

St. Peter's students get unconventional ride

Seven lucky kindergartners from St. Peter's Catholic School arrived at school one day last month riding on top of the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department's antique engine.

The fire department donated a "fire truck ride to school" to the St. Peter's fundraiser last fall.

On May 28, the 1954 Mack fire truck, along with Sandy Spring Chief George, President Johnie Roth and Deputy Chief Mike Kelley, arrived at an Olney Mill home to pick up passengers Addison Kasley, Call Cammarata, Sara Fritschi, Kendall Dickerson, Payton Dickerson, Ava Oberholzer and Amber Tiogson.



People and Places
TERRI HOGAN

It was an exciting day for the girls, said Amy Kasley, mother of Addison. Not only did they get to ride on a fire truck, but it was also field day and the last day of school for kindergarten students.

"They all loved it and everyone at school thought it was really cool to see them arrive on a fire engine," Kasley said. "The Sandy Spring fire department was wonderful; I think they were just as excited as the kids."

Aspen Hill man has World Cup fever

Ben Watnik, 87, remembers what it was like to be part of World Cup history.

As a young boy, he played soccer in Argentina before immigrating to the United States in 1944. After arriving in the U.S., he played with the American Soccer League team, the New York Hakoah, as a fullback and goalie, said his daughter, Alicia Mahmot, of Gaithersburg.

Before a name change that occurred for unknown reasons around the time of his immigration, he was known as Ben Wattman. Mahmot said her father was selected to participate in the 1949 North American Football Confederation games in Mexico City, which helped qualify the U.S. team for the 1950 FIFA World Cup.

"He cherishes the memories he has of playing with soccer great Wal-

tere were surprised to see a photo of their father from the 1949 game in Mexico City. That led to research as well as a meeting with the historian from the National Soccer Hall of Fame.

Mahmot said her father is looking forward to watching the World Cup games on television and has recruited some of his neighbors and employees of Bedford Court assisted living facility in Aspen Hill, where he resides, to watch along with him.

"He laughs now when he thinks back about how he was the only Spanish-speaking soccer player on the team back then, which came in handy when dealing with the local Mexican journalists and players," she said.

Scoutmaster lauded for 25 years of service

Dennis Bogan of Boy Scout Troop 264 received a certificate of appreciation from Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) for his 25 years in Scouting, the last 19 as scoutmaster of the troop.

"Needless to say, I was very honored and surprised," Bogan said.

Assistant Scoutmaster Dale Bickel said it was well deserved.

"Dennis is great with the boys and just loves the ideals of Scouting," he said. "He relates to kids and they all like him."

The presentation took place at the April 28 troop meeting.

"The boys were all very impressed and they paid attention," Bickel said. "They gave Dennis a big round of applause."

Bogan says he remains involved with Boy Scouts because of the benefits it provides to the boys.

