

A. Oporto and J. Vergara, approached the mountain from the west, by way of the Pangal valley and established a high camp at 4000 meters (13,124 feet). The climb itself was painstakingly slow on account of the bad quality of the rock and the frozen conglomerate. Shortly below the top, two of the climbers decided to abandon the ascent, but J. Vergara risked it to continue alone and reached the summit, a first ascent (December 7, 1978).

HUMBERTO BARRERA, *Club Andino de Chile, Santiago*

La Columna. The Juncal massif, rising at the sources of the Aconcagua river, has several summits over 19,000 feet. Its lowest, the northwest peak, 5615 meters or 18,420 feet, had remained unclimbed. Using the North Juncal Glacier G. Cassasa, D. Delgado and G. Maccio ascended to the summit on January 28, having placed two high camps on the ascent and one on the descent. This was considered to be the highest unclimbed peak in central Chile. La Columna ("The Pillar") is a local name, not on maps.

HUMBERTO BARRERA, *Club Andino de Chile, Santiago*

Ojos del Salado, Winter Ascent. W. Ritter, P. Stecher and I left Tinogasta in the Argentine on June 7 and headed on foot across the desert to the Ojos del Salado. On June 20 we left our Camp VI at 18,875 feet and in eight hours climbed the south face to the summit. There were UIAA Grade III to IV climbing difficulties just below the summit. The rock was very rotten and dangerous. We believe this was the tenth ascent of the mountain. We were back in Tinogasta after 17 days.

UDO KNITTEL, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Nevado de Chañi, South Face, Northern Andes. Nevado de Chañi is Argentina's northernmost high peak and a remarkable rock pyramid of 6060 meters (19,881 feet). A. Gantov, J. González and O. di Pietro (of the Centro Andino Buenos Aires) reached the base of the mountain in three stages and placed Base Camp at 15,800 feet near an unnamed lake. They tried first the south-southwest buttress, rotten rock covered with glassy ice, which they had to abandon at 19,000 feet. They chose then a direct route on the south face. On April 30 they climbed this route in nine hours from a bivouac at 17,800 feet, finding in the last 400 feet unstable rock with verglas.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Chilean-Argentinian Patagonia

Cerro Torre, East Face. In January Phil Burke and Tom Proctor from England climbed the east face of Cerro Torre nearly to the summit.