

800 feet of difficult rock during the next five days. On February 8 they realized that they could not succeed in the time they had available.

Fitz Roy Attempt. Our expedition (also including Jordi Pons—*Editor*) was prevented from reaching the summit of Fitz Roy by very strong winds. We tried the American route early in 1979.

JOSE MANUEL ANGLADA, *Club Montañés Barcelonés*

Cerro Torre Attempt. In February and March the British climbers, Ben Campbell-Kelly and Brian Wyvill, made an unsuccessful attempt to climb the 4500-foot-high east face of Cerro Torre. For the first 1000 feet they followed the Maestri-Egger route and they then continued up the Bragg-Donini-Wilson route to 500 feet below the Col of Conquest. From there they climbed, mostly with direct aid, 800 feet up the very steep and in part overhanging groove and chimney on the right side of the east face. The weather turned worse and they had to retreat, still some 1300 feet below the top, after 28 days on the face.

Climbs in the Paine Group. The Asociación Universitaria de Andinismo, Santiago, organized a nine-man group to tackle Cerro "Fortaleza" (or "Fortress," unofficial name), in the Paine group. In 20 days of attempts C. Gálvez and G. Oyarzún had only four of good weather. In several attempts they got to within 100 feet of the summit. Gálvez, with G. Casassa and J. Lanas made the second ascent of Cerro Trono Blanco (2500 meters, 8366 feet), which had been ascended by Chileans and Czechs in 1969 (*A.A.J.*, 1970, p. 176). Other expedition members, C. Cognian, J. Piombo and G. Salamanca, plus Casassa, made the first ascent of the rock peak Aleta de Tiburón ("Shark's Fin," 1800 meters, 5905 feet). This expedition took place between January 2 and February 10.

HUMBERTO BARRERA, *Club Andino de Chile, Santiago*

Peaks in the Cordillera Darwin, Tierra del Fuego and in Patagonia. Our yacht, the Eloisa, was a 60-foot, 34-ton ketch built of ferro cement and fitted with an 88-horse-power engine. It was built by the skipper, Ian Rennie, with the assistance of the expedition members. Other members were Ian Carr, Dick Pert, William Jeffrey, David Neilson, Wallace Rennie and I. We departed from Granton, near Edinburgh, on October 1, 1977. Our ports of call were Ramsgate, England; Figuera and Lisbon, Portugal; Las Palmas, Canary Islands; Porto Grande, Cape Verde Islands; and Rio de Janeiro. We experienced bad gales in the Bay of Biscay, off Recife and then almost continuously south of 40° S. Many sails were torn and the flooding of the engine room in mid-Atlantic had a long-term effect on the reliability of the engine. We arrived in Punta Arenas on February 7 after a 8000-mile voyage. We made our base in Tierra del

Fuego near the head of Seno Hyatt, an arm of Seno Agostini. We explored a region northwest of that investigated by Jack Miller (*A.A.J.*, 1967 pp 326-8). From February 25 to March 24 we operated from two camps, one in a large ice basin northeast of the head of Seno Hyatt, and the other on a col at 4500 feet above Brookes Fjord. We climbed all seven peaks above the basin, all to my knowledge virgin, the smallest being 4000 feet and the highest slightly over 6000 feet. On March 2 Neilson and I climbed a 600-foot ice face to reach the "Col Major", the only feasible break in this cirque of peaks which gives access to the east and the main range. On March 17 a peak on the southern side of Seno Hyatt was climbed by Carr and W. Rennie. After leaving Tierra del Fuego, we sailed west through the Paso Inglés. We were able to climb an interesting peak on Península Brunswick close to Port Gallant, an old anchorage used by Fitzroy's Beagle when surveying the straits. The summit rocks consisted of a 20-foot wall of beautiful quartz crystals. On August 15 we anchored at the head of Seno Exmouth to traverse the Southern Patagonian Icecap. Using skis and a light sledge Neilson, Jeffrey and I made the crossing from Río Trinidad via the Pass of the Four Glaciers to the Río Eléctrico, reaching Fitz Roy Park headquarters on April 30. We were thrown in jail for illegal entry into Argentina.

DOUGLAS ANDERSON, *Scotland*

EUROPE

Polish-American Climbing Exchange. During late August and early September Mark Norden and I spent most of a month in Poland as guests of the Polish Alpine Club, or more specifically, The High Mountain Club of Zakopane, a local affiliate of the national organization. This was the first half of an exchange program; Polish climbers will visit the United States in 1979. Unlike the Russian exchanges which preceded it, the program was very loosely organized. We were set up in the climbers' camp in the Tatra Mountains and introduced to the local climbers, primarily "rock jocks", since most of the expedition and alpine climbers were out of the country. We were then free to climb what we wanted and with whom we wanted, although initially we were the victims of that overwhelming, East European hospitality, which can easily be misinterpreted as an attempt to control your actions. Initially we were accompanied everywhere, including to the climbs, but later given complete freedom, to the extent that I spent the last ten days of my stay hitch-hiking around the country by myself. As a climbing trip, however, it was a disaster, since it rained all but seven or eight days. We did manage to get in a few routes in the High Tatra, The West Tatra, the Krakow Crags, and Podlesice Crags. The High Tatra (Wysoki Tatry) are true mountains averaging about 2300 meters. The summits are rounded, so the "climbing" is done on the lower cliff faces. Because of this, it more closely resembles crag