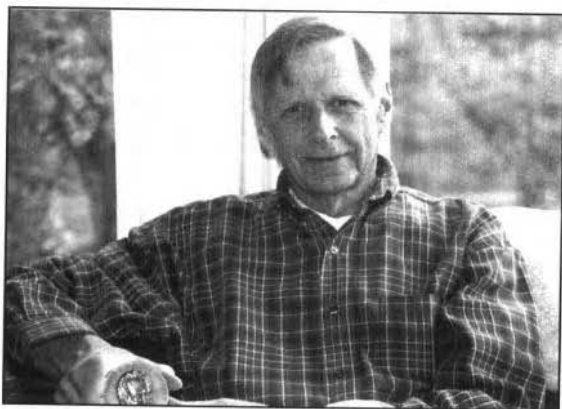


In Memoriam

Edited by David Harrah and Angus Thuermer, Jr.

HARRY C. MCDADE, M.D.
1924-1997



Harry McDade holding the Nathan Smith Distinguished Service Award, received from the New England Surgical Society in 1996. COURTESY OF THE CALEDONIAN RECORD

In last year's *In Memoriam*, Bill Putnam tells well of Harry McDade's honors from surgery, his remarkable mountain rescue work and his AAC Sowles Award. During his 33 years as a club member, Harry climbed or piloted his plane when medical work permitted. He climbed often with H. Adams Carter, making first ascents of Paccharaju and Paccharaju Sur in Peru and helping to make a new route on Mt. Foraker. In 1966, Harry was with Eric Shipton, Adams Carter and me on Mt. Russell. We expected to finish a new route the next morning, but a long, continuous storm

dumped eight to ten feet of snow on us, making location of our lower camp with its food doubtful but essential.

Harry also reached Phoksamdo Tal in the Kanjirobi Himal, Nepal—the second Westerner to get there. In separate years, he flew his plane to Point Barrow, Baffin Island and Greenland, Victoria Island and Teslin Lake in the Yukon. For these and many other reasons, our club can be proud of him.

ROBERT H. BATES

ICHIRO YOSHIZAWA
1903-1998

Ichiro Yoshizawa, a member of The American Alpine Club and one of Japan's most distinguished mountaineers and mountain scholars, died at the age of 95 in September. Mr. Yoshizawa led the first Japanese expedition to the Andes in 1961 that made the first ascent of Pucahirca Norte, one of the last unclimbed 6000-meter peaks in Peru, as well as various first ascents in the Cordillera Apolobamba. In 1977, Mr. Yoshizawa was the leader of the successful Japanese expedition to K2.



Ichiro Yoshizawa. NICK CLINCH

His writings and translations were prodigious. Besides writing several books about his climbs in the Japanese Alps and the Japanese K2 expeditions, he edited *Encyclopedia of Mountaineering* and the monumental two-volume work, *Mountaineering Maps of the World*. He introduced Japanese climbers to many important English-language mountaineering books through his translations. Among the books he translated were Smythe's biography of Edward Whymper, Shipton's *Upon that Mountain*, and Tilman's *Snow on the Equator*.

He joined the Japanese Alpine Club in 1925, served on its board and later became vice president in 1972, and was elected an honorary member in 1977. He conducted a vast correspondence all over the world, and for many years furnished information on Japanese mountaineering to Ad Carter, editor of the *AAJ*. Mr. Yoshizawa was a member of various other foreign alpine clubs, including The Alpine Club (London).

He had a long-standing friendship with American mountaineers that began in 1961 when I realized that there were four and not just three 6000-meter peaks in the Pucahirca group, and that two of them were unclimbed. When I told him that there were two "North Pucahircas" and not just one, his expedition was able to make the first ascent of the unclimbed one. Years later, in 1969, when I was president of the AAC, he was visiting the United States and accompanied me on a trip to visit the western sections. He loved the opportunity to meet members of the Club.

Mr. Yoshizawa's warm courtesy had no seeming limit. In 1963, my plane from India to the United States stopped briefly at the Tokyo airport to refuel at three in the morning. Mr. Yoshizawa drove for more than an hour through a rainy wind-swept night to spend 15 minutes with me in the transient lounge before returning home. We have lost a friend.

