

Once In a Lifetime Experience

Kings Mountain's Steve Marlowe Returns From Touring Europe And Visiting NATO

When President Bush and the other leaders of NATO issued a declaration recently to end four decades of Cold War, the news was probably even far more exciting for a Kings Mountain man who had only a few days earlier stood with his Gaston County history student and NATO's secretary general in the Situations Center in beautiful Brussels, the Venice of the North, where the world is monitored 24 hours a day.

Steve Marlowe will have plenty to tell his American History students at Hunter Huss High School when he returns to the classroom this fall.

Marlowe, just back from his first trip to Europe, saw sights the regular tourist will never see. His once-in-a-lifetime opportunity came when Jamie Smarr, a 1990 graduate of Hunter Huss and a student of Marlowe's, was among three American students to win an all-expense trip to Brussels for himself and his teacher which was sponsored by NATO. Smarr researched 10 questions and wrote a prize winning essay on "The Importance of NATO."



Steve Marlowe
VISITS NATO

The highlight of Marlowe's trip was meeting with Dr. Manfred Woerner, Secretary General of NATO, in the office where Woerner meets with President Bush and where hangs a beautiful painting of modern art featuring the cross super imposed with a madonna and child. The three essay winners, from North Carolina, Missouri and California, and their teachers got the grand tour of NATO Headquarters, where the students won impressive medallions. The United States visitors were in Brussels just before the summit meeting in London and Marlowe recalled that U. S. Secretary of State Baker talked on the telephone with Woerner in his presence. Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev appears ready to address a meeting of Western alliance in December in Brussels.

"Being briefed by NATO was an experience in itself and seeing the Situations Center where two television sets are going 24 hours a day, one of them being CNN from Atlanta, Ga., was an experience I won't forget," said Marlowe.

Marlowe described the Secretary General as a personable German who is no stranger to the television screens, since he's been featured on most news shows the last several months talking with the Soviet president and also flew to Moscow for talks with Gorbachev.



THE OLD CITY HALL

An example of medieval architecture in Europe

Steve teaches Advancement Placement History and Constitutional Principles and brought back slides and pictures to share with his students. Smarr plans to major in political science, public policy and international relations at Duke University.

Visits to the two medieval cities of Ghent and Bruges, and spectacular Paris were also on his itinerary. Because of his love for museums, castles, fine paintings and cathedrals, Marlowe wanted to spend a few extra days in Ghent and Bruges. His young student wanted to see Paris. So, before flying home, they spent their last day in Europe and took the tourist's quick tour of Paris.

Connie Marlowe may never quit talking about her husband leaving her at home and going to Paris, but Steve brought her Brussels lace and their sons, Daniel, 14, and Stewart, 12, Belgium tee shirts and stickers.

Marlowe says it never fails to amaze first-time visitors to Europe. To stun you, as with a physical impact. You round the corner of a perfectly ordinary street in Ghent, Brussels, Tournai, Bruges, Antwerp, Mons, in even a tiny village in Damme and suddenly there rush-

es toward you a mammoth, medieval square. Soaring belfry towers of the 1200's, flying red and yellow heraldic flags, giant Gothic cathedrals surging with vertical lines into the sky above. Turreted town halls adorned with streaming pennants, people from all over the world and French, Dutch, German influence in speech and culture.

He won't miss the 100 m.p.h. rides in a taxi but he hopes to take a vacation again to Ghent with his family.

Traveling in Europe is quite expensive but at this time of year the weather is good with occasional showers. Dinner at nice restaurants costs about \$30 a person, so you need to take a lot of American currency to exchange for Belgium francs. Sightseeing down the Seine, visiting Notre Dame in Paris are included on the typical tourist tour. Marlowe says that he was impressed with the clean streets, no "junky looking streets or junk cars" and it's not unusual to see people eating dinner at 11 p.m. at sidewalk cafes and walking the streets. He rarely saw a policeman on foot, although Belgium ranks one of the highest date rates in the country for automobile accidents. Marlowe says it

wasn't until 10 to 12 years ago that a driver's license was required to operate vehicles and he was amazed at the speed at which cars are driven by, not only by taxi drivers but by other motorists. "We were picked up by a couple of German officers from NATO in a van and traveled the expressway to NATO headquarters at speeds of up to 100 m. p. h.," he said. "They drove carefully on the expressway but it was terrifying to get in a taxi to ride on city streets or interstate in often times eight lanes of traffic."

