

## The art of letter writing disappearing

I fear the art of letter writing is disappearing. Point the finger at the computer and e-mail for the fact that fat stacks of letters will no longer fill boxes in the attics of the future.

Once folks sent letters to express their feelings. These bits of correspondence reflected love, hate, joy, sorrow, and all the other emotions that humans are prone to feel. Letters came from all over the world with exotic stamps and return addresses ranging from the North Pole to the heart of darkest Africa. Sometimes they came from the next town down the highway. Sometimes they came from a school, hospital, prison or battlefield.

The other day I was reading a book entitled 'The Common Soldier in the Civil War.' It was chock full of letters that soldiers had written home from camp and field. Besides the creative spelling, the one thing that makes the biggest impression is the heartfelt and simple eloquence that the letters show. Here are some samples:

From a rebel in 1861 to his wife: "Well, Leezer, I will tell you what is going on in camps Jo is on guard and I am in the tent written on a nap sack. Norton has gone to Alins regimint and Giles is sic and Martin is anuring his letter and that makes our army famely. I would like to know whare we will be a month from today."

Another soldier writing to his younger brother back home- "you kiss Soo for me and tell Soo to kiss you for me and by managing the thing that way I will git two kisses and tell Feb if possibul he can steal a kiss from Miss Bettie and after he kisses her tell her it was for me I would be glad indeed."

A Tennessee private in 1863 wrote- "Oh how I lub you gals, you sweet little critters! I went to the dance and picked Miss Annie, she smelled like camphor all night. Her little bosom rested pantingly on mine and I got to confess I squeezed her just a little bit."

An Alabama soldier wrote to his mom in 1863 on the food situation- "Sum times I git a nuff and sumtimes I dont. We dont have no reglar way out here of eatin we eat just when we git hungerey."

A Tar Heel remarked in  
See Hodge, 5A



Alan Hodge  
Guest Column

## LOOKING BACK



GARY STEWART / HERALD  
With the talk of Hurricane Isabel possibly hitting the North Carolina coast today, many people in Kings Mountain will remember September 22, 1989 when Hurricane Hugo came inland and did tremendous damage in this area. On that day, Little Dan's on Grover Road was the only service station in the area that didn't lose electricity. Folks from all around came to the store to fill up with gasoline and clear the store's shelves and canned goods and other items.

## A reception is one of the best places to get good food

Some favor Italian, others Mexican. Still others prefer good old southern home cooking. My favorite food doesn't fit in any of those categories.

I am a reception food junkie. You know, the stuff they serve at weddings, going away parties and other events you have to dress up for.

Over the past few weeks, I've had the opportunity to attend two functions, an opening at the Arts Center in Shelby and a reception for new teachers in Kings Mountain.

Both times, I've piled my plate full of delights like cheese ball, fresh veggies (yummy cherry tomatoes), shrimp and cream puffs washing it all down with punch.

At the Arts Center I was able to make a covert second pass, visiting the table for more. The new installation distracted most folks so I was safe to pile my plate high twice.

At the teachers' reception I wasn't so lucky. People only had one another to focus on and the food table was at the front of the room. I prefer events where it is in a corner, less chance of everyone realizing what a pig I am.

After Monday night's reception I was so frustrated over having only had one plate of food, I went to the grocery store and purchased a cheese ball, kiwi, olives and sparkling grape juice.

Joey and I came home and had huge dinner sized plates of the goodies. Somehow, not having to hide, the food didn't taste as good.

For some truly tasty food that isn't fancy, have an apple. It's that season again in North Carolina. The apples are ripe.

If your taste run toward old fashioned varieties like Grimes, Virginia Beauty or York, take a trip up the mountain to Altapass Orchard in Little Switzerland. Bill and Judy Carson and Bill's sister Kit Trubey are preserving the 85-year-old orchard along with mountain culture.

We took a trip last month and enjoyed ourselves. There is more than fruit at Altapass. I wouldn't drive up the mountain just for apples. There are plenty of good orchards around here.

Appalachian heritage, stories in particular, have caught the collective ear of Bill, Judy and Kit. Bill's favorite tale is about Robert Young, the 64-year-old Overmountain Man who shot Major Patrick Ferguson. According to legend, Young called both his gun and his wife "sweet lips." This impressed Bill.

See Andie, 5A



Andie Brymer  
Staff Writer

## Maybe Bush should consult the news media

All President Bush needs to do to get this country on the right track is go to the right people for advice.

