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Details on page 12

The Dallas Post 50¢

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS & LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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Great Performances

Tara Ann Shevock, left, playing an angel, admired the Baby Jesus held by Mary, played by Brittany Hillard during last Sunday's Christmas play by the kindergarten and first grade classes at Gate of Heaven School. More photos on page 12.

POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

State spurns request for lower speed

Most drivers on Rt. 29 speed now, so PennDOT won't lower limit

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

When Jackson Township applied for a state highway occupancy permit for Bonko Drive at Route 29, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) said the township should request a traffic study to get the highway's speed limit lowered at the intersection.

The township dutifully asked PennDOT's permits division to do a traffic speed study, and received a report on it November 15.

No way, said PennDOT. The study, consisting of radar

timing of 200 cars using a 1.3-mile section of Rte. 29 between Smith Pond Road and Chase Road, indicated that 25 percent of the vehicles were travelling more than 50 miles per hour (mph). Some had been clocked at 71 mph.

The allowed speed limit for this stretch is 40 mph, with 25 mph advisories posted at the sharp curve between Bonko Drive and Mizdail Road.

"If motorists are not obeying the existing 40 mph speed limit signs, then it is safe to assume they will not obey any other lower

See SPEED, pg 8

Students ask raise for track coach

Bring petition with 230 signatures to school board

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Three members of the Dallas High School winter track team asked the school board at their meeting Dec. 12 to give winter track coach William Kvashay a raise.

The students brought a petition containing 230 signatures to the school board meeting.

Kvashay had resigned at the board's November meeting, after being turned down when he asked for an increase in his \$600 per

"They don't pay the teachers less if they have fewer students."

Joy Morgan
Track team member

season salary.

Kvashay had been paid \$600 each winter track season since 1989 and had worked for free when starting the team in 1988. He had asked the board for a raise after a swimming coach had been hired for \$1,200.

His position has not been filled.

See COACH, pg 10

Battle of the Bulge surprised Baloga's unit

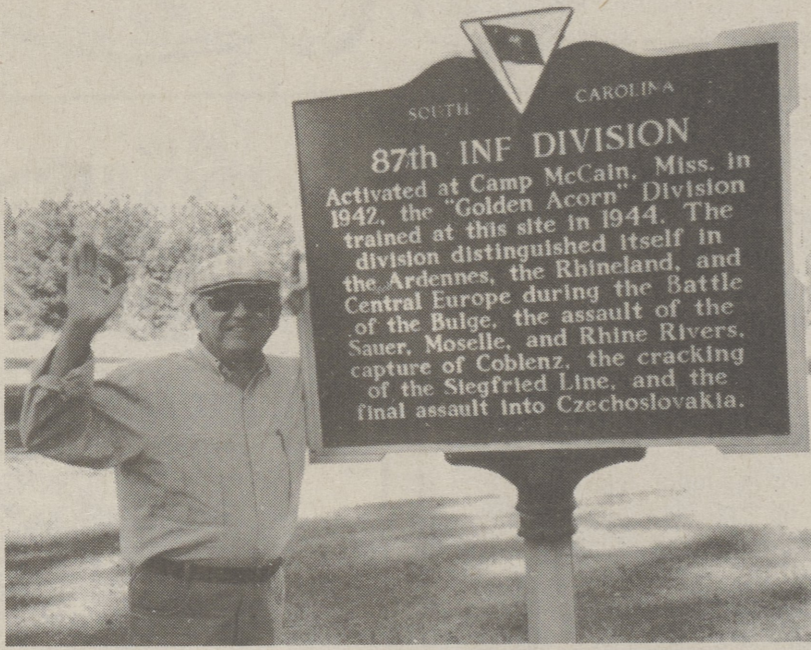
By JACK HILSHER
Post Correspondent

Fifty years ago Allied forces fighting in Germany believed the war was just about over and the German army almost washed up. It was so quiet, at times some troops tended to doze off. It was bitter cold and six inches of snow covered the ground.

Came dawn December 16, and a rude awakening. New Goss Manor's Al Baloga's 87th division was one of the ones caught napping. A surprise enemy offensive, carefully planned and carried out, erupted along an 85-mile front, and not a very well-defended front at that. Troops were spread thin, and the "Battle of the Bulge" was about to begin.

This sudden engagement shook Allied forces all the way up to the very top, in fact, Baloga's division was pulled back to defend SHAEF, the nearby Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force. It was then the only division in reserve.

The ensuing "Battle of the Bulge" is being commemorated now by a veterans group called the "Battle of Bulge Veterans Association." A 50th anniversary celebration is being held jointly in Bastogne, Belgium and St. Louis, Missouri. Representatives of the Belgian and Luxembourg govern-



BACK TO BASICS - Al Baloga recently visited Ft. Jackson, South Carolina where he trained for service in Europe during World War II.

ments will be participating as well this country's Secretary of Defense William Perry.

Al Baloga is tempted, but he just returned from a trip to his old camp at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. Ex-Sergeant Baloga, who retired in 1983 after almost 30 years with the Social Security Administration, began his mili-

tary career about as early as it was possible to do so. At the age of 17 he and some high school buddies enlisted in something the army called a Specialized Training Program, ASTP for short. They were immediately sent down to the University of Florida to be trained as sanitary engineers. Young Al thought he had it

made but the army knew better. The program was cancelled and Al and his buddies were all sent to the 87th Infantry Division for 13 weeks of basic training. So much for specialization!

First as a squad leader, later a platoon leader, Al has an insight into the workings of the U.S. military machine one gets only by being there. The 87th was a National Guard unit from Mississippi, full of "greenies" as Al calls them. "They knew absolutely nothing," he says. "Even such simple basics as keeping a pair of dry socks they were never taught. As a result, there was an awful lot of trenchfoot."

Then, combat itself. Al says, "13 lousy weeks didn't hack it. Two of our platoons had a half-hour firefight with each other because one was flanking the other and wasn't supposed to be there, and it took that long to discover each other."

"As for the Bulge thing," Al reflects, "They must really have been worried. Replacements filling holes in the line were mechanics rushed over from air bases in England. None of them had even loaded a rifle before, let alone fired it."

Baloga was wounded twice, the

See BALOGA, pg 8

Mossback's search for Santa

Things look bleak in the forest, as the flies run out

By T.T. CRATCHIT
Special to The Post

Mossback awoke shortly after dawn, determined to make some time in his journey to confront Santa Claus. He quickly rolled up his lily pad sleeping bag, hurriedly ate a freeze-dried fly, and hopped on his way.

He had hopped half the day away when he realized the scenery seemed to be repeating itself. He pulled out his little green compass and had a look at it and saw to his horror that he had been hopping in circles.

"I'll never find Santa Claus at this rate," Mossback fretted. He reoriented himself to due north and carefully hopped in the correct direction. But he had lost half a day.

When he stopped for lunch, Mossback saw he had only one puny freeze-dried fly remaining in his sack. "Maybe I should try to ration this last one and stretch it over a few days or even a week," he said to himself. But his hunger got the best of him and he gobbled down the last fly with relish. After

See MOSSBACK, pg 8



■ **Tree time.** Family tree farms raise the trees that families pick this time of year. Page 3.

■ **Girls roundball.** Lake-Lehman and Dallas coaches look ahead to the '94-95 season. Page 9

INDEX

16 Pages 2 Sections
Calendar.....16
Classified.....14-15
Crossword.....16
Editorials.....4
Obituaries.....14
School.....11-13
Sports.....9-10

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