

Cats want you to think they're good

I guess it's a fair assumption to say that cats rank only second to dogs in the pet popularity poll. You might say they miss the top spot by a whisker.

Why do people have cats? For the same reason they have gerbils and hamsters and pole-cats, and yes, dogs, that is because they are warm and fuzzy and stir up some sort of

primeval need to nurture something warm and fuzzy even if it has yellow buck teeth in the case of a gerbil or hamster, or a propensity for killing things as in the case of the pole-cat, or claws that can shred your hide and teeth as sharp as needles in the case of a cat.

Cats are sneaky. Oh, come on now cat fanatics, don't be sending old Alan any harsh letters about how your little darling would never get on the kitchen counter top to groom itself or lick the crumbs off unwashed plates in the sink or just generally stroll those airy heights shedding cat hairs all over the places your food will be prepared.

Cats want you to think they are being good. They loll around in the daytime and nap and squint their eyes and act like they aren't thinking about anything in particular. This is a ruse. They certainly are thinking. They are thinking about what they are going to do when it gets dark and they can go out.

When a cat is let out of the house at night they are on the lookout for mischief. They can see in the dark and see in the light so they have twice as much of a chance to see something to get into. The ability to see in the darkness is called knockturnal vision- that's because a cat is always looking to knock over a garbage can in the middle of the night.

Cats can get upset with their peers. Cat fights can be vicious things. Once my mom had a big ol' blue-gray cat named Jojo. He was fixed so he spent a lot of time laying around watching ball games on TV and sich. He had other names besides Jojo. We called him Jigwee, Pocky, and Get the ..outta here. He was a samurai-sized kitty that most of the time only roused himself to stroll over to the food bowl looking for some crunchies.

About the time Jigwee was on the scene, mom also had a cat she called Amberstache because it had a little yellowish looking mustache on its mug. I called it Little Weasel because it was neurotic and nervous and skulked around. One day a big cat

See Alan, 5A

OPINION

The Kings Mountain Herald

Thursday, January 8, 2004

LOOKING BACK



Hundreds of people came to Kings Mountain in 1984 for the official dedication of the new Highway 74 bypass. Governor Jim Hunt was the keynote speaker. This picture was taken on the bridge at 74 Bypass and Piedmont Avenue.

GARY STEWART / HERALD FILES

LOOK BACK

Highway 74 bypass opened in January '84

From the January 12, 1984 edition of the Kings Mountain Herald:

Grover Commissioner Dennis McDaniel became the fourth commissioner in the past three terms to resign his position on Town Council. Mayor Bill McCarter announced at Monday night's meeting that McDaniel had resigned because of "personal reasons."

Rachel Gladden is winner of the Kings Mountain competition for 1983-84 NCAE Human Relations Award.

Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night approved the sale of the Compact School property to Jack Barrett for \$75,000.

The long-awaited Highway 74 bypass opened without ceremony Friday. State officials plan a formal dedication led by Governor Jim Hunt later this year.

Kings Mountain District Schools will ask State Senator Ollie Harris to introduce a bill in the next regular session of the General Assembly to change the length of Kings Mountain School Board member terms from six to four years.

John Houser, native of Grover and vice-president and city executive of Southern National Bank of Gastonia, has announced he will run for mayor of Gastonia in the 1985 campaign.

Gubernatorial candidate Jim Martin was speaker at Thursday night's meeting of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club.

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers, tied for first in the SWC, had to come from behind to edge winless East Rutherford 75-74 Friday at the KMHS gym. Tyrone Grier led the Mounties with 21 points and 17 rebounds. He scored 13 of his points in the last six minutes when the Mounties erased a nine-point deficit.

Kings Mountain's Kevin Mack was one of seven Clemson University players selected by the Washington Redskins in last week's territorial draft. The Redskins will be trying to sign Mack and other draftees between now and May, when the NFL holds its annual draft of college seniors.

H&R Block Tax Service has occupied new offices in the Herald Building at the corner of U.S. 74 East and Canterbury Road.

Winter is one of the most beautiful seasons of the year



Andie Brymer Staff Writer

We're living in probably the most underrated season for natural beauty - winter.

Falls gets accolades for turning leaves deep red, gold and orange. Spring is praised for bringing back warm days, new green leaves and songbirds. Summer sustains the momentum of spring with vivid colored flowers, abundant vegetables and warm, balmy nights.

