

Melissa Billington named county's 'Young Woman of the Year'

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

Lake-Lehman High School Senior Melissa Billington was recently named "Luzerne County Young Woman of the Year" in a pageant held in Hazleton.

"She was very deserving of the title," said high school faculty member Ellen Campbell. "I was pleased to see someone of her caliber recognized. She well represented her school, herself and her community. She is very accomplished. She is articulate and handles herself well," Campbell said. "She won the poise and presence category, the panel discussion, and the interview."

Melissa received cash prizes, a scholarship, gift certificates, a bond, paid expenses to appear in the state pageant in Reading in November, and numerous other gifts.

The daughter of Lynn F. Carr of Honesdale and Jay Borton of Harveys Lake, Melissa is in the advanced placement college preparatory curriculum. She has been a member of the Junior and National Honor societies since seventh grade. In 1989-90 she was the co-chairperson of the Winter Semi-formal, a member of the Prom Committee, yearbook staff, and also the school board student-relations committee. She is a spokesperson for the student council of which she has been a member for the last three years.

Melissa is also editor-in-chief of her school newspaper, president of the Key Club, Junior Leadership Wilkes-Barre member and a participant in Wyoming Valley Youth Salute School student and has been nominated for Who's Who Among American High School Students. She was also once selected for the

Hugh O'Brien Youth Conference. Her other extra-curricular activities include a variety of sports, an avid interest in fine arts, and involvement in her church group. She took part in field and track for five years and qualified for the district championships each year and was a three-letter varsity winner, two years in volleyball and one year in basketball, one year in cross country and took three years of ballet instruction.

Melissa is also a member of the Junior Mozart Club, Piano Guild and took seven years of piano instruction. She has been involved in church and school plays and studied with the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble. She has also been coordinator of the school's Drama Club. She has been an active member within her church youth group for five years and president of the group for two years. She also did missionary work for two sum-

mers in New Hampshire. Melissa enjoys reading, writing, acting, traveling, skiing, rowing, gardening, and spending time with family and friends. She was employed this past summer at Beaumont Inn. She plans to attend college and pursue a career in journalism, preferably attending Amherst or Brown.

"The pageant is not a beauty contest," Melissa said. "It's a scholarship pageant, that is why they changed the name to 'Luzerne County Junior Woman of the Year'. There were about 45 girls in the preliminaries and these were narrowed down to 12 girls in the final. All of the finalists were very qualified with diverse backgrounds. The show was about three hours long," she said.

"First we filled out an application and gave our opinion about certain causes. Each girl had a 10-minute interview with the six

judges. The opening of the show was not judged so we came out in evening gowns. Then we were judged on physical fitness, then talents. I did a reading from the play 'Our Town.' I won in that and in poise and appearance."

Melissa gave her guidance counselor credit for spurring her to enter the competition.

"Mrs. Finn convinced me to enter so I went to the orientation and found out what it was about. I interviewed for the preliminaries and I was chosen as one of the 12 finalists. I was the only one out of the Hazleton area and I had to drive an hour each time.

"The other girls are all going to states which will be in Reading in November. They are great girls and they are going to support me. There will be 25 participating in the state competition, so it won't be easy," Melissa concluded.



MELISSA BILLINGTON

Census

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count and a fair formula to contest the census preliminary count."

Dallas Borough Manager Milton Lutsey and Police Chief John Fowler found errors existing in the Bureau's count of vacant housing units. Lutsey filed a re-count and a letter of appeal to the Census Bureau indicating that a count by his office and the police indicated that there were only 19 vacant housing units in the borough instead of the 53 vacant units listed by the Bureau. The difference of 34 vacant units multiplied by 2.6 gives a total of 88 additional persons or, if by the 2.54 percentage

used by the borough manager, an additional 86 persons for a total population figure of 2,606.

Lutsey also stated in a letter to the Bureau that the borough feels the actual census was not as it should have been because of poor or no response from local residents. He also enclosed the official count of vacant houses done by professional planning consultant Marlene Pawlowski, which was in keeping with that of the borough manager's office.

Lehman Township, although positive the figures they received were incorrect, did not file an

appeal.

"We were positive the blocks on the map they sent to us were in error but we didn't have anyone to re-take the census," said Allan Cragle, township supervisor. "The report showed that our population had increased by five people."

"We had to file within 15 days from the time we received the report and we knew we wouldn't be able to recount, we decided not to challenge," Cragle continued. "It won't hurt us since we stayed over 3,000 and it is only the preliminary report. I don't believe anybody's report is right," Cragle said.

Mideast

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She is the 28-year-old chief of the wing's target intelligence branch. It's part of Captain Kravits' job to tell the 42nd Bombardment Wing what targets to hit, the type of conventional bombs to drop and how many B-52s to fly. Captain Kravits developed one program that is a first for the command. Her program is providing air crews 'dynamic training' that is so effective air crews can now brief both the SAC commander-in-chief and Eighth Air Force commander on facets of their mission normally beyond their expertise.

