

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, December 31, 1987 O&E

(C)JEC

upcoming things to do

Deadline for the Upcoming calendar is one week ahead of publication. Items must be received by Thursday, to be considered for publication the following Thursday. Send to: Ethel Simmons, Entertainment Editor, the Observer & Eccentric, P.O. Box 3503, Birmingham 48012.

● SESAME STREET

Jim Henson's world-famous flock



Andrew Mark, recent magicians-convention contest winner, performs Strolling Magic in Whispers Lounge at the Novi Hilton.

of fuzz and feathers comes to Cobo Arena in Detroit on Wednesday, Jan. 27. Sesame Street Live's new stage show, "Big Bird Goes Hollywood," runs through Sunday, Feb. 7. The musical features songs, dancing and fantastic adventures including a jungle trip, a space voyage, an encounter with evil monsters and a tribute to Abbott and Costello. To charge tickets by phone call 423-6566. For general information call 567-6000.

● CLOSE-UP MAGIC

Andrew Mark of Livonia has been named first place winner of close-up magic at "Indy Magic," a national convention in Indianapolis. Andrew the Magician, as he is called, performs strolling magic from 5-7 p.m. Mondays-Fridays in Whispers Lounge at the Novi Hilton.

● CONCERT SERIES

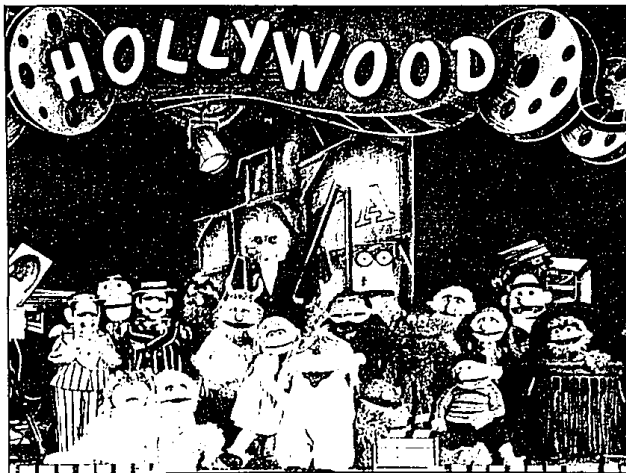
Buddy Budson and Ursula Walker will appear from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, in the free concert series at Center Court of Somerset Mall in Troy. Other performers will include Phil Marcus Essex, Jan. 10; George Benson Jazz Trio, Jan. 17; Paul Burns, Jan. 24; and Eddie DeSantis Quartet, Jan. 31.

● CIRCUIT RIDER

Bob Jones University's motion picture "Shelley" will be shown at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve, at the Bethel Baptist Temple in Livonia. "Shelley," a screenplay written by Tim Rogers, is based on the book "The Saint of the Wilderness" by Jess Carr. The film deals with the life of an itinerant preacher, Robert Sayers Shelley, living in the 1800s. For more information call 525-3664 or 261-9276.

● NEW MUSIC

Ten New Music groups will perform five hours of live music in a benefit Saturday, Jan. 2, at Saint Andrew's Hall in Detroit. Master of ceremonies for the evening is Greg St. James, host of WRIF's "Rock Cafe." All funds collected will be given to the parents of a baby with a rare blood disease, helping them to



"Big Bird Goes Hollywood" starring the gang 27, at Cobo Arena in Detroit. The show will run from Sesame Street opens Wednesday, Jan. 27, through Sunday, Feb. 7.

cover travel expenses to and from Saint Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis. Admission is \$6, \$3 before 9 p.m. Doors open at 8 p.m., first act begins at 9 p.m. Call 287-8090 for more information.

● ICE SPECTACULAR

The sixth annual Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular will be held Thursday, Jan. 7, to Sunday, Jan. 17. More than 400 ice carvings will grace the streets. Visitors may

wander through the sculptures 24 hours a day, with the best viewing often at night. The event is free to the public, including the ice carving contests that take place in Kellogg Park on Saturdays. For more information contact the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce at 453-1540.

● 'RIB-OUT' DINNER

WXYZ-AM talk show host John McCulloch will be roasted in a "Rib-Out" dinner and fund-raiser for

Focus: HOPE from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Blue Sky Bar-B-Que in Southfield. Seats are \$15 per person and include a choice of entrees: barbecued ribs, chicken or seafood. For more information about attending or participating as one of the individuals to submit and read a roast, call 352-7060.

Please turn to Page 6

Growth is explosive of California wine industry

Browsing through a used bookstore recently I found a copy of the first publication of what for many years to come was the bible of the California wine scene: Sonnet's "Guide to California Wines, 1968."

The publication has now been superseded by the Wine Spectator's Wine Maps, printed annually. However, in its time it was the book to carry when touring wine country. Complete with maps to the wineries, its publication charted the growth of an industry, from its beginnings in 1968, for us all.

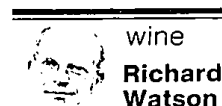
My purchase is a marvel, less for what it contains than for what it does not. Its descriptions of the various regions of the California wine industry show a virtually virgin field, certainly when judged by what has happened there in a scant 20 years.

Having it — alongside the most

recent Wine Maps release — in front of me makes it impossible not to compare the then and the now. It will be instructive to play a numbers game here for a while to demonstrate quantitatively the absolutely explosive nature of the era through which we have just passed.

It is appropriate to recall that the major wine growing regions of Europe have been in production in the same locations for centuries. There are reports in Germany and France of vineyard activity along the Rhine and in Bordeaux dating back into the 1100s, more than 800 years.

IN CALIFORNIA we are talking about 20 years. Of course, the industry began a hundred years before that but it did not become a serious producer of quality wines as a commercial entity for more than a handful of producers before about 1968.



wine
Richard
Watson

The numbers that follow are based on counts appearing in publications of the industry and are estimates only. Exact counts at any one time are impossible to come by — such is the nature of this business.

The greatest growth in numbers, though not percentage, comes from the Napa and Sonoma regions. In 1968 Sunset reported 18 wineries in Napa. They were: Beaulieu, Beringer, Carbone (defunct), Christian Brothers, Freemark Abbey, Helix,

Ingleneok, Kornell, Charles Krug, Martini, Mayacemas, F.J. Miller (defunct), Mondavi, Nibelini, Schramsberg, Souverain, Stony Hill and Sutter Home.

Today the Spectator lists 145 wineries. And there are a handful more that elected not to be listed, and at least two more opened their doors recently. The sheer volume is astounding.

It is also of interest to note that only two of the original 18 have

failed and one, Souverain, has evolved into a new level of operation. That is industrial stability.

THE SCENE IS similar in Sonoma. There were again 18 wineries in 1968. They were: Buena Vista, Hanzell, Pagan Bros. (defunct), Sebastiani, Colony, Valley of the Moon, Foppiano, Cambiaso, Kerbel, Robert Lasdin (defunct), Martini and Pratt, Mazzoni (gone), Nervo, Pedroncelli, Rege (defunct) Simi and Windsor (now called Sonoma and/or Rodney Strong).

Today, there are 113 reported by the Spectator plus at least seven that I know of not included. Surely not Napa-sized growth but extremely vital by most standards.

There are numbers that permit three other regional comparisons. The San Luis Obispo area from the

Monterey border on the north down to Santa Barbara had four wineries 20 years ago. Today the number is 50 and rising rapidly.

The Foothills area, covering El Dorado, Amador and Calaveras counties in the glorious foothills on the eastern slopes of the Sierra-Nevada, has grown from two wineries to the present 31 counting the group the Spectator reports, and three it does not.

Finally, Mendocino and Lake counties to the north of Napa and Sonoma respectively did not even warrant mention as areas in 1968 because there was but one winery operating there then, Parducci. Today, the two counties boast 38 wineries.

Enough numbers. The point of all this is that there has been a remarkable growth in California in a dramatically brief time.

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