

■ SADDAM'S HIDEAWAY

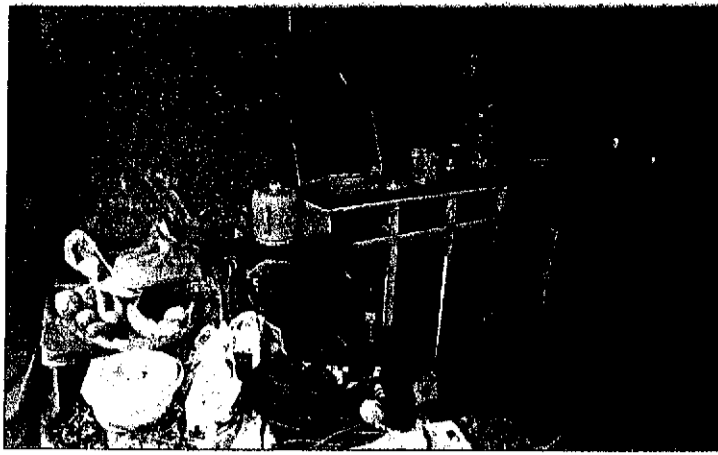
Candy bars, hot dogs and dirty dishes

By ALEXANDAR VASOVIC
Associated Press Writer

ADWAR, Iraq — The yard was a mess, the laundry wasn't done, the pantry was bare and the only art on the walls was a poster of Noah's Ark.

Saddam Hussein's hideaway at a farmhouse in northern Iraq looked more like a derelict property abandoned by squatters than one of the lavish palaces he had lived in for years.

When the deposed Iraqi leader was pulled by U.S. troops from a dank hole adjacent to the farmhouse Saturday, he told them in English: "My name is Saddam Hussein. I am the president of Iraq and I want to negotiate."



AP photo

Dirty dishes atop makeshift sink and a stove are seen in a hut where U.S. soldiers captured former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, in Adwar, about 10 miles south of Tikrit, Iraq, Monday.

A U.S. Special Forces soldier replied: "Regards from President Bush." The exchange was

recounted by Maj. Bryan Reed, operations officer for the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, leading

reporters on a tour of Saddam's hideaway Monday, two days after the raid that led to his capture.

Col. James Hickey said special forces soldiers were seconds from pitching a hand grenade into Saddam's tiny underground refuge when the fugitive dictator's hands appeared above ground in surrender.

"He was assisted out of the hole," said Hickey, commander of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and leader of the raid that captured Saddam — who was armed with a pistol. No shots were fired.

Hickey said American forces began last July to assemble the evidence and intelligence that led to Saddam's weekend capture.

Judge

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decision immediately prohibited snowmobiling the gateway communities would be economically devastated.

"We have profound concerns about the impact the court's ruling could have on the communities," Preston said in a brief statement to the judge.

Preston, who traveled to Washington on Sunday and was scheduled to return to Wyoming on Monday, urged the judge to consider the

"drastic impact" that a ban would have on the communities.

At the hearing lawyers for the one group of environmental organizations said that if the Bush administration rules were rejected the Clinton administration rules would apply.

"It is a crown jewel, but it does not belong in a safe deposit box," said Earthjustice lawyer Abigail Dillen. "There is a way to let people into the park without damaging it. We need to maintain access to the park."

The environmental groups represented by Dillen include the Greater

Yellowstone Coalition, National Parks Conservation Association and The Wilderness Society.

A lawyer for a second group of environmental organizations, including The Fund for Animals and Bluewater Network, said that if the judge rejects the rules there would be no rules and therefore no snowmobiling.

The Fund for Animals opposed the Clinton administration snowmobile plan. It has urged the Interior Department to not even permit snowcoaches in the parks and to not groom the parks' roads.

Under the Clinton rules

the number of snowmobiles allowed in the parks this year would be cut by half to about 500 per day and the use of snowcoaches would be increased. The Clinton rules aim to phase out snowmobiles in the parks.

Under the Bush administration plan 950 snowmobiles would be let in each day and 80 percent of those snowmobiles would have to be led by a guide. By next year all snowmobiles that enter the parks would have to be accompanied by a guide who has completed a National Park Service-approved training program.

Front

continued from 1A

major events. First, the Lewis and Clark National Forest and Bureau of Land Management announced they were moving forward with studies looking into development of previously granted drilling leases. Secondly, the Bush administration's energy plan identified

the area as an important source of American-derived natural gas.

Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., tried unsuccessfully earlier this year to exempt part of the Front from future drilling: the Badger-Two Medicine area which is prized as sacred by the nearby Blackfoot Indian Nation. The area contains up to 80 percent of the leases on the Front.

Former Lewis and Clark

National Forest Superintendent Gloria Flora 1997 froze the Front from future drilling, saying the land held less value in the way of oil and gas than it did in scenic and recreational values.

So far, that ban has held. No new drilling leases have been offered. The oil and gas leases currently under consideration were issued before Flora's ban.

The issue has proven a touchstone for many. The

Montana Wildlife Federation, a hunting group, has come out strongly against new drilling. Drillers, meanwhile, say the area could be a boon for future development.

Brad Coker, managing director for Mason-Dixon, said he was surprised so many Montanans favored drilling in the area.

"It's probably driven by the fact that the economy is bad or perceived as bad," he said.

Capture: 'Some things we already knew'

continued from 1A

interrogating prisoners all night Sunday and early Monday.

"Some were things we already knew about and we just needed the intel to go after them. I think we'll get some significant intelligence over the next couple of days," Hertling said. "We've already been able to capture a couple of key individuals here in Baghdad."

