[Anchor:]

ANYONE WHO'S CLIMBED THE INCLINE \*ONCE\* WILL TELL YOU IT'S A FEAT IN ITSELF...

BUT HOW ABOUT \*500\* TIMES IN \*ONE\* YEAR?

ONLY THREE PEOPLE ARE KNOWN TO HAVE DONE IT.

AND AS KRDO NEWSCHANNEL 13'S OLIVIA WILMSEN SHARES... THE STORY OF CLIMBER NUMBER THREE... IS QUITE REMARKABLE.

[TAKE PKG

OUTCUE: STD

DURATION:1:58]

{\*\*\*PKG\*\*\*}

[Notes:Olivia IN]

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< YOU COULD SAY THE INCLINE IS A SECOND HOME FOR JOSEPH MONGER.

HIS 500TH CLIMB CAME TWO YEARS AFTER HIS WIFE PASSED AWAY.

QUITE A FEAT.. BUT IT WASN'T JOE'S ORIGINAL PLAN.

[<mos><objID>KRDONEWS\00763099?version=1</objID><mosID>CAMIO</mosID><mosAbstract>- 00763099 ### 500 Climbs### Manitou Springs</mosAbstract><abstract>- 00763099 ### 500 Climbs### Manitou Springs</abstract><objDur>0</objDur><objTB>0</objTB><objSlug> - 00763099(2 Line Lower 3rd (NEW)) 500 Climbs Manitou Springs </objSlug><itemChannel>A</itemChannel><itemSlug>INCLINE 500 CLIMBER PKG-RDR-3</itemSlug><objPaths><objProxyPath techDescription="JPEG Thumbnail">http://10.162.23.70:8080/MOS/Objects/KRDONEWS/00763099/v1/big.jpg</objProxyPath></objPaths><mosObj><objID>KRDONEWS\00763099?version=1</objID><objSlug> - 00763099(2 Line Lower 3rd (NEW)) 500 Climbs Manitou Springs </objSlug><mosItemEditorProgID>Chymox.AssetBrowser.1</mosItemEditorProgID><mosExternalMetadata><mosScope>PLAYLIST</mosScope><mosSchema>http://ncsA4.com/mos/supported\_schemas/NCSAXML2.08</mosSchema><mosPayload><sAVsom/><sAVeom/><createdBy>OLIVIA\_2EWILMSEN</createdBy><subtype>lyric/data</subtype><subtypeid>I:\CAMIO\KRDONEWS\Messages\0090000.lyr</subtypeid></mosPayload></mosExternalMetadata></mosObj><itemID>3</itemID></mos>]

((nats: climbing))

43:54 "I came here to join her."

45:20 "Nothing other than the people here has kept me alive."

JOSEPH NEVER THOUGHT HE'D REACH THE TOP AGAIN.

THE MEMORIES WERE TOO DIFFICULT AFTER LOSING DEANNA.

43:42 "She would do Barr Trail and I would do The Incline."

BUT A YEAR AFTER DEANNA DIED... JOE SAW THE INCLINE A DIFFERENT WAY.

44:00 "I wanted it to take me with her."

AFTER A FEW HIKES... HIS DAUGHTER BEGAN TO SEE THROUGH HIS PLAN.