At first appearance winter is the slack season. Deciduous trees are bare and gardens fallow. The picture is only bleak if we look for the same kind of beauty as the other seasons.

If you're not already enthralled by winter, take a look at a bare tree against a grey-blue winter sky. Look at the stark lines, it's like seeing the tree's skeleton. The limb-like bones hold it together. With a little imagination, the tree appears to dance.

In the last month I've seen more animals on my drives to work than in the previous six months combined. One morning there were at least 50 geese in a field. Another day six deer walked and then ran across the road in front of my car. Several turkey stood by the side of the road on another December day.

On a little less majestic but more playful note, four squirrel's were gathered around a mailbox one morning. They appeared to be chatting, maybe giving each other pointers on where the best nuts could be found.

While many days the skies are grey, others are brilliant blue with huge clouds. After nightfall that same sky is filled with the brightest stars of the whole year. Put on a coat, sip some hot coffee, go out and take in their show.

This time of the year fire engine red bushes greet motorists coming into Kings Mountain on N.C. 74. I'm not sure if the red comes from berries or leaves but regardless, the color is striking and rivals any June bloom.

I hope I've made my case for winter being a season of beauty. It has a lot to offer the eyes but even if it did not, it would still be a special time for me.

I like the idea of a sleepy season. While it rarely gets too cool here for a walk any time of the year, there is value in staying inside as well.

Here in the early 21st Century, we probably place way

See Andie, 5A

It's okay to fly, just make sure your insurance is paid



Jim Heffner Columnist

There was Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge on television telling people the terror threat level had been raised because the government had received information that the country could be attacked again.

No kidding, Tom? Ridge also told the public that airport security had been tightened up with increased random vehicle inspections, increased law enforcement personnel at airport terminals and around their perimeters, more officers with police dogs on patrol, more parking restrictions and any number of other beefed up measures.

"Anybody who is planning to fly shouldn't let this change anything," Ridge said. "If you are planning a trip for the holidays, go ahead and take it, just try to be more alert and vigilant."

Now that sounds to me like "By all means take your planned trip, but make sure your insurance is paid up." The government, it seems, wants to warn people that it has information an attack may be imminent, but they don't want to hurt the airline business.

Sorry, Tom, you just can't have it both ways. I wasn't planning on flying anywhere, but if I was, I would stay home or drive.

Meantime, over in the world class city, the mayor says security is being reevaluated every hour.

I'm sure the same thing is happening in High Shoals and Bessemer City.

Since the first attack on Sept. 11, 2001, it has become impossible to get a parking place near the Mecklenburg County Court House and administrative offices.

To record a deed, you must park a couple of blocks away, if you can find a parking place, and hoof it. The city has a Barney Fife look alike on foot who checks the parking meters closest to the court house. He walks around and chalks your tires. If you overstay the meter by a couple of minutes, you are ticketed and your car is towed.

I can tell you, from experience, that will cost you \$115.

If you do decide to take an airplane trip, you are going to run up against some of the most stubborn security people in the world.

My son had a wonderful experience in one of the New

See Heffner, 5A

SIDEWALK SURVEY

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER THE HERALD

What is your New Year's wish?



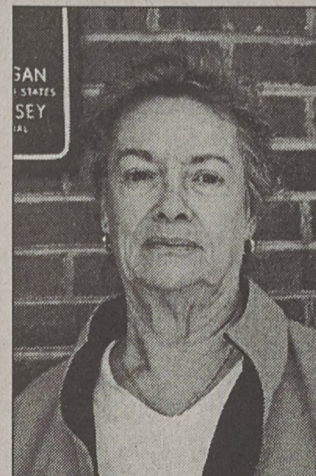
"Peace and good health." Sandy Surber Kings Mountain



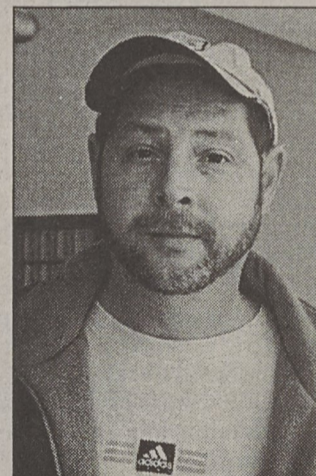
"To live a better life." Markeeta Williamson Kings Mountain



"For my husband to get well." Margaret Jackson Kings Mountain



"Peace in the world, all the soldiers to come home." Sally Gregory Kings Mountain



"A good economy." Darryl Hall Kings Mountain