

July 28 they made the first ascent of San Pablo (18,634 feet) to the east of Camp II and the 18,300-foot pass. Smythe and I traversed the ridge west of the pass on June 29, making the second ascent of the twin peaks of Taparacu (Butterfly Peak; 18,857 and 18,819 feet) and the first of Haltatahua (c. 18,370 feet). On the 30th we two climbed Monte Triángulo (18,609 feet) between Mesquetanta and Taparacu. On the 31st we two climbed Pico de Línea (c. 18,400 feet), the next peak northeast of San Pablo. All four of us failed to climb Pico del Norte by its south ridge but on August 8 Smythe and I made the first ascent of Cunotahua ("Flake Peak"; 19,622 feet), which lies 2½ miles northeast of Ancohumá. Finally it remains to say that this expedition was on the whole successful despite the loss of Michael Birchall, a fine leader of great potential and a great friend to all of us. He died fulfilling his greatest ambition, and if exploration in the mountains is worthwhile, then it is worth such a sacrifice. (Edited from personal communications and the expedition report.)

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### Chile

*Peaks in Aysén District, Northern Patagonian Continental Icecap.* A group from our institution led by Osvaldo Latorre and composed of G. Oyarzún, A. Marcel, and R. Aguilera explored the northern extreme of the Continental Icecap in the Aysén district. All four made the first ascent of Cerro Castillo (8775 feet) on February 10. Three days later all except Aguilera made the first ascent of Cerro Puntado, which is over 7000 feet.

HUGO VÁSQUEZ L., *Asociación Universitaria de Andinismo, Chile*

*Mesón Alto, Central Chile.* J. Ambrús and G. Oyarzún of the University of Chile made the first ascent of the south face of Mesón Alto (17,380 feet). This wall of ice, one of the steepest in central Chile, took the climbers three days to climb. They reached the top on December 21.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA C.

*Punta Quebrada, Yeso Valley.* One of the few unclimbed peaks of the Yeso valley, above Santiago, a short, difficult rock climb, was ascended on November 1 by Víctor Geell and Osvaldo Latorre during a mountaineering school course of the Federación de Andinismo de Chile. The altitude is 13,780 feet.

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*Paine Group, Torre Innominata, Patagonia.* The Italians Armando Aste and Franco Solina were joined in the Argentine by Italian residents of that