

Walsh

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home on Westminster Drive to meet the many friends and neighbors who had come to welcome her home.

The nine children in Mrs. Cheryl Wagner's Sunday School class at Dallas United Methodist Church quickly gathered around a table in the gazebo by the pool to listen eagerly as Kathy talked about some of her experiences in Saudi Arabia. These were the same children who wrote to Kathy and sent her packages while she was in the Gulf. Now they were anxious to see the photographs Kathy brought home and hear what she had to say.

"It was a lot better than I thought it would be," said Kathy. "I'm glad I was a part of it. The war had started when we got there, so we unloaded our gear and all 400 of us slept in a garage for four days. Believe me, we had no extra space. The first thing we had was a meeting with instructions on how to get into our MOP Gear (protective poison gas) gear. There was a Scud warning the first night. We were in the Kobar Tower area where there were 18,000 or more troops at a time.

"That was Saddam's target and we could see the Patriot missiles from the windows. There was also a terrorist attack the first night as well as the Scud alert. It was announced over the public address system to put on our MOP gear at the fourth level, that's full gear. We had excellent radio coverage," Kathy explained.

The hospital unit moved into the desert January 26, where the unit members set up their own hospital in tents. There were 400 beds and they were in three hospitals that included all kinds of treatments.

"We treated EPW's (Enemy Prisoners of War) at first and when the war ended we were still treating them as well as POW's. We supported the POW camp and after we treated the POW's we turned them back to camp. I saw about everything: lacerations, amputations, broken bones, burns and just about anything in the line of injury. A lot of the Iraqis came to us with self-inflicted wounds so they could get into the hospital away from Saddam and his elite army.

"They had the best of treatment and didn't want to leave," Kathy explained. They were afraid of being killed. They were different people



than Saddam's Republican Guard Elite Group. Those that came to us were emaciated, had lice, dysentery, and had nothing to eat or drink. They had no boots and their feet were just terrible."

She also said she expected to see a lot worse than she did because all she had heard of before she got to the Gulf was about the injuries in the Vietnam War.

Because the hospital was back from the front lines and in Saudi Arabia, the unit members had excellent food. They had their own cooks and most of the times had three hot meals daily.

"We had steak, eggs, and shrimp among other foods. We were a stationary unit, if we had been a MASH unit it would have been different. We never saw any weapons - that is for us to use, but I'll tell you we have weapons that you will never see," said Kathy.

The kids were terrific, according to Kathy. She said they sent her letters and Easter cards and other items from home. She also had an opportunity to ride a camel but turned it down. "We had a lot of pet lizards and tarantulas, however," she said.

When the children asked her about staying home, Kathy told them she had to go back to Indian-town Gap Sunday May 12 for outprocessing which should be completed by May 16. Then the unit members will be sent to Hanoi Park where there will be a big welcome and after that be free to come home.

"It will be great to get home for good," Kathy said. "The water over there was terrible and it was warm and we had to do our laundry by hand, even our heavy uniforms. The flies were terrible and the temperature can go as high as 130 degrees and in five minutes you can toast a slice of bread. I am glad I went, however, it was a wonderful experience," she said. "It's a different life."

Pierson

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stayed out of the limelight, at the same time making things happen by staying behind the scenes. With the exception of the members, few people realized that Carol was president of the Basketball Boosters Club," said Wycallis.

Carol cared about people and she was especially interested in children. She wanted her daughter Aria to do the best that she could; that was all that she asked of her.

"She had a special perception that few people have and she was very good for me," Wycallis states. "She had a special way of projecting an image to people if I wasn't in and they could be sure I would get back to them. Carol had a special talent that you seldom find in an individual."

Those around her all agree that the late Carol Pierson was a very dedicated person but that she also had a mind of her own. She was a motivated self-starter who never began a job that she didn't finish.

Carol Pierson never let others know how seriously ill she was. She missed very little time and when she had to visit her doctor for a variety of different tests or treatments, she always scheduled them for a Friday so she would not have to take off too much time.

Since Carol, her husband and daughter moved to the Back Mountain nearly 12 years ago, she was involved in Little League and at one point was in charge of the refreshment stand. She was also involved in volleyball. She wanted Aria to go out for basketball but when Aria decided to play volleyball, Carol was just as proud of her.

A scholarship committee comprised of one or two administrators, guidance counselor or counselors, and one or two faculty members will select a female student athlete by a set standard of criteria with emphasis on excellence in sports, especially, baseball, volleyball and basketball as they were Carol's favorites. Academic performance will also be included.

Nothing could please the late Carol Pierson more than the awarding of the Carol Pierson Memorial Scholarship to be awarded Tuesday, May 21, at the Dallas High School Honors Banquet. Her friend, Sharon Boyer knew her well and reminds people the deadline for contributions is Friday, May 17.

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