What's Happening

By Ida Peters

Coming to Mechanic

"Moonchildren," the comedy-drama about the "sixties" will premiere in Baltimore, Monday evening Dec. 30 for a week run through Jan. 4.

Steve Steinlauf currently considered Broadway's youngest producer, or boy wonder, mainly because he took a play Dave Merrick failed at and made it into a smash hit, at 19 in his first crack at producing.

"It's me," claims moonchild Steve, and goes on. "It's all kids born around 1942." Anyway the 60's was a great era to live through, if you did. Many of course went out violently, both big and small.

The era of "Moonchildren" was with the Moon. The moonshots, sputniks, moonwalks, astronauts, moonmyths. But it was also the time of the Vietnam marches, the card burning protests, even the immolations or fire protests. It included the communes, both city and open-air type, the hippy movement, and of course the assissination of national leaders at the Kennedys and Martin Luther King.

* * *

In Who's Who

Jacob K. McKinney, American International Pictures publicist, has been selected for inclusion in the edition of Who's Who Among Black Americans.

McKinney has been in the entertainment industry for 35 years. Before joining AIP in 1971 he was assistant publicity director for Screen Gems, and was in motion picture and television publicity at several Hollywood studios.

He is currently unit publicist for AIP's "Abby" and "Cooley High," and is company's community relations director.

* * *

Charity Event For Retarded

The World Premiere of Rastar and Columbia Pictures' "Funny Lady," a Herbert Ross Film starring Barbra Streisand, James Caan and Omar Sharif, will be a charity event on behalf of the Special Olympics for Retarded Children on Sunday, March 9 at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in D.C.

The premiere announcement was made jointly today in Los Angeles and Washington, by Ray Stark, the film's producer; David Begelman, president of Columbia Pictures, and General Robert Montague (U.S.A. Ret.), executive director of the Special Olympics for Retarded Children.

Barbra Streisand, who for many years has served as the Honorary Chairwoman for the National Association of Retarded Children, will be an honorary member of the Charity Gala Committee.

Proceeds from the Gala evening at the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theatre will go to aid the Special Olympics Program, which is sponsored throughout the United States, Canada and in foreign countries by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation.

* * *

Fallen Heroes

Fallen Heroes of Baltimore, Inc. today announced it will present three shows of Professor Miller and His Wonderful W of Magic in the Baltimore Civic Center on Monday, December 30.

Featuring the renowned magician and illusionist Professor Miller, the shows, will be performed as a benefit for the Fallen Heroes fund.

Fallen Heroes provides assistance for emergency health and education obligations faced by the children of Baltimore Policemen and firemen who gave their lives in the line of duty.

* * *

Towson Ball

Invitations for "A Night In Monte Carlo," the theme of the Fine Arts Ball to be held at Towson State College, are being mailed this month, and committee chairman, Mrs. Howard Head, stated 1,000 people are expected to attend the post new Year celebration of the arts on January 4 from 9 p.m. — 1 a.m. on the Towson campus in the College Center.

A Riviera casino atmosphere, a champagne and wine buffet, continuous music from two orchestras, a fireplace, a piano player, in addition to special exhibitions of the music, art and theatre arts department, will highlight the ball.

* * *

Hopkins Glee Club

The Johns Hopkins University Glee Club will present a concert of international Christmas music Saturday, December 14, on the University's Homewood campus.

direction of George Woodhead, will be held at 8 p.m in the Listening - Viewing Room of the Hopkins Union. The concert will be open to the public without charge.

"Hansel and Gretel"

The Roundabout Players, a children's theatre group of Northwestern High School's Thespian Society, Park Heights and Falstaff, will present the Grimm Brothers' "Hansel and Gretel," with music and lyrics by Englebert Humperdink and Adelheid Wette, to various elementary schools in the Baltimore area. The production is directed by Michael DeBoy, with Judith Flom as crews co-ordinator.

Cheryl Rowe, Byron Pagan, and Jo Michener head the cast, which also includes Vanessa Mack, Judith James, Michael Snowden, Mary Wright, William Lane, and an entourage of genuine "gingerbread children."

The musical will be presented on this week at 10:00 a.m. for the elementary schools, and tonight, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. for the public.

The McKenzie report

"The Legend of Andrew McCrew"

By Vashti McKenzie

In 1913, a black hobo was riding through the country side of Marlin, in central Texas on a freight train.

His name was Andrew McCrew and his only claim to fame at the time was that.... he had only one leg.

McCrew fell off the train, lost his other leg and died.

The body was taken to a local funeral home run by a black embalmer, Stanford Washington. Washington mummified, if you can believe it ... the body to preserve it until a relative could be found to claim it.

No relative ever appeared.

