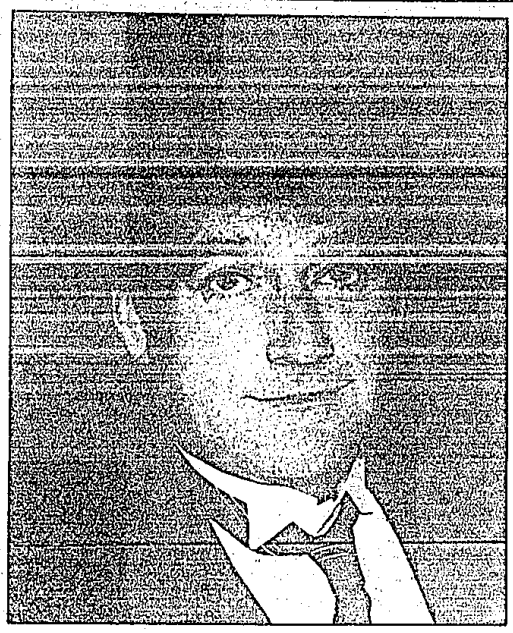
STREET CRACKS



Blake Clark is considered the Vietnam veteran's comedian.

His style of comedy is from the front lines

By Shirlee Rose Iden
staff writer

You don't just get to be Blake Clark, the Vietnam veterans' comedian without a battle, the comedian says.

"It was a real uphill battle and I struggled for every inch."

Clark will perform Wednesday through Saturday, Aug. 23-26, at Chaplin's East in Fraser.

A Georgia native, he always wanted to be a comedian, but was deterred by other obligations. "First, I had to go to Vietnam and defend my country, then I came home and met my wife, married, and had my two boys."

Before he put on the khaki uniform and shipped out to Vietnam, Clark only dreamed of a career in comedy. "I had a lot of different careers. Then I did community theatre in Macon, Georgia and I loved it. I wanted to make the move."

Clark's wife, whom he married 17 years ago, became the mover and shaker when she told him, impatiently: "Either do it or shut up."

SO IT was the Clark Family moved to Los Angeles nine years ago, and he struggled and inched to get to where he wanted to be, in show business.

"Some say you can't go to school to be a comedian," he said. "Actually, you can go to school, but you can't learn to be funny."

'Some say you can't go to school to be a comedian. Actually, you can go to school, but you can't learn to be funny.'

— Blake Clark comedian

Without hesitation, Clark says he is his own favorite comedian.

"But I like Robin Williams and Jay Leno and some others. I also like Roseanne Barr and Paula Palenstone, but the others, being males, are my role models. In terms of female comedians, two things I'm sick of hearing about are PMS and dating. There's got to be something more important in people's experience."

Clark, deeply affected by his experiences in the Vietnam War, says that every day when he wakes up he thinks about how fortunate he is to be American and living happily with his family.

"I NEVER EXPECTED to be living the last 18 years of my life. I'm the luckiest guy there is. Most comedians are not really happy, but I have a great personal life," he said.

"Vietnam was very tough to go through, but it could have been worse. I got through it without having hand to hand combat or guys dying all around me.

"They died, all right, but it could have been worse.

"Vietnam taught me to question everything. I had been taught 'thou shalt not kill' and over there it was supposed to be OK to kill because it was for your country."

The comedian trained in several comedy workshops including The Comedy Store Workshop. A master of dialects, he can do improvisations in Cajun, black, cockney, French, Arabic, Italian, Japanese, red neck, southern, Australian, Bronx, and more.

Blake has a long list of credits from the past nine years including television appearances on National Lampoon's Hot Flashes; Remington Steele; George Carlin's HBO Special; M*A*S*H*; Johnny Carson Show, David Letterman; Merv Griffin; and others.

Ask him who he is and Blake Clark will tell you: "American by birth and southern by the grace of God.

Blake Clark will appear Wednesday through Saturday, Aug. 23-26, at Chaplin's East, 34244 Groesbeck, Fraser. For information, call 792-1902.

COMEDY CLUBS

Here are some listings of comedy clubs in our area. To let us know who is appearing at your club, send the information to: Comedy Listings, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

● BEA'S KITCHEN

Orlando Reyes will perform with Downtown Tony Brown and Marv Welshwill perform Friday-Saturday, Aug. 25-26, at Bea's Comedy Kitchen, 541 Larned, Detroit. Showtimes are 9 p.m. and 11:15 p.m. For information, call 961-2581.

● CHAPLIN'S EAST

Blake Clark will appear Wednesday-Saturday, Aug. 23-26, at Chaplin's East, 34244 Groesbeck, Fraser. Showtimes are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 8:30 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 792-1902.

