

Living Science

Interpretive presentation introduces kids to unusual animals

By Casey Hans
staff writer

THERE WERE giggles — and some apprehension — as Charlie the parrot perched on shoulders and Cheech the chinchilla nestled in outstretched hands.

"Wow" was the comment heard most often in Barbara Brown's third grade class last week, when the Living Science Foundation brought its

entourage of unusual animals to Longacre Elementary in Farmington Hills.

"You can feel his bones. Go ahead and pet him," said science interpreter Bonnie Neff, encouraging the students to feel the soft chinchilla fur and enjoy holding the small rodent-like animal.

There were turtles, snakes, salamanders, toucans, pythons, angora rabbits, and a variety of programs for each Longacre classroom, based

on grade level. The visit was sponsored by the school's PTA.

The non-profit Novi-based foundation owns about 70 animals and employs about a dozen interpreters who do an average of 72 programs each day in area schools. Bill Neill estimates the group is reaching about 6,000 students each week.

"The real thrust is education," said Neill, a former Farmington Hills resident speaking from the group's headquarters. "Our emphasis is hands-on."

LIVING SCIENCE staff members send materials to the school before their scheduled visit and teach a brief lesson upon arrival.

Following the lesson, the animals are removed from their cages and boxes and taken to each student's desk so the animals can be held, petted and experienced. They also provide post-visit materials so individual teachers can follow-up. Neill said.

Most Living Science programs are sponsored by various parent groups.

Third graders listened to interpreter Neff last Thursday, who helped the students classify the animals, and taught them about types of body coverings, bones, how the animals breathe and how they reproduce.

Students learned what the animals eat, some of their special characteristics and that each animal has a personality.

CHARLIE, THE purplish blue parrot, eats plant seeds, fruits and nuts, will most likely live to be more than 80 years old, and "is always into trouble," Neff said.

Most of the Living Science animals are born into captivity and are quite accustomed to the noise of a class full of children, Neill said. "They're brought up with people, bonded to people."

Fees for a Living Science visit start at \$120 for the first classroom program, plus \$40 each for additional sessions in the same school.



Longacre kindergartner Yuko Asano gets a hug from an Angora rabbit.

Staff photos by Randy Borst



Longacre kindergartner John Boychuk lets a 12-pound, 7-foot-long python rest on his shoulders as part of the PTA-sponsored Living Science Foundation program.

business briefs

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion, are planning a new venture or project, or have information about other business-related happenings — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news with other Observer readers. Send items to: Business briefs, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

NAMED MANAGER

Sandra Giacomini of Farmington Hills was appointed manager of the sales office at Wall Colmoney Corp., Madison Heights.

All inside sales personnel at corporate headquarters and at sales offices and distribution centers throughout the United States report to her.

Wall Colmoney manufactures hard-surfacing and brazing alloys and application systems.

EARN AWARDS

Al Peterson, new vehicle salesman at Town and Country Dodge, Inc., Farmington Hills, received an award for individual performance in selling Dodge vehicles. He reached the silver level of recognition in Dodge's Sales Professionals Club.

Lucille Wheeler, new vehicle saleswoman at Farmington Hills Chrysler-Plymouth, received an award for individual performance in selling Chrysler-Plymouth vehicles. She reached the silver level of recognition in Chrysler-Plymouth's Sales Professionals Club.

AWARD WINNER

The Quality Inn of Farmington Hills has won several awards, reports Sheila Parks, property manager of the FourMile Group, and Jeffrey Parsons, president of the Parsons Group.

The inn was honored as one of the top five finalists, out of more than 1,000 Quality Inns, nationwide for the 1987 Inn of the Year Award.

It won three first-place ribbons in the paid advertising category of the Michigan Lodging Association's 1987 Lodging Promotion Contest.

The inn also was nominated for a Farmington Hills beautification award.

PROVIDES FURNISHINGS

Compuparc Corp. announced se-

lection of the R.P. Lewis Co. to provide office furnishings for its new corporate headquarters, under construction in Farmington Hills.