[<mos><objID>KRDONEWS\00763036?version=1</objID><mosID>CAMIO</mosID><mosAbstract>- 00763036 ### Joseph Monger### Incline 500 Climber</mosAbstract><abstract>- 00763036 ### Joseph Monger### Incline 500 Climber</abstract><objDur>0</objDur><objTB>0</objTB><objSlug> - 00763036(2 Line Lower 3rd (NEW)) Joseph Monger Incline 500 Climber </objSlug><itemChannel>A</itemChannel><itemSlug>INCLINE 500 CLIMBER PKG-RDR-4</itemSlug><objPaths><objProxyPath techDescription="JPEG Thumbnail">http://10.162.23.70:8080/MOS/Objects/KRDONEWS/00763036/v1/big.jpg</objProxyPath></objPaths><mosObj><objID>KRDONEWS\00763036?version=1</objID><objSlug> - 00763036(2 Line Lower 3rd (NEW)) Joseph Monger Incline 500 Climber </objSlug><mosItemEditorProgID>Chymox.AssetBrowser.1</mosItemEditorProgID><mosExternalMetadata><mosScope>PLAYLIST</mosScope><mosSchema>http://ncsA4.com/mos/supported\_schemas/NCSAXML2.08</mosSchema><mosPayload><sAVsom/><sAVeom/><createdBy>OLIVIA\_2EWILMSEN</createdBy><subtype>lyric/data</subtype><subtypeid>I:\CAMIO\KRDONEWS\Messages\0090000.lyr</subtypeid></mosPayload></mosExternalMetadata></mosObj><itemID>4</itemID></mos>]

53:36 "She said dad, I know what you're trying to do. That day I promised her I would try to do it just twice a day."

((nats: 1:50 "There ya go, Joe!"))

SINCE THEN, JOE HAS MET COUNTLESS CLIMBERS WHO -LIKE HIM - HAVE FOUND CLARITY IN THE CLIMB.

51:44 "God put a lot of crazy people in our life and I need them. And we all come here."

TWO YEARS TO THE DAY AFTER HIS WIFE PASSED... THE CLIMBS JOE BEGAN IN DESPAIR.. WERE MARKED BY ONE OF TRIUMPH - HIS 500TH.

46:49 "The meaning to me was a tribute to her."

46:12 "A goal that I could never thought was ever possible."

JOE JOINS TWO OTHER HIKERS IN THE "500 CLUB"... GREG CUMMINGS IS ONE OF THEM.

58:19 "I couldn't think of a better guy to join the club."

FELLOW CLIMBER VANCE HEWUSE HAS FOUND A FRIEND IN JOE.

[<mos><objID>KRDONEWS\00763040?version=1</objID><mosID>CAMIO</mosID><mosAbstract>- 00763040 ### Vance Hewuse### Incline Climber</mosAbstract><abstract>- 00763040 ### Vance Hewuse### Incline Climber</abstract><objDur>0</objDur><objTB>0</objTB><objSlug> - 00763040(2 Line Lower 3rd (NEW)) Vance Hewuse Incline Climber </objSlug><itemChannel>A</itemChannel><itemSlug>INCLINE 500 CLIMBER PKG-RDR-5</itemSlug><objPaths><objProxyPath techDescription="JPEG Thumbnail">http://10.162.23.70:8080/MOS/Objects/KRDONEWS/00763040/v1/big.jpg</objProxyPath></objPaths><mosObj><objID>KRDONEWS\00763040?version=1</objID><objSlug> - 00763040(2 Line Lower 3rd (NEW)) Vance Hewuse Incline Climber </objSlug><mosItemEditorProgID>Chymox.AssetBrowser.1</mosItemEditorProgID><mosExternalMetadata><mosScope>PLAYLIST</mosScope><mosSchema>http://ncsA4.com/mos/supported\_schemas/NCSAXML2.08</mosSchema><mosPayload><sAVsom/><sAVeom/><createdBy>OLIVIA\_2EWILMSEN</createdBy><subtype>lyric/data</subtype><subtypeid>I:\CAMIO\KRDONEWS\Messages\0090000.lyr</subtypeid></mosPayload></mosExternalMetadata></mosObj><itemID>5</itemID></mos>]

57:47 "He's a great, great guy. You couldn't ask for better companionship."

WITH EVERY STEP... JOSEPH KNOWS HIS WIFE IS RIGHT THERE WITH HIM.

47:15 "I get to come here and hold her hand every day and go for a walk."

AND TO THINK HE HAS A TRAIL TO THANK.

45:16 "It has saved my life."

