

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).

HUMBERTO BARRERA, *Club Andino de Chile*

Argentina

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

from each climber. Without "inside" help, future expeditions may well be stranded in Mendoza for a week or more.

LEO LEBON

Aconcagua. On February 13, 1973, we reached the summit of Cerro Aconcagua via the standard route. The team was unusual in that almost half its members were women: Susan Condon, Barbara Lilley, Norma Viault, and Gail Wilts. The male portion of the team was comprised of Bill Feldman, Brian Gregory, Dennis Hennek, John Osterhut, and me. The team was accompanied by the official Argentine guide, Rafael Juárez.

TOM LIMP, *Freelance Alpine Research Team*

El Potro. A detachment of the Gendarmería Nacional (Territorial Military Police) of Argentina covered 500 miles of desert, more than three-fourths of it on muleback, to reach the base of a peak thought to be El Potro ("The stallion"). The peak was ascended by the *gendarmes*, but upon the return of the detachment it was learned that they had mistakenly climbed a lesser mountain, about 17,400 feet high. An official expedition of the Club Andino Mercedario, of San Juan, travelled to El Potro and ascended it from the east on December 4, 1971 (19,128 feet). The summit party was S. Job, A. Beorchia and E. Yacante. On the top Beorchia, who has been consistently dedicated to high mountain archaeology, conducted a quick survey and found only one trace of Inca occupancy: a walking stick, similar to those used by the *chaskis*, or Inca couriers.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Chilean and Argentine Patagonia

San Lorenzo. In the first days of December, 1971 Bill Stephenson and I flew by light aircraft from Coyhaique to the small village of Cochrane, a little west of Lago Cochrane and close to the junction of the Río Baker and Río Salto. We continued by horse up the Río Salto and Río Tranquilo to its head. As expected, the weather was bad, but this summer was the worst known by local people for years. Camp was at bush edge, sheltered and with good water and firewood. But it was nearly Christmas before a fine day let us walk to the glacier coming in from the left (east) to camp at the head of this glacier. From here we followed the route of Alberto M. de Agostini's first ascent 28 years ago; i.e. over a pass onto a big snowfield that drains directly west to the Río Salto. We had to follow around a considerable way to gain access to an icefall. We forced a route up the left side through fantastic ice shapes and crevasses to the ridge, always hindered by mist. Like Padre Agostini, we had to plod, cut and struggle forever upwards, hardly seeing