

News

Residents gather to greet steel convoy

Thursday, April 15, 2010

By DANIELLE LYNCH, Staff Writer

WEST WHITELAND — When Katie Schurter went to lunch on Wednesday afternoon, she didn't think anything of the two firetrucks set up along Business Route 30 near her school.

"My teacher said it's going to be history in the making," said Schurter, a student at Empire Beauty School. "It's pretty awesome to be a part of all this."

Schurter and her classmates gathered near the highway to watch a 28-truck convoy, carrying 10 50-ton steel trees as well as supports and steel window frames.

The five hundred tons of Lukens steel came home to Coatesville after more than three decades used to support the World Trade Center.

Two firetrucks created a gateway arch along the highway in West Whiteland.

"We came here to pay our respects," said Dan Leyden, a firefighter for Goshen Fire Company. Ladder 56 from Goshen Fire Company was situated along the north side of the highway; Ladder 41 from Newtown Square Fire Company was on the south side.

Leyden said he thought it was interesting that the steel framed the first nine floors of the North and South Towers until the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001.

"It's great everybody is here with flags," said Ann Lowrey, who learned about the truck convoy from her father, an employee at Lukens Steel. "It is neat how something made in Coatesville didn't collapse."

Lowrey stood near the gateway arch with her co-worker Ann Norcross. They work together at Marco Inc.

"Our country needs this right now," Norcross said. "We need to support our country and what 9/11 meant ... I think it means a lot to the citizens of the United States."

Schurter's teacher, Kelly Kehler, said it was important for her students to witness this event.

"It's historical and emotional," said Kehler. "It's really interesting to see it. It's something that happens once in a lifetime."

Alisha Bennett, another student at the beauty school, said she was happy to be part of history.

"It's a beautiful thing," said Bella Jane, another student. "Even though this tragedy happened to our country, the steel will be back here."

When the truck convoy arrived in Coatesville, residents stood along Lincoln Highway and South First Avenue.

"It seems like a funeral procession," said Barbara Glass. Her mother, Barbara Reczek, is a former Lukens Steel employee.

Reczek and a group of her former colleagues shared a box of tissues while watching the trucks drive past them. Reczek described the homecoming of the steel as an emotional experience.

"But it's good it is coming back," she said.

To contact staff writer Danielle Lynch, send an e-mail to dlynch@dailylocal.com.

URL: <http://www.dailylocal.com/articles/2010/04/15/news/srv0000008049787.prt>

© 2010 dailylocal.com, a **Journal Register** Property