unfortunately they withdrew at the last minute and we had to continue alone and find transportation from Punta Arenas. It took us from January 9 to 26, two-and-a-half weeks, to get in from the coast to the foot of the ridge and establish a well stocked camp there. This was about six miles inland and 700 meters higher. We encountered difficult terrain resulting from the astounding glacial recession since the Italians had been there in 1956. A large new lake with steep walls barred the way along what had previously been a gentle glacial walk. Our ridge looked objectively safe with steep ice for 1700 meters to the top. We had roughly one good day in four with the rest of the time characterized by heavy rains and wind. Despite overcoming these difficulties, we reluctantly had to abandon the attempt, mainly due to a lack of time before our fishing vessel returned for us.

CARADOC JONES, *Britain*

ANTARCTICA

American Women's Trans-Antarctica Expedition, 1992-3. Our original idea was a 1700-mile traverse of Antarctica. We planned a team of four, each pulling her own sled of supplies. After several shifts of route, we finally settled on the one done by Messner and Fuchs a year after we started our planning in 1989. We would have two resupplies by air—one half way to the South Pole and one at the Pole itself. We hoped to do the second leg from the Pole to McMurdo in six weeks, relying on great mileage while using Upskis to pull us and our sleds when the winds were right. These are parachute-like canopies designed for pulling skiers, and we planned on several 60-mile days using them. We made two training trips, the first in the spring of 1991 when we skied for three weeks around Great Slave Lake in Canada. Our second trip in April, 1992, was an east-west traverse of Greenland, which was not without its problems. At last, in the fall of 1992, Ann Bancroft, who had previously skied to the North Pole, Anne Dal Vera, Sunniva Sorby and I left for Antarctica. We departed Punta Arenas on November 9, 1992, already behind schedule. Broken plane equipment, followed by bad weather on the continent, held us up for ten days. We flew first to Patriot Hills and then on to our start at Hercules Inlet at 80°S, 80°W. From there, it was 670 miles to the Pole, in a straight line, and another 970 on to McMurdo.The first three weeks on the ice were a nightmare. Summer had not yet arrived in Antarctica, and it was cold (-30°F) and windy all the time. We skied into a constant headwind, hoods up, heads down. Around the third week, something happened. I finally got into shape. One day was physically much like another—up at six A.M., out of the tent at eight, pull for two hours, take a break, pull for two hours, take a break, camp at about eight P.M., in bed by ten. But there was a growing problem. We had lost ten days at the start and had been falling even more behind as we traveled. Sunniva had not been able to keep pace due to a litany of small but nagging problems—ankle tendonitis and bronchitis being the worst. We worried that we would not have time for the

whole traverse. The cruise ship was due at McMurdo about February 17. We had to be at the Pole by January 7 to have any hope of reaching the ship on time. On January 4, 1993, we were still 100 miles from the Pole and had a team meeting. We could either call in a plane to pick up Sunniva and the rest of us ski like mad, or we could go at Sunniva's pace and give up hope for the traverse. We finally decided that it was "Four for the Pole." On January 14, we finally arrived at the Pole. We could see the buildings from 12 miles out, but they never seemed to get closer. At seven P.M., we reached the runway. After 67 days alone, it was strange to see 70 people coming to meet us, cheering and offering congratulations. As we skied to the ceremonial barber pole, we were overwhelmed by the noise, the buildings, and the smell of diesel oil. The next day we decided on the fate of the traverse. There was no way we could make it to the ship on time and would have to pay Adventure Network $300,000 for a pickup from McMurdo . We had the strength and the will to continue, but we couldn't pay for it. And so we stopped at the Pole.

SUE GILLER

Solo to the South Pole. Norwegian Erling Kagge set off solo from Bergkner Island on November 17, 1992 for the South Pole, dragging a 125-kilo sled. Without any resupply or other assistance he skied the 1310 kilometers to the Pole, which he reached on January 8, having averaged 26 kilometers per day.

Vinson Massif, 1992. Doug Scott and Sharu Prabhu organized a group that flew to Base Camp on the Branscomb Glacier in early December. After several days of ferrying food and gear to the col between Vinson and Shinn, the party spent a rest day before climbing to the top on December 7, 1992 in rather ferocious weather. The summit was reached by the whole party: Scott, Prabhu, Roger Mear, Chris Brown, André Hedger, Sundeep Dhillon, Frank Musgrave, Ian Newell and Michael Parsons.

P 4800, "Mount Kershaw," east of Vinson, and Mount Shinn, 1992. On December 14, 1992, Sundeep Dhillon and I set up Camp III at 4300 meters northeast of the summit of the Vinson Massif and ascended the previously unclimbed peak two kilometers due east of the camp (c. 4800 meters, 15,748 feet). We then made the first ascent of the peak which is four kilometers due east of Vinson, which we have named "Mount Kershaw" after the British pilot who was killed in Antarctica two years previously and who did so much to develop climbing on the continent. This peak is completely separated from Vinson and is approximately 4835 meters (15,863 feet) high, making it Antarctica's third highest peak. On December 17, 1992, we also made the fifth ascent of Mount Shinn by the southwest face, descending the northwest ridge.

ANDRÉ HEDGER, *England*