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Mystery Letters

do you know who wrote them?



Lovers could \$1,000

Orange County Register
The sponsor of "Greatest Lover" contests the entries will read a romance novel script. There's \$1,000 here, so pay attention. "One of the biggest for relationships is like in movies," says Debra. "In the movies, a couple meet, spend five minutes, make love like sensitive wolves and then happily ever after." Real life, Etkes says, is like that.

How perceptive the Harlequin Entertainment publisher of romance novels published its diary of real couples live not fiction, insight gleaned from viewing 1,000 adults' Surprises?

Forty-six percent of women say that a good sleep is better than sex.

To be sure that their preferences are not understood, 77 percent of men sleep in old T-shirts and cotton nightgowns or pajamas.

Men are optimistic: 80 percent sleep in nothing at all, and 10 percent in their skivvies.

Bedroom ambience is part of the problem.

Only 27 percent of men say their boudoir is perfect. In the Plaza Suite — so close to the city — 22 percent say "Nightmare on Elm Street" is their dream: 21 percent say

By Dorothy Buresh
Staff writer

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The letters are crumbling. The soldier who wrote them during the Civil War was, in the end, killed in action.

The letters were recovered from the attic of the Moline home of Joseph Zelnio by members of his family. Mr. Zelnio, who lived at 1124 11th Ave., Moline, now is a resident of Crosstown, Silvis, and has no idea how the letters got in his attic or why they were there.

Kit Zelnio, a niece, has tried — without much luck — to trace the origin of the letters, written by William D. Malaby, Company G, 27th Regiment, Illinois Volunteers.

The letters stretch from 1860 to January 1863, when it was reported that the soldier had been killed. Most of the letters written by Cpl. Malaby were addressed to the Alfred Doxsee (also spelled "Doxey" on some letters) family of rural Rock Island. The soldier appears to have been related to the family, but his different surname and choice of greetings — "Dear Friends" in some letters, "My Dear Parents and Sisters" in others — leave room for speculation.

In October 1861, Cpl. Malaby wrote a letter addressed to "Dear Mother." He said he was in good health and had received pay for August amounting to "nine dollars and ninety five cents and there will be two months pay due us the first of next month wch will amount to \$26. I intend to send all of it to John Pratt that I can spare." Although the letter was addressed to his mother, he signed it, "I remain yours, William D. Malaby."



John Greenwood / staff

Kit Zelnio looks at Civil War letters found in the Moline home of her uncle, Joseph Zelnio.

On Nov. 9, 1861, Cpl. Malaby wrote from Cairo, Ill.: "I have at last had an opportunity of witnessing a battle on Thursday last we fought the hardest Battle that has been fought in Missouri at a place called Belmont, 20 miles below this place and directly oposite Columbus in Kentucky.

"We gained the day with considerable loss. The boys

on our side is supposed to be from 80 to 100 killed and missing and many more wounded. The loss of our reg (regiment) was not so great as some of the others — although we were in the thickest of the fight. Our loss consisted of one man killed name Benj Craig, one missing name Duree Hairs, and two wounded names Andrew Lee Smith and

John Webber. Smith seriously, Webber slightly. Poor Craig was my right hand man when he was shot down. He was a brave man and well liked by the company. He leaves a wife and child to morne his loss. I was struck by a spent ball on the head but it did not hurt me any.

SEE ▶ LETTERS, B2

Father" — spartan; percent liken their "Peyton Place" — th hot and steamy.

The point of all th data is to steer you tion of success whe your entry for the tioned "World's Gre contest. Grand prize an engraved plaque.

"What I'm really le a person who nurtur of their relations Etkes, contest sp author of "Loving W (Claremont Publishi

Etkes, a marriage counselor and UCLA therapist, believes th spectrum of behavi "maximum pleasur couples.

Emotional connect ality, making your good in his or her hee through good comm all are key elements good lover.

Etkes, an Upland, dent married almost soliciting entries th newspapers across States and Canada.

Does your lover g the door with a kiss, 15 minutes and inter how your day went what? Sign that swee prize.

Etkes is looking fi 300 words or less d standout lover who i communication, res imagination, play at the relationship.

He's hoping to r responses to write romance book, fillec life stories to inspiri ples out there.

To receive an entry free pamphlet, "7 Wa Lifelong Love," send self-addressed, b envelope to: Donald Box 8028, Dept. B, La 91750.