[<mos><objID>KRDONEWS\00763038?version=1</objID><mosID>CAMIO</mosID><mosAbstract>- 00763038 ### Olivia Wilmsen</mosAbstract><abstract>- 00763038 ### Olivia Wilmsen</abstract><objDur>0</objDur><objTB>0</objTB><objSlug> - 00763038(REPORTER Olivia Wilmsen) Olivia Wilmsen </objSlug><itemChannel>A</itemChannel><itemSlug>INCLINE 500 CLIMBER PKG-RDR-6</itemSlug><objPaths><objProxyPath techDescription="JPEG Thumbnail">http://10.162.23.70:8080/MOS/Objects/KRDONEWS/00763038/v1/big.jpg</objProxyPath></objPaths><mosObj><objID>KRDONEWS\00763038?version=1</objID><objSlug> - 00763038(REPORTER Olivia Wilmsen) Olivia Wilmsen </objSlug><mosItemEditorProgID>Chymox.AssetBrowser.1</mosItemEditorProgID><mosExternalMetadata><mosScope>PLAYLIST</mosScope><mosSchema>http://ncsA4.com/mos/supported\_schemas/NCSAXML2.08</mosSchema><mosPayload><sAVsom/><sAVeom/><createdBy>OLIVIA\_2EWILMSEN</createdBy><subtype>lyric/data</subtype><subtypeid>I:\CAMIO\KRDONEWS\Messages\0090173.lyr</subtypeid></mosPayload></mosExternalMetadata></mosObj><itemID>6</itemID></mos>]

[Notes:Olivia OUT]

JOSEPH MONGER HAS NOW CLIMBED THE INCLINE 519 TIMES.

MANY PEOPLE SAY HE'S AN INSPIRATION.

HE SAYS ON HIS WORST DAYS... THOSE KIND WORDS KEEP HIM GOING.

AT THE INCLINE, OLIVIA WILMSEN, KRDO NEWSCHANNEL 13.>

[Anchor:]

AN ADDED BONUS... JOE HAS LOST NEARLY 50 POUNDS SINCE HE STARTED CLIMBING THE INCLINE A YEAR AGO.

**MANITOU SPRINGS, Colo. -** Anyone who's climbed The Incline once will tell you it's a feat in itself, but only three people are known to have climbed it 500 times in one year. Joseph Monger is the third climber.

You could say The Incline is a second home for Joseph Monger. His 500th climb came two years after his wife passed away. Quite a feat, but it wasn't Joe's original plan.

"I came here to join her," said Monger. "Nothing other than the people here has kept me alive," he said.

Joseph never thought he'd reach the top of The Incline again. The memories were too difficult after losing his wife, Deanna.

"She would do Barr Trail and I would do The Incline," said Monger.

However, a year after Deanna died, Joe saw The Incline a different way.

"I wanted it to take me with her," he said.

He planned to kill himself by climbing The Incline too many times for his body to handle it. After a few hikes, his daughter began to see through his plan.

"She said dad, I know what you're trying to do. That day, I promised her I would try to do it just twice a day," said Monger.

Since then, Joe has met countless climbers who, like him, have found clarity in the climb.

"God put a lot of crazy people in our life and I need them," he said.

"And we all come here," said a fellow climber.

Two years to the day after his wife passed, the climbs Joe began in despair were marked by one of triumph, his 500th.

"The meaning to me was a tribute to her," said Monger.

"A goal that I never thought was ever possible," he said.

Monger joins two other hikers in the "500 climb". Greg Cummings is one of them.

"I couldn't think of a better guy to join the club," said Cummings.

Fellow climber Vance Hewuse has found a friend in Joe.

"He's a great, great guy. You couldn't ask for better companionship," said Hewuse.

With every step, Joseph knows his wife is right there with him.

"I get to come here and hold her hand every day and go for a walk," he said.

To think, Monger has a trail to thank.

"It has saved my life," he said.

Monger has climbed The Incline 519 times as of Dec. 13. Many people say he's an inspiration. He says on his worst days, those kind words keep him going.

An added bonus, Monger has lost nearly 50 pounds since he started climbing The Incline a year ago. He also fights asthma. His "500 Club" pal, Cummings, has Type 1 Diabetes.

**Video Story:** <http://bit.ly/1mVcCC4>