Security was tight in Brussels at the Airport, he recalled. He said another tourist said he had been told that a fake bomb had been brought on one of the planes the day before the group returned to Charlotte, via New York.

Marlowe said that tourists rush to buy tiny bronze statues called Mannekin Pis, a Brussels symbol of little boy hero of Brussels, which dates back to the mid 1400's.

"I could have stayed in a museum the whole week," said Marlowe, who was fascinated by the medieval architecture, the Grand Place of Brussels, the huge market square surrounded by medieval buildings and the most beautiful square in all Europe, one of the sights to see in Europe, and the exquisite cathedrals. In one of the cathedrals in the medieval city of Bruges was a replica of the holy blood of Jesus brought back during the crusade. Original sculptures, one of Michelangelo and child, were fascinating and in Ghent he saw the famous painting in 24 panels by Van Eyck's, Adoration of the Mystic Lambs.

Marlowe described Ghent as awesome, aged as it is, a living city, not simply an urban museum, but the bubbling cauldron of Europe in the Middle Ages.

All the cities of Belgium were fascinating to Marlowe because of the medieval buildings.

Although he could speak little French, the language barrier was no problem. "We encountered our worst problem with language in Washington, D.C. where we spent a day before going to Europe. We had stopped at the State Department and went from there to a fast food restaurant where we found that everyone spoke Spanish."

A British Colonel gave them a tour of NATO and Marlowe found it interesting that so many different people from all over the world who spoke different languages could work together.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is the foundation of Europe's security. The link which the North Atlantic Treaty provides between the security of Europe and the security of North America enshrined in the key principle that an attack on one member is considered an attack on all has since 1949 provided Europe with an unprecedented period of peace, stability and prosperity. Though there have been many changes in that time, the NATO Alliance remains the only realistic way of providing for Europe's security.

"Just go to Europe" is Marlowe's advice to vacationers who like to travel.

This Is Reunion Time For KM Families

The months of July and August are traditionally family reunion times for many Kings Mountain area families.

"The Old Furnace Picnic" of the Ormand family ranks among the oldest consecutive reunions in America and the 93rd annual picnic will be held Saturday at noon at the site of the "old furnace" on Long Creek Church Road between Kings Mountain and Bessemer City. More than 300 people are expected to come from all over the United States. Descendants of James Ormand can acquire a new book about their ancestry published by Rev. Ben F. Ormand of Brevard.

Sunday at 1 p.m. the McGills of Gaston will meet at Boyce Memorial ARP Church for picnic lunch. This family gathering attracts a large crowd of descendants each year to St. Luke's Church Road but this year the reunion is planned at the ARP fellowship hall.

The first reunion of the family of Thomas and Mary Ann Peterson at KM Depot Center last summer attracted 150 relatives from the two Carolinas. An even bigger get-together is planned this year in October at Depot Center. Clan officers are hoping that relatives who know of others who should be given special invitation call Shirley Hinson, 739-5984; Bobby Peterson, 739-3043 after 5 p.m.; Sharon Moore, 739-5974; or Jerry Peterson, 739-3974.

The late Thomas and Mary Ann Peterson were reared in Kings Mountain and had seven children, 27 grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren. Relatives returning for the reunion are asked to bring family pictures and memorabilia to share with other family members. Children of the Petersons are Mrs. John Sanders and the late Mr. Sanders; the late Simon and Effie Sanders; Mrs. Bertha Spires and the late Marvin Spires; Fred and Violet Hinson, Mrs. Lucille Peterson and the late Jack Peterson; Mrs. Katherine Peterson and the late Walter Peterson; Robert Green and the late Pearl Green.