It's hard to believe what happened to poor Andrew McCrew. Would you believe that this hobo became the "Eighth Wonder of The World"?

Would you believe, sixty years after his death he was finally buried?

Bizarre as it may be, this tale is true. It sounds like something out of the notebook of Baltimorean, Edgar Allen Poe.

McCrew led a livlier life dead than alive. This tale would never have had a happy ending if it wasn't for the efforts of a Dallas nurse and singer-songwriter Don McLean.

McLean wrote "The Legend of Andrew McCrew."

His song touched off a chain of events you wouldn't believe ... it reopened a mental health scandal in Dallas, Texas and gave dignity to the black hobo.

You might remember McLean from his nationally controversial song "American Pie" in 1971. This new tune is from his new "Homeless Brother" album and was written after he read a news story about McCrew.

THE LEGEND

After McCrew died in the train wreck, he was mummified. Several years passed and the black embalmer waited for some of McCrews relative to show up.

When they didn't, Washington decided to RENT the body to a succession of blacks and whites who exhibited the mummified McCrew at carnivals and other related events for forty years after his death.

McCrew, dressed in a tuxedo, was taken across the country billed as "The Eighth Wonder of the World" according to a 1939 poster.

Ole Andrew became so famous that he was listed in "Ripley's Believe It Or Not."

When the carnival started to lose money, it sold most of its possessions including the mummy.

In 1969, the mummy came into the possession of Mrs. Elgie Pace, a licensed Vocational Nurse in Dallas. She saved McCrew from being covered over by a bulldozer and kept him in her basement.

A relative of Mrs. Pace bought the mummy from the carnival but she could not find out how the mummy became part of that particular one.

Moved by humane concerns, she tried to arrange a decent burial but was unsuccessful. She was living on a marginal income supporting her son, Richard, 18 and daughter, Kathy, 13.

SCANDAL

In April, 1973, Mrs. Pace was fired from her job with the Mental Evaluation Center in Dallas for bringing to light the shocking treatments of patients there. Other members of the staff protested her firing and were fired themselves.

At the height of the scandal, it was learned that Mrs. Pace had the mummy in her basement and she was investigated by the Dallas Police Department in an effort to harass her. This was done, it was reported, on orders from Lew Sterett, then head of the Center.

When news of McCrew broke in the local newspapers, Frank and Judy Lott, black owners of Lott's Funeral Home, offered to donate full burial services to McCrew, no matter what the consequences.

McCrew was finally laid to rest sixty years after his death in an unmarked grave at Dallas' Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, June 2, 1973.

Before burial, he lay in state for three days and attracted 5,000 curiosity seekers.

Mrs. Pace tried unsuccessfully to win reinstatement with the County Commissioners but she was refused a hearing even though the FBI corroborated her evidence, it was reported.

Now a year and a half later, her determination is rekindled with the help of McClean and a Chicago disc jockey.

The Chi-Town DJ played "The Legend of Andrew McCrew" on the air the first part of November. He received numerous calls from listerners who had seen the original news stories on McCrew.

A week later, November 6, the D.J., Roy Leonard did phone interviews with Mrs. Pace and McLean.

After the program a Chicago businessman called to donate a headstone for McCrew's grave.

The headstone was unveiled last Sunday in Dallas. Black and white religious, political and educational leaders were invited. McLean's legend was played at the funeral.

The headstone recounts the Legend of Andrew and contains the fourth verse of McLean's song. (very heavy words)

THE FINALE

Mrs. Pace?

She's working 80 hours a week in a Texas hospital, teaching nurse's aides and donates her services to private patients on weekends.

And Andrew?

He's fast becoming a black folklore figure.

Other than that, he is the only one that didn't get a thing out of "The Legend of Andrew McCrew."

Give me no flowers when I'm gone!

'Messiah at St. James'

Great choruses and arias from Handel's "Messiah" will be sung by the choirs of St. James' Episcopal Church, Monday, December 16 at 8:15 p.m.

Lauretta Young, soprano and Dorothy Lofton, contralto will be guest soloists along with Sylvester Graves, tenor, and Richard Estes, bass-baritone.

The concert will be held at the church on Lafayette Square. Albert Wagner will be guest organist and Maurice Murphy, choral director.

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BACARDI rum.

Lauretta Young

Douglass students in Symphony Youth Concerts

A group of young brass players from Douglass Senior High School played an important role in the Baltimore Symphony's Youth Concerts, in the Lyric Theatre this week.

Together with the Baltimore Symphony's Brass Section, these five students performed Gabrieli's Canzona In Noni Toni," which requires groups of instruments situated in different parts of the concert hall.

The Douglass students played on either side of the Lyric balcony, creating a very striking effect. The Douglass students are enrolled in the Music Careers Program and play regularly with the school band, under Thomas DeLaine, head of the Music Department.

