

# 'surprise' ending

## Local boy's story in national magazine

By LEE MAXWELL  
Staff Writer

WEST DEPTFORD TWP. — Gregg Podolski at age 7 has accomplished what many writers only dream of doing: publishing his work in a national magazine. The piece isn't very long — only four paragraphs — but it's there for all to see.

Highlights for Children published Gregg's very short story, "The Horse Raised by Wolves," in its February 1988 issue, which is available by subscription or for perusal in any local library or doctor's or dentist's office.

"It was a big surprise," Gregg said while sitting at his family's dinner table in his Roosevelt Avenue home in the Thorofare section Tuesday evening. "It was a nice surprise. My mom and dad felt it was a good story, so they helped me send it in with another one, but that one didn't get in."

The story is simple, yet imaginative: a family of wolves discovers a young horse in its den and raises it until it grows too large and "went to work for a farmer who lived in the country. His job was to pull the plow. He liked it there but the day he met the wolves will be in his life forever."

The story is one of five published on page 38 in the February edition under the heading, "Our Own Stories." Over the story is a silhouette picture of wolves facing a horse under some trees. The 41-year-old magazine has a 2.3 million circulation and is published for children ages 2 to 12.

Gregg wrote the story last spring as part of a class project in his gifted and talented class, called PAGES, at the Green-Fields School, said his father, Larry Podolski, a national sales rep-



Staff photo by Allen Oliver

Gregg Podolski with a copy of the magazine that contains his four-paragraph story, "The Horse Raised by Wolves."

resentative with a Philadelphia title company.

Gregg's second-grade teacher praised the story and asked him to read it to the rest of his classmates. Larry and Terry Podolski sent the story to Highlights in the summer, and heard in December the magazine would publish it.

"You should have heard him when the letter came," Larry Podolski said. "He yelled out, 'I'm going to be published!'"

The principal at Green-Fields, Joseph C. Cramp, read the story over the school's public address system after he learned it was to be published, Larry Podolski said. "It was like Gregg Podolski Day," Larry said.

Gregg said he's written more stories since writing "The Horse Raised by Wolves," but less this year than last year because his teacher is stressing report writing over creative writing.

He said he enjoys using a computer,

reading, writing and studying jungle and ocean animals. He would like to become a zoologist concentrating on animal life in the ocean. He has a special interest in sharks and elephant seals, the latter of which he noted "are the favorite food of great white sharks."

Gregg only blushed when asked if he plans to publish again.

"We have a master writer in our family," Larry Podolski said. "I may retire and let him write and do the work."