

### *Argentina*

*Mercedario, South Face.* In the second half of January Héctor A. de la Vega, Cesarino Fava and Fausto Barozzi, Argentines, set out to make the first ascent of the south face of Mercedario (21,884 feet). From a high camp at the foot of the face at 15,500 feet, they all started up the steep snow and ice face, making bivouacs at 17,000, 18,375 and 19,700 feet, where Barozzi remained while the other two continued. Fava and de la Vega bivouacked at 20,675 feet and then went on to the summit. Meanwhile, Barozzi had somehow let fall his sleeping bag and his boots, which were in it. It goes without saying that the descent was hazardous and difficult. The climbers did manage it finally, though not without serious frostbite.

### *Chilean and Argentine Patagonia*

*Cuerno principal, Paine group.* A light Chilean expedition, made up of four university students, attempted the main horn of the Paine, locally known as Cuerno Principal del Paine (2110 meters or 6890 feet). The group was led by Eduardo García who had explored routes in the summer (January) of 1967. The 1968 attempt took place where British climbers, led by Ian Clough, tried to climb the peak, but they had to withdraw after one of their members had a broken ankle. After cooperating with the British climbers to evacuate the injured, García and his companions returned to the peak, but were forced to remain inactive for several days because of adverse weather. On January 31 they launched their serious attempt. The real difficulties were found only in the last tower, some 300 feet high; they ascended on two ropes, well separated, but following the same route. Most of the climb was rated as IV superior (Welzenbach), with some 20 to 30 meters of V and V + grades, and one section of A1. The group (Raúl Aguilera, Eduardo García, Osvaldo Latorre and Gastón Oyarzún, of the Universidad de Chile at Santiago), reached the top at 6:30 P.M. in good weather. In the descent they were forced to bivouac on a small ledge and the following day, at the foot of the tower, they were caught by a storm. They returned to Santiago after some forty days of absence, of which, due to the peculiarities of Patagonian climbing, only four were spent in actual mountaineering.

### FEDERACIÓN DE ANDINISMO DE CHILE

*Peaks above the Southern Patagonian Icecap.* Since I have not reported for the past several years, I am sending the information now. On January 20, 1967 I made the first ascent of Cerro Cono (c. 8200 feet), a lovely

climb, which was mostly Grade IV with some Grade V pitches, rock and ice mixed. Luciano Pera accompanied me on most of the climb but did not get to the top because of fatigue. When my brother Peter arrived, together we made the second attempt on Cerro Norte, the first by the west face, but bad weather prevented our getting very far. In 1968 Peter Skvarca and H. Barria climbed Cerro Pintado (7766 feet) on February 14, M. Serrano and I climbed Cerro Cristal (7218 feet) on February 17 and Cerro Campana (8399 feet) on the 18th. The most important climb was that of Cerro Campana, the last 350 feet of which was direct-aid ice climbing. The third attempt on Cerro Norte by my brother Peter and me failed 1000 feet from the summit in bad weather. (This was briefly noted in *A.A.J.*, 1968.—*Editor.*) In 1969 M. Serrano and I made the first ascent of Cerro Boy (7875 feet) on January 9. We two also made the first ascent of Cerro Vivod, the highest in the Roma Chain (10,728 feet) and the highest in this part of the Icecap. We started by moonlight, climbed all of March 2 and got to the summit at noon of the 3rd. There were great objective dangers; large crevasses and windslabs. The last part was an ice mushroom. This peak lies west of Cerro Bertrand. Antonio Andrejak also took part on the expedition.

JURE J. SKVARCA, *Club Andino Bariloche*

*Aguja Poincenot, Techado Negro, Fitz Roy Group, Patagonia.* Along with Alfredo Rosasco I made a new route, the southwest face of the Aguja Poincenot, from December 24 to 28. This was a 4000-foot wall of great difficulty but we had good weather. Then we pitched camp at the foot of the east buttress of the Cerro Torre, hoping to climb it if the weather would permit. Nine days later we returned to Base Camp to rest, still in bad weather. We did climb the Techado Negro (6890 feet) to do something but on the descent Alfredo hurt his head seriously, thus ending the expedition.

JOSÉ LUIS FONROUGE, *Club Andino Bariloche*

*FitzRoy, French Attempt on Northeast Buttress.* An 11-man French group headed by F. Guillot and J. Kelle early in 1968 attempted the northeast buttress of FitzRoy but got only about halfway up because of continuous bad weather.

*Cerro Adela, Patagonia.* After exploring for a route on Cerro Torre, Jorge Aikes, Omar Pellegrini and Nestor Monaco placed a camp at the foot of the north-northeast ridge of Cerro Adela (9711 feet). After seven days of constant snowstorms, they set out to place a high camp at 7700