The surge in new detail was giving U.S. commanders evidence that Saddam played a moral and financial role in the anti-U.S. insurgency, Hertling said. Saddam had \$750,000 when U.S. Army raiders found him Saturday hiding in a hole dug into a farmyard near his hometown of Tikrit, north of Baghdad.

"I'm sure he was giving some guidance to some key figures in this insurgency," Hertling said. "When you take down the mob boss, you don't know how much is going to come of it."

U.S. intelligence and military officials say their first priority is to focus on the resistance and the whereabouts of Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri and other remaining senior regime officials and insurgent leaders.

Since Saddam's capture, U.S. forces have taken into custody an Iraqi general who is not on the American list of 55 most-wanted members of the former regime, according to a senior U.S.

defense official. The official did not disclose the general's name.

It is unclear how much knowledge Saddam has of the insurgency. U.S. forces said they found no communications equipment, maps or other evidence of a guerrilla command center at Saddam's hiding place. Also, intelligence officials say they believe he has been too concerned with survival to serve much more than an inspiration to the resistance.

Saddam was being interrogated at an undisclosed location in Iraq.

"He's answering willingly to the questions that are being asked of him," U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the top military commander in Iraq, told CNN on Monday. He said Saddam wasn't "freely giving us information yet, but we'll continue to work toward that end."

Saddam greeted his initial interrogation with a mix of sarcasm and defiance, U.S. officials in Washington said Monday, discussing the questioning only on the condition of anonymity.

The former dictator has complied with simple commands to stand up and sit down, but officials said he has not provided much useful information on the guerrilla war or other matters.

Some of his responses are regarded as an attempt to rationalize and justify his actions, the officials said.

Saddam has denied to his

interrogators that his regime had weapons of mass destruction and ties to al-Qaida.

He has also denied knowledge of the fate of Scott Speicher, the Navy pilot who disappeared over Iraq during the first Gulf War. Sen. Pat Roberts, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Saddam denied taking any prisoners when asked about Speicher.

Saddam's denials match those of his deposed regime.

Asked about the insurgency, Hertling said the guerrillas, who show signs of running short on cash, have begun turning to another tactic: kidnapping to compel victims' families to attack U.S. troops.

Hertling said the division's earlier theories on the rebel movement's leadership had proven accurate.

Flight

continued from 1A

"My dad used to go with Jurud when he did the picture taking," Clearman said. "The planes were such a new thing back then."

Lindbergh touched down at the site of today's Bill Roberts Golf Course in 1927 to display his famous silver airplane. Just two months earlier the pilot had flown that single engine aircraft out of Roosevelt Field in New York before landing 33 hours later at Le Bourget Field near Paris.

Clearman said her grandfather was moved by Lindbergh's achievement. While he never learned to fly himself, the former mayor did get off the ground a time or two.

"When one of the airplanes came to town he got to go for free rides because he was the mayor," Clearman said. "That was a big deal back then."

Clearman flew once too, courtesy of Bausch and the day's visiting pilots. While she'll never forget the experience, it's not something she's likely to repeat.

"I can remember going on a plane when I was a kid," Clearman said stretching out her arms. "It was scary and

besides that, I got airsick. I wasn't very old."

Aggie Hunter wasn't very old either when her parents took her and her seven siblings down to see Lindbergh and his airplane that day in Helena.

"Mother and Dad took all eight of us to the fairgrounds to meet Lindbergh," Hunter said. "He came in a big car and Gov. Erickson was riding with him."

Hunter said her brothers Bill and Dan were the first in line to greet Lindbergh. The pilot gave a short presentation before shaking hands with some members of his audience.

"He only shook hands with the boys," Hunter recalled. "He never shook hands with the little girls. That was the way it was back then. A girl was a dainty little thing."

The impact Lindbergh's arrival had on Hunter and her brothers was undeniable. Bill became a pilot himself, taking instructions from Red Morrison and Bill Fahrner in Helena. As for Hunter, she's still talking about it 66 years later.

"It was really quite something," she said.

Reporter Martin Kidston can be reached at 447-4086, or by e-mail at mkidston@helenair.com

Utility

continued from 1A

Before deregulation, Montana Power generated electricity and delivered it to consumers' homes and businesses through power lines and wires the company also owned.

Now, NorthWestern Energy, owned by the South Dakota company NorthWestern Corp., bought the power lines from Montana Power in 2002 and buys electricity on the open electrical market. NorthWestern has about 300,000 residential customers in the state. NorthWestern Corp. has since filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in Delaware.

PPL Montana, a subsidiary of PPL Corp., of Allentown, Pa., bought all Montana Power Company's hydroelectric dams, along with several coal-burning

power plants, in 1999. PPL Montana sells that electricity on the open market.

Great Falls has expressed interest in forming a municipally owned energy company in conjunction with rural electric cooperatives. The Montana Democratic Party has called for public or cooperative ownership of portions of the utilities.

By a 68 to 32 percent margin, Montana voters in 2002 rejected a "buy back the dams" ballot measure, Initiative 145, written by state Sen. Ken Toole, D-Helena. PPL Montana and Avista, which owns a hydroelectric dam in Noxon, spent a combined \$2.4 million campaigning against the measure, while supporters spent \$110,000.

I-145 led in early polls in the fall of 2002 before the utilities' advertising blitz kicked into gear the month before the November election.

Correction

Student omitted from honor roll

In a listing of the Helena High School honor roll in the Dec. 14 edition of the IR, senior Daniel Simonich should have been listed as one of the students earning a 4.0 grade point average.

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