

He's been to the mountain top...

BY JEANNINE KLEIN

WHEN Peter Hillary arrived at the summit of Mt Everest for a second time in his life this year, he marked the occasion by calling his father. "Dad? It's Peter, we're on the summit of Everest. Can you hear me?"

His climb, and that phone call, marked 50 years since his father Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay were the first to reach the summit of Everest on May 29, 1953. The younger Mr Hillary's climb was recorded in a National Geographic documentary that will air on VSB TV this Sunday at 8pm. It tells the story of the recent climb while skilfully weaving in the history of efforts to defeat the mountain.

Mr Hillary, who will be in Bermuda next week to continue celebrations of the first Mt Everest summit, spoke to the Bermuda Sun about his climb and his plans to speak here next week.

... and he'll share his amazing story with Bermudians next week

"I had no intention climbing for a second time, I thought once was not bad really, but going back there to make a National Geographic film and to team up with Brent Bishop, Peter Athens and Jamling was a wonderful opportunity and a great way to celebrate the 50th Anniversary," he said.

The other men in the documentary are also well-known climbers. Jamling, is the son of Sherpa Tenzing Norgay; Climber Brent Bishop, who will also speak next week in Bermuda, was the first American to summit Everest while Pete Athens has climbed the mountain six times.

The documentary contrasts the past pioneers with the reality of Everest today, where anyone with \$65,000 can follow in their the foot-



The sons of the first men to climb Everest returned this year to mark their father's 50-year-old achievement with their own climb. Their journey is the subject of a National Geographic documentary which will air on VSB on Sunday

steps. Some 1,200 people have climbed it, 175 have died trying. Many people turn back in failed attempts.

Mr Hillary said: "We had two cameramen and a soundman. They were basically mountaineers first and camera experts second and that's the way it has to be on a mountain like that. You can't just run down to your local television network and get a

show of hands from the camera crew, who would like to go to Mt Everest because they would all die."

■ Peter Hillary will speak at various local events next week organized by the Isis Foundation's White Ice & Fire weekend.

■ See next Wednesday's Bermuda Sun for our full interview with Peter Hillary