

3 after four days of climbing. On the summit he found Jean-Marc Boivin, Dominique Marchal and Jean-Franck Charlet, who had been waiting for three weeks for proper weather for a hang-glider descent. Boivin and Marchal did make the descent in hang gliders that weighed about 60 pounds each.

Aconcagua. A Mountain Travel group was successful in climbing the Polish Glacier route on Aconcagua (6960 meters, 22,834 feet). The summit was reached on February 9 by John Balut, Bruce Klepinger, leader, John Pratt, Mike Skreiner, Thomas Vaughan, and me, assistant leader. Other expedition members were Anthony Battelle, Henry Bergner Jr., and Norman Croucher. Croucher is a well known British climber who has made many ascents without legs; he lost both of them below the knee in a train accident. He was doing well on Aconcagua when one of his prosthetic legs broke. Getting about on one leg and forearm crutches, Norm cut up a duffel bag and made knee pads and a canvas skirt. Solo, he proceeded to crawl up a nearby peak of 17,000 feet. After several days he reached the top, slept up there and then slid down on his ingenious canvas padding

PETER CUMMINGS

Aconcagua, North Face Variation. On January 22, 1982, from a high camp at 20,500 feet on a rock outcrop north of the Polish Glacier, Marty Hoey, George Dunn, Dick Bass, Frank Wells, Chuck Goldmark and I attempted a direct variation up the glacier. Due to unfavorable ice conditions, however, we traversed off the glacier to the north. From the 21,300-foot level, Hoey and Dunn made a partial girdle traverse to the north, and climbed a steep 1000-foot snow face before completing their new variation on the normal route to the summit. The next day Bass and I climbed to the summit via the Polish Glacier. As we were without bivouac gear, a sudden storm on the descent complicated our return. Dunn, who stayed behind the others, was of great assistance in directing us toward camp through the blowing snow and whiteout conditions.

JAMES WICKWIRE

Quéhuar and Azufre, Northern Andes. An expedition of the Club Andino Mercedario, San Juan, comprising ten Argentinian mountaineers, several Argentinian and Japanese cameramen and the American scientist Johan Reinhard, returned to Nevado Quéhuar hoping to dig out traces of pre-Columbian occupancy that members of the same club had discovered in a previous expedition in 1974. On that occasion, the climbers had located the partial remains of the mummy of a boy some ten years old, which they could not extract because of the ice. The 1981 expedition approached Quéhuar from the village of Santa Rosa de Pastos

Grandes. On February 24, Reinhard and M. Vásquez ascended nearby Cerro del Azufre (5810 meters, 19,062 feet), but no ruins were observed on its summit. The expedition placed a high camp at 17,000 feet on Quéhuar, but had to face constant snowstorms. Reinhard, who ten days before had ascended Aconcagua, went to the top for a quick survey and several other climbers ascended it again on February 28. Under deep snow, digging was very hard work and besides, treasure seekers had destroyed with dynamite the mummy's body and parts of the inclosure where it rested.* Only a few pieces of bones, small pieces of cloth, wood and some grains of maize were obtained. On the summit were A. Beorchia, M. Fuji, Y. Kanari, A. Meglioli, K. Mori, J. Oro, J. Reinhard and P. Schleger.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Chile—Central Andes

Los Gemelos, South Face and Other New Routes. In the previous climbing season, running from December 1980 to March 1981, local climbers made the following new routes worth reporting: Mesón Alto (5281 meters, 17,327 feet) south face direct, G. Maccio and F. Medina, December 16, 1980, with two bivouacs; Retumbadero (4150 meters, 13,616 feet) southwest wall, direct, G. Maccio, 17 years old, solo, February 18 (in a solo climb on Cerro Arenas, Maccio fell to his death a few days later); Cerro Arenas (4440 meters, 14,567 feet) southwest ridge and west wall, G. Cassasa, D. Delgado and A. Izquierdo, February 22, 1981 (all three peaks are located in the hinterland of Santiago); Los Gemelos (5170 meters, 16,962 feet), peak located on the Argentinian border, Aconcagua province in Chile, south glacier, G. Cassasa, D. Delgado, A. Izquierdo, G. Maccio, January 1.

HUMBERTO BARRERA, *Club Andino de Chile, Santiago*

Catedral del Barroso. With a height of only 4510 meters (14,797 feet) Cerro Catedral del Barroso ("Cathedral of the Muddy River") was among the finest peaks still unclimbed in central Chile. In an expedition lasting ten days, three climbers from Rancagua, F. Ibáñez,

* Mindful of the looting and destruction perpetrated by both treasure seekers and scientists on national pre-Columbian relics, the Chilean government, on its side, restated the validity of its Law 17.288 (decreed on January 27, 1970), which forbids disturbing archaeological sites existing within Chilean territory. The Federación de Andinismo de Chile has stressed that several sections of this law refer specifically to findings on Andean summits. Digging, removal or even research are allowed under this law only with an official government permission and always under the surveillance of Chilean scientists. Violation of this law is punishable with heavy fines, confiscation of all items found and, in the case of foreign perpetrators, expulsion from the country after a period in jail.—*Evelio Echevarría.*