

*Vallecito-Rincón Traverse and Other Mendoza Climbs.* A Randis and M. Sánchez, of the Club Mendoza de Regatas, traversed the almost two-mile ridge connecting Vallecitos and Rincón peaks, both over 17,000 feet. It took them 14 hours to traverse all obstacles, which included the first ascent of five lesser points or peaklets (December 1985). The south-face wall of Pico Franke (5000 meters, 16,404 feet) was climbed for the first time on December 6, 1986 by J. Giaquinta, M. Sánchez and J. Santamaría, a route very exposed to rockfall.

LUIS A. PARRA, *Club Andinista Mendoza*

### Argentine—Chilean Patagonia

*Crossing of the Northern Patagonian Icecap and Cerro Largo, 1985.* In November and December of 1985 American Bonnie Schwahn and Chileans Gino Casassa and I were on the Northern Patagonian Icecap (Hielo Continental Norte). We made the crossing of the icecap in 17 hours round-trip. It was the first east-to-west traverse, the first on cross-country skis and the first crossing in one day. We started on November 29, 1985 from our small tent on the eastern side of the Soler and Nef Glaciers. We arrived at midday at the snow line below the San Quintin Glacier on the Pacific side. After a short rest, we began the return and after 17 hours and a 58-kilometer trip were back at our tent that night. Two days after the crossing, on December 1, 1985, we climbed "Pico Naranja" (2700 meters, 8858 feet), one of the summits of Cerro Largo. We climbed on skis and made a telemark descent.

RODRIGO MÚJICA, *Chilean Section of the Club Alpino Italiano*

*Volcán Lautaro, West Face.* An official expedition of the Federación de Andinismo de Chile reached the Continental Icecap by way of Fiordo Exmouth and headed for Volcán Lautaro (3380 meters, 11,089 feet), previously ascended by Argentinians and British parties. On February 10, the five members of this expedition reached the summit, having ascended the west side, a new route (G. Chauriye, C. Gálvez, P. Jara, R. Labbé and M. Munjín).

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

*Cerro "Aguilera" Attempt.* A Chilean-British expedition jointly led by F. Medina and M. Hickman and comprising nine other climbers and scientists entered the Patagonian Icecap through the Fiordo Andrew and marched toward Cerro "Aguilera" (unofficial name, 2400 meters, 7874 feet). Attempts could get no higher than 4000 feet, but in the course of this expedition it was verified that the mountain was a volcano (November 1985 through January 1986).

