

Postcards and Pens

by Kenita Gibbins

Last fall in Alamosa, Colorado my husband George and I took a morning class from the recently retired Adams State College Professor Peter Anderson. The Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers have a conference every year in a setting where we can enjoy the outdoors. Alamosa was a perfect place with the Sand Dunes close and the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, just to mention a couple of activities.

Professor Anderson immediately pointed out handwritten notes are a lost art. Some friends I keep up with don't have computers, but I've found I can type one letter and print it more than once. This means they do get a letter in the mail. I can change each copy to make it more personal. Already I was trying to give myself a way out. Before I knew exactly what he meant by the impact of a handwritten note, postcards dropped in front of us. I did have two pens. I don't remember exactly what our teacher told us. I do remember it doesn't matter what I say except it should focus on the person I choose to write. Our teacher believes we can impact a life by giving a tiny gift on just a postcard. The action of remembering Caroline becomes obvious because handwriting shows the card is just to her.

I began my assignment to my friend who is in an assisted living facility in Sandestin, Florida.

Dear Caroline,

George and I are in S. Co. with our photography group. I wish you were with us since I know you love animals. We literally got to be in the middle of wild horses. The horses recognized our guide's truck. They know she brings treats. It made me think of the time you and Clint came to visit us and we went to the mountains. Sending Hugs and thoughts of you.

Love, Kenita & George

A few days later I received a phone call from Caroline's niece. She told me Caroline with a smile on her face put her postcard on the bulletin board. Yesterday I found a stack of postcards with pictures on them I'd taken. I vow to write more postcards to friends just for the heck of it. I wonder if the mail carrier will read the postcard. Maybe the art of handwriting notes won't continue to be a lost art?