● CHAPLIN'S PLYMOUTH

Al April along with Michael Casper and Gavin Jerome will appear Thursday, Aug. 24, at Chaplin's Plymouth in the Plymouth Radisson, 14707 Northville Road, Plymouth. For information, call 454-4680.

● CHAPLIN'S WEST

Al Katz will appear Tuesday-Saturday, Aug. 22-26, at Chaplin's West, 16890 Telegraph, south of Six Mile, Detroit. For information, call 533-8866.

● HOLLY HOTEL

Barbara Scott will perform with Marc Sanford and Jenny McNulty Thursday-Saturday Aug. 24-26, at Holly Hotel, 110 Battle Alley, Holly. Show times are 8:30 p.m. with additional 10.30 p.m. shows on Friday and Saturday. For information, call 634-1891.

● JOEY'S LIVONIA

Darwin Hines will perform Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 24-26, at Joey's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Showtimes are 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday. For reservations, call 261-0555.

● LOONEY BIN

S.R.O. (Something Really Outrageous) will perform Friday-Saturday, Aug. 25-26, at the Wolverine Lounge and Looney Bin Comedy Club, 1655 Glengary, Walled Lake. Showtimes are 9 p.m. Friday and 8 and 10:15 p.m. Saturday. For information, call 669-9374.

● LOONEY BIN TOO

Tim Butterfield will perform Friday-Saturday, Aug. 25-26, at The Looney Bin at The Roxy, I-94 and Haggerty. Showtimes are 9 p.m. Friday and 8 and 10 p.m. Saturday. There's a $5 cover charge. For information, call 699-1829.

● MISS KITTY'S

Chuck King will appear with Andrew Ford Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 24-26, at Miss Kitty's Comedy Club, Long Branch Restaurant, 595 N. Lapeer Road, Oxford. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 628-6500.

● MAINSTREET

Peter Berman will perform Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 23-24, and Ross Bennett will perform on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 25-26, at Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-9080.

● RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Richard Jeni will appear Tuesday-Saturday, Aug. 22-26, at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, 2593 Woodward, Berkley. Showtimes are 8:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and 8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For reservations, call 542-9900.

ADVERTISEMENT

WINNERS CIRCLE

BY LAURIE KIPP

Daily Games have been a major factor in the success of the Michigan Lottery since 1977. As a result, many readers have expressed interest in learning more about them.

Q. When Did Three Games Start In Michigan?

A. The Daily 3 Game began on July 6, 1977, and the Daily 4 on October 4, 1981.

Q. Are There A Lot Of Winners?

A. Both games have thousands of winners on each of the six weekly drawing nights. There have been more than 15 million winners in the Daily 3, for example. Over one million of these occurred during the first nine months of the current fiscal year.

Q. How Much Can Be Won?

A. A single wager in the Daily 3 can win up to $500 depending on whether the wager is straight, boxed or a combination. The Daily 4 has a $5,000 top prize. Of course, players holding a number of tickets with the winning number collect duplicate prizes.

Q. How Do I Collect If I Win?

A. Retailers selling these games can pay all prizes up to $600 immediately after the drawings are completed at 7:30 each night. Larger amounts can be collected Monday through Friday at any Lottery regional office.

Q. If Players Get Lucky, Couldn't The Prize Total Be More Than The Amount Played?

A. Yes. Between the two Daily Games, this has happened about 48 times in each of the last several years. The Lottery pays the full amount no matter how much it won.

Q. What's Been The Record Payout So Far?

A. On June 10, 1986, the Daily 3 paid out $4,963,860 on the number 123. This was equal to 469 percent of the amount played that day.

Q. What's The Daily 4 Record?

A. On October 15, 1986, the Daily 4 number, 1028, awarded $2,757,904, or 668 percent of the amount played.

Q. What Numbers Can I Play?

A. In the Daily 3, any number from 000 to 999, and in the Daily 4, 0000 through 9999. Your retailer can also give you an "Easy Pick" in which the Lottery computer makes a random number selection for you.

Q. Can I See The Drawings?

A. Live Daily 3 and 4 drawings are now telecast on a nine-station TV network on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 7:29 p.m. and the results are announced on Wednesdays during the Super Lotto drawing. On Saturday nights, the Daily 3 and 4 drawings are conducted live during the Game & Fortune show, between 7:30-8:00 p.m. The live drawings are also heard on 11 radio stations around the state.

Q. The Drawing Equipment Looks New. Is It?

A. New Daily game drawing machines, similar to those used for Zinger drawings, were just introduced on July 24, 1989. This permits live drawings of both the Daily 3 and 4 to be seen and heard in the one-minute time slot formerly used by the Daily 3 drawing.