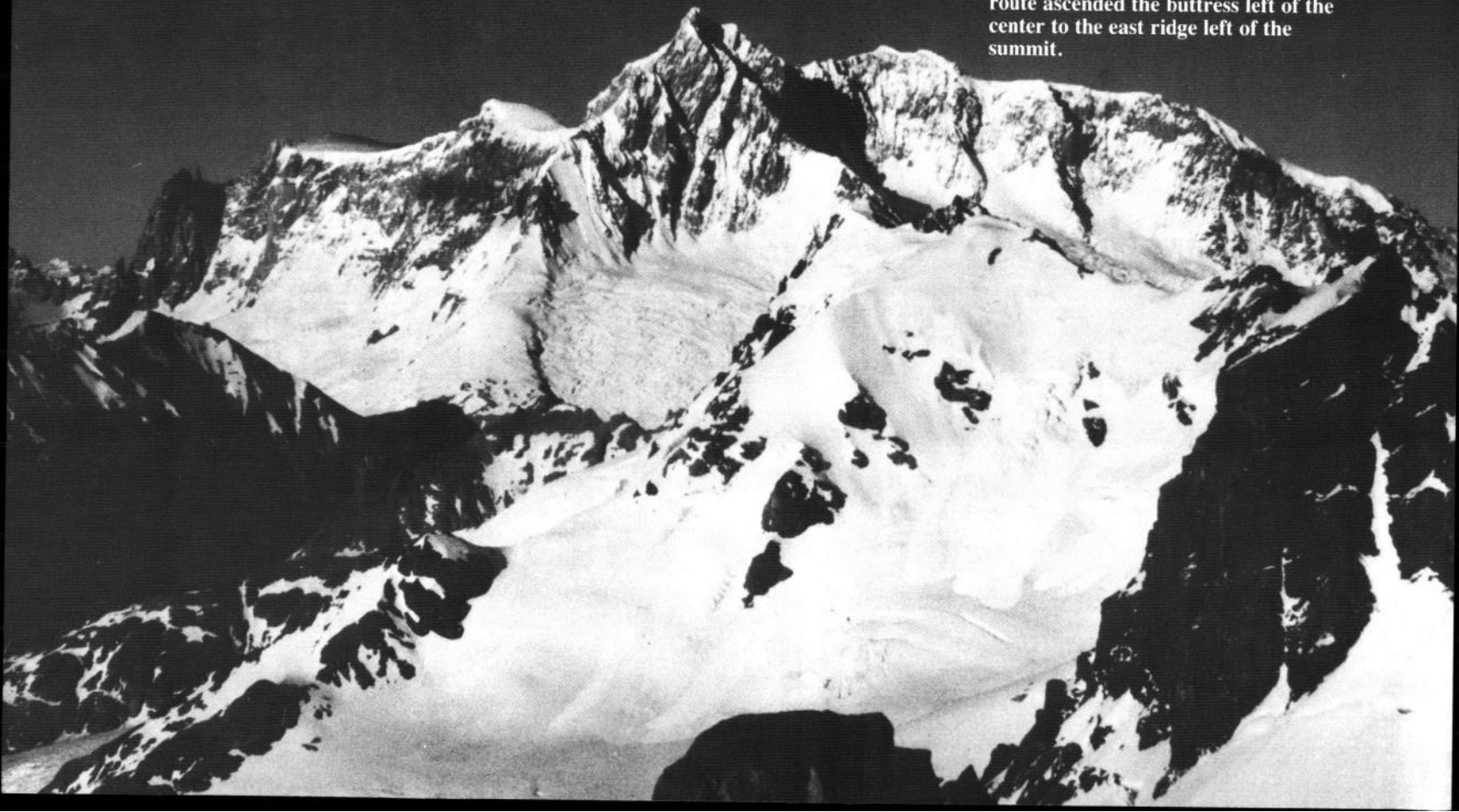
EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

*San Lorenzo Sur and Cerro Hermosa Este.* My husband Gino Buscaini and I approached the San Lorenzo group from the Estancia El Rincón and went in three days with loads via Lago del Volcán, Río San Lorenzo and Río "Paso

PLATE 60

*Photo by Paul Fatt*

**SAN LORENZO.** The South African route ascended the buttress left of the center to the east ridge left of the summit.



Clandestino" to the southwest San Lorenzo Glacier. We first made two attempts on the principal summit of San Lorenzo (3706 meters, 12,159 feet). We got to 2850 meters on December 10, 1985 on the east ridge but had to turn back because of dangerous conditions caused by too hot weather! On December 22 we attempted the San Lorenzo route of Padre De Agostini after crossing to the east of Cerro Hermoso, descending to the Río de Oro and ascending the Río Tranquilo. We got to 2700 meters where wind and snowfall turned us back. Because of lack of food, we could not make another attempt. When we returned, we found that four South Africans were trying the east ridge. We understand that they were successful. On December 29, 1985 we climbed the south face and east ridge of Cerro Hermoso Este (c. 2400 meters, 7874 feet). The route was the most elegant and most logical. In the recent warm summers the glaciers and ice faces have changed considerably. The difficulties were only two 75° rope-lengths of ice. On January 15 we climbed San Lorenzo Sur (3385 meters, 11,105 feet) by the south face and west ridge. The climb was all snow and ice. We climbed a couloir close to the rocks on the right, working our way through two sérac bands to arrive on the ridge at 2800 meters. We worked our way along the west ridge at times past ice walls and mushroom formations to reach the small round plateau at the summit. We descended the same route.

