

5th graders write President, he responds

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Mrs. Lolly Larkin's first grade class at Lake-Noxen School recently received a surprise after writing to President Bill Clinton as part of a reading exercise.

The President's staff sent a package containing a personally signed letter, baseball-type cards with his statistics on the back, biographies of himself and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and autographed pictures of himself, Mrs. Clinton, vice-president Al Gore and Socks, the First Cat.

Since Socks isn't too good with a pen, he signed his photo with an official pawprint.

"I want the children to realize that many people all around the world read, not just school students doing assignments," Mrs. Larkin said.

The students have assembled journals, in which they have asked people to write their names, how often they read and what they like to read.

The journals are well-traveled -

with an airline stewardess, while others have been sent to Bermuda and Portugal.

It was Chris Benscoter's idea to send a journal to President Clinton.

"We asked him, 'do you read a lot?'" he said.

Although it's against Clinton's policy to sign autographs, he sent the journal back to the class in the package with the other gifts.

"It was a surprise to get everything," said Faith Hoskins. "I felt really good. I didn't expect it."

If they were to write to him again the children had many different questions to ask the President.

"I would ask him to pet Socks for me," said Mallory Albert.

"I'd ask him for pictures of the inside of the White House," said Richelle Wesley, who would like to live there.

David Hughes said that he would try to vote for Clinton if he runs again for president.

"I'd like to send him a picture of my family," said Dustin Scouton, who was sure that Clinton would

one is traveling around the world like it.

Clinton wrote to the class that the first books that he remembers were the old *Dick and Jane* series.

By the time that he was 12, Clinton had read *The Last of the Mohicans* and Thomas B. Costain's *The Silver Chalice* and *The Robe*.

He described all of the newspapers, magazines, special reports and letters which he must read each day and said that he reads about 70 books each year.

"I can't imagine my life without reading," Clinton wrote. "Reading has taught me to dream big dreams and make them come true."

And Mrs. Larkin's students' favorite books? *The Cat in the Hat Comes Back* and *Green Eggs and Ham* won by a landslide.

Mrs. Larkin is looking for copies of the original Dick and Jane series, used by many students learning to read during the 1950's, to show her class. She may be contacted at the Lake-Noxen school.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Fifth graders in Mrs. Lolly Larkin's class at Lake-Noxen School received a reply and signed photographs after they wrote to President Bill Clinton. Mrs. Larkin displays some of the material sent from the White House.

Plant

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the plant for six years and has a husband in poor health at home. "Who will hire me? We can't move up to New York because the weather would be too much for my husband. If they moved south, I'd consider it."

"Everyone is scared. What else is there but scared?" said Larry Wolfe, president of the plant's Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers' local. "This is the worst feeling that I've had since I got my orders to go to Viet Nam. I'm 54 - my chances of finding another job are slim to none."

"Everyone feels terrible," said Daniel Sluzele. He has worked at Native Textiles for 24 years and just finished putting his daughter through college. Last year he bought a house.

"I feel lousy," said Ben Turner, who has worked 34 years at the plant. "If we go look for other jobs, what does the valley have to offer? You can't live on the wages that they pay at fast-food places."

Union workers at the plant earn

"This is the worst feeling that I've had since I got my orders to go to Viet Nam."

Larry Wolfe
Native Textiles employee

an average of just over \$9 per hour.

"It was a great place to work," said Bernaidne Yuscellis, who started working at the plant two days before Sluzele. "It was steady work - sometimes six or seven days a week if you wanted to."

American Clothing and Textile Workers' Union representative Jeff Rowland, on hand to help workers with their transition to other jobs, said that the union's goal is to have everyone working who wants to within a year.

"A third of the workforce is eligible for early retirement," he said. "A third wants to move with the plant to New York if jobs are avail-

able and a third wants to stay here. We're not too sure what's available in the area, but we're contacting other employers to find out."

The union will also investigate job retraining programs and other companies wishing to relocate to Dallas.

Rowlands and plant employees shared one opinion: Native Textiles acted responsibly by given up to a year's notice of the move. Federal law requires only 60 days notice of a plant closing.

"We can do a lot for our people in a year," Rowlands said.

Native Textiles manufactures tricot fabric used in women's intimate apparel, jacket linings and football-type jerseys.

