

19,000 feet. During September there is no snow there and it is a steep slope of rotten rock. We were told that in January snow covers this section and one can crampon over it. The weather windows for climbing Chimborazo are August-September and December-January with the rainy season causing problems for the rest of the year. Cotopaxi is best climbed in the December-January season because of high August-September winds.

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*Chimborazo, Lesser Summits.* The two easternmost peaks of Chimborazo had remained so far unclimbed. They were traversed on May 20, 1979 by the Ecuadorians W. Villacís and O. Omar, of the Polytechnical School of the Ecuadorian army. These summits received the unofficial names of N. Martínez (5540 meters, 17,848 feet) and García-Cazar (5560 meters, 18,242 feet), altimeter figures. The new hut, "Edward Whymper," is now available to mountaineers. It can shelter 16 persons and has permanent attendants. Built to commemorate the centenary of the first ascent of Chimborazo, it was located on the south slopes of the mountain, at 16,000 feet near the Thielman Glacier. Information from *Montaña #9*, Quito.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

*Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, Illiniza, 1979.* Swiss Dölf Zellweger, Fredy Kälin, Walter and Mario Zehnder, Hans Grätzer, Res Menzi, Austrian Horst Schwarz and Ecuadorians Hugo Alvarez and Nicolás Martínez climbed in Ecuador in December 1979. They ascended the two Illinizas and Cotopaxi by the normal routes. On December 19 Kälin and Menzi completed a new traverse on Chimborazo (6310 meters, 20,702 feet). They climbed the south side up the Glaciar Boussingault to a 19,000-foot shoulder between Chimborazo and Politécnica and continued up the east ridge to the summit. They descended the normal route to the west. Kälin explains that they were the third party to ascend the glacier. First Japanese and then a group led by the Ecuadorian Marcos Cruz climbed to the Politécnica summit but he and Menzi were the first to climb from there to the main summit.

*Altar Group, Ecuadorian Ascents.* On December 3, 1978, six Ecuadorian climbers of the Agrupación de Montaña P. Leiva made the third ascent of Monja Grande (c. 5300 meters, 17,400 feet), which had been ascended twice in 1968 by Californians. The Ecuadorians followed the American route. Other ascents in this massif of steep rock and ice peaks have been: Canónigo (5260 meters, 17,257 feet), on September 20, 1979, by J., P. and R. Gómez and J. Moreno, second ascent; Fraile Occidental (c. 5150 meters, 16,897 feet), same date, a first ascent, by