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Witness to history: Bonnie Futch Adams attended Iraq peace talks



PEPSI FROM THE DESERT - Army SPC. Bonnie Futch Adams shows fourth grade students at the Dallas Elementary School a Pepsi can that she found while serving in the Persian Gulf. Adams

By RICH JOHNSON
 Staff Writer

Army SPC Bonnie Futch Adams was just one of the 500,000 U.S. troops sent to the Persian Gulf before the war there began. But at the end, she was among a handful who witnessed the peace talks that brought the fighting to a close.

Adams, the daughter of James and Clair Futch of RD #3 Wyoming, serves as a reporter for the 27th Public Affairs Detachment out of Fort Drum, New York. She returned to the United States on April 13 and spent a week visiting family and friends and relating her experience in the war.

"It was an incredible experience," said Adams. "I knew when I was allowed to witness the peace talks that I was part of history." Adams said it was a coincidence that she attended the talks. "I was in the right place at the right time," she said. While serving in Kuwait City, Adams was sent to a neutral zone for the peace talks.

"It was up to me or another soldier and I said I would go," said Adams. "When I got there I was shooting some film of the camp and asked if I could get in to see the talks and they let me in."

"I was really excited. I knew it was a once in a lifetime chance and I was there to see it," she added.

Adams said she was fascinated while watching General Norman Schwarzkopf handle the parley. "A lot of soldiers thought of him as a father figure and that is how he acted," she said. "You could tell by watching him that his prime concern was for the (prisoners of war) and getting them back safely."

Adams saw Schwarzkopf in other ways also. As a reporter she often watched his responses during press briefings. "He is a genuine kind of person and I felt as though he was always giving the best answer he could," she said.

Adams said she will always remember her time covering the talks. While not an active participant, she said that everyone in the tent felt the anticipation of an agreement.

"It was a very solemn and tense feeling," she said. "Gen. Schwarzkopf spoke very directly and you just knew that it was a momentous occasion."

"It was kind of a reward to see the talks," Adams added. "I think it will rank right up there with the signing of the Armistice in Korea."

Entering Kuwait City

Another big moment in the war occurred when coalition forces entered Kuwait City for the first time. Not long after the first

troops arrived, Adams joined a caravan heading to the city. As the convoy neared the city it stopped for a break and the soldiers were met by some Kuwaitis who gave them what Adams described as a "...heroes' welcome."

"About 15 or 20 civilians came up to us and thanked us for being there," said Adams. She realized the emotion of the situation when a young Kuwaiti child in a party dress came up to her and gave her a button with the Kuwaiti flag on it.

"I said 'thank you' because I didn't know what else to tell her," said Adams. "As I said before it was at that point when I realized why we were over there."

On the trip to Kuwait City Adams witnessed the effects of the war on the small country and its people.

"The people who had stayed said they were able to get food, but the rest of their lives was changed," she said. "I saw towns that were trashed and you didn't have to look far to see the burning oil fields."

"Even when you saw the huge oil slick on the Gulf you just didn't know what to think," she added.

Mixed feelings on national press

Adams served as a military broadcast journalist in the Persian Gulf for eight months. During that time she was responsible for reporting on the war and also escorting media personnel who were covering the action.

Many nationally recognized reporters made appearances in the Persian Gulf and Adams had the opportunity to meet several of them. However, she said it was tough at times to watch the media work.

"I had mixed feelings," she said. "I am a reporter and got to see Peter Jennings, Dan Rather, Tom Brokaw and others work. But we also had to keep them in our sights because protecting the lives of soldiers was more important than letting them have a scoop."

The news celebrities weren't the only big names that Adams got to see while serving. On Thanksgiving she was part of the press corps that was in attendance while President George Bush visited the troops. "His talk really helped morale," said Adams.

Not all of her experiences were pleasant though. Adams first arrived in Dahrain but once the air war began she was moved closer to Kuwait and to attacks from Scud missiles.

"It was scary to see the Scuds in the air," she said. "I saw a

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Parade to highlight Lake clean-up day

By RICH JOHNSON
 Staff Writer

Harveys Lake residents are being asked to come together to help clean up the road around the lake. This Saturday is the fourth annual cleanup day where volunteers will pick up garbage along Lakeside Drive.

Councilman David Abod, who is coordinating the event, expects another big turnout this year. "We have had success in the past and we already have a lot of organizations who want to help," he said.

Organizations who have already volunteered to help with the program include local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, the Harveys Lake Protective Association, the borough's Environmental Advisory Council, and the Harveys Lake Little League.

Abod said that the groups will be given specific areas along Lakeside Drive and will pick up all garbage. Materials which are recy-

clable will be kept while all other garbage is disposed of, according to Abod.

The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the cleanup will last until 11:00 a.m. at which time a parade of all participants will begin.

"We are holding the parade in conjunction with the opening of Little League season," said Abod.