As one of the oldest and largest privately owned data processing companies in the United States, Compuparc specializes in professional services and software products for mainframe, mini and personal computers. The new headquarters is expected to house 450 of Compuparc's 750 employees.

The Flint-based R.P. Lewis Co. is a full-service contract design and sales organization, providing single-source responsibility for the design, project management and procurement, leasing, warehousing, installation and service of office furnishings and systems.

The new Compuparc headquarters is in the Brookfield Office Park, at the southeastern corner of Northwestern Highway and Middlebelt.

The building, one of three in the complex, was designed by Rossetti Associates Architects Planners of Detroit.

Now headquartered in Birmingham, Compuparc has professional services branches in Baltimore, Boston, Hartford and Washington, D.C. The company has offices in England, France, Spain, Italy and West Germany. Compuparc KK, Tokyo, Japan, was opened in 1987.

HE'S REAPPOINTED

Milton Moss of Farmington Hills was reappointed to the State Board of Boiler Rules.

GAINS CERTIFICATE

Travelees Aid volunteer Micheline Kansler of Farmington Hills received a volunteer service certificate at a volunteer recognition event.

Each year in September, the Travelers Aid Society holds a party to honor its volunteers.

Travelers Aid Society of Detroit is a United Foundation agency that provides direct emergency assistance for persons in any crisis caused by or related to mobility, including the handicapped, elderly, children traveling alone and the homeless.

TAS volunteers are stationed at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, the Greyhound Bus Terminal and the main office at 211 W. Congress, Detroit.

Travelers Aid is in need of volunteers. To become one, call Kathleen Polidore: 962-6740.

BRONZE MEDAL

Martha Anne Keck of Farmington Hills was awarded the Elijah Watt

Sells Bronze Medal for outstanding performance on the November 1986 Uniform CPA Examination administered by the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA).

Keck received the third highest overall score out of 72,378 candidates who completed the four-part, 24-day exam.

Keck is on the audit staff at Arthur Andersen & Co., Detroit.

AICPA is the national professional organization with a membership of 250,000.

SELECT GROUP

Qualitech Computer Center, Farmington Hills, was singled out by Hyundai Electronics America (HEA) as one of a select group of computer dealers to represent the company's new line of personal computers.

Qualitech Computer Center is one of the first to be selected by HEA for its newly launched Fortune 300 dealer program.

"Since we are signing only 300 dealers nationwide, we are accepting only the best," said Carmen Reitano, vice president of marketing and sales for HEA's Information Systems Division.

"Qualitech Computer Center received very high marks in our evaluation process, and we are pleased to have them on board to represent the Hyundai line of personal computer products."

To qualify for the program, dealers are rated on such criteria as sales staff qualified to competently sell personal computers, service and support for customers, training and educational facilities, as well as size and location. "We want dealers who serve their customers well, and who can support the product they sell," Reitano said.

Hyundai recently announced a new small footprint IBM PC-AT compatible personal computer, the Super-286C. The product line also includes the Super-7 Turbo XT, and the PC Terminal, a diskless workstation for use with local area networks. An 18-month warranty on all Hyundai PC products is one of the longest in the industry.

Hyundai Electronics America is backed by one of the world's major corporations, the Hyundai Business Group, a \$14 billion multinational Fortune 500 corporation involved in construction, ship building, and automobile manufacturing, among other ventures.

HEA is wholly owned subsidiary of Hyundai Electronics Industries Co., Ltd., which produces information systems, telecommunications products, industrial electronics and semiconductors worldwide.



PERSONAL APPEARANCE

Meet Artist Michael Hague
Friday, October 30
10 a.m.-Noon, Birmingham
2-4 p.m., Livonia

Mr. Hague, best known for his versions of children's classic tales, will sign copies of these and other storybooks. Mother Goose, Aesop's Fables, Numbears and The Velveteen Rabbit.

Jacobson's

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday
Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday