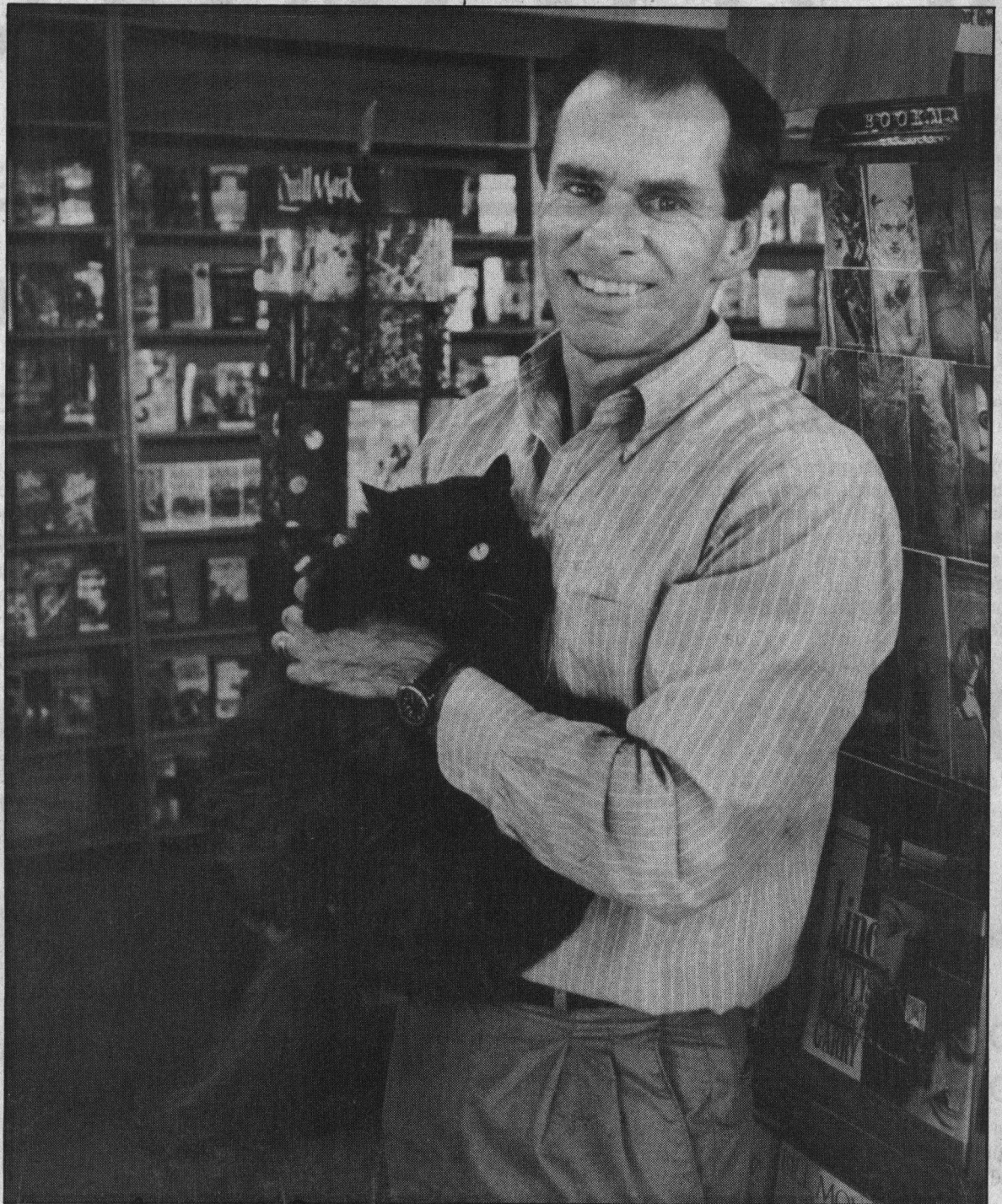


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John Webster

Footnote the cat is at home at Bookworks. So when Lee, pictured, and Emily Duffus bought the shop, Footnote was perfectly contented to stay on.

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A Footnote to bookstore sale

By LANE WALLACE
STAFF WRITER

When Lee and Emily Duffus bought Bookworks book store in Aptos, the deal included fixtures, thousands of books, and one female cat.

The cat, named Footnote, became as much a part of the store as the books under previous owners Tom and Connie Unsicker.

"They had built the cat into the logo" of the store, said Lee Duffus, who had asked about the cat when he and his wife were negotiating purchase of the store, which became effective Feb. 1.

The desire to keep Footnote around "weighed heavily in their favor," said Tom Unsicker, who had owned the store for

11½ years.

Bookstore cats were fairly common when the Unsickers bought the store, in Rancho Del Mar center. Bookshop Santa Cruz had one named Walt (for author Walt Whitman) that has since died.

The Unsickers acquired what was then "a little black kitten," Tom Unsicker said. The bookstore has been Footnote's only home — a staff duty is changing her catbox in the employee rest room.

Footnote would sometimes greet customers at the door, nap on the shelves, or hide in one of the many small places in the store where only a cat can go. When the store had a copy machine with a moving plane, the cat learned which buttons to

push to get a ride.

The Unsickers would occasionally take Footnote away from the store, "but she didn't like it," Tom Unsicker said. On holidays, the Unsickers would make a trip to the store to give Footnote her dinner.

"I understand there's an annual birthday celebration" for the cat, said Lee Duffus, who plans to continue the tradition.

Duffus took early retirement from the University of California at Santa Cruz, where he was vice-chancellor for student services. Emily Duffus is continuing her job as a math teacher at Harbor High School.

Duffus said he is trying to make the ownership change "seamless." The old staff has been retained, he said, and no major changes are planned.