Summits of the Seven Continents Climbed by Women. The first to succeed in climbing to the summits of all seven continents was 54-year-old Texan Richard Bass when he reached the top of Everest in 1985. He completed the "smaller" series, which included Mount Kosciusko, the highest in Australia. Canadian Pat Morrow made his last ascent, Vinson Massif, in 1986 and became the first to complete the "big series," which includes Carstensz Pyramid, the highest point in Australasia. Since then, more than twenty men have completed the achievement. It was not until 1992 that a female, 54-year-old Japanese climber Junko Tabei, scaled the highest point of all seven continents. On June 28, she ascended Carstensz Pyramid (Puncak Jaya). Her first conquest was in 1975, when she climbed Everest. This was followed by Mont Blanc (1979), Kilimanjaro (1980), Aconcagua (1987), McKinley (1988), Elbrus (1989), Vinson Massif (1991) and Carstensz Pyramid (1992). At the time of publication, it is likely that a second woman will have become the second woman to have completed the series. Dr. Christine Janin is now in Argentina, planning to climb her last, Aconcagua.

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UNITED STATES

Alaska

Denali National Park and Preserve Mountaineering Summary, 1992. The 1992 climbing season on Mount McKinley was record setting in the number of climbers and mountaineering fatalities. This year marked the most intense period of rescue in the mountain's history. Twenty-two rescue or recovery missions involving 28 climbers were conducted by the Talkeetna ranger staff and volunteers. There were eleven fatalities in 1992, the largest number for any year to date. There have been 75 deaths on McKinley since 1932, and 72 of those have occurred in the last 25 years. Rescue costs incurred by the National Park Service totaled $206,000, double those for 1991. The military costs associated with the rescues was $225,345. This brings the total for search and rescue to $431,345. The National Park Service and the Korean Alpine Federation joined in an effort to reduce the high percentage of South Koreans involved in rescues which have occurred in the last two years. District Ranger J.D. Swed made a nine-day visit in November to Seoul, Korea, meeting with members of alpine and climbing clubs and climbing-school directors. He gave programs on the severity of the McKinley environment, difficulty of ascent and statistics involving Korean climbers. Swed stated that the Korean Alpine Federation is dedicated to educating Korean climbers who wish to attempt McKinley. A long-range plan to improve communication, education and to exchange climbers was proposed. The National Weather service accurately predicted in early May "the worst storm to hit the mountain in ten years." This brought in excess of 60 inches of snow at the 7200-foot Base Camp in a 24-hour period and winds over 110 mph at 14,000