



Three-year-old Emma Simpson hesitates a moment from enjoying her hot dog to pet Princess, a Pomeranian who often visits the newspaper office. Friday was Customer Appreciation Day, with hundreds of visitors stopping by for a visit.

Margaret Hobbs photos

HOT DOGS!

Southern Standard's Customer Appreciation Day brings in big crowd

BY **MARGARET HOBBS**
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Hundreds of *Southern Standard* readers stopped by to participate in Customer Appreciation Day Friday, enjoying complimentary hot dogs and discounted subscription rates.

"This is one of our biggest days," said publisher Pat Zechman. "We appreciate all of our customers and encourage them to stop by for a visit."

Editor James Clark was busy distributing Dr Pepper beverages, declaring Dr Pepper the drink of choice. City news reporter Lisa Hobbs manned the hot dog table, making sure everyone had all the condiments needed, as well as a bag of chips. Other staff members prepared the meals in a productive assembly line, while others assisted customers with subscriptions needs.

Almost everyone enjoys a hot dog on a sunny day,

especially 3-year-old Emma Simpson. She attended with her dad, Drew, and couldn't wait to tear into the chips and hot dog.

Visitors took time to register for assorted door prizes, with the coveted prize being a new chest freezer, won by lucky Patsy Tigie.

Other prizes awarded included gift packs to Lois Cartwright, Carolyn Powers, Deborah Hitchcock and James Northcutt. Candy and free subscriptions were won by Karen Keener and Christy Price.

Roy Whitlock purchased a subscription to the newspaper for his daughter and son-in-law in honor of her birthday, while Michael Scott renewed for his sister, Demetria Smith.

"We enjoy the newspaper, and I'm the newspaper guy, bringing it into her because she is shut-in much of the time," said Scott.

The *Southern Standard* has been in publication since 1879 serving Warren and surrounding counties.



Southern Standard employee Phyllis Vanatta prepares hot dog baskets complete with chips and a drink.



Circulation representative Vickie Scott assists customer Roy Whitlock with his subscription purchase. Customers could take advantage of discounted subscription rates on this special day.



Newspaper editor James Clark, at left, visits with Louis Battles at the annual event where hundreds of complimentary hot dogs are served to guests.



Crowds of folks gathered both inside and outside at the *Standard* office located on College Street enjoying the nice weather conditions.