Enter yourself or y lover, but be quick. T



John Greenwood / staff

Love Tuesday events set

Abeth's Guild of Trinity Episcopal Church, Rock Island, will host a pancake luncheon and mini-bazaar from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 20, in the church's parish hall. Getting ready for the event are, from left, Dorothy Tipple, Eileen Quick and Evelyn Lundell. Tickets are \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

BRIEFS

Best Grains offers Thrifty Meals' class

DAVENPORT — Greatest Grains on Earth, Davenport, will sponsor a "Thrifty Meals' class" from 2 to 3 p.m. on Saturday. To pre-register, call 319-323-7521.

Our Radio Club Hamfest

ROCK ISLAND — The Davenport Radio Amateur Club will celebrate its 25th anniversary by hosting its 1996 Hamfest on Feb. 18 at the QCCA Center, Rock Island. The event will be open at 7:30 a.m. with a prize drawing at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$10 at the door. For information, call 319-323-7521 or table reservations.

For more information, call Kent Williams, 796-0718.

The club will sponsor amateur radio operator license examinations for all license elements Feb. 18 in the Northwest Bank Building, Davenport. Candidates will be accepted from 9 to 10 a.m. Fee is \$6.05. For information, call 355-5517.

Auxiliary plans bus trip March 20

St. Anthony's Auxiliary is planning a bus trip to the outlet mall in Williamsburg, Iowa, with a side trip to the Amana Colonies April 20.

Cost is \$15. Reservations will be accepted in the gift shop and account department through March 20.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE B1

"The Mercer boys had the praise of being the best fighters on the field. Genl. Pillow said he was whipping us nicely until them damned Regulars come in on his left flank as that was the position occupied by the 27th. I suppose he meant us. He said we fought more like Devils than men and there was no such thing as whipping. We killed nearly all their officers and shot four horses from under Genl. Pillow. He finally saved him self by flight under cover of the river bank.

"It is impossible for me to give you any particular account of the battle though I assure you that it was a horrible affair. I hope I shall never be called to witness another such. . . ."

In a letter written from Nashville, Tenn., on Dec. 11, 1862: "We have moved out six or seven miles south east of Nashville and are camped in the woods. We now belong to general Sheridan's Division and to the army of the Cumberland. We have taken the place of some new troupes and we don't like it very much after working night and day to fortify a place."

Harriett Doxsee, Cpl. Malaby's apparent sister, wrote him on Jan. 18, 1863: "Dear Brother, We are all well and I hope these few lines will find you enjoying good health. The weather is fine. It don't seem like winter for it has hardly snowed a bit yet and I guess it won't for it is getty pretty late. . . ."

"I have been reading the account of the Battle of Murfreesboro, and I see the 27th was in the fight, and Col. Harrington name is among the hundreds of others that have fallen. I hope you was to sick to be up there. I want you to send me a letter as soon as possible for we are all uneasy about

you. I would like to see you most dreadful but as there is no possibility of such a thing I will have to wait and meby I will have to wait a long time for I don't know what is going to become of my poor brother."

In February of 1862 Cpl. Malaby wrote back to Harriett Doxsee that he had received a copy of the Argus and was "very much obliged" to get a prize from home.

The mystery of the letters — which may be given to the Rock Island County Historical Society for study — may one day be solved. A check with the Rock Island Arsenal indicated that Cpl. Malaby is not buried on the island.

The Zelnio family thinks the letters probably were brought to the Moline attic by Berneice Zelnio, the late wife of Joseph Zelnio. She was a nurse and may have come into possession of the letters through one of the physicians she worked for.

The last letter — dated Jan. 10, 1863 and written by Ord. Sgt. S.B. Atwater to Alfred Doxsee — informed the family of Cpl. Malaby's death and bravery.

"... our heart felt sympathies are tendered to the relatives and friends of our sleeping comrade whom we hope to again meet in that World where war with its untold horrors is known no more."

According to this letter, Cpl. Malaby fell in the Battle of Stone River on Dec. 31, 1862, "while nobly defending the flag of his country and her sacred rights."

The letter's author stated that "when in after days we recall our associations together as soldiers — our privations, our werisome marches and hard fought battles, we will ever remember Cpl. Malaby and admire him for his plain-spoken, straight forward course of action and his kindness, good nature, and generous dispoition by which he had won the universal esteem of all his comrades."

BARRY

FROM PAGE B1

nesses, at which point they began to suspect that they might be about to run somewhere, which caused them to start barking at the rate of 250 barks per minute per dog. I would estimate

et was a good, hard worker; Brian hardly had to tell him anything. But he had to keep talking to Suzy, who was definitely not pulling her share of the load: She was more waddling than trotting. Brian would shout "SUZY!" and she'd start trotting for a while, but as soon as she thought he wasn't looking she'd go back to

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