

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Finding Happiness

"It's never too late to strike out for places exotic and unknown," encourages Meg Noble Peterson, a 77-year-old author and world traveler. Peterson, of Maplewood, speaks from experience having recently chronicled her travels through Asia and Africa in a new book titled *MADAM HAVE YOU EVER REALLY BEEN HAPPY?* The paperback is a witty and intimate journey that traverses four continents in eight months.

In 1987, as the author approached sixty, she found herself newly divorced after thirty-three years of marriage. Not one to wait for life to happen, she decided to pursue a life-long passion: travel. In her book we join the journey as she ventures off

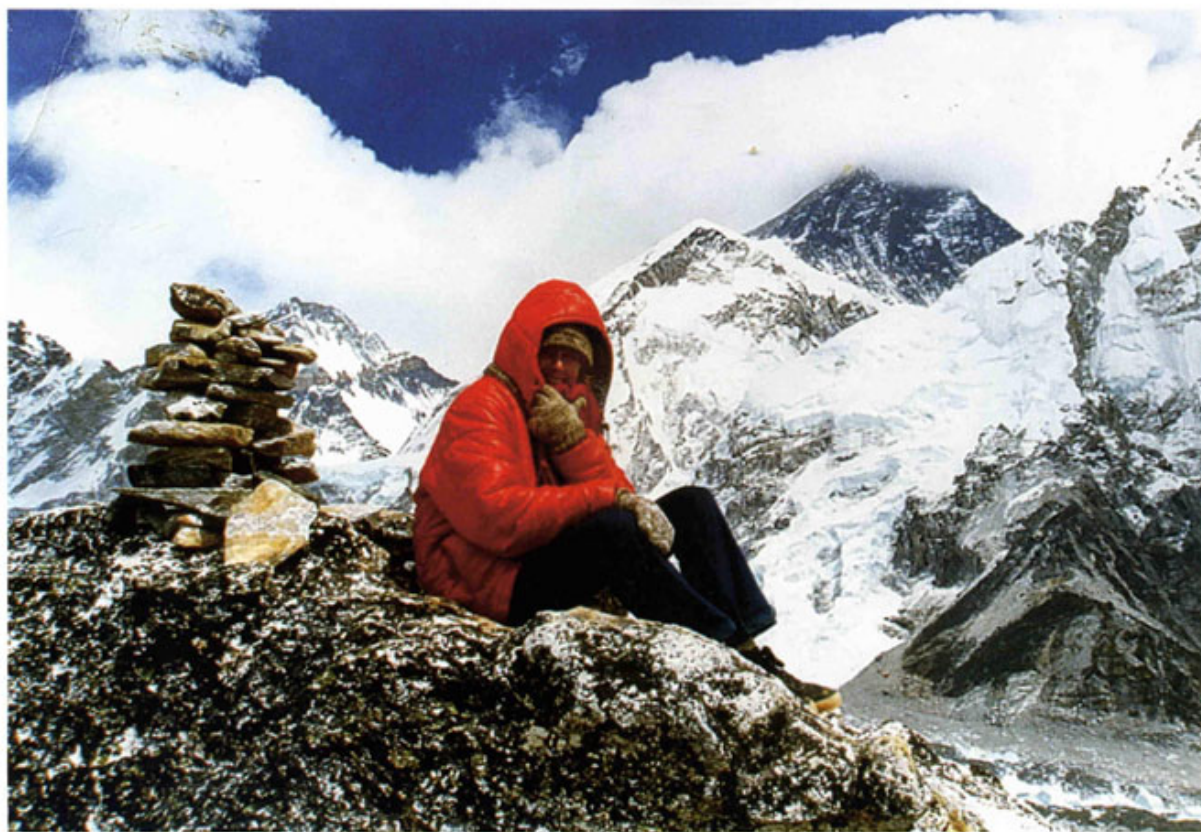
the beaten path, carrying only a backpack, camera and journals. She walks the crowded streets of Cairo, navigates the contentious apartheid of South Africa and sets off to tackle the peaks of Mt. Everest. Like all good novels, some romance is sprinkled in as well.

For Peterson, this experience was the most exhilarating and thrilling time of her life. It also allowed for some enlightenment as she finds herself drifting back to her failed marriage and life in America. The author decided to write the book to encourage other "almost seniors" to take risks and realize that romance and excitement don't have to end with youth. The book comes at a

time when millions of baby boomers are approaching the big "6-0."

Peterson is a freelance writer and the mother of five children. She has spent her professional life working in the field of music education and has written 38 books. She travels extensively, lecturing and giving workshops.

*For updated information on Peterson's tour schedule, visit www.megnoblepeterson.com. Her book, *Madam Have You Ever Really Been Happy?* costs \$26.95 and is available online through www.iuniverse.com, www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com.*



FINDING ADVENTURE is what Meg Noble Peterson likes best. She has found it throughout her travels and shares her stories in her new book.

COURTESY OF MEG NOBLE PETERSON