NICHOLAS B. CLINCH

BERNARD PIERRE

1920-1997

Bernard Pierre was born in Chelles, France, became a doctor of law and a graduate of the School of Political Science, and became head of the family textile business. From his earliest years, he devoted his leisure time to mountaineering and to writing.

With Gaston Rebuffat, he made several classic ascents in the Alps, including the North Face of the Drus, the Northwest Face of La Civetta, the second ascent of the Northeast Face of Piz Badille, and the second ascent of the Black Needle de Penterey. In addition, he shared leads on the first ascents of the North Arête of the Aiguille des Aigles and the face of the Aiguille de la Brenva. In 1951, he visited the Hoggar in North Africa and made several first ascents there. In 1952, he and three French colleagues joined four AAC members in Peru and made the first ascent of Salcantay (6271m).

In 1953, he led an expedition to Nun Kun, the second-highest peak in Kashmir (7135m), on which Pierre Vittoz and Claude Kogan reached the summit. In 1954, he led a Franco-Iranian expedition to Iran to make the first ascent of Demavend. He led expeditions to the Mountains of the Moon in Ruwenzori (1955-'56,) the Caucasus (1958), and Hoggar (1961). Pierre's career as a writer was extraordinary. His first book, on synthetic textiles, was honored by the Institute de France. His mountaineering writings include books about his own expeditions (*Escalades au Hoggar; Salcantay, Geant des Andes; Une Montagne Nommée Nun Kun; Une Victoire sur l'Himalaya; Montagnes de la Lune; Mes Galons d'Alpiniste; Une Victorie sur les Andes; and Ils ont Conquis l'Himalaya*), books written in collaboration with others (*Face a l'Everest*, with Eric Shipton; *Escalades et Randonnees au Hoggar*, with Claude Aulard), and several books for young readers. In addition, he produced some lovingly written books about the great rivers of the world (*Le Roman du Nil; Le Roman du Mississippi; ...Danube; ...Gange; ...Loire*). He received a number of literary prizes, and his books have often been translated into other languages.

Pierre became a member of the Groupe de la Haute Montagne in 1949. He became a member of the AAC in 1953, and Honorary Member in 1991.

GEORGE I. BELL, SR., W.V. GRAHAM MATTHEWS, and DAVID HARRAH

HARRY HOYT
1924-1997

Harry Hoyt was born June 20, 1924, in Grinnell, Iowa. Since he suffered from asthma, he was sent as a teenager to the YMCA Camp Chief Ouray near Granby, Colorado, where he became a counselor and developed his love of the mountains. While there, he made his first of many ascents of Longs Peak in 1941. He then went to the University of Colorado, where he obtained his undergraduate degree in physics and remained for a further year as a teaching assistant. During these summers, he served as an instructor and guide for the university's Mountain Recreation Department. His ascents during that time included many climbs of Longs Peak, including Alexander's Chimney and Stettner's Ledges and many others in the Colorado Rockies and the Tetons.

Harry received his Ph.D. in physics from the California Institute of Technology in 1953 and immediately accepted a position as staff member in the Theoretical Division at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. Harry remained active at the Laboratory until shortly before his death. He displayed a talent for devising computer programs to solve difficult technical problems, ranging from the propagation of shock waves through layered media to the detection of fraud in the patterns of Medicare billing. He was also greatly respected as a mentor of less-experienced colleagues. For this role, he developed a somewhat curmudgeonly manner, and used it to good advantage to help his colleagues distinguish hype and speculation from knowledge.

Harry was one of the founders and prime movers of the Los Alamos Mountaineers, organizing and leading instructional courses and technical climbs for the club. He also participated in some of the summer outings organized by the Alpine Club of Canada and there met the Swiss guide, Eddie Petrig. Subsequently, Harry did a number of long classic Zermatt climbs with Eddie, including the Marinelli Couloir on Monte Rosa and the West Ridge of the Taeschorn.

One of Harry's favorite activities was climbing in the San Juan Mountains of Southwestern Colorado in the spring, often over Memorial Day. Many of these mountains have poor rock, so we liked to go there early in the season when there was plenty of snow on which to make the climbs. We would drive as far as possible, then backpack, perhaps a few miles, to camp in some neat place like Yankee Boy Basin or Silver Pick Basin—often among the ruins of old mines or mills. Around daybreak, Harry was always among the first up to light a fire and start breakfast cooking. Since his asthma continued to bother him, he would also use an inhaler at this early hour and cough and snort to clear his lungs for the day's climb. Then we would set off to climb some little-known peak such as Teakettle, or Gilpin, or Vermillion.

On one of these trips, after two days of wonderful climbing, we spent the night in a campground just north of Ouray, Colorado, before heading back to work. As usual, Harry was up early, starting a fire and clearing his lungs. After the rest of us had emerged from our sleeping bags and were eating breakfast, some other campers came over and expressed concern. They asked if we had heard the bear in the campground. They had heard the bear around dawn, coughing and snorting something awful; they thought he sounded old and cross and they worried that he might come back again....

We miss you, old bear.

GEORGE I. BELL

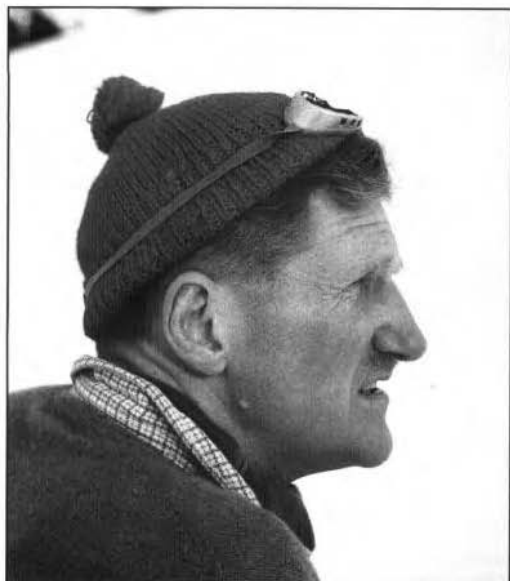
HENRY CECIL JOHN HUNT

1910-1999

Lord Hunt, who led the successful British expedition that made the first ascent of Everest, and who was an honorary member of The American Alpine Club, died on November 8, 1998. He was 89.

Some men do things right. John Hunt was one of them. More than 45 years after the event, it is easy to forget what the circumstances were regarding Everest in 1953. The British had made innumerable attempts on the mountain. All had failed. The Nepalese opened the mountain to other countries and in 1952 the Swiss attempted Everest twice from the south side and almost succeeded. The British had permission for the following year and after that, permission had been granted to other countries. It was apparent that Everest would be climbed. The only question was, by whom? More than 30 years of effort was coming down to one last throw of the dice.

At this critical moment, the Everest Committee decided to switch the leadership of the expedition from Eric Shipton, a very popular mountaineer who was one of Britain's finest Himalayan mountaineers and had made five expeditions to Everest, but who basically ran his trips off the back of an envelope, to John Hunt, an army officer with great organizing ability. The decision was correct, but it was handled badly. Years later, Hunt, who had nothing to do with the decision, was still embarrassed by it.



Henry Cecil J. Hunt. GEORGE BAND

Handicapped by the manner of his selection, facing monumental difficulties of logistics, obtaining oxygen apparatus, selecting personnel and getting them to work as a team, and under intense public scrutiny, John Hunt brought it off. As always, it required a break in the weather, but Hillary and Tenzing, after a tremendous effort, reached the summit on May 29, 1953. The news of the success reached England on June 2, the day of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

John Hunt was more than a military organizer. He was a mountaineer. He began climbing in the Alps as a young man. Later, while serving in the army in India, he went on various Himalayan expeditions, including an attempt on Saltoro Kangri (a 25,400-foot avalanche trap in the Karakoram) and a reconnaissance of the Kangchenjunga massif. After the

Everest expedition, he regularly went to the Alps to climb and ski. He also led British parties to the Caucasus in 1958 and to the Pamirs in 1962.

Hunt was born in Simla, India, on June 22, 1910, the son of an army officer. He was educated at Marlborough College, where he was first in his class, and then at Sandhurst Military Academy, where he was again first in his class, and was awarded the King's Gold Medal and the Anson Memorial Sword. After service in the King's Royal Rifle Corps in India, he returned to England in 1940, where he was appointed chief instructor in the Commando Mountain and Snow Warfare School. Later, he was given command of the 11th Indian Infantry Brigade and was with them until the end of World War II.

He left the Army in 1956 to run the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme for British youth, during the course of which he led a youth expedition to East Greenland. In addition, he was Chairman of the Parole Board for England and Wales, President of the Council for Volunteers Overseas, and involved with numerous other organizations and commissions. He was knighted in 1953, and made a Life Peer in 1966. For his dedicated public service, the Queen made him one of 24 Knights of the Garter in 1979.

Hunt also remained active in mountaineering and exploration matters. He was president of The Alpine Club, the Climbers' Club, the British Mountaineering Council, the National Ski Federation, and the Royal Geographical Society.

But hidden behind this incredible record of accomplishment (and at times a diffident appearance to strangers) was an extremely warm and generous man. A caring husband to his wife, Joy, and father to their four daughters, John Hunt was kind to everyone, and especially to his friends. His life and character is best summed up by the word this proper English gentleman scribbled over the printed greetings contained in his last Christmas card: "Love."

LUTHER GERALD JERSTAD

1936-1998

Lute Jerstad possessed a magical quality born of the mountains that affected all those around him. He was a good friend of my father's and, as a young boy in Washington, D.C., I remember getting excited when hearing that Lute would be coming to visit. Lute and my father would stay up late drinking, laughing, and telling stories about far-off places that captivated a young boy's imagination. Lute's tremendous laugh and presence filled a room. It's hard to imagine that a persona as powerful as Lute's won't be joining us for another round.

Lute was born in Minnesota in 1936 on his parent's farm: weighing only slightly more than three pounds, he was incubated in a shoe box and fed with an eye dropper. At 12, Lute and his family moved to Gig Harbor, Washington, where he attended high school and was introduced to the mountains of the Northwest. An exceptional athlete, Lute lettered in football, basketball, and baseball at Peninsula High School. Lute attended Pacific Lutheran University where he played basketball, making two trips to the NAIA tournament in Kansas City. He was voted the Inspirational Award his senior year.

During high school and college, Lute spent a great deal of time climbing throughout the Northwest. He climbed most of the major peaks in the Cascades. Lute began guiding on Mt. Rainier during the summers, logging more than 40 ascents of the mountain. Lute's climbing travels then took him to the top of Mt. McKinley. Norman Dyhrenfurth, the expedition leader of the 1963 American Everest Expedition, was impressed with Lute's climbing resume and invited him to join the team. He was only 26 years old.

On May 22, 1963, Lute and his climbing partner, Barry Bishop, stood on the summit of Everest as members of the first American team on the mountain. Not only did Lute summit Everest, but he carried a motion picture camera to the roof of the world and recorded the first motion pictures from the summit of that mountain. Even more remarkable, Lute and Barry joined Tom Hornbien and Willie Unsold after their successful ascent of the West Ridge that afternoon, and the four descended to the South Col together. They did not make it to Lute and Barry's high camp and were forced to spend the night out at 28,000 feet before reaching the safety of camp the next morning. This bivouac was an extraordinary feat, but the public had no real awareness of its significance.

Following his success on Everest, Lute obtained a master's degree from Washington State University, and a doctorate from the University of Oregon. He taught at Franklin Pierce High School in Tacoma, Washington, Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and The University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon. He started Lute Jerstad Adventures in Oregon, and offered river rafting, mountaineering and outdoor experiences in the United States and Asia. One of his greatest joys was teaching and leading people to reach heights of success they would not have thought possible. He introduced deaf children, blind adults, the mentally retarded, and the physically disabled to the rigors of outdoor adventure.

Lute's love of the Himalaya and his desire to explore saw his return in later years to champion environmental causes. He worked with various business partners in India and Nepal to conserve wildlife parks and forests so that endangered species might survive, and at the same time provided a once-in-a-lifetime experience for those visitors who traveled with him.

Impressive as Lute's accomplishments are, it was his personality that made the real mark in the world. He was opinionated, outspoken, and as politically incorrect as they come. He made no apologies for his beliefs or actions; it was the world according to Lute. Lute loved his cigarettes, scotch, and the poems of Robert Service, and was never wanting for a candid opinion: he had a way of crashing through life with integrity that is not found easily in this day and

age. Gil Roberts, a member of the 1963 Everest expedition, tells of Lute, "He could occasionally be his own worst enemy, he got mad about stuff, but he was a loyal friend who always wondered what he could do for other people. He'd give you his down jacket or his last 50 bucks if he thought you were cold or broke."

Lute was extremely humble, never basking in his accomplishments on Everest, always downplaying them. He wrote to me after I climbed Everest in '94 with the following advice: "Accomplishing such a feat isn't much in and of itself, but in the long run it provides a mortal with a new, fresh and satisfying view of the world below. Now you erase the word can't from your vocabulary." It was with this attitude that Lute approached the world, accomplished so much, and touched so many people.

His final trip to Nepal was a trek to Everest Base Camp with his grandson and some close friends. They stopped to visit the chortans of Jake Breitenbach and Barry Bishop, fellow '63 Everest team members, on the ridge at Thangboche monastery. Lute allowed as to how he wouldn't mind ending up there by and by. Two days later, he dropped of a sudden coronary at Dugla. He is out on the ridge now. The view up valley to Everest is pretty special. If you get there, go out and share a beer with Lute, his friends, and the goraks.

BRENT BISHOP, with input from STEW MORTON and GIL ROBERTS

NED GILLETTE

1945-1998

"Ned left me and a lot of us with the courage, passion and imagination to push on, to go and live our dreams."

—Susie Patterson Gillette

Ned Gillette, 53, was killed by two bandits on August 5, 1998, in the Haramosh Valley of northern Pakistan in an apparent failed robbery attempt. He was at the end of a Himalayan trek with his wife, Susie Patterson, when two assailants blindly shot into their tent during the middle of the night, fatally wounding Ned. Susie, in serious condition, survived and was evacuated to Gilgit with the help of shepherds and police.

Ned lived an extraordinary and energetic life, remarkable for the variety of adventures he created, the skills he mastered to complete them and the colorful way he engaged a wide audience with accounts of his experiences. He defined his outlook in a piece called "The Meaning of Life," in which he said, "If life is to have any meaning, it's essential to carve out your own niche, to become special. Special things happen to special people. Climbing, skiing, and ocean voyages to remote corners of the world are often so gnarly and so scary that you wish you'd never left home. But eventually the sun shines again. You must be an optimist."

Ned grew up in Barre, Vermont. He began skiing at age five, and spent summers sailing New England's coastal waters. From Holderness School in New Hampshire, he went on to Dartmouth, where he was captain of the ski team. He was NCAA cross-country ski champion in 1967, the year he graduated, and became a member of the 1968 Olympic team. In 1970, he helped establish the cross country ski program at the Yosemite Mountaineering School under director Wayne Merry, which he ran for several winters. He then returned to Vermont to head the Trapp Family Lodge's Ski Touring Center in Stowe.

His first expedition was a 1972 ski traverse of the Brooks Range in Alaska. Along with three teammates, he covered 300 miles of the proposed oil pipeline. He then began dreaming up his own adventures, usually carried out with three companions.



Ned Gillette climbing Haramosh Pass, northern Pakistan, in 1998. S. PATTERSON GILLETTE

In 1977, Ned led an expedition that skied over 500 miles up Canada's Robson Channel and around Ellesmere Island, pioneering the use of specialized sleds that enabled self-supported expeditionary travel. In 1978, Ned and Galen Rowell circumnavigated Mt. McKinley; the two later completed the first one-day ascent of the peak, climbing and descending over 10,000 vertical feet in 19 hours. In 1979, he completed a ski traverse of New Zealand's Southern Alps.

In 1980, Ned led a 285-mile winter ski crossing of the Karakoram Mountains, a venture that he often cited as the most physically demanding of his expeditions. Also in 1980, Ned completed the first ski descent of the 24,757-foot Muztagata in China. In 1981-'82, Ned organized the Everest Grand Circle Expedition, which circumnavigated Mt. Everest, and completed the first American winter ascent of Mt. Pumori (23,422').

In 1988, after designing and supervising the construction of a 28-foot rowboat, Ned rowed with three

companions over 600 miles in 13 days across the Drake Passage from Cape Horn to Antarctica through some of the world's "most mad seas," an adventure that Ned documented in a feature article for *National Geographic*.

These accomplishments required not only extraordinary athletic ability, endurance, discipline and mental toughness, but also vision and optimism. His deep-set hazel eyes sparkled with intense delight and energy with each fresh idea for traveling the world's wild places. Ned's brilliance was to approach the world in creative ways, bringing the excitement of discovery to familiar arenas. Resourceful and self-reliant, he meticulously prepared for each foray, anticipating known hazards and minimizing the risks of capricious nature.

Following their marriage in 1990, Ned and Susie Patterson, a U.S. slalom and downhill champion, and also a former Olympic skier, took up residence near Sun Valley, Idaho. Two years later, they walked 5,000 miles of the historic Silk Route across China and other Central Asian countries in authentic "caravan style," with six camels.

Ned chronicled these experiences in his captivating writing and photography, focusing on skiing, mountaineering, sailing, and outdoor photography. He contributed adventure travel articles and photographs to numerous publications, including *National Geographic*, *Outside*, and *Outdoor Photographer*. He authored two books: *Everest Grand Circle*, with Jan Reynolds, and *Cross Country Skiing*, with John Dostal.

Ned was a generously warm and insightful person who used humor to keep life in perspective. Certainly, he will be remembered for his imaginative exploration of wild and remote regions. But more satisfying to him, and more enduring, was his ability to energize and inspire each of us to push beyond our self-imposed limits, and to live life with vitality and commitment, determined to excel in whatever venture we've chosen. His family and his friends will always love, remember, and miss him.

DEBORAH GILLETTE LAW *and members of Ned's family*

FRANCYS DISTEFANO-ARSENTIEV

1958-1998

SERGUEI ANATOLIEVICH ARSENTIEV

1958-1998

About five years ago, Francys Distefano, a long-time member of the Telluride community and a rapidly improving high-altitude climber, arrived home with Serguei, her guide on a Russian climbing expedition. Serg, a native of St. Petersburg, had a long resume that included many years of difficult climbing on high Soviet peaks and 8000-meter summits in the Himalaya with Russian teams. Almost as interesting, he boasted a list of careers that included electrical engineer, rocket scientist, logger, and steeplejack. Serg started working with us as a carpenter and took a whirlwind tour of the American Dream: Coca Cola, an old Chevy pick-up truck, Carharts, a motorcycle, new teeth, and an Audi. He quickly learned English and, eventually, our measuring system. Serg was the carpenter everyone relied on to handle tough jobs. Single-handedly, with only some help from Fran, Serg built a beautiful home in Norwood, Colorado. They also took annual expeditions to Russia or Alaska. When Fran asked me about refinancing their house to go on an Everest climb, I realized that living the American Dream wasn't going to totally contain their intellect—not with the Himalaya beckoning.

I should have extracted more stories from Serg when I could, instead of planning to talk more when we were both 80, lounging in our rockers at the old folks' home. I keep expecting to see him arrive at a construction site and to tell him, "Serg, cut the sentimental bullshit and get your nail-belt on."

CHUCK KROGER

Serguei and Francys Arsentiev died on Mount Everest last spring. The Arsentievs are the only husband-and-wife team to attain Everest without the use of supplemental oxygen.

Sergei, one of the foremost Russian alpinists of this century, will be remembered perhaps more for his gentle, unassuming demeanor. In St. Petersburg, Serguei studied at the Leningrad Electrotechnical Institute and later worked in a factory that manufactured spy satellites, "looking on the U.S.," he once explained amusedly. He came up with the concept of using magnetism at the Earth's poles to keep satellites from spinning in orbit so that they could focus continuously on America.