For submitting the first question leading to this column, Therese Newcomb of Roseville will receive 50 "Game & Fortune" tickets. Note: When duplicate questions are received, that with the earliest date stamp upon arrival at Lottery Central wins. In case of a tie, the winner is selected by random drawing.

If you have a question not yet covered in these monthly columns, send it to "Winners Circle," Michigan Lottery, TVA Box 28077, Lansing, MI 48909.

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MichCon-UW Torch Drive Run Walk

Celebrating 40 Years Of Caring

Sunday, September 17, 1989
HART PLAZA, DETROIT

DISTANCES AND TIMES:
5k Run (3.1 miles) — 9:00 a.m.
5k Walk (3.1 miles) — 9:05 a.m.
10k Run (6.2 miles) — 10:00 a.m.
400 Meter Run (1/4 mile) — 11:30 a.m.
(Families with children under 12 only)

LOCATION: Hart Plaza at Woodward and Jefferson in downtown Detroit.

COURSE: Starts near the Guardian Building at Congress and Griswold and finishes on Hart Plaza. Course maps will be sent to all pre-registered runners in their entry packet.

AWARDS: 10K: *Top Male:* $1,000 U.S. Savings Bond, *Top Female:* $1,000 U.S. Savings Bond. *Top Male Wheeler:* $500 U.S. Savings Bond, *Top Female Wheeler:* $500 U.S. Savings Bond. *Top Male Master:* $500 U.S. Savings Bond, *Top Female Master:* $500 U.S. Savings Bond. The top three finishers will win special commemorative plates. Medals will be awarded to the following finishers: Top 200 men and top 200 women, 39 years and under; top 75 men and 50 women, 40 years and older; top ten wheelers, and to all runners 60 years and older.

AWARDS: 5K RUN: Special commemorative plates to the top three male and female finishers. Medals to the top 100 men and women finishers and the top ten wheelers.

AWARDS: 5K FITNESS WALK: This is not a race. Commemorative badges and certificates to all finishers.

OTHER AWARDS: Special award(s) to the five organizations with the most participants in all three events.

SPECIAL GIFT: A MichCon-United Foundation 40th Anniversary T-shirt will be given to all entrants.

ENTRY FEE: $8.00 (non-refundable) if postmarked by September 7, 1989. $3.00 for children 12 and under. All entries after September 7th are $10.00 for adults and $5.00 for children, with late registration *only* taking place at Hart Plaza on Sunday, September 17th.

Checks should be made payable to MichCon UW Torch Drive Run Walk. Do not send cash.

Mail to: UW Torch Drive Run Walk
500 Griswold Street, 7th Floor
Detroit, MI 48226

NOTE: Race number and packet will be mailed one week prior to the event. All entries after September 7th are $10.00 and will only take place on Hart Plaza after 7:30 a.m. on September 17, 1989.

MICHCON-UNITED WAY TORCH DRIVE RUN/WALK — OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

ENTRY FEE: $8.00 (All entries after September 7th are $10.00)
$3.00 for children 12 and under. (All entries after September 7th are $5.00).
COMPANY AFFILIATION ____
UNION LOCAL ____ INTERNATIONAL ____

NAME (Print) ____
ADDRESS ____
CITY ____ STATE ____ ZIP ____
PHONE ____ AGE (only if 10.00) ____ SEX M ____ F ____
EVENTS YOU ARE RUNNING: 10K ☐ 5K Run ☐ 5K Walk ☐ 400 Meter ☐
If running on a team, list the name ____ (Each team member must submit a separate entry form. Team captain must submit a complete list of team entrants by September 7, 1989)

WAIVER: To be signed by the athlete, or parent/guardian if under 18.
For and in consideration of my participation in the MichCon UW Torch Drive Run Walk, I waive and release all rights and claims for damages I might have against the sponsors: The Michigan Consolidated Gas Company, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, The City of Detroit, The Motor City Striders, The Road Runners of America, the Athletics Congress, or other officials for injuries or damages sustained by my participation in said run. I intend to include all sponsors, named and nameless.

ATHLETE ____ PARENT/GUARDIAN (if under 18) ____
Entry cannot be accepted if Waiver is not signed. Make checks payable to: MichCon-United Way Torch Drive Run Walk
Return to: United Way Torch Drive Run Walk, 500 Griswold Street, Detroit, Michigan 48226
NOTE: The above listed entry fee is to help defray costs for this event. These fees do not represent a donation to United Way for Southeastern Michigan.