They are Bennie Cowland, senior; Stanley Brown, 11th grade, trumpets; Michael Walker, 11th, Trombone; Willard Saunders, 11th, tuba; Christopher Thompson, 10th, tuba. They will play again in the next BSO Youth Concerts.

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'Amahl' at CCB

The Music Department of The Community College of Baltimore will present the well-known Christmas opera, "Amahl and The Night Visitors," on Saturday, December 14, 2:30 and 8 p.m. and on Sunday December 15, at 2:30 p.m. in The Campus Theatre of The Fine Arts Center at CCB, 2901 Liberty Heights Avenue.

"Amahl," composed by Gian-Carlo Menotti, is the story of a poor lame child who, when offering his crutch to the Christ child as a gift, forgets about his infirmity and walks to the Kings. The CCB Chorus, under the direction of William Milner, will perform. Music director is Jaap Van Opstal, chairman of the CCB Music Department.

Twelve-year-old John David Patterson will portray Amahl in the lead role. Others in the cast are Charles Matthews, Ernest Lindsay, and James Bennett, who play the three kings. Esther Gardiner plays the mother. Alternates in the cast are Karl Starks, Joseph Spence, and Geral Beth Richardson.

Coppin Festival

Coppin State College will present its annual Christmas festival at 8 :15 p.m. on Thursday, December 19 in the college auditorium, West North Avenue.

The 1974 program will highlight the college choir and the saxophone and brass quartets, and mark the first performance by the newly formed 65 voice gospel choir which is directed by student Cynthia Adams.

The college choir which is in its seventeenth consecutive year is directed by Henry N. Freeman and pianist Maurice Murphy both of the faculty. In past seasons, it has sung on the campuses of five Maryland colleges, on radio and television, at the state capitol and before educational, civic and religious bodies along the eastern seaboard.

BEGINS TODAY

"Amahl and the Night Visitors" by Gian-Carlo Menotti opens tonight at the Arena Playhouse—406 Orchard Street. The five performances include three evening (7 p.m.) and two matinee (3 p.m.—Sat. and Sun.)

The cast and staff include: Front row Sharon Morris; Second row Melba Alston, Adrian Walker, Irv Turner and Donna Jackson; Third row Marion Williams, Allena Fuller, Cheryl Haskins, Corrine Hall and standing Reginald Pindell, Raymond Turner, Peter Burgess, Raynard Turner and William Bailey. Not shown Melvin Smothers Jr, Harvey Denmark, Michael Deener, Calvin Alston, David Davenport, Bernice Brooks, Sam Washington, Ruby Pearson and Lorraine Miller. Mr. William Griggsby is musical director. Irv Turner assisted by Vacountess Payne directed the play with the set by Jerry Wood. Tickets are available at the door for each performance.

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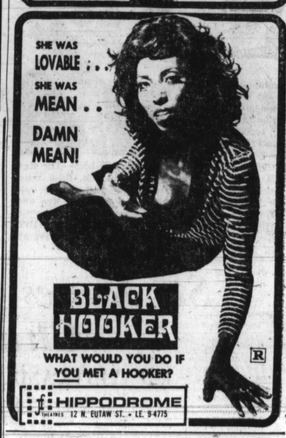

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Baptist Pastors conference banquet

Rev. and Mrs. Edward Revels, St. Paul Community Baptist, president, Baptist Pastor's Conference of Baltimore presented 47 awards to area pastors and 14 Citizen's Awards at Pastoral Banquet held at Zion Baptist Church, 1700 N. Caroline St., last week.

Rev. James S. Williams, pastor, New Unity Baptist Church and the Rev. and Mrs. J. Woodard Kelly Sr. the guest speaker. He is pastor and founder of Fellowship Baptist Church.

Master Arnell Sample was honored as a life saver and hero: Mrs. Elizabeth Riley, Field of Home Misson; and Mrs. Enolia McMillan, president, NAACP. Not shown, Mrs. Anna Mae Hunter.

The Rev. and Mrs. Dockery Thompson, assistant secretary of Conference, at head table. He's pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Turner Station.

Citizens Awards went to Mrs. Pauline Wells Lewis, WSID Radio; Chuck Richards, WMAR-TV; Mrs. Mary Middleton, Missionary, Grace Memorial Baptist Church.

Citizens Awards went to Hon. Parren J. Mitchell, U.S. Congressman; Hon. Joseph Chester, Md. House of Delegates; Hon. Troy Brailey, Md. House of Delegates.

Honored were State's Attorney Milton Allen, Mrs. Ida Peters, AFRO C[illegible] Block; Father Henry Offer, rector of St. Francis. Not shown, Attorney George Russell.

