

IT'S FUNdAMENTAL



Mrs. Yogodzinski with students, from left, Crystal Martin, Alora Russell, Samantha Sorber, Amanda Keough and Bridget Knepp.



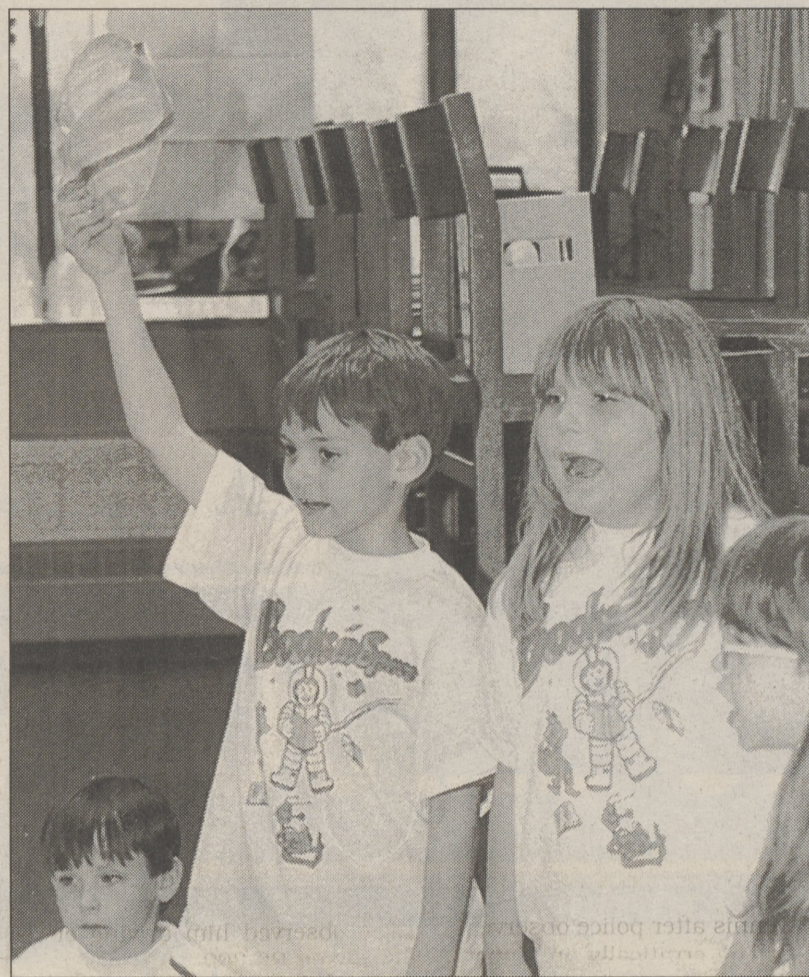
Kelly Evans worked intently.

Three first grade classes gathered last week at Lake-Noxen School for the Reading is FUNdamental program, sponsored by UGI. The theme for this program was the solar system. Teachers Mary Folz, Sheila Race and Mrs. Yogodzinski prepared for the program with written and oral projects, which culminated in the assembly.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Sheila Race, teacher, with Katlyn Coole.



Erik Sandstrom, Brian Shurmanek, Raman Williams and Cassie Steltz, from left, with a ready answer.

For this Alfie, it's all about going to the store every day

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - You may recognize Alfie, even if you don't know him well. On warm summer days he can be spotted soaking up the sun in front of Ochman's Coins and Jewelry on Church St. in Dallas. Passersby have probably wondered if the Beagle mix was a stray or just a lazy watchdog, but he is neither. Alfie has been the beloved pet of the Ochmans for nearly 12 years who wouldn't dream of not coming to work.

"I'd say he's pretty famous," said Maryann Ochman with a laugh, of her pet who has been a fixture in the store for 11 years. "We tried keeping him at home, but he kept setting off the burglar alarm. So he started coming here with us. He likes to lay in the sun."

Maryann's mother, Fran, added, "He was a great escape artist. I thought I'd bring him to the store until he was trained and he just ended up staying." In fact, Alfie enjoys going to work so much that when the owners aren't quite out the door by 10 o'clock, he reminds them to hurry it up. "He gets upset if he doesn't come here. At 10, he'll run around the house barking. He's like a parent yelling," explained Maryann.

Alfie, who Fran refers to as "the official greeter," loves the customers and is famous for

tugging on their pants to remind them that since he is a dog, he would love to be patted or scratched. "He's great with kids and keeps them occupied while their parents shop," said Maryann. "Customers bring him snacks and a lot of kids come in just to see him."

Some of Alfie's favorite snacks are the hamburgers his owners buy him from local fast food chains. "He loves to go to Wendy's and Burger King. I think certain people at Wendy's know who he is," said Fran. "They give him a piece of cheese whenever we go."

Alfie's name is derived from a combination of Alfred Hitchcock and the mid-60's song, "What's It All About Alfie?" "We wanted something different. That next fall the show 'Alf' came on television" said Fran.

Alfie has been a source of security for the Ochmans over the years. "At one time I didn't know if I should have a dog in the store. Dallas Borough Police Chief Fowler said it was a good idea and I think it is," said Fran.

Six months ago Alfie was diagnosed with liver cancer. Although a little shaky and quite a bit slower than he used to be, his bright eyes and wagging tail bring joy to the customers and owners alike.

"He's a good dog," said Maryann Ochman.



Maryann Ochman with Alfie, the faithful companion who's been coming to the store for 11 years.

Adoption Int'l opens branch in Shavertown

Adoptions International is pleased to announce the opening of its newest branch office to serve the greater Northeastern Pennsylvania population. The agency will sponsor an orientation meeting about opportunities to adopt infants and children from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, China and Russia.

A free information program is scheduled for May 15, at 7 p.m. at the Hoyt Library Community Room, Hoyt and Wyoming Avenue, Kingston. For information and to register, please call 696-1191.

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Sweet Valley Fire Co. Memorial Day parade

The Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire Co. is announcing their annual Memorial Day Parade and Fair for 1997. The dates will be as follows, May 22-24, 5:30-11 p.m.; May 25, Sunday, closed; May 26, from 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. The fire company will be celebrating its 50th year as a volunteer company, 1947-1997. Please plan on being a part of it. Anyone wishing to participate in the parade or rent a lot to sell their wares, may do so by contacting Robert Walsh at (717) 477-5239 for particulars. Sorry all food stands are operated by the fire company.

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