

Child deserves a break by getting friend back

Every day little 11-year-old Annita Constable fills her dog's bowl with fresh water. Usually this would be a pretty normal situation. But in this case, there is a very sad story attached. Annita's pet, Shelly, was stolen last month, along with her parent's van and \$1,500 worth of tools.

"We don't care about getting back the van and the tools, but we sure would like the dog returned," says Mrs. Lorene Constable, Annita's mother.

"Our little girl has been sick ever since it happened. She is determined that her pet will return," she says.

The Flander's student and Shelly, half poodle and half Mexican chihuahua, had formed a deep friendship in the two years since the grey and black critter had come to live at the Constable household.

Shelly needed very special care because she is an epileptic. Annita made sure that she got that care, according to her mother.

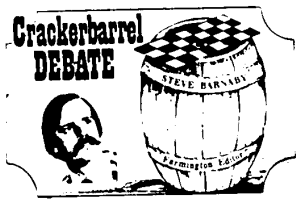
"She'd sit up all night with the dog when it was having spells."

Now Annita waits and prays. Placed on the dog's bed is a bible, with Shelly's picture next to it.

Annita can't believe that someone would be so cruel as to keep her pet. She is sure that even the thieves, who stole the dog, van and tools from a shopping center in Redford Township, will return her friend.

"We've talked to her about buying another dog, but she doesn't want that. She just wants Shelly back in her home," says her mother.

The Constables have made an intense search of the area in hopes of finding Shelly. They have vis-



sited 20 dog pounds and have offered a \$300 reward.

"We're worried about Shelly because she needs medication. She may not have a fit for two or three weeks, but after that you just don't know what's going to happen," says Mrs. Constable.

FRANKLY, persons like those who stole Annita's dog make me sick. It's bad enough that they feel compelled to be a bunch of lousy leeches, but refusing to return a kid's dog is about the lowest anybody can go.

Annita's story has been printed in the daily newspapers and has been on the television news. Yet, nothing has been heard about Shelly's fate.

Meanwhile a little girl's heart has been broken. I think Annita deserves a merry Christmas. So, if the crooks who stole the van have any conscience at all, and if the dog is still in their possession, I'm asking that they bring back the dog. If they want, they can bring it to the office here on Nine Mile.

I won't ask any questions. Just bring the dog, drop it off and be gone your way.

It sure would make a little girl feel a lot better.

Harry and Cleo get aid from the talking mushroom

(This is the second part of a three-chapter children's Christmas story, "Journey to the Forever Forest," written especially for the Observer & Eccentric newspapers.)

By CARL STODDARD

The elf was still dripping water on the floor of the Willoughby's cottage. Harry the dog and Cleo the cat looked at him, not saying a word. Just minutes before, the elf had walked in out of the swirling snow and announced he was on a mission to save Christmas. Not only that, but he intended to save Christmas by going into the dark and mysterious Forever Forest — and he was taking Harry and Cleo with him.

"To be perfectly frank," said Cleo, who was still sitting curled up on the chair by the fireplace, "you have me a little bit confused."

"First of all," she asked, "how did you know our names?"

"Mr. Glim," the elf began, "keeps a list of all the children in the world, checks it twice, and tries to find out who's been naughty or nice. Of course, you know all about that."



Harry and Cleo paused on the edge of the Forever Forest. It seemed very dark and mysterious in the forest, but the elf urged them to follow him.

"WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT know is that a few Christmas's ago, Santa began keeping a list of animals, too. You and Harry were added to the list, that's why Harry got that big chewy steak bone last Christmas and that's why you, Cleo, found a bag of catnip under the tree." The elf named Elmore said.

Elmore, still wearing his great furry coat, walked over to the fireplace and warmed his hands by the fire. The leaping flames gave a warm glow to his face and his red beard shone.

"Some animals don't like the idea of the list," Elmore continued. "Those animals who misbehaved during the year were especially angry. In fact, one animal became so upset, he flew right into Santa Claus' office and stole the list."

"You mean the list of all the good and bad animals was stolen?" Harry asked.

Elmore shook his head and just that list, he said, "the entire list, the one with all the boys and girls, too. That's why I'm here."

"As an agent for the Elf Bureau of Investigation," the elf said, "it's my duty to track down the animal who stole the list and return it to Santa in time for Christmas. And according to our network of elf agents, the list is now in the Forever Forest."

"But enough talk," he said, "it's time for action. Let's go."

Harry sprang to his feet and began prancing around excitedly. He liked adventure and this certainly sounded like the grandest adventure of all.

"WE WON'T GO," Cleo said suddenly. "The Forever Forest is very dangerous, very dangerous. I don't think Harry and I should get involved."

"You must," said the elf, "you are Santa's only hope. You have special skills. I need you. Come with me, please."

Harry could hardly hold himself back. "Come on, Cleo," he begged, "let's go. Let's go. Santa and the children of the world need us."

Cleo raised herself up from the cushion, stretched her body in a long arch, and nodded her sleek white head.

The cat, the dog and the elf left the cottage and began trudging through the snow. As they walked through the snow, they passed a small river where they were nibbling on bark of a spruce tree. A tiny sleigh was sitting nearby.

Elmore explained that they could not take the reindeer and the sleigh into the Forever Forest. The sleigh was too small to hold all three of them, the reindeer was too little to pull them. And besides, he said, the trees in the Forever Forest grew right up into the top of the sky. The sleigh

Is your Santa a Herringbone?

A Pin Stripe, A Check or A Plaid?

Well, whatever his 'BAG', we can help you fill his Christmas wish with a new SUIT, SPORT COAT, SLACKS, SWEATERS, SHIRTS, and all the accessories that complete. A Very Special Gift for the men on your list.

Current contemporary styles, friendly service. All the things that help make gift buying and giving enjoyable.

For that 'Special Touch' try WILLIAMS, the Store for Men.

NOVI at 10 Mile & Meadowbrook Roads and FERNDAL at 9 Mile just west of Woodward Ave.

SUITS PURCHASED & GIVEN AS HOLIDAY GIFTS CAN BE ALTERED IN TIME FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Gift Certificates Available

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Two Convenient Locations to serve you

NOVI TEN PLAZA 348 10650 10th St. & 10 Mile Rd. 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. 10:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

FERNDAL 541 2110 9th Mile & Woodward Ave. 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. 10:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

SCOTT'S WHERE SMART SANTAS SHOP!

CB RADIOS

Join the Midland Convoy Now with These Super-Saving Deals 23 Channel

Model 1-830 4888 1288

Mr. Coffee II Automatic COFFEE MAKER Only 2188

HAIR STYLERS/DRYERS 1997

EVER KNIFEVEL STUNT CYCLE Only 777

CLUSE MONOPOLY 377

CRACK POT 1288

SCOTCH PINE TREE 997

23314 FARMINGTON ROAD

Open Daily 9 A.M.-9 P.M. • Sun. 12-5 P.M.