

Cordillera Central. The Frenchman D. Eichenbugeno and Manuel Bazán and Raúl Riesco, both from Santiago, entered the Barros Negros group of rock peaks located north of the mining village of Pérez Caldera in December 1971. From a base camp at 11,000 feet, Manuel Bazán, alone, made the first ascents of P 4012 (13,160 feet) and of another summit of similar height, both located due west of Castro Lake. (Information from Manuel Bazán).

Nevado Juncal. A Spanish expedition from Valencia, five climbers led by Miguel Gómez, ascended the western summit of this great ice mountain in March. This summit is currently held as 5960 meters high (19,554 feet), but local climbers believe that it is actually the highest peak of the massif. Until now, the summit located on the Chilean-Argentinian border, 6110 meters, has been accepted as the highest. A Chilean party led by Claudio Lucero had earlier ascended the border summit using the same route of the historic first ascent (by the Reichert party, year 1910), that is, the east glacier, located wholly on Argentinian territory. The climbers descended into the glacier making a 26-mile march along the north slopes of Juncal and reached the summit with five camps on February 5 (C. Fuentes, C. Lucero, D. Meza and N. Sanhueza).

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Aconcagua. Fine weather permitted us to climb Aconcagua by the regular north-slope route in four days from Base Camp at Plaza de Mulas (14,000 feet). No one suffered from altitude sickness thanks to our program of acclimatization: Day 1: by train to 9000 feet; Day 2: rest; Day 3: hike to 13,000 feet and back; Day 4: with mules to Plaza de Mulas; Days 5 & 6: rest at 14,000 feet; Day 7: carry to 18,000 feet and back; Day 8: to 18,000 feet (Antarctica Hut); Day 9: to 20,250 feet (Berlin Hut); Day 10: to summit and back to Berlin Hut; Day 11: to Plaza de Mulas. Miguel Alfonso, Stuart Frank, Jon Haake and Tom Cole reached the summit on March 5. Sandy Bryson had to turn back 300 feet from the top and I accompanied her. The others reached the summit four hours later. They descended in the darkness, lost their way and did not reach the Berlin Hut till 10:30 P.M., barely avoiding an unplanned bivouac. Minimum recorded temperature was -22° F at 20,500 feet. The Argentine army, which controls access to the mountain, requires lengthy procedures: equipment check, cardiac examination by a local physician, blood-type tests, a climbing résumé from each member including high-altitude experience, a complete police dossier with mug shots and 8 sets of fingerprints, a \$10 "rescue" deposit