

plishing the first ascent of Nevado Apachita Cuno (c. 5600 meters, 18,375 feet) by its northwest glacier (Aprile, Badra, Raynié and Schneider, July 27).

ALBERTO TARDITTI, *Club Andino Córdoba, Argentina*

*Zongo Pass Area Ski Descents; Cunatincuta (Chekhapa) and Ayllayco.* In early July, Don Pattison and Jimmy Katz attempted to nordic ski 19,996-foot Huayna Potosí, but encountered exceptionally windy and sun-crusted conditions and did not reach the summit. During the climb, they noticed a lower peak across the valley which appeared to offer better snow conditions: 17,445-foot Ayllayco. A few days later, they made what they consider to be the first nordic ski descent of this peak. (It has also been skied on alpine equipment.) The angle was a moderate, but interesting 40°-45° and the snow conditions were firm on the northwest face. In mid July, I joined the two skiers in Bolivia. After some fascinating touring on the shores of Lake Titicaca, we struck into the Zongo Pass region again. This time we hiked five or six miles to Cunatincuta (also called Chekhapa), 18,400 feet according to Alain Mesili's guidebook to the Cordillera Real, and made what we suspect was the first ski descent (none are listed in Mesili's book). I was on alpine skis, my partners on nordic gear (Rossignol skis and Merrell boots). We reached the top in perfect weather, but waited several hours until two P.M. for the sun to warm the northwest face enough to melt some of the surface ice. On the steepest section (45°), the snow had softened to corn, but on lower-angled slopes soft ice prevailed. The snow (and skiing) occupied the upper 2500 feet of the mountain. Though we are unaware of any previous nordic skiing in Bolivia, the Cordillera Real seems more suited to such skiing than Peru's Cordillera Blanca. Had the mountains not been subjected to an exceptionally dry spell before our arrival, adequate snow would likely have been encountered on most peaks. Huayna Potosí would be a superb nordic descent because of its moderate angle and lengthy slope. We hired expensive taxis from an agency to get to the mountains, but one could probably do better by flagging down taxis in the street and bargaining for their services.

JOHN HARLIN

*Illampu, East Face.* On July 9 two Spaniards from the Canary Islands, César Tejador and Antonio Ramos reached the summit of Illampu (6362 meters, 20,873 feet) by a new route on the left side of the east face, left of the buttress climbed in 1975 by A. Mesili. The first part was on rock of UIAA Grade V and the middle and upper sections were 60° ice. They descended to the left of the new route via previously unclimbed and dangerous terrain. They bivouacked at about 6000 meters.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Sajama.* On June 1 Dr. Cleve Armstrong, Robin McIntosh, Karen Ann Young, Richard Markham and I reached the summit of Sajama (6542 meters,