TV Notes

The mini-minded Grinch, the miserly curmudgeon who out-Scrooges Schooge, is back again trying his elongated green hand at his annual grand larceny, on "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," acclaimed animated special, to be rebroadcast on Friday, Dec. 13.

By Vashti McKenzie

Grady, Whitman Mayo, receives too many Social Security checks in "A Little Extra Security" on "Sanford and Son," Friday, Dec. 13.

Lamont, Demond Wilson, and Aunt Esther, La Wanda Page think Grady should report the error to the Social Security Administration but Grady and Otis, Stymie Beard of the original "Our Gang" comedies, disagree, go to Las Vegas and blow it all.

Series stars Angie Dickinson and Earl Holliman, as police Sgts. Pepper Anderson and Bill Crowley, investigate a black market baby-selling racket in "The Child Buyers" colorcast of "Police Woman" Friday, Dec. 13.

* * *

Gloria feels she's become the "dumb blonde" in Mike's life when he ignores her in favor of an "intellectual" friend, on "All in the Family," Saturday, Dec. 14.

* * *

The Sonny Comedy Revue on Sunday, December, 15. The Spinners musical group will be the only guest stars in a show which highlights members of Sonny's comedic troupe.

* * *

The modern South is a varied place, and Robert Cromie's guests on Book Beat Sunday, December 15, have explored it in a new way. The program airs on stations of the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting.

* * *

The Ink Spots sing their 30's hits, "My Prayer," "I'll Never Smile Again" and their biggest seller, "If I Didn't Care," on this edition of "The Mike Douglas Show," Tuesday, Dec. 1.

* * *

Telly Sa[illegible] director, with noted singer-composer Paul Anka making his dramatic television debut as a stoolie who is using a detective, to whom he is feeding information, to further his own sleazy career, in "The Betrayal" on "Kojak" Sunday, Dec. 15.

* * *

Out of a bloody revolution and counter-revolution that [illegible] the birth of the South American Republic of Corteguay emerges Dax Xenos (Bekim Fehmiu), the hero of "The Adventurers," spectacular film version of Harold Robins' best-selling novel, returning as "The ABC Sunday Night Movie," Sunday, Dec. 15.

* * *

Caine has a brush with death in a landslide and is beset by mysterious Aztec warriors in search of a human sacrifice for their god, Attyl, in "The Demon God," directed by series star David Carradine, on "Kung Fu," Friday, Dec. 13.

Christmas Night watch

By Vashti McKenzie

Young actress Lisa Lucas has the courage of her convictions on everything from her diet to her acting. Lisa, now 14, started her career at five, as the voice in a chicken toy commercial, and won an award for it.

Lisa plays a precocious tomboy living in a small Nebraska town of the 1940's in "The House Without a Christmas Tree," family holiday drama special to be rebroadcast Friday, Dec. 13.

A seemingly sedate Victorian house is the setting for some hectic hijinx in "The Borrowers," the Peabody and Emmy Awards-winning "Hallmark Hall of Fame" Christmas season special which stars Eddie Albert, Tammy Grimes and Dame Joan Anderson. It will be on Friday, Dec. 13

That out-Scrooging Seussian Scrooge, the mini-hearted Grinch, known for the arsenic in his soul, reemerges from Theodor Geisel's (Dr. Suess) unique literary menagerie to try again his elongated green hand at his annual grand larceny, on "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," acclaimed animated special, to be rebroadcast on Friday, Dec. 13.

A young bruin embarks on an odyssey in search of Christmas in "The Bear Who Slept Through Christmas," a half-hour animated holiday season special on Monday, Dec. 16.

Walter and Maud throw a Christmas Eve party for Walter's employees — and the benevolent host turns to Scrooge, on "Maude," Monday, Dec. 16.

While Terry and Chris are on Chirsmtas Eve patrol, responding to a series of calls typical of the Yuletide season, Mike and Jill are at home, trying to bring cheer to Jill's six-year-old niece whose parents have recently separated, in "Blue Christmas" on "The Rookies," Monday, Dec. 16.

"Christmas in Bethlehem with Pat Boone," Sunday, Dec. 15, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Enoch Pratt

Tues., Dec. 17

"The Ascent of Man: The Drive For Power" (Part 8), film at the Central Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 18

"The Eye of the Storm," film at the Pratt-Library's Hollins-Payson Branch, 6:00 p.m.

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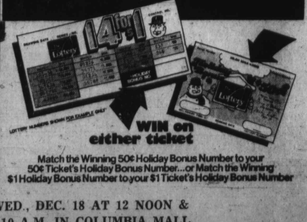

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NEXT DRAWINGS: WED., DEC. 18 AT 12 NOON & THURS., DEC. 19 AT 10 A.M. IN COLUMBIA MALL