

Life at 12,000 feet is anything but hospitable

Atty. Curley donates jackets and more to Tibetan school

(Wakefield Attorney Patrick G. Curley just returned from a trip to the remote Nepali Himalayas to revisit the Lophel Ling Tibetan School where he was a volunteer math teacher for 10 weeks in the spring of 2001. Here's Part II of a two-part account of his journey.)

By PATRICK G. CURLEY

I had not informed the school that I was returning. Apparently, as I crossed the playing fields and approached the school, several of my former students from 2001 recognized me and told their teacher that "Delek La" was coming. In Tibetan, Delek means "good" and "La" is a term of respect for teachers and elders. That was my Tibetan name from 2001. The teach-

ers could not believe their eyes and everyone poured out of the classrooms to greet me.

I felt like I was returning to family.

I bought 100 sets of hooded fleece jackets for all students and staff at the school. "Lophel Ling School - Manang" was embroidered in gold and red on each jacket. The jackets offer the students and teachers excellent warmth and durability but also a tremendous sense of pride in their school — the most remote Tibetan school in the kingdom.

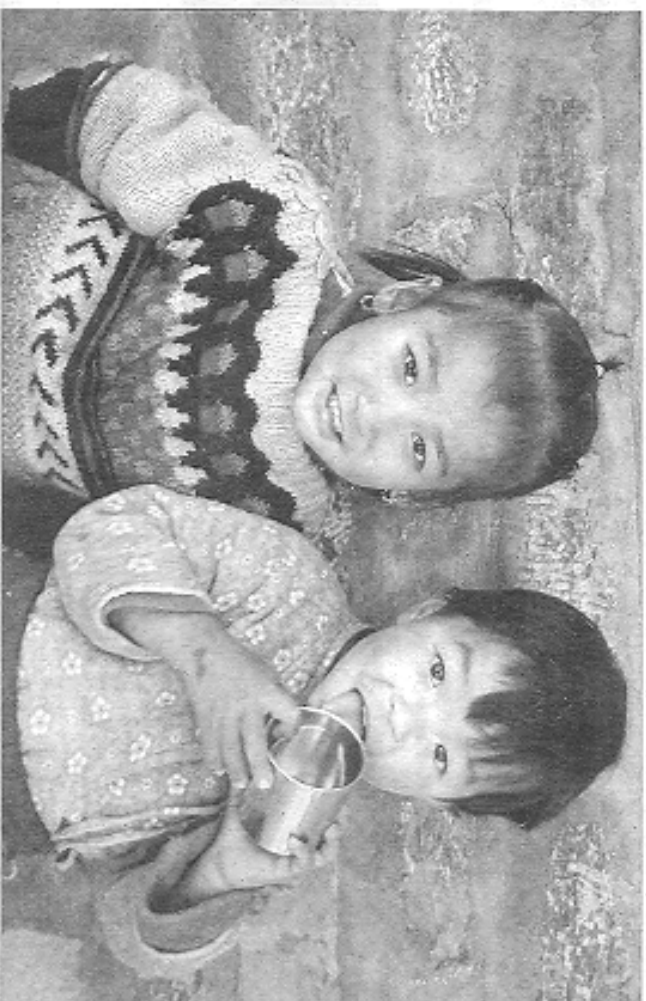
In fact, several students were still wearing the fleece jackets that I delivered to the school on my last visit in 2001. Because they had grown over the last four

years, the sleeves now barely reached past their elbows!

The new jackets solved that problem.

I also supplied wool socks for the students, many large jars of Vaseline to protect the students' lips and faces from the harsh Himalayan environment and hair ties, hair clips and head bands for the female students.

The school is overseen by the Dalai Lama's exiled government in Dharamsala, India. The 80 students, who range in age from 5 to 12, are children of grandchildren of Tibetan refugees who have escaped to Nepal in the years since China invaded Tibet in 1949. The Tibetans are considered



ADORNED WITH COLORFUL sweaters and warm smiles are a couple of the children who greeted local Attorney Patrick Curley when he returned to their school in a remote village in Nepal.