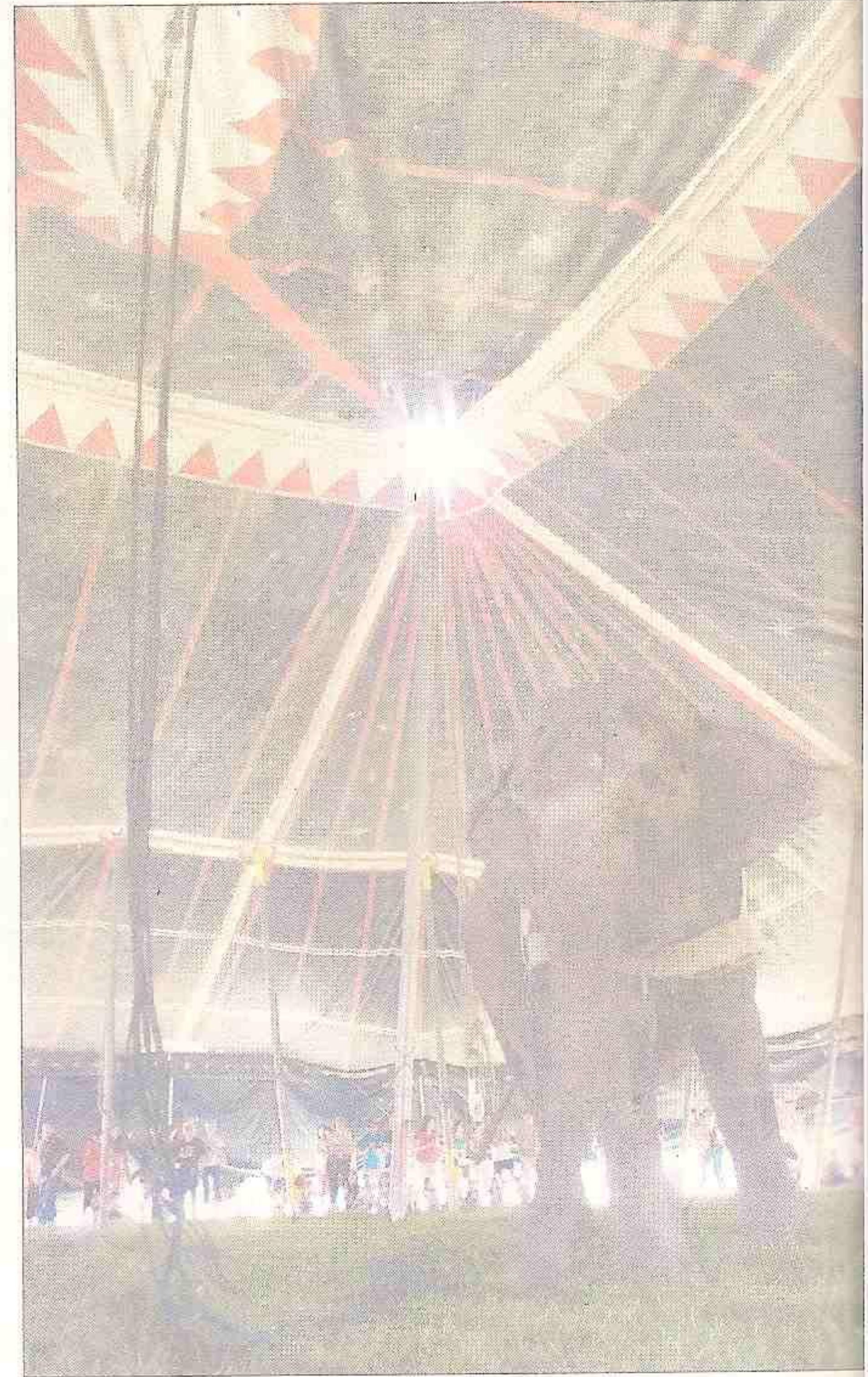
"The youth need a good role model and a program that offers skills, leadership training, life-long friendships," he said.

Troop 264 has been serving the greater Olney area since 1927 and meets at St. John's Episcopal Church. Visit www.troop264olney.net.

Foundation collects 1,000 backpacks for children in Africa

The Mpambara-Cox Foundation has met its goal of collecting 1,000 used or new backpacks for school children in Africa with help from schools, businesses and individuals in Montgomery County.

A spectacle for kids of all ages



CHRIS ROSSI/TE

Lisa, an Asian elephant, helps raise the big top when the Kelly Miller rolled into town May 30, as part of its annual visit thanks to the Olney Rotary Club.

Branch Elementary School in Silver Spring and Journey's Crossing of Gaithersburg.

This year, the program collected 1,000 backpacks.

"We're letting children know that by recycling their backpacks, they are helping a child across the world, and helping them to understand that they are part of something greater than just a backpack itself," Mpambara-Cox said.

Mpambara-Cox said students

altogether due to the lack of resources, the long walking to schools or having to help family financially with work subsistence farming.

The Mpambara-Cox Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Maryland that provides basic necessities to African children through partnerships made between Africa and the United States.

For more information,