

feet) was also ascended. An accident on this mountain claimed the life of Felipe Tello.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Altar, South Face. South-face ascents in the Central Andes (the equivalent of the Alpine north faces) have been, so far, few and far apart. On March 16, G. Cassasa and the Austrian W. Bertsch climbed for the first time the south face of Altar (5220 meters, 17,126 feet), a remarkable rock peak very visible from the streets of Santiago, the Chilean capital. Rock was very poor. They rated the final 60 meters as UIAA VI.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Peaks in the Azufre area. Between January 26 and February 9, climbers of the Asociación de Andinismo de O'Higgins made the following first ascents in the Azufre group, located 40 miles east of San Fernando in Central Chile: Alto del Azufre, 4550 meters (14,928 feet), Cerro Violeta, 4250 meters (13,944 feet), Cristal del Azufre, 4150 meters (13,616 feet), as well as several other rock points and peaklets. Participants were W. Lara, leader, P. Miranda, C. Muñoz and M. Viedma.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Cerro Bismarck, Ancient Ascents. This rock peak is located immediately south of Cerro Plomo, on whose top an Inca mummy was uncovered in 1954. Alejo Contreras found very close to the summit (4715 meters, 15,468 feet) a very small rock construction and inside it, nine small stones rounded by the hand of men. A piece of Inca ceramic had also been found at the pass south of Cerro Bismarck (March 1979). (Information supplied by señor Antonio Beorchia, San Juan, Argentina.)

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Central Argentina

Aconcagua South Face Tragedy. Early in January Guy Andrews, Chuck Bludworth and I made an alpine-style ascent of the French route on the south face of Aconcagua. Departing Base Camp at 12,800 feet on December 31, 1979 after a two-week acclimatization period, we reached the summit on January 6, but not entirely unscathed. All three had suffered frostbitten toes in a rather desperate bivouac at 20,500 feet. On the summit plateau, at a point which later proved to be less than 15 minutes from the summit marker, a fierce gale prevented the planned traverse and descent via the normal route. We retreated to the minimal shelter of a rock outcrop 250 yards back down the gently sloping summit plateau. Two days of storm pinned us there until midday of January 8. As the