm in a makeshift sling. By the time I returned to the Sarmiento area in a fishing boat five days later, our three companions had been able to complete the anticipated new route to the West Peak's summit. On April 26, the almost constant wind and snow ceased for 10 hours, allowing Roskelley, Macartney-Snape and Venables to climb the southwest face's steep snow with underlying ice and 70° to 85° serac ice steps. The typical Patagonian summit ice mushroom was turned easily from the southeast. Extreme winds hit them on the descent with zero-visibility

conditions that made it difficult to reach camp. We were out of time so had no chance to tackle the East Peak as originally planned.

JIM WICKWIRE

ANTARCTICA

Mount Paget, Fourth Ascent. It was reported that American Skip Novak, Britain Mark Strafford, Germans Gerhard Schmatz, Martin Anwander and Hans Engl, and Austrian Robert Schabetsberg ascended the unclimbed Northeast Face of Mount Paget (2934 meters) at the end of January. On January 25, after two days of load carrying, three days of bad weather and another day to move camp to 1200 meters, they reached the summit (2935 meters), then descended along the Northeast Ridge. (See *High Mountain Sports* 150, 153.)

Mount Epperly, First Ascent. Erhard Loretan reportedly made the first ascent of this peak in the Ellsworth Mountains. (High Mountain Sports 150.)

Queen Maud Land, Various Ascents. Ivar Erik Tollefsen led a Norwegian expedition to Queen Maud Land, one of the most isolated and unexplored regions of Antarctica. The expedition made 36 first ascents, including the first ascent of Jokulkyrkja (3148 meters); all expedition members reached the summit. As Norway claims Queen Maud Land as a dependency, the ascent was claimed to be that of the highest point in the "country." (Sovereignty of any land below the 60th parallel has never been ratified by the Antarctic Treaty of 1961.) An account of the ascent of Ulvetanna appears earlier in this journal.

AFRICA

Mount Kenya, Diamond Couloir, Chouinard Variation, Solo. In May, Wade McKoy and I traveled to Mount Kenya, where I wanted to snowboard the Diamond Couloir. Due to icy conditions I aborted that idea and soloed the Chouinard Variation in three and one-half hours. At the Gate of the Mists, the clouds were building and rolling through. Taking one axe, I ascended Batian, finding the climbing beautiful and interesting. On the summit I could not see the Gate and stayed only a moment. Without a rope or crampons the descent of Batian proved to be quite a challenge; I was forced to negotiate many icy sections. Back at the Gate I donned my crampons for the short ascent up Nelion. On top, it began to snow. The descent turned out to be very dangerous. I got off route, and descended what I believe was (a very loose) Mackinder's Chimney. I descended a scree slope for many hun-

Tim Macartney-Snape approaching the summit of West Peak of Monte Sarmiento. East Peak is in the background.
Jim Wickwire