

about 19,000 feet on the summit of the striking volcano, Cerro Gallan, which rises above the high desert. The second objective of our expedition [The first was to climb the Ojos del Salado.—Ed.] was to investigate this extraordinary trench-like construction at that high altitude. Starting from our base at 15,500 feet, we established a high camp at 17,500 feet. At 19,000 feet I managed to dig out and investigate systematically the three rubble-covered rectangular walls. I worked together with my Swedish companion, Anders Bolinder, on the first day, and alone on the next two, after he fell sick. It took all my energy and I was often close to exhaustion. Among other things I dug up three ancient Indian statuettes made of silver and a material composed of reddish shells and clothed in brilliantly colored cloth. There were also charred pieces of wood, a tiny woolen rag, charred bones, as well as three stone clubs, all of which indicate that it must have been a primitive site for making offerings in Incan times. I nearly lost my life when a tunnel collapsed just after I emerged. Experts have confirmed our beliefs that these objects did originate in the era of the Incas.

MATTHIAS REBITSCH

Province of Salta. P. Soana, H. Azuremendi, and J. Miranda climbed the 19,948-foot volcano, Socompa, February 24, 1956. M. Fernández and P. Balderrama climbed 19,882-foot Chafí.

San Lorenzo, Patagonia. This peak, 11,647 feet, probably the second highest in Patagonia, which lies on the Chilean-Argentine frontier, was first ascended by the Padre de Agostini, in 1941, with A. Hemmi and H. Schmoll. On January 19, 1956 the Argentines Jochen Groos, Hugo Corbella, and Guillermo Krings, of the Centro Andino Buenos Aires, made the second ascent of this heavily-glaciated peak.

Cordón de la Jaula. Under the leadership of Jorge Peterek, a group of the Centro Andino Buenos Aires made a number of first ascents in this range, which lies southeast of Aconcagua and about 40 miles south of Upsallata. The others were Pablo and Andrés Dudzinski, Estanislao Blicharski, and Andrés Patewski. From a 10,000-foot base camp up a side valley off the Río Blanco they set up a high camp at 13,500 feet. From there, on January 8, 1956, they climbed up steep ice to a col between Giewont, 16,400 feet, and Tatra, 17,050 feet, and thence to both summits. From camp in another valley a little farther north, on January 13, they climbed 17,150-foot Karpinski and continued along the ridge to CABA, 17,325 feet, and Aguila Blanca, 17,725 feet.

Cordón de Portillo. Climbers from the club Andinista Mendoza made a number of first ascents in this range, which also lies southeast of Acon-

cagua. These were Gemelo Norte, 17,700 feet, January 13, 1956, and Torre del Campanario, 17,050 feet, January 16, by R. Vidone, R. Gallop, S. Chiartano; Krakus, 16,575 feet, January 14, by M. Czareba; Yeporá, 16,575 feet, January 15, by J. Casanova, F. Bellinaud, U. Vitale.

Near Bariloche. Already this spring [Written December 27, 1956, at the beginning of the southern hemisphere summer.—Ed.] there have been the following notable ascents made near Bariloche: (1) first ascent of Aguja Frey, another problem involving artificial aids, by W. Lerch, November 4; (2) first ascent of the north face of Punta Lürs, on Cerro López, a risky and airy climb on rotten rock with illusionary protection, by D. Jereb and H. Lantschner, December 9; (3) first ascent of the north face of the Cerro López, a route studied for several years which turned out to be easier than we had thought, by I. Arnvek and V. Arko on December 23; (4) third ascent of Campanile Esloveno, a 300-foot rock tower considered to be the most difficult climb yet made in Nahuel Huapi Park, by C. Sonntag, J. Iglesias, C. Bottazzi, December 15.

VOJSLAV ARKO, *Club Andino Bariloche*

Volcán Lanín. The only long new route made so far this season was on the south face of Volcán Lanín, 12,388 feet. The upper part of this peak has a cap of ice that guards its upper slopes. On November 17, 1956, Carlos Sonntag, Gregorio Ezguerra, Wenceslao Clerch, Juan Mager, Augusto Vallmitjana, Ivan Arnvek, and Carlos Bottazzi left camp at about 3500 feet. They climbed the rocky ridge that leads to the bottom of the cap of ice. At 7000 feet they saw close at hand the enormous overhangs that mark the whole of the lower edge of the icecap. The only route, difficult to be sure, but not exposed to falling ice, is the small glacier which Mazzoldi and Wiese climbed. [See *AAJ*, 1956, pp. 133-134.] All other possible variants lead to slopes swept by falling séracs. The hanging glacier seemed uninviting and was swept continually by rocks and ice. However, the group crossed towards the east ridge, where it bivouacked. On November 18 the climbers overcame a difficult passage that leads from the ridge to the glacier. Climbing the steep and relatively easy slope of the glacier, they reached the summit at 2 P.M. They descended by the same route.

VOJSLAV ARKO, *Club Andino Bariloche*

Chile

Monte Sarmiento, Tierra del Fuego. An Italian expedition under leadership of 74-year-old Padre Alberto M. de Agostini climbed Monte Sarmiento, the highest point in Tierra del Fuego and the goal of Sir Martin