Also taking part in the parade will be Smokey the Bear and Woodsy the Owl. Both characters will be handing out coloring books and other materials to children of the borough.

The day will end at the borough's activity center where food and drink will be available to all volunteers.

Abod stressed that this is not the borough's appliance clean-up day, where residents can discard old appliances.

Anyone interested in taking part in the cleanup can contact Abod at 639-5041.

Wolensky back as Dallas rec director

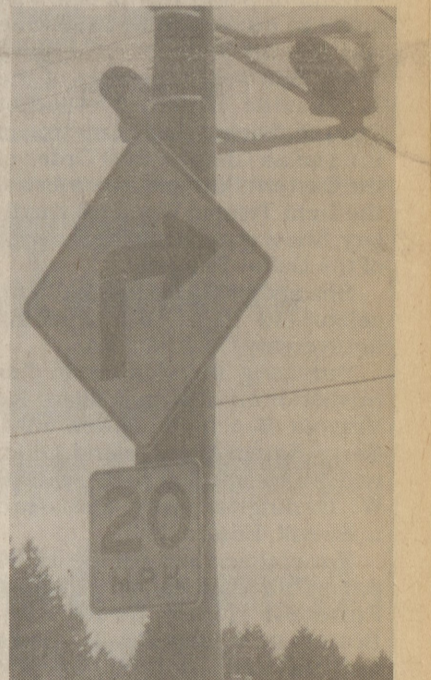
By CHARLOT M. DENMON
 Staff Writer

Jack Wolensky will be back as director of the Dallas Borough Summer Recreation Program again this summer. Wolensky, who was director last summer at a total salary of \$2,000 will take a cut in salary of \$400. The Dallas High School guidance counselor said he would take the job despite the cut.

"I'm not concerned about the money," Wolensky said. "I enjoy working with the kids. I have had a number of them come to me already to tell me they're glad I'm back."

Wolensky, who was told at the end of last year that his job was terminated due to a cut in the budget, was rehired April 16 when a majority of the boroughs supervisors voted down a recommendation by borough manager Milton Lutsey to hire Bill Runner as playground director.

See WOLENSKY, pg 5



RUMBLER REPLACEMENT - A flashing sign will replace rumble strips on Route 309 in Dallas.

Candidate info sessions slated

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
 Staff Writer

Area residents will soon have a chance to get a close-up look at candidates for county office.

The Back Mountain Citizens Council and The Dallas Post will sponsor a 'Meet the Candidates' night, Wednesday, May 8, at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, at 7:30 p.m.

The event has been planned to give Back Mountain residents more convenient access to the 17 county judicial candidates as well as candidates seeking the Luzerne County Commissioners seats.

Ray Boyle and Phyllis Belk are in charge of the Citizen's Council committee making plans for the format which will be used for the candidates.

The large number of candidates for the four judicial seats and also for the importance of the commissioner race were the determining factors in the Citizens Council members decision to sponsor the event.

Lake-Lehman district
 Lehman-Jackson PTA will sponsor a 'Meet the Candidates' night, Monday, May 6, for those candidates seeking a nomination to the Lake-Lehman School District Board of Directors. The event will be held in the Lehman-Jackson Multipurpose Room at 7:30 p.m. All candidates have been invited to participate.

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Community Events

BACK MTN. MINI-FOOTBALL REGISTRATION - Sat., April 27, starting at 8:30 AM, Back Mountain Little League Field. Ages 7-13 (as of August 1). First time registrants should bring birth certificate and photo.

GAME PARTY - Thurs., April 25, 7:30 PM, Shavertown Fire Hall. Sponsored by Ladies Auxiliary.

SPRING BANQUET - Thurs., April 25, 6:00 PM, Lady Rebekah Lodge, Loyalville Church dining room. Turkey and ham dinner \$8.00. Reservations only, 675-3580

ROAST BEEF SUPPER - Sat. April 27, 4-7 PM, Hunlock Creek United Methodist Men's Club.

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MAC machine causes furor in Dallas Twp.

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
 Staff Writer

The Dallas Township supervisors faced two complaints from township groups at their meeting April 16.

The College Manor Homeowners Association presented a resolution opposing the MAC machine installed by United Penn Bank along the edge of Lake Street across from College Manor Drive. The resolution had the unanimous approval

of the entire Homeowners Association, explained vice president Al Colmer, who read the resolution.

Dr. Campbell, a resident of the Manor, said the problem with the MAC machine is where it is located.

Leonard Kozick, zoning officer said James Baloga of United Penn Bank came in for a permit. "I checked with our solicitor Jim Geddes and he said he didn't believe it would be a problem. But the

See MACHINE, pg 3



IN THE WRONG PLACE - This MAC machine in Dallas Twp. is installed where it may cause problems for an adjacent neighborhood, say residents there.