I'm talking about the news media.

When the president made his speech last week telling the country how much money was needed to continue the war in Iraq, the talking heads on TV went berserk, with most of them coming up with their own figures.

How do they know?

Syndicated columnist David Broder, the world's foremost authority on everything, took the president to task for his estimate of needed troop strength.

Broder wrote: "By insisting that the American military force does not have to grow and by saying that only one division of foreign troops will be added if new nations can be persuaded to offer their help, Bush still appears to be committing less to Iraq than many of those who have traveled to the country think may be required."

Meaning Broder thinks he has a more accurate figure than the president.

How does he know? Do all these brilliant newspaper columnists have advanced training in military tactics?

Sean Penn has been to Iraq. Maybe President Bush should consult him on how many troops are needed.

I'm curious as to where David Broder gets his intelligence regarding troop strength and the areas where they should be deployed. I know the president gets his from several sources, including foreign governments and several intelligence agencies who are charged with gathering such information just for the national security of this country.

But I guess Broder and those of that ilk know what they are talking about. They continue to spout off, telling the country how they know everything about everything, and nobody calls them on it.

Just like E. J. Dionne, another syndicated know-it-all. He wrote that the president is now paying a price for ignoring the United Nations.

I haven't the foggiest idea what he's talking about. Does anybody know what price the president is paying for ignoring the United Nations?

I guess I didn't realize Bush was ignoring the UN. I thought he sent envoys there to seek a supporting resolution, and was turned down. I thought the country already had two resolutions of support from the UN, but went after another just to satisfy people such as Dionne and

See Heffner, 5A



Jim Heffner  
Guest Column

## LOOK BACK

### Second lake being talked in September '86

From the September 17, 1986 edition of the Herald: 1,866 residents of No. 3 and No. 4 townships have signed a preliminary survey saying they are interested in buying water and sewer from Kings Mountain in a Metro Utility District proposed by Kings Mountain Mayor John Henry Moss. The figure represents 97.8 percent of the residents of the proposed district which would include outlying areas of Kings Mountain, Grover, Earl and Patterson Springs. Only 42 people surveyed said they would not want to buy utilities from Kings Mountain.

What would the proposed \$25.8 million Metropolitan Utility District cost the citizens of Kings Mountain? Mayor John Henry Moss said today there will "absolutely be no increase in taxes." He said the project would be "self-sustaining, paid for and operated by the city out of revenues from the sale of water and sewer services."

County Manager Joe Hendrick has called a meeting of town officials with water systems to attend a meeting tonight to discuss and update Cleveland County's future water needs.

Former resident Jenny Oates died Monday at Grand Strand General Hospital in Myrtle Beach, SC.

A sacred music concert Sunday at 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church will honor Rev. Allen Jolley, retiring after 25 years in the church music ministry.

Faunce Realty held a preview showing of Northshore Landing condominiums Thursday at Moss Lake.

Dr. Charles Davenport, pastor of Long Creek Presbyterian Church, was honored recently by members of the congregation for having successfully completed the Doctor of Ministry program at Columbia Theological Seminary.

Hunter Huss used a couple of first half breaks to put 14 quick points on the scoreboard and went on to rout Kings Mountain 34-6 in a non-conference football game Friday at Kings Mountain's John Gamble Stadium.

Kings Mountain Rescue wants to begin rescue-ambulance service in Kings Mountain as a "primary responder" on Saturdays and Sundays.

## SIDEWALK SURVEY

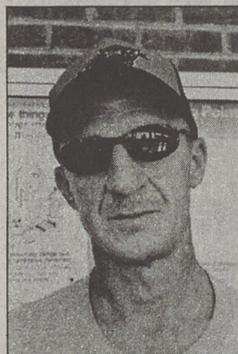
BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
THE HERALD

Should Congress approve the \$87 billion President Bush wants to continue the occupation of Iraq?



"I think so. We don't have a choice."

Marilyn Pheagin  
Shelby



"They should if we don't have to go back over there."

Scott Hovis  
Kings Mountain



"Since we're there, we need to take care of it."

Ed Schronce  
Kings Mountain



"Yea, once we're committed we ought to finish the job."

Peggy Lawing  
Kings Mountain



"Yes, only because we have to finish what we started. It's too much. We shouldn't have done it but we're there."

Sara McNeely  
Kings Mountain