

Volcán Colorado, Puna de Atacama. In December the Volcán Colorado (18,838 feet) was climbed by Antonio Beorchia Nigris, who found ceremonial sites from pre-Columbian times.

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Mercedario, East Face. An Italian expedition from Padua made the first ascent of the east face of Mercedario (21,894 feet). The leader was Toni Mastellaro and the members were Sergio Billoro, Andrea Cassutti, Dr. Pier Paolo Cago, Franco Cremonese, Almo Giambisi, Graziano Mingardo, Nino Portolan and Armando Ragana. From San Juan they traveled via Laguna Blanca to arrive at Base Camp at 13,000 feet on January 8. Two days later Camp I was placed at the foot of the face at 15,200 feet. Camps II and III were established at 16,950 and 18,050 feet on January 13 and 15. On the 16th Giambisi and Portolan left in a push for the summit, establishing Camp IV at 19,850 feet and bivouacking at 20,700 feet before reaching the summit on January 18. A second assault team had difficulties and had to be evacuated by helicopter. The first of the face was gentle (35° to 40°) and the technical difficulties came in the middle, the key being a 50° couloir between Camps III and IV which runs behind the rock rib ("Caballito") and séracs.

Tupungato. Germans Josef Heinel, leader, Peter Vogler and Georg Peter Menz made a new route on Tupungato (21,490 feet) on January 3. They approached from Santa Clara, Argentina, and placed Base Camp below the northeast ridge of Yesera. On December 25, 1974 Vogler, Menz and Wolfgang Niederacher made the first ascent of the northeast ridge of Yesera (15,730 feet). They then crossed the 15,250-foot Fraile Pass and dropped to the Tupungato Glacier. On January 1 they climbed a rib which divides the east face from the southeast-face glacier and camped at 17,000 feet. Difficult ice and rock brought them to a bivouac 1000 feet below the summit, which they finally reached up gentler snow.

Cerro Catedral, South Face. An eight-man team of the Croatian Alpine Association, the oldest in Yugoslavia, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the association with a two-month expedition to the Andes of central Argentina. After climbing the normal route on Aconcagua, they made the first ascent of the south face of Cerro Catedral (17,553 feet), near Aconcagua. On February 15, Marijan Čepelak and Vladimir Mešarič climbed the 3000-foot, 40° face.

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