

# A man of many adventures

**G**eorge McLeod is a big fan of Queen Elizabeth II. Maybe it's because she gave him a medal for bravery.

This is the way he remembers the day she gave it to him:

*"You're a very brave young man," the queen said.*

*"I was in the right place at the right time," he said.*

*"Don't put yourself down," she said.*

McLeod, 80, has vivid memories of his past. It's the recent stuff that he has problems with. As a young man, he climbed Mount Everest and Colorado Fourteeners. He lived in Antarctica for years at a time. Nowadays, he sometimes gets lost walking around the block.

In May 2006 he moved into Park Hill Residence, an assisted-living facility owned and run by Senior Housing Options. Residents are low income and have health or physical needs.

**McLeod was the nonprofit's choice to showcase Older Americans Month in May.**

Back in the '60s, as McLeod told it, he was at a British research station in Antarctica. Three of his crew went out on an ice shelf to watch penguins.

"I was in the kitchen. I must have been

cooking or washing dishes," he said in a gentle burr.

Long story short, the ice the guys were standing on broke loose. McLeod heard a commotion. He grabbed a rope and ice pick. He ran to the rescue, pierced firmer ice with the pick to anchor it and tossed the rope. But the rope broke from the weight of the men in the water. So he tried again, this time pulling the three to safety.

He was born in Scotland. As a youngster, he began working as a mountain climbing instructor.

"One day, right out of the blue, two fellows from England came up," he said. "They said they wanted to walk for a week to get fit."

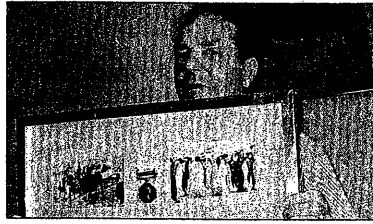
So they walked. They told McLeod they were headed for Antarctica to do research.

"At the end of the week, they suggested I apply," he said.

So he did, and was accepted, but the ship for the long cruise had already sailed. So the government flew him to Montevideo, Uruguay.

"They put me up in a hotel," he said. "I was standing outside. There was a parade of ladies who walked by. A while later, they walked by again."

It evidently wasn't a fancy hotel.



GARY MASSARO/ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

**George McLeod poses with his Polar Medal bestowed by Queen Elizabeth II.**

"It was a brothel," he said.

He served "seven years in all" in the really deep South, doing a lot of nontechnical work, including cooking and cleaning.

**When he went back home** to Scotland, he was restless because "it just seemed too tiny," he said.

So he applied for a job as a mountaineering instructor with Outward Bound Colorado.

"It was a really good life," he said. "I could work all winter."

He was on ski patrol at Colorado's resorts. In summer, when he wasn't climbing, he was guiding kayak or rafting trips.

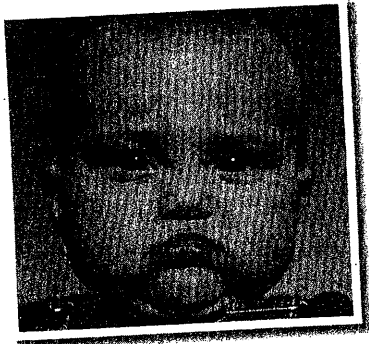
He has a suggestion for older Americans: "Start to get fit if you aren't," he said. "It adds so much value to your life. It opens it up like a big fan."

massarog@RockyMountainNews.com  
or 303-954-5271



**Gary Massaro**

## Remember Last Summer?



# "Don't Get Caught In The Heat!"

**Now Through June 1st...**

**We're offering our AC and Furnace Super-Tune-Up™ for only \$49 ...AND we guarantee your system won't break down in 2008 or our service is FREE!"**

We must be crazy! When the temperature warms up, we can get pretty busy. So, why are we offering such a drastic discount on our Super-Tune-Ups? It's very simple. We want you to have your AC tuned up now, before it gets busy. And while we're there, we may as well take care of your furnace as well. It will save us the extra trip this fall!

We know that we run the tightest service company in the business. We belong to a National Organization of highly motivated and technically competent heating and air conditioning contractors. We are professionally and continually trained in the skills of service, repair and system replacement.

We are serious about our profession; proud of our entire staff; and completely dedicated to each and every one of our clients ... new and old. Now, how are we going to prove all this to you if we can't get your attention? Right! We make you a spectacular offer you can't refuse and win you as a new client for life. Back to our offer.

Our Super-Tune-Up includes a painstaking and thorough examination of more than 50 potential problem areas in your furnace and air conditioner. We will inspect, adjust, clean and repair anything we find wrong. \*When we have finished and if anything was repaired, we will guarantee that your system is fixed right or it's free! And if we have to come back in 2008 because your system is not working, our service is FREE!

And for a short time only we are offering a bonus. When we tune your AC, we will also inspect your furnace and water heater.

This is a \$150 value for only \$49 and it's limited to first-come, first-served callers.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet the Best In The Business!

**Get An A/C Tune-Up TODAY!**

**\$49**



**CLIMATECH**

\* Additional fees may apply. Certain restrictions apply. See store for details.

**CALL  
303-825-0955  
NOW**

[www.coloradohomecomfort.com](http://www.coloradohomecomfort.com)