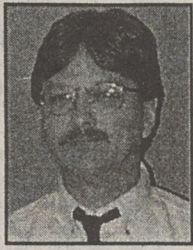


## Good ole boys laid racing foundation

These comments are for those of you who have recently discovered stock car racing. The nation's fastest growing sport- and one of the richest- was not always an activity where ladies could feel comfortable in the infield, and drivers wore hairspray and cologne.



**Alan Hodge**

Staff Writer

When I was a boy back in the late 1950s, my stepfather Walter and some of his pals were stock car fanatics. I was dragged to every dirt track race in a three state area. When a big race came, Walt and his buddies went to Daytona or to Darlington where a race called the Rebel 500 took place. They can't call it that anymore, and the red flags that flew all over the racetrack are also mostly a thing of the past.

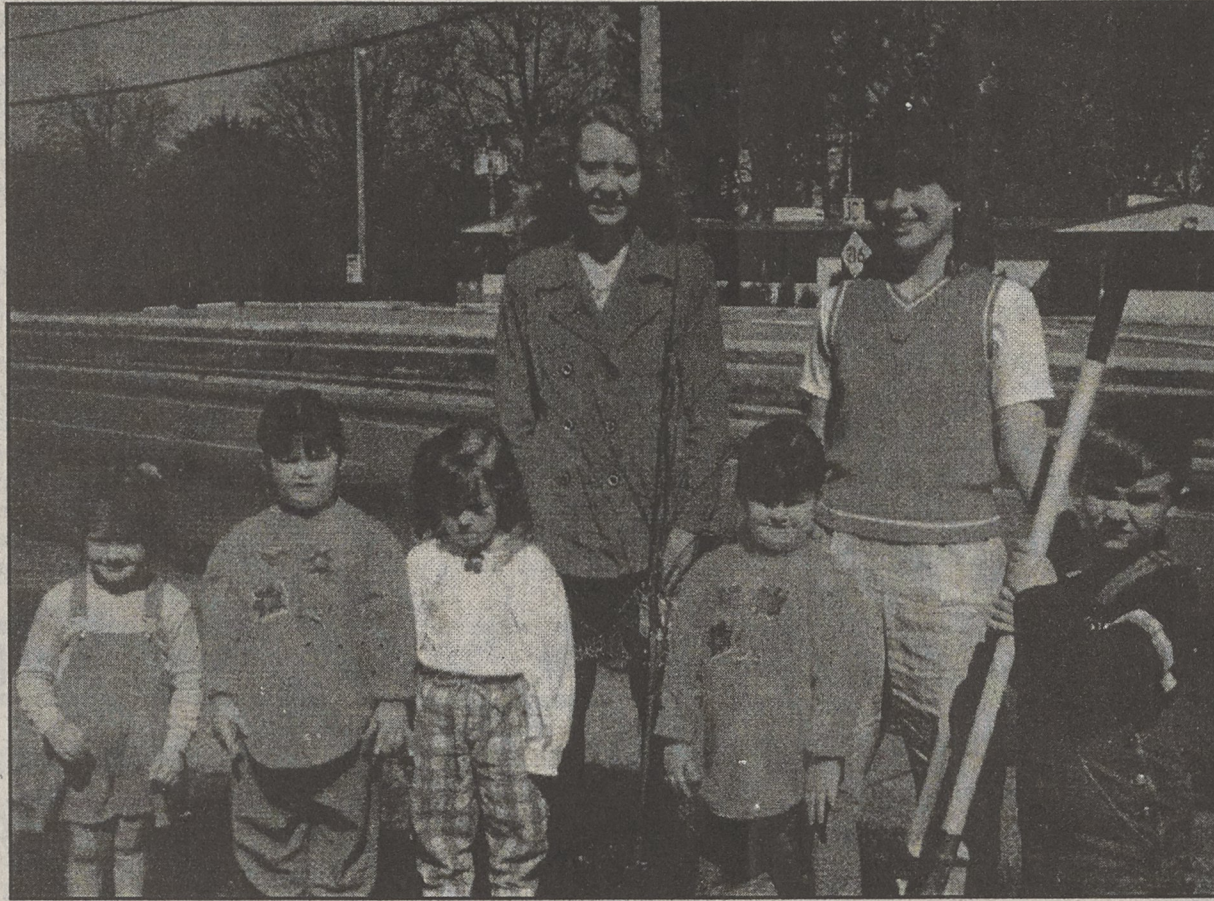
Drivers we saw do their thing back in those days included Cotton Owens, Tiny Lund, Fred Lorenzen, and Lee Petty. Safety equipment usually consisted of a t-shirt with cigarettes rolled up in the sleeve, and a little porridge bowl helmet about as thick as an eggshell. Racing shoes were brogans, and pants were generally caked with grease. At the old Charlotte Fairgrounds, there wasn't even a guard rail. More than once a car would spin off the track and come back on covered with kudzu.