Clan officers are Bobby Peterson, president; Jerry Peterson, vice president; Sharon Moore, secretary and Shirley Hinson, treasurer. More information about the reunion may be had by writing Shirley Hinson at PO Box 1184, Kings Mountain 28086.

Family reunions are lots of fun, but they can be even more rewarding with proper planning. Shirley Hinson offers these tips she read in "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine for planning a winning reunion.

+Set the date early. The sooner the date is set, the better the response. Designate a leader. One person should assume overall responsibility to make sure things are accomplished in a timely fashion.

+Let committees do the work. Divide tasks so more people can share in the preparations but have all report to the leader.

One group can reserve the location, send out invitations and communicate with the family liaisons; another can coordinate the food; a third can oversee entertainment, and another should handle cleanup and garbage patrol.

+Reserve a meeting site early. Unless the reunion will be at someone's home, the meeting site should be booked as early as possible. A deposit



Around Town by Lib Stewart



ALL IS WELL(S) - Left to right, Pam Wells Albert, Marsha Wells D'Ottavia, Carveth Wells, Marge Wells, Mike Wells, Leona Wells, Gil Wells.

may be required. Unless the reunion will be held at the family homestead, think about choosing a central location that's convenient to the greatest number of relatives. Alternatively, select an exotic, out-of-the-way locale to make this family reunion vacation that everyone will remember.

+Determine costs. Estimate how much each person needs to pay to cover expenses. Don't forget such incidentals as garbage bags. Hint:

Normally, the lower the cost, the more people will attend. Try for a price everyone can afford, but make sure one person is not stuck with a lot of unpaid bills.

+Send invitations. Inform relatives about who, what, when, where and how. Set a date for RSVPs, so that an estimate of attendance can be made.

+Consider individual interests. Structure gatherings with a balance of free time to pursue personal interests, combined with planned activities that bring the gang together.

+Provide activities for each age group.

+Plan the next reunion. Start organizing the next reunion while everyone basks in the pleasure of this one.

+Send out mementos. Pictures or a newsletter bring back fond memories of the extended family. Some clans compile family recipes or genealogical books.

The Lee Wells family of Concord, California attended the recent John and Britter Wells family reunion at Antioch Community Center near Grover.

Marge Wells, widow of the late Lee Wells, attended along with their four children, Marsha, Gilbert, Mike and Pam, who flew in for the special reunion and to visit their relatives in North and South Carolina. It had been nearly 30 years since Gil and Marsha had been here and nearly 20 for Pam and Mike.

While at the reunion, they met and talked to their relatives. Later they visited other relatives and friends throughout the Dixon Community and Kings Mountain. They visited their great-aunt, Leona Wells, on Wells Road and stayed with Lee's brother, Harold and Lucy Wells, and their nephew and cousin, Steve and Betsy Wells in the Dixon Community.

The four children returned to California after a four-day visit. Marsha is married to Greg D'Ottavia, and they have two children, Angie and Greg. Marsha is a kindergarten teacher.

Gil and his wife, Toni, have two children, Todd and Kerry. Gil, who is retired from a California food store, is a truck driver around the San Francisco area. Mike, a Concord, California policeman, and his wife, Shawn, have two children, Richard and Jenny. Pam is married to Jim Albert and they have a small child, Catlin. Pam was the manager of a fashionable clothing boutique.

Marge continued her visit in Kings Mountain for a week after the children left. She visited many of Lee's cousins and then flew back to Concord, California.

While the group were in North Carolina they visited the old Wells Cemetery, located on the John Lewis Hughes farm on Stewart Road; saw the old Wells homeplace which is the present home of Mrs. Letha Stewart and Miss Elizabeth Stewart; and other spots that were in their heritage as descendants of John and Britter Wells.