

Kids Korner

Juggling Syncopation Provides Energetic Entertainment For Banquet

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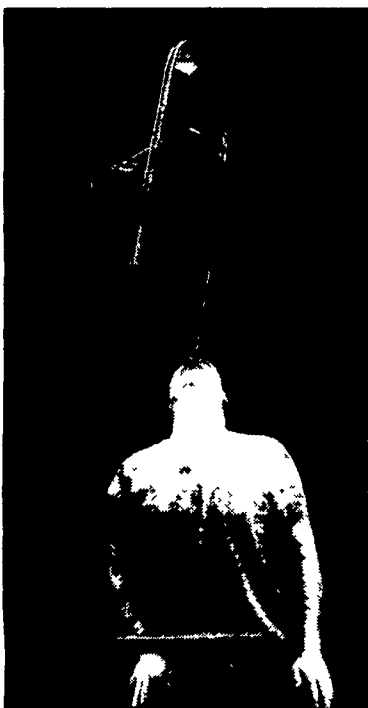
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — At the recent Farm and Home Center Foundation's annual meeting, Mark Cunningham, Phil Hershey, and Drew Brubaker provided entertainment — dubbed "Juggling Syncopation" — for the audience. Here are a few pictures from their, not only coordinated, but also comical performance.



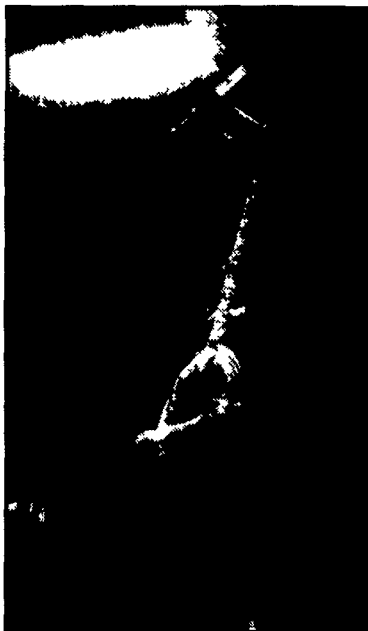
Cunningham eats an apple as he juggles it, in addition to a machete and a flaming torch.



Trays and cups balanced on top of each other also pose no problem for Cunningham.



Can he top this? Mark Cunningham balances a folding chair.



The only way to do better than a folding chair is to balance a stepladder, which Cunningham also accomplished.



Juggling doesn't mean standing in one place. The entertainers shift positions often in this maneuver.

'PawsAbilities' Benefits Service Dogs

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — What are all the dogs barking about? PawsAbilities 2003! The annually impressive event is expected to draw dog-lovers and their furry friends to the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg on March 15 and 16 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. to support Susquehanna Service Dogs.

Susquehanna Service Dogs raises, trains and places service and hearing dogs with people who have physical disabilities, offering an opportunity for each person to lead a more independent life.

PawsAbilities is a weekend devoted to canine companions and their human friends. Families with pets, show professionals, trainers and dog enthusiasts are encouraged to attend for fun-filled events such as Dog Olympics (games are open to all dogs), obedience show-and-go, ability fun match, breed fun match, and many other activities.

Seminars will be offered throughout the weekend on such topics as teaching your dog tricks, teaching basic manners, preparing for breed competition and using positive reinforcement (clicker training) in training your dog, just to name a few. Availability is limited so preregistration is encouraged. Other events include a dog costume contest, a parade, pet photography, dog wash, Service Dog demonstrations, and search and rescue techniques.

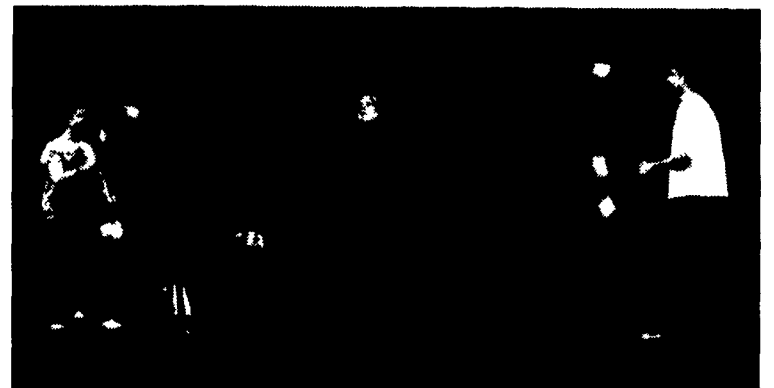
Tickets purchased prior to March 7, cost \$6 for adults (13 and older) and \$3 for children ages 4-12, children under 4 are admitted for free. Tickets purchased after March 7 (including at the door) will cost \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 4-12. Each ticket covers admission for both days of PawsAbilities 2003! For ticket purchases or more information, please call (717) 671-7813 or online at www.keystonehumanservice.org/ssd.



Fore! Keeping balls aloft as they are golfed over to the jugglers was part of the routine.



They bounce pass the ball during this move.



During their call for help from the audience, the trio solicited help from the unsuspecting reporter (Lancaster Farming's Michelle Kunjappu) who was taking pictures in the front row.

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick

Dear Twig: You answer a lot of stink-related questions. Here's one for you: What's the tree that drops all those awful, stinky fruit?

You're walking through a park
You smell something terribly stinky
Maybe it's vomit
Maybe it's something an elephant left
Either way it's something you'd rather not smell,
let alone walk near or step in
What is it?
It's [drum roll, trumpet fanfare] the nasty, awful,
smelly, foul, retch-inducing ripe fruit of a female ginkgo tree
Woohoo!

Now turn and run the other way
Ripe ginkgo fruit, the size of a gumball and pinkish-tan, are chock full of butyric acid. Butyric acid is the chemical that gives rancid butter and, yes, vomit their amazing repulsive stench. The fruit fall in autumn, rot or get smushed, and people start to sniff and scream. (Touching the fruit is no picnic, either. They have the same chemicals as poison ivy!)

Ginkgoes are tough. So they're commonly planted in cities. But folks have wised up and now plant mostly males, which, thankfully, don't produce fruit. We're all breathing easier.

Butyriciously,
Twig

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