

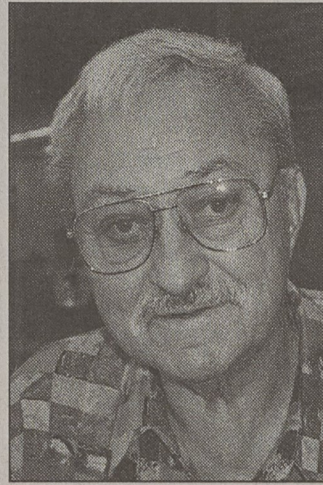
SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ANDIE BRYMER
HERALD

What are your plans for Independence Day?



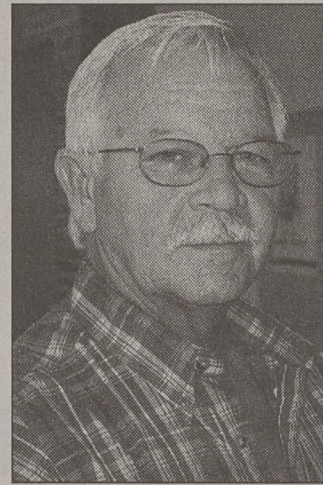
I don't have any. My great-grandson Carson Bailey's birthday is the fourth of July.
Levaughn Smith
Kings Mountain



Absolutely nothing. The same thing I do on the third and the fifth.
Joel Wallace
Kings Mountain



Probably a cookout at my parents' house. Invite all the family, make ice cream.
Ginger Herndon
Kings Mountain



Go fishing.
Bill "Beebop" Heffner
Clover, S.C.



Going to Jacksonville, Fla. or the beach. We haven't made up our minds.
Deany Hannah
Kings Mountain

Big money folks think that consumers believe anything

I was reading the back of a can of air freshener recently. The label was deceptively funny. It advised that children and teens not be allowed to use the product.

Seems this warning was based on the assumption that all young people like to huff aerosol spray. From the sound of this liability scared manufacturer, you would think there is a massive problem with inhalant abuse. I'm sure the stuff is used as a drug on occasion but what about all the kids who just want a fresh smelling car, bedroom or work environment?



Andie Brymer
Staff Writer

Speaking of silly stuff corporations spout, what's up with these fast food establishments trying to sell themselves as purveyors of healthy food?

They can put all the salad, low carb "wraps" and fresh fruit they want on the menu but it's a ruse in my opinion. It gets customers in the door. Reminds me of the tobacco companies calling their cigarettes "light" as if they slick word choice would ward off lung cancer.

Going off the subject, hats off to anyone who has managed to quit smoking. I never took up the habit but from what I understand, quitting takes an iron will. I

guess that's better than an iron lung.

The big money folks think consumers will believe and buy anything they wrap up pretty and dish out. Some company from a far off area code apparently has Joey and I pegged as easy marks.

Last Sunday they called and left a message that we maybe had won a car. The language was vague enough to cause the casual listener to jump for joy. On a careful review of the tape, it was obvious we were being baited to call back. Why, I don't know. We didn't waste our time finding out.

Last night we discovered these folks had struck again. This time we were the "lucky" recipients of a two-night, three-day vacation to Miami. The woman was so cheerful I began to wonder what pharmaceutical cocktail she had persuaded her doctor to place her on.

We're not as dumb as Wall Street or Washington thinks we are.

I haven't had a chance to see it yet, but Michael Moore's newest movie "Fahrenheit 911" purports to prove Bush knew there were no weapons of mass destruction and no link between Saddam and Osama.

From Moore's point of view, Bush and his rich cronies will use any excuse to send middle and working class men and women to die in a war that the rich benefit from.

What this world needs is more Matt Dillons

My wife thinks I'm nuts. I expect there are a lot of men who can say that.

Recently, when it rained all day, I sat and watched episode after episode of Gunsmoke on television. The TV Land channel had a 48-hour marathon, and I enjoyed them. Matt, Miss Kitty, Doc, Newly and Festus were in rare form. Matt and Newly are the only survivors of that group.

I noticed that Miss Kitty's hair was blonde in some shows, but red in others. I don't know why I hadn't noticed that before.

My keeper kept coming into the den to check and see if I was awake, and she always seemed disappointed when I was.

"You never watch TV that much," she said.

"This is different," I replied.

She knows I like westerns. I saw a lot of segments I had already seen, but some I'd never seen before.

When I worked for Eastern Airlines, I worked with a girl named Judy Applegate whose brother was a Hollywood actor. His name is Eddie Applegate, and he had a feature role in one of the episodes. I saw that one again.

I saw a lot of my old favorites again, but I have to admit, there were a few I couldn't take a second time. I like the conversations between Doc and Festus.

I recall one episode where Festus was telling Doc how to tell if a baby was going to be a boy or a girl before it was born.

"You hold your pocket watch over the woman's belly," Festus said, "and if it turns clocker-wise it's going to be a boy. If it turns contrary clocker-wise, it's going to be a girl."

"Hogwash," Doc said.

"No, Doc, It's the gospel truth," said Festus. "The only time I've ever knowed it

to fail, was with my Aunt Tillie. Uncle Forbus held the watch over her belly and it didn't twist clocker-wise or contrary clocker-wise. It didn't move at all."

"Well," Doc said, "are you going to tell me whether it was a boy or a girl?"

"It wasn't neither one," Festus said, "it was gas."

Doc left in a huff.

I keep a note pad around most of the time and when I wasn't watching Matt Dillon save Dodge City I jotted down a couple of items that are absolutely not earth-shaking. Here they are anyway:

1. Brasstown, in Western N.C., is known as the Possum Capital of the World. On New Year's, at the stroke of midnight, a possum in a plexiglas cage is lowered just like the ball in Times Square, then turned loose.

2. Coffee never tastes as good as it smells.

3. Eating Chinese food with chopsticks, when spoons and forks are available, is downright dumb.

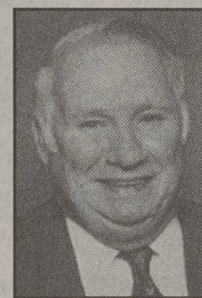
4. People who proclaim themselves members of the Silent Majority, aren't. That group remains silent. They do their talking at the polls.

5. Conservatives admit their philosophical leanings, but liberals call themselves, in most cases, moderates. Some liberals say they are fiscal conservatives, but social liberals. This is not true.

The terms are not compatible. A social liberal is one who believes in the government taking care of people from the cradle to the grave. That takes money, always somebody else's money, therefore a social liberal cannot be a fiscal conservative.

6. There is no moral majority in this country; there is an immoral majority. How else to explain so many men and women living together and producing children without benefit of marriage? What makes it an immoral majority is that so many people do or say nothing about it.

We need more Matt Dillons in this world.



Jim Heffner
Columnist

volunteers



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