Contrast these scenes with the glitz, glamour and tons of money lavished on the stock car scene today. What was once southern-fried, good old boy fender bending is now the main darling of the sports media.

A lot of folks at stock car races in the old days, and even a few brave but politically incorrect ones today, sport ball hats, bumper stickers, and shirts with the words "the south shall rise again" on them. Well, stock car racing has certainly done its part to make that statement come true. No longer the domain of rough and tumble types, stock car racing is family entertainment that is growing by leaps and bounds.

As many of you have seen, a new car racing section has appeared in the Kings Mountain Group of papers. As you read over the exploits of today's drivers, cast a look back at those who laid the foundation for what the sport is today.

## PICTORIAL EDITORIAL



**ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD**  
Getting ready for Arbor Day, Mauney Memorial Library employees and some young friends prepare to plant a tree on the library grounds. Pictured are, rear row left to right; Amy Poteat, Christy Key. Front row, left to right; Hannah Morrow, Jayda Southers, Sara Manly, Courtney Southers, Justin Morrow.

## YOUR VIEW

### Salvation a free gift

To the editor:

This Easter, churches everywhere will be filled to overflowing. Even if you attend a church service every week how well do you really know your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Do you know the Son of God well enough to speak with Him on a first name basis?

You received a free gift when you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior. At that moment, God handed to you a very special, beautifully wrapped gift, filled with endless treasures and blessings that you may have forgotten to open. But it's not too late to begin unwrapping your free gift of salvation.

Christians enter Heaven through justification, the one-time sacrificial death of God's innocent Son on the cross for the atonement of man's sins. God is truth, He is righteous, pure and good, and we aren't. Evil cannot mix with good, therefore our entrance into Heaven is justified (reconciled) through the shedding of the Lamb's innocent blood.

Understanding and accepting justification is where most Christians end their spiritual journey. True Christians who never venture beyond this point of their spiritual life will go to Heaven when they die. However, they are missing out on many of God's special blessings and His comforting peace

of mind that makes all the crooked paths of life straight.

You move from justification into sanctification by allowing God to work His will through your life. The process starts when a Christian who believes in Christ begin abiding in Christ. Sanctification is a life-long process through which God, living in you, frees you from the power of sin. Through sanctification you are being purified (sanctified) into Holiness with God. It is a growing and learning process that reaches completion in glorification (Heaven) where you will be saved from the presence of sin.

If you want to find out what treasures and blessings God has in store for you, you only have to ask Him. Get down on your knees and tell Jesus you want to get to know Him better on a first name basis.

Mindy Acuna

### Support walk for research

To the editor:

I read with much joy Mrs. Jane Clemmer's article on the Relay Race for Cancer and Cancer Research, and I totally agree with everything she said.

She and I both are cancer survivors - hers for 10 years and mine for seven years - and we both agree that research is the key to curing this monster.

I was operated on successfully for prostate cancer three

years ago and I believe that a good God, a good doctor, a good wife, and by all means the progress that cancer research has made, all combined to make my cancer a thing of the past.

Folks, next weekend, April 16-17, there is going to be a Relay for Life and Cancer Research Walk at the Community Center walking track with proceeds going to cancer research.

We ask for your support in this walk by doing one of the following things:

- 1) Get you up a team.
- 2) Come and walk.
- 3) Support the walk financially.

If you can do any of the above, and we hope that you can, please call Betty Mitchell at the Community Center. Please help.

