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The weather this week: Tuesday, high 93, low 72, hum. 60 percent; Wednesday, high 95, low 67, hum. 60 percent; and The Fourth, high 91, low 67, hum. 68 percent, with a mere .03 inches of rain.

It will be the Fifth of July, not the Fourth, that will live in the memories of Mark Lauter and Mary Adelsberger.

Mark, the son of Mac and Barbara McCoy of Columbus, said he finally got the nerve to propose. "I've been working myself up to this for a long time," he said Friday morning.

Legally, you might say he'd already proposed, but Mary just didn't know it yet.

Mark had posted an Express Mail letter to arrive at 3 p.m. Friday afternoon at the McCoy household off Peniel Road, where both Mark and Mary were visiting for the summer holiday.

The two met in Bradenton, Fla. where Mary was working as an accountant and Mark was working for a boatyard operation. They now live in the Philadelphia area. They are each 25.

Columbus Postmaster Pat Kaneipp had legal custody of
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Michel Sets 4th State Record

Furman University was the site of the South Carolina State track and field championship.

Mike Michel, one of the top 10 (60-65 age group) race walkers in the U.S. won the 5000 meter race walk (3.1 miles) with a time of 29 minutes and 29 seconds. This was a state age group record (60-65) an also a track record. This was his 4th straight record since May.

Racewalking is the only track and field event that has judges to ensure that the walkers have legal style and do not run. One foot must be in contact with the ground at all times while the knee of the supporting leg must be straight. It looks strange yet it enables the walker to cover long distances faster than runners. Strangely, U.S. Olympic walkers have never won a Gold medal, yet the sport began here in the U.S. about 140 years ago. This was before basketball, baseball and football. Races were from city to city and coast to coast. Crowds of 10,000 people would line the streets to cheer on their champion.

In 1910, at the age of 71, Edward Weston walked from California to New York covering the distance of 2500 miles in 77 walking days. On his 72nd birthday he walked 72 miles to celebrate the day. He became a millionaire from his walks.

Michel's longest walk was 62
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'It Was Nice'

Only a few months ago, Robert Herron was the with 24th Infantry tracking northward into Iraq for Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf's "Hail Mary" maneuver. On July 4th, he was back in Polk County to receive a plaque, flag and the applause of a crowd of well wishers. Altogether, 33 veterans of Desert Storm were honored during Polk County's Military Appreciation Ceremony. Those who could not attend were represented by relatives or friends. Jeannie Martin, chairman of the Polk County Board of Commissioners, said, "You honored us here at home... now it's our turn to honor you." In the photo above, Dr. Rick Gentry sings the national anthem while the veterans salute the flag. What did he think of the welcome? "It was nice," Herron said.

New Arrival

Donald and Karen Allen of Virginia Beach, Va. are the parents of a son, Brian Douglas, born June 13, 1991. He weighed 8 lbs. 12 oz. He has a brother, Brock, 3, years old.

Maternal grandparents are Douglas and Ann Fisher of Columbus. Maternal great-grandmother is Mrs. Walter Wallace of Columbus.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Allen of Murfreesboro, N.C.

Fisherman Dies

Elwood George Miller, 73, of Rutherford County, died after falling into the Green River Wednesday.

Miller apparently suffered a heart attack. He had a history of heart trouble, according to a Columbus physician.

The Saluda fire department and Polk County Sheriff were called about 10:20 a.m. Wednesday.

Rescuers said Miller had been fishing with a friend when he fell into the river.