

women

The page with
the feminine
angle

AT 64, SHE'S JUST CONQUERED EVEREST (WELL, ALMOST)

PRUE JOHNSON of our London Bureau, meets a spritely old girl who has been up the world's highest mountain, down a crocodile-infested Amazon river, and is now wondering where to go next . . .



This is the trophy that will be presented to the winners of the "Four Outstanding Young South Africans" award.

INTREPID adventurer Miss Elizabeth Forster (64) is back home in London again after climbing to success up Everest. She is believed to be the oldest woman to reach the base camp 6 556m (17 500ft) up the mountain. A distinction that causes her some amusement.

around the corner and over the top of the hill, although I didn't quite manage that with Everest! — took her 17 months ago up the Rio Negro river (6km from the mighty Amazon) in a motorised canoe. She slept in the jungle in a hammock.

Her voyage in the jungle was the result of a "fluke."

In Katmandu she had met a young German adventurer

who had just returned from the Rio Negro. He thought it would appeal to her. A year later she set off for South America.

The trip didn't turn out to be plain sailing for the fit and adventurous Miss Forster.

On one occasion the wind had risen and whipped the water up into three-metre-high waves. "Sitting in that

lurching canoe I expected to be drowned or eaten. I was so terrified I was speechless," she said in her mellifluous voice. "Normally I never stop talking.

"The bird life was good, but the noisy outboard motor generally afforded us splendid rear views of birds flying away."

A bad bout of dysentery forced her to cut short her

trip and Miss Forster returned to England via Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and the United States.

It is too early for her to say where her next adventure will take her.

She would love to do the Everest trip again.

"The scenery was incredible and the bird life fascinating. I doubt if I shall ever return. However, I'm keeping my boots — just in case."

"It was great. I found it a tremendous thrill," said Miss Forster at her home in flat-as-a-pancake Norfolk.

"People kept thinking 'that old trout will never get up there' I proved them wrong. But the last stretch was very tough. At that altitude you just have no breath."

Miss Forster used to work in the BBC publicity department and for the Radio Times as well as in the foreign news service.

At 47 she decided she was tired of London. But that did not mean (as Dr Johnson believed) that when you're tired of London you're tired of life.

Her adventurous spirit — "I've always wanted to see

Look what's
in Section 2

THIS year for the first time women will be eligible to receive the annual Jaycee award presented to four outstanding young South Africans.

Previously these awards were confined to young men.

Nominations for the 1973 awards were launched by Sir Albert Robinson in Johannesburg last night. It was announced that the closing date for entries is August 12, and that candidates may be submitted from all race groups.

Since its inception eight years ago, this Jaycee project has been awarded to men

predominate, that males have no monopoly on service to the nation."

Young men and women between 21 and 40 will therefore be selected from nominees in the fields of science, art, sport and commerce, as well as from a general category.

Jaycee strives to give recognition and encouragement to those young people who demonstrate the qualities which help to make the world a better place in which to live.

Because of the diversified fields from which the outstanding younger citizens of South Africa can be chosen, no set standards for the

awards can be laid down. To do so would, the organisers feel, limit the areas of human endeavour in which outstanding characters could be recognised.

The award is a recognition of excellence, but it is not excellence limited to a period of time or to a single endeavour. The most important quality in the candidates who win the awards is that their success be due to *planned application, steady improvement and continuing results.*

The awards embody the creed that Jaycee is an organisation which has leadership development as its prime objective, and sees

youth as the future of our country.

The contribution of these outstanding young people to country and community, will be other important factors in the selection.

The trophy which each winner will receive, will be designed by the late Herman Wald.

It features a marble base with four hands encompassing the earth, from which the entwined figures of a man and a woman reach upwards in a striving towards greater achievement.

A panel of six judges has been asked to choose this year's winners. They are Mr Rudolph Opperman, joint deputy managing director of

Perskor; Dulcie Howes, founder and former artistic director of the CAPAB ballet school; Anna Scheepers, former president of the Garment Workers Union and vice president of the Trade Union Council of South Africa; Mr Ian MacKenzie, deputy chairman of the Standard Bank of South Africa; Mr Ian MacKenzie, vice-Admiral James Johnson, Commander Maritime Defence and Chief of the Navy, and Dr Chris Brink, president of the CSIR.

Presentations to the winners of the Four Outstanding Young South Africans award will be made at a banquet in Johannesburg on October 12.

Have you seen what's