Captain Kravits once said that she thought the toughest part of her job was planning to strike a target and knowing the men who were going to fly the planes; that there was always a chance the men wouldn't come back.

She joined the Air Force's Reserve Officer Training Corps when she was a high school senior and her first assignment was with the 544th Strategic Intelligence Wing, Offutt AFB, Nebraska as a photo interpreter.

"Tina depends on her husband and family. She says they help balance the pressure of the work she does," her mother said. "She never expected that she would have to leave them like this. We have had three letters from her. In the first one she said she prayed all the way over that she would be back to take Brian to kindergarten but she knew that she wasn't going to make it."

"She left eight weeks ago and in a later letter she said she hoped to be home for Christmas, but her brother called me from New Mexico this week and said he had received a letter from her and she said she wouldn't be home for Christmas—that she doesn't know when she will be home. She misses the children so much but does know that they are in good hands," said her mother.

Her husband is the head chef at the NCO at the Loring AFB and her sister Elaine is attending the University of Maine and has been living with Tina and Brian. "Their dad and their Aunt Elaine are taking care of Brian and Joshua so

they are in good hands," said Mrs. Charney. "Her husband is a wonderful person and Tina has said she depends on him a lot but her biggest worry now are her two boys. She talks about them in her letters."

"We don't know where she is in Saudi Arabia. She can't tell us. All we know is that she is living in a tent. Her first letter was in a paper bag for an envelope. She didn't have any envelopes so she cut and folded a brown paper bag to use for one."

"I have sent her several packages but the only request she has made is for soap powder, so I have sent that to her. We don't dare send her anything religious. They are not allowed to have anything like that in Saudi Arabia. They can't even have religious services

out in public. If they have them it has to be in an enclosed building where none of the Saudis can see them."

Tina's dad was in the Air Force but she is the only one of the Charney's seven children, five boys and two girls, who went in the service.

"She is carrying on the tradition," said her father. "Her husband is devastated. He's a good father and has the boys with him all of the time and they keep asking about their mother. They are her biggest worry," said Mrs. Charney. "I hope the crisis is settled soon and she can come home," she said.

In the meantime, the family is hoping to receive a phone call from their daughter. "It would be so good to hear her voice," said Mrs. Charney.

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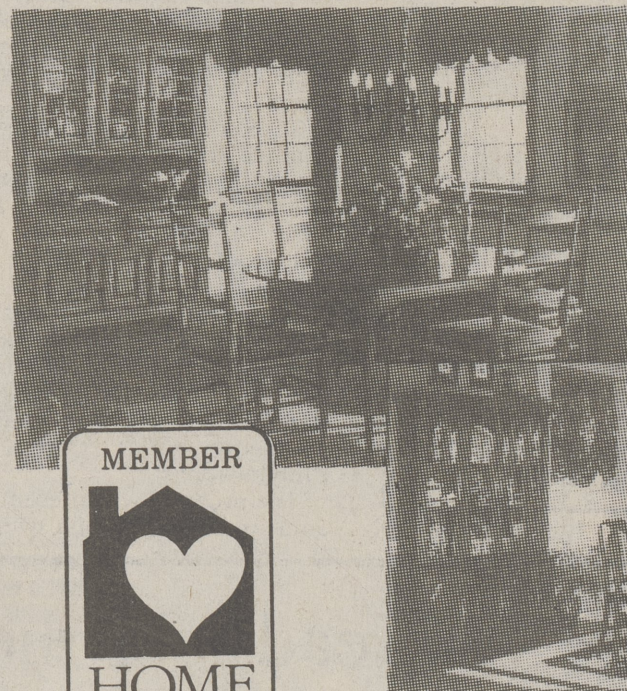
Fifth Dallas Borough policeman joins force

Dallas Borough Mayor Paul LaBar swears in the borough's newly appointed police officer James Sheerin prior to Sheerin's starting with the department. Sheerin is presently a resident of Scranton. Participants in the ceremony were from left, manager Milton Lutsey; Mayor LaBar; Sheerin and Borough Police Chief John Fowler. (Post Photo/Charlot M. Denmon)

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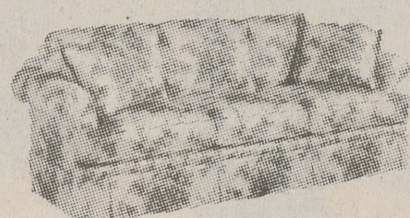
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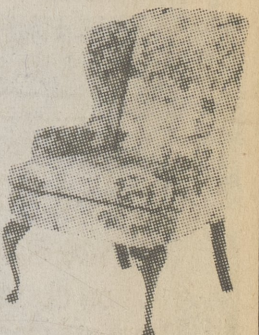
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