Sincerely,  
Kyle Smith,  
Honorary Co-Chairperson

### Relay for Life needs your help

To the editor:

This year's Relay for Life will be held April 16 and 17 at the walking track in conjunction with the KM Fire Department's BBQ cook-off. Set-up time will begin at 12 noon Friday. The opening ceremony will be at 6 p.m. and the survivor's walk will be between 6:30 and 7 p.m. with the official starting time to be 7 p.m. for walkers.

So far we have 12-14 teams who are committed to raising funds and walking for this year's event. Our goal is 20 teams - it's not too late to start now! We also increased our overall money goal from last year's \$27,000 to \$30,000 this year. Jay Rhodes of the KM Chamber has signed up eight corporate sponsors out of the ten hoped for. A corporate sponsor is asked to donate \$500. We are thankful for all those who have and will be contributing to fight this dreaded disease.

During the walk there will be entertainment through the night; the teams will still be raising money by selling baked goods, soft drinks, water, popcorn, etc. We plan for an auction to be held Saturday morning. If anyone would like to contribute to this please call Mike Neely at 739-4952 or Betty Mitchell at 734-0449.

We are hoping to have a race car driver and/or team here to sign autographs. Judi Belle, the clown from McDonalds, will be with us to paint faces and interact with the children. This is a family affair. Many other activities will be happening. We are anticipating a larger crowd this year. Better watch out - you might just get in jail and have to get someone to "bail" you out - all for the benefit of cancer research.

We are trying to locate and contact as many cancer survivors as possible. If you know of someone who is fighting cancer or has already won the fight,

please let Betty Mitchell or Dorus Bennett know. We want to honor as many as possible. After all, that is what we are holding the Relay for!

Mary Ann Gibson and her committee are selling this year's luminaries for \$10 in honor of our loved ones. You may contact Mary Ann at 739-3555. The Interact Club from KMHS will be filling and helping place the luminaries around the track for the solemn and joyful luminary ceremony.

Cancer has probably, in one way or another, affected each of us in Kings Mountain and surrounding areas. Let's try our best to have a successful 1999 Relay and do our part in putting an end to the suffering and heartache cancer brings by financing further research and assistance for families caught up in this battle!

The Relay will have closing ceremonies around noon Saturday and everyone is invited back to hear the results of our efforts...and yours as a community fighting cancer.

Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

Betty Mitchell  
Co-Chairman

✓ Address all letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086. Letters must be signed and include the full name, address and phone number of the writer. Letters may be edited or refused for any reason.

## SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ALAN HODGE  
Herald/Times

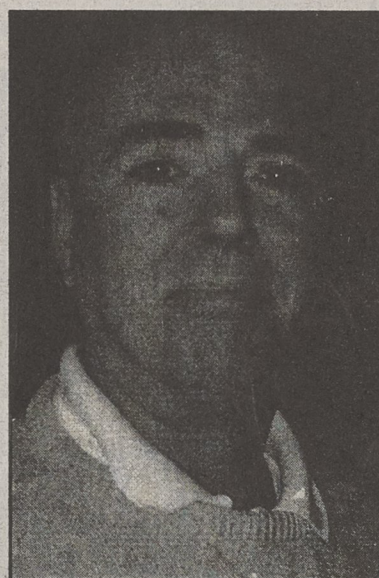
### Should the United States be involved militarily in Bosnia?



We should have some input, but let the Bosnians decide.  
**Tara Wright**  
student



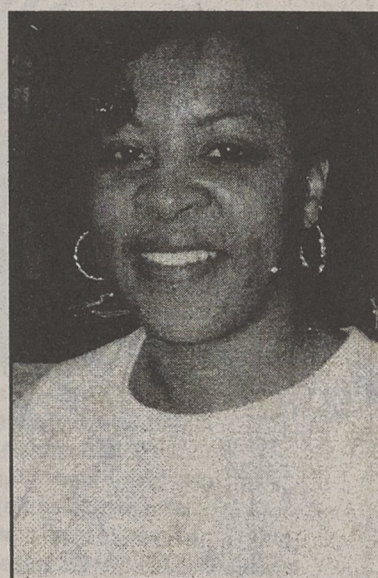
We have no business over there. If we're going to do it, then do it right.  
**Carl Plonk**  
sales



Absolutely not.  
**Drew Dahl**  
textile executive



We should stick to our own business.  
**Amanda Collins**  
fitness instructor



I don't think we should be involved.  
**Angela Smith**  
Wix employee