SILVIA METZELTIN BUSCAINI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*San Lorenzo, East Face.* On January 15 Erwin Müller, Russell Dodding, Hans-Peter Bakker and I reached the summit of San Lorenzo (3706 meters, 12,159 meters), the first party ever to climb the mountain from the Argentine side. We had made an unsuccessful attempt in 1980. The ascent was made via the 2200-meter-high east ridge and involved steep ice climbing with a 5-meter vertical rock band just below the summit. From the roadhead at Estancia El Rincón, close to the Chilean border, a 15-kilometer hike led to a beech grove sheltered behind a moraine ridge and Base Camp. It took four hours to cross the difficult terrain over the moraine and glacier to the col at the base of the east ridge, where we dug a snow cave for Advance Base. The next task was to establish our box tent as high as possible on the ridge. We set off on December 27, 1985 at the beginning of a good weather spell. After 32 hours of continuous climbing, mostly on steep ice, we eventually came across a bergschrund at 3000 meters, forming an ideal sheltered campsite, well situated for tackling the final 700 meters to the top. We retreated to Base Camp to recover and pick up supplies. Bad weather kept us at Base Camp for another week and then, on our first attempt to get back on the mountain, a snowstorm forced us to retreat. Finally, on January 8, we were back on the ridge. After another exhausting climb, right through the night, we arrived at the bergschrund camp on the following afternoon to find our box-tent half buried under the snow but still intact. For the next three days we were kept prisoners while the storm raged outside. Eventually, on January 13, the storm broke. The climbing was steep and sustained. Although we made steady progress, we were still far from the summit

when night overtook us. There was nowhere to bivouac on the steep ice and we continued to climb by torchlight. Early morning saw us tied to ice screws on a tiny stance, preparing a meal on a precariously balanced stove and waiting for daylight. Eventually the sun appeared and we continued upwards. By lunch time we reached the base of the rock band and prepared to tackle the 50-meter sheer cliff of hazardous rock and ice-filled cracks. The first attempt by Dodding ended at an impassable section, and he was lowered to the stance from a piton at the high point. I took over the lead and, following a different line, inched my way up the icy rock. Two-and-a-half hours later, I was at the top of the band with the summit in sight. It was another few hours before the other three joined me and in the fading light we made our way to the summit ridge. Just below the final rock pillar on the ridge we found a site for our bivouac tents. Eventually, in the early hours of the morning, we crawled into sleeping bags, having been on the go for 46 hours. Fortunately the good weather held and the next morning we awoke late to find the summit little more than a rope-length away. That afternoon we negotiated the final obstacle, the rock pillar, and made our way to the summit of San Lorenzo. It took us the whole of the following day to descend to the bergschrund camp. After a rest day there, we finally arrived at Base Camp on the evening of January 19.

L. PAUL FATTI, *Mountain Club of South Africa*

*San Lorenzo.* On December 10, 1986 my husband Gino Buscaini, Argentine Cristina Agued and I reached the summit of San Lorenzo by the easy route of the first ascent made by Padre De Agostini. We believe that ours was the fifth ascent. San Lorenzo was also climbed by the Italian Casimiro Ferrari and three others on January 18, 1987 by the east ridge, previously climbed by South Africans. They found UIAA difficulties of V to V+ on the upper rock buttress. This year's weather was typically "Patagonian," which made us retreat from a number of our objectives.

SILVIA METZELTIN BUSCAINI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Patagonia, Southern Summer Season of 1986-7.* The weather this season was not as good as last year and so few ascents have been made up to now, late February, 1987. On December 7, Slovenes Franc Knez, Silvo Karo and Johan Jeglič finished a new route on the southeast face of Torre Egger. They rated it VII, A3. They fixed rope on the lower 500 meters of the 900-meter face. Afterwards the same three climbed the Mocho (near the Cerro Torre), which I believe had previously been climbed only once, by Australians. There was only one ascent of Cerro Torre, made on January 9, 1987 by Italians including Paolo Vitoli by the Maestri bolt route. Fitz Roy was climbed by seven different groups, Spanish, Austrian, Swiss, Italian, Argentine and South Tirolean. Spaniards A. Trabado and M. Vidal climbed to the summit twice, once by the Californian route and once by the Argentine one. South Tiroleans Reinhard Patschneider and Fritz Kurt climbed the Argentine route on December 20 in 25