

Raising seeing eye dogs worth the trouble

by GWEN BOGH
Post Correspondent

Graduating her dog from seeing eye school is an accomplishment she is proud

of, but parting from him took all the courage she had.

Becky Clift, a teenage girl from Boring, managed to do so because, as she

puts it, "I knew he would be serving a good purpose, doing a good job."

Fellow, a black labrador, was Clift's pride and job. She raised him from a pup

to maturity, and then turned him over to Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc.

She received fellow by applying through her 4-H group.

Clift's responsibility was to train Fellow to follow commands such as to heal, sit, stay, stop and retrieve. Teenagers are selected to raise seeing eye dogs as it is assumed a younger person would spend more time with the dog.

Once the dog reaches approximately two years, he is taken to the Guide Dog Center in San Rafael, Calif., for six months of rigorous training.

After the training, the possible blind owner spends 28 days at the center training with the dog.

Graduation is a big event at the Guide Dog Center. When Fellow graduated, Clift was called. She said this was a sad and a happy moment for her.

It was sad in that Fellow was no longer hers and happy because, "It was really neat to see that the dog I had raised was helping someone."

If dogs don't graduate they are returned to the former 4-H trainer, if they want them back.

Clift would have welcomed

ed Fellow back, but knew it would never be.

Clift traveled with her mother and 4-H coordinator Barbara Burks to San Rafael to be with Fellow at graduation. He greeted her by jumping up on her white pants, getting black hairs all over them.

Brenda Coleman, Fellow's new master, was at the graduation ceremony, too.

During the proceedings it was up to Clift to turn her dog over to Coleman, as well as lead her around and seat her.

Coleman sees only light and dark. She has never had a seeing eye dog.

Clift said, "Her boy, who's five, would take her around."

But, her son will be going to school soon, so Coleman

requested a seeing eye dog.

The only cost for blind persons receiving a dog is for transportation to and from the center. Room and board is free during the 28-day stay.

When Coleman and Clift talked, a lot of it was about Fellow, about how he was when Clift raised him compared to now.

Coleman told Clift about one instance when she gave Fellow a command to cross the street, but he disobeyed. There was a car approaching that Coleman did not hear.

This convinced them both that Fellow had learned his job well.

Another time when Coleman and Fellow took an afternoon stroll a wrong turn had them in some man's garage.

It was difficult when it

came time for Clift to leave for home.

She turned around one last time to see the dog she loved, and said that Fellow looked at her like he

couldn't understand why she was leaving.

But, Clift knows that his place is with his new master.

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Brenda Coleman, Becky Clift and Fellow

KSDA raises camping fees

Use of campgrounds in the National Forests in Oregon and Washington will cost more next summer, according to the USDA Forest Service.

Fees at recreation sites for 1982 will see higher rates and more sites will be designated as fee sites. Variable rates will apply in some campgrounds. Last year, rates were \$2 to \$5 in the 216 campgrounds where fees were charged. There are more than 900 campgrounds in the Pacific Northwest Region.

More of the cost of pro-

viding recreation facilities and services is being shifted from the general populace to the camping visitor, according to Regional Forester Jeff M. Sirmon.

"This action helps meet our budgetary reduction and will improve the relationship between income and expense," Sirmon said.

"Operating costs have increased sharply in recent years and administrative actions are needed to keep the campgrounds open and operable. A few cam-

pground closures and further reduction in services may still be necessary."

This year will be the first time different rates for sites of varying quality will be used at nine campgrounds in the Pacific Northwest, and also the first time fees will be imposed at a swimming site, for a cave tour, and at three off-road vehicle staging areas.

A listing of charge sites and fee schedules will be announced by National Forest Supervisors.

Class offered bus drivers

Clackamas Education Service District (ESD) has received a \$5,000 inservice grant to train school bus drivers to transport handicapped students, according to ESD Superintendent Bob Burns.

The grant will fund a series of ten workshops on how to handle special problems in busing handicapped children. The series will be offered twice between late spring and next October. About sixty bus drivers from Clackamas County school districts and the ESD can attend.

The classes will be offered at Clackamas Community College by specialists in handicapped education, physical therapists and occupational therapists.

The ESD received the grant from the Oregon Department of Education which is administrating the

inservice grant money for the federal government.

"Handicapped students are being mainstreamed into regular classrooms and school programs at an increasing pace," according to Burns. "As they are, school personnel who had little contact with handicapped students before are finding they need to learn new skills to work effectively with special students."

"An informal survey of county school districts showed that school transportation departments were interested in more training, so they were targeted for this inservice series," Burns said.

There are three core workshops in the series that drivers will have to attend before they can take the next seven. The three core workshops are on han-

dicapping conditions, medical concerns and first aid unique to the handicapped and recognizing special student needs.

Other workshop topics in the series include behavior management, basic manual communication (signing), communication skills and bus evacuation needs.

Shreeve joins

Delta Gamma

Beta Upsilon Chapter of Delta Gamma at Oregon State University recently initiated new members. Sandy Shreeve, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Shreeve, 18195 Dahlager St., Sandy, became a member January 29, 1982.

Miss Shreeve is majoring in Elementary Education at Oregon State.

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