

the northwest face of Ritacuba Negro (5389 meters, 17,680 feet), a very fine and elegant route, wholly on ice (December 29, 1980). The next day both Ecuadorians marched up the valley between the western and eastern branches of the range and continued to ascend Castillo by way of its west ridge. They bivouacked on an exposed place and on December 31 they reached the summit (5123 meters, 16,808 feet). Route used is a variant of the one opened in 1978 by Colombians. On January 2, 1981, the two Ecuadorians made an ascent of Pico Sin Nombre (Pico Nordeste), about 16,400 feet high.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Ritacuba Negro, Northwest Face. Armando Rangel and I climbed on January 2 the imposing northwest face, wholly on ice, of Ritacuba Negro (5389 meters, 17,680 feet), a peak which has been likened to the finer Peruvian mountains for its beauty and imposing appearance. We arrived at the town of El Cocuy on December 24, 1982 and found persistent bad weather. A first attempt was defeated by storms but on New Year's Eve there was a break in the clouds and we retraced our way up the glacier and camped at 5000 meters. On January 2 we reached the summit and descended hurriedly before a new storm coming to the area. This is the second ascent of this interesting route, which had been first climbed by a Colombian, a Swiss and two Ecuadorians on December 29, 1981. (See above.)

JOSÉ BETANCOURT, *Centro de Andinismo, Universidad de los Andes, Mérida, Venezuela*

Los Portones, East Face. M. Arbeláez and R. Schutz made in January a new route on the rock wall, crowned with steep ice, of the east face of Pico Los Portones (also called San Paulín Norte, 5222 meters, 17,142 feet). The climb took two days from the Base Camp at 14,500 feet and had sections of V and VI.

MARÍA TERESA DE GÓMEZ, *Federación Colombiana de Montañismo*

Ecuador

Tabernáculo, South Face, 1981. This peak at the center of the horseshoe of the Altar Range was ascended for the first time in 1972 by a German expedition, which used the northeast slopes. In the last days of 1981 two Ecuadorian groups placed a high camp on the small plateau between Monja Chica and Tabernáculo. A second ascent of Tabernáculo was made on December 30 by F. Almeida, F. Cáceres, R. Fuentes, S. Palacios and H. and M. Reinoso, of Colegio San Gabriel, Quito. The next day the ascent was repeated by O. Cevallos, M. Gavilanes, I. Ortega, W. Villacís and R. Yépez, of the Polytechnical School of the Ecuadorian army. Both Ecuadorian groups climbed the south face, direct, a new route.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA