

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,

21,463 feet) via the west rib. After making extensive research, we believe that ours was the first American ascent of this route; the only other documented ascent of this route was that of Germans in 1975.

JENNIFER J. SEARS, *Colorado Mountain Club*

Chile—Northeast Andes

Ojos del Salado, Cerro "Radioactivo" and Cerro "Ojitos," While in the area in the first two weeks of March, our expedition made the ascent of Cerro "Radioactivo," shown on the maps as P 5750 (18,865 feet), about six kilometers southwest of the new and quite comfortable Hospedería Murray at Barrancas Blancas. This climb was made by a multinational group consisting of Chileans Gino Casassa, Marie Claude Bastres, Rodrigo Mújica, Americans James B. Scott, Burton A. Falk, Blaine A. Gibson, Charles J. Grashow and British John H. Rogers on March 8 for a second recorded ascent. They simply followed the ridge for four hours from the last place one can drive a jeep. The first recorded ascent was made in 1969. The climbers, whose names and details of the climb were found in a plastic bag in a cairn, gave the peak its name. Cerro "Ojitos," a peak or prominent shoulder northwest of Ojos del Salado and southwest of the Refugio Andino, was climbed by Casassa, Mújica, Scott, Falk, Gibson, Rogers and Peruvian James Dirks on March 10. A barometric altimeter reading on the summit gave an elevation of 19,200 feet (5852 meters). No cairn was found on the summit and so one was built in which the name of the peak and those of the climbers were left. The Ojos del Salado was climbed on March 12 in 12 hours by the same group without Dirks and with American John Kurnick from the new Refugio Tejos on the north side. They ascended to the crater rim and then to the north or "technical" summit, described by Captain René Gajardo in *A.A.J.*, 1957. The summit register has between 100 and 200 names of climbers who have reached this point since its first ascent.

RICK JALI

Argentina—Northern Andes

Macón, Rumibola and Llanaleria, Ancient and Modern Ascents. The three peaks named belong to the high desert of Salta province. Cerro Macón or Icomán (5490 meters, 18,012 feet) located along the way of the Antofagasta-Salta railroad, was ascended by Cristián Vitry and several members of the Club Amigos de la Montaña. The group located at 16,400 feet some pre-Columbian enclosures, which contained pieces of wood and pottery. The same Vitry, plus Antonio Zuleta, climbed Cerro Rumibola (5420 meters, 17,782 feet) on whose higher slopes they found again remains of ancient enclosures and even some petroglyphs. Two weeks later, Vitry, Zuleta and a woman, Talía Lino, of the Club Andino Córdoba, ascended Cerro Llanaleri (5300 meters, 17,389 feet), a possible first ascent. Both Rumibola and Llanaleri are situated near the town of La Poma.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA