

# Hillary relives triumph.

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could have dealt with an accident much better died. "Those left behind couldn't really cope very well and we all spun off in own directions."

Hillary did eventually find happiness again, marrying June, widow of his exploring partner Pete Mulgrew.

Despite the tragedies, life has been full of richly satisfying firsts for the craggy explorer. "Perhaps nothing can surpass the opportunity of being the first in the world to reach the summit of Mount Everest, to be the first to drive a tractor overland to the South Pole or to make the first journey by jet boats up the mighty Ganges river to its sources in the Himalayas," he writes. (*Reuter*)