Until 1973, when its headquarters moved to Glens Falls, the plant, built in the late 1940's and known as Natona Mills, functioned independently.

Its name was changed to Native Textiles when a new owner purchased it in 1974. Paculavich said.



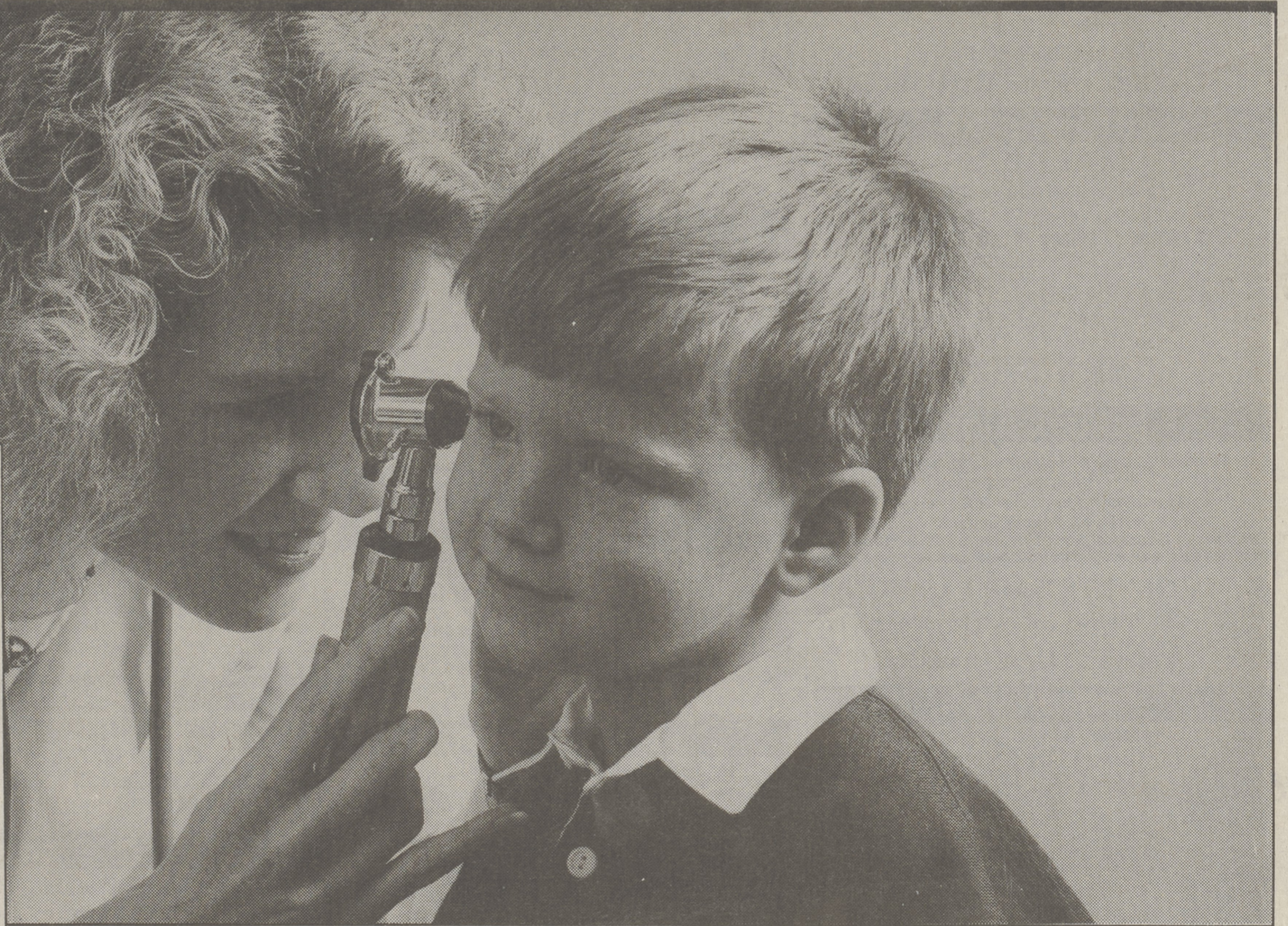
POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Sign of spring

Tom and Mary Oliver of Shavertown picked some Easter flowers at Darling's greenhouse last weekend. Warm temperatures made the task pleasant.

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