Besides being a rocket scientist, Serguei proved his physical mettle in climbing. A man of remarkable focus, intelligence, and strength, with a natural ability to acclimatize quickly, Serguei completed more than 100 routes in the Caucasus and the former Soviet ranges, Tien Shan and the Pamirs. To his credit are the first winter ascents of Peak Korzhenevskaya (7105m) and Peak Lenin (7134m), and a 20-hour round-trip climb of Khan Tengri Peak (6995m). "One would have to go back to that era to understand the stature of these achievements," said

Serguei's friend, Antoine Savelli. "Serguei's nonchalance disguised his greatness."

Serguei earned the honorary name of Snow Leopard for climbing the five highest mountains in the Soviet Union. At the age of 30, he was awarded Master of Sport with Honors. As such, Serguei was an important team member in some of the most lauded Soviet expeditions, like the 1989 Kangchenjunga traverse when he summited all "Three Tops." On May 7, 1990, Serguei became the first Russian to climb Everest without bottled oxygen. The achievement came on the Everest Peace Climb, a joint U.S.-Chinese-Russian expedition conceived and led by American Jim Whittaker. For this, Serguei was presented the National Friendship Medal by President Gorbachev and became a national hero.

In 1991, Serguei met Francys Distefano in the Himalaya. Fran, an American and young mother from Telluride, Colorado, had grown up skiing in the U.S. and Switzerland and had recently taken to mountaineering. As the story goes, she went to Nepal with a boyfriend and summited the 6000-meter Loboche, Island, Pokalde and Mera peaks, then crossed the Khumbu Glacier to Serguei's tent. That fall, she accompanied Serguei on a Russian expedition to Annapurna I and climbed as far as Camp II. Serguei and a Russian partner made short work of the 8000-meter peak, ascending the north face with light packs and no oxygen in typical Russian style. A year later, Fran and Serguei registered their marriage in the Soviet Consulate of Kathmandu, and the couple went on to climb Elbrus's east and west tops. Fran skied from the West Top to the foot of Elbrus, becoming the first American woman to do so.

In the summer of 1992, Fran brought Serguei to Telluride (after Serguei convinced the Politburo that he would not divulge Russia's spy satellite secrets in the United States). While I was working for a Telluride newspaper, Serguei and Fran asked me to write an article about their mountain-guiding business, *Trek Around the World*. Describing his achievements to me (Serguei was just learning English), Fran was in awe of Serguei, her blue eyes gleaming in rapture.

Serguei was shy, enigmatic and instantly a friend. That winter, Serguei and I, both illegal aliens, landed jobs shoveling snow for cash. We waved our shovels in greeting on many dark mornings as we cleared sidewalks on opposite sides of Main Street.

Trek Around the World never matured as a business, but Serguei and Fran returned to Russia each year to climb Korzhenevskaya, Lenin, Communism (7495m), Vorobyov (5691m), and Peak of Four (6299m). In 1994, they made a first ascent of Peak 5800m, which they named Peak Goodwill, located in the remote Muzkol Range of the East Pamirs, and also summited Chottukay Peak (5823m). In 1995, they successfully summited Denali via the West Buttress. Serguei, meanwhile, had become a proficient carpenter, working for a Telluride construction company owned by climber Chuck Kroger and his wife, Kathy Green, and had built a house for himself and Fran in Norwood, a neighboring mesa town. He was known by his co-workers as "the gentle giant." Despite her passion for mountaineering adventures, Fran was devoted to her son, Paul, from a previous marriage.

Kroger recalled first meeting Fran in 1984 when she was new to Telluride and to climbing; even then she expressed a desire to climb Everest. As testimony to her determination, Fran is the first American woman and the second woman in the world to verifiably summit Everest without the use of supplemental oxygen. Why she and Serguei kept climbing for the summit after they had fallen way behind the mid-day turn-around that Everest mandates, we confound ourselves asking. To borrow from Reinhold Messner, "...the same questions are unanswered as yesterday, and as in the beginning. And every answer is a new question for those who are left behind."

Serguei is survived by his teen-aged daughter, Alevtina, who lives in Russia. Fran is survived by Paul Distefano, who lives with his father in Telluride.