

'Pop' Anderson Retired Headliner

At 69 Years . . .

Former Circus Performer Does Contortion Act for Exercise

By LAVINA NUGEN
Any little boy or girl loves to go to the circus and see the many exciting acts per-

formed by the acrobats, high wire performers, or by the clowns. The Ramsey family, who comes to call.

Richard A. Anderson, grandfather to Marlene and Donald Ramsey and their little ones, Debra and Don, is a most exciting guest to have call on them.
For back in the early 1900's, young Richard Anderson was known as Query in a vaudeville act that toured the United States.
He was 18 years old and performed two acts, one a

contortion and one a trap-eze. This first experience was a sad one for young Richard though, because the circus went broke and folded, leaving him with only a few cents in his pocket.
But the young never give up easily, he was soon lined up with another vaudeville troupe, and performed the rest of the summer and winter.

The following season, he worked with the Hagenback-Wallace Circus, a moving city of almost 100 railroad cars.
UNIQUE COSTUMES
In the Hagenback-Wallace Circus, Anderson began his unusual act of dressing in unique costumes. He was a frog in his contortion act. At this time he also did an act with the Van Diemen Trio.

In 1910 and '11, he became a member of the Al G. Field Minstrels, made up of 50 men, who were known as a road show company. He worked as a frog in an act called "Bottom of the Sea." The crew traveled in their own railroad cars and did one day stands with the exception of four weeks each at Chicago, Detroit, New Orleans and Denver.

Romance entered young Richard Anderson's life during this season and he and Clara Grandy were married when he was 20 and she just 16. Now the act became known as Query and Grandy with vaudeville as their main line of work.

In 1913 and '14, Query and Grandy worked as a trio with a performer known as Zelta joining the act.

In 1923 Mrs. Anderson died, leaving her husband with two small children to raise. While he continued with a solo act, relatives took over the care of the boy and girl. He was booked solid at theaters and fairs.

TRIO ACT
But in 1925 he joined two other men and the trio was called "Jungleland." With this act, they became headliners in the vaudeville world and at fairs. Their costumes were fantastic in the creation of dragons, spiders, skeletons, snakes, monkeys, frogs and zulus.

Success was attained in the theatrical world with unusual contortion acts the trio contrived, but Anderson's desire to be with his children became stronger as the years on the road became longer without them.

After deciding to give up the road to fame while he was a headliner, Richard Anderson found it necessary to learn another kind of vocation to support his family.

The barber trade appealed to him and after attending a barber college in Chicago, he left Illinois with his son, Melvin, 8 years old, and his six-year-old daughter, Wanda. California was the destination for the Andersons. When



CIRCUS PERFORMER
Richard Anderson at 18 Years of Age

he and his little family arrived in the sunny state in 1927, they settled in Inglewood.

In 1931, Myrtle Minton entered the life of Richard Anderson, and soon she became his wife. Mrs. Anderson had two children by her first marriage, Henry, who became the father of Marlene Ramsey; and a daughter, Marguarite.

KNOWN AS "POP"
Now at the age of 69, "Pop" Anderson, as the former contortionist is known to his friends and neighbors, is still able to do the many feats of his youth in the vaudeville days.

"In fact, he is likely to do one of the acts, any time, anywhere," stated his granddaughter, Marlene Ramsey. He really startled my husband when we were going together. But you just have to love "Pop." Her eyes told how much he means to this lucky granddaughter.

The Ramseys of 4130 W. 174th St. are rightfully proud of grandfather Richard Anderson — and grandmother too, of course!

Baptist Church Sets Christmas Day Program

The Annual Christmas Music Program will be presented this Sunday at 7:30 p.m. The presentation of a full hour will be presented by the church choir. It will be the first time when all the choirs will be utilized in presenting the Christmas music. Program will be under the direction of Mr. Edwin T. Isbell, Minister of Music and Education.

The Pastor Robert A. Wells will speak at the 8:30 and 10:50 services on the subject, "The God of All." This is the second in a series of messages on "Why Christmas anyway?"

The Lomita, Congregation is preparing a Christmas pageant to be presented on Christmas night. "We truly want to honor Christ on this day set aside to remember His coming to earth," the pastor stated.

DINNER, GIFT EXCHANGE SLATED

Torrance Royal Neighbors will hold a catered dinner at 6:30 p.m., December 20 at the Woman's Clubhouse, 1422 Engracia Ave.

A gift exchange will follow the dinner.

Mrs. Fred Baker is in charge of reservations and they may be placed by calling DA 6-0779.



"POP" ANDERSON
At 69 doing the same act of his vaudeville days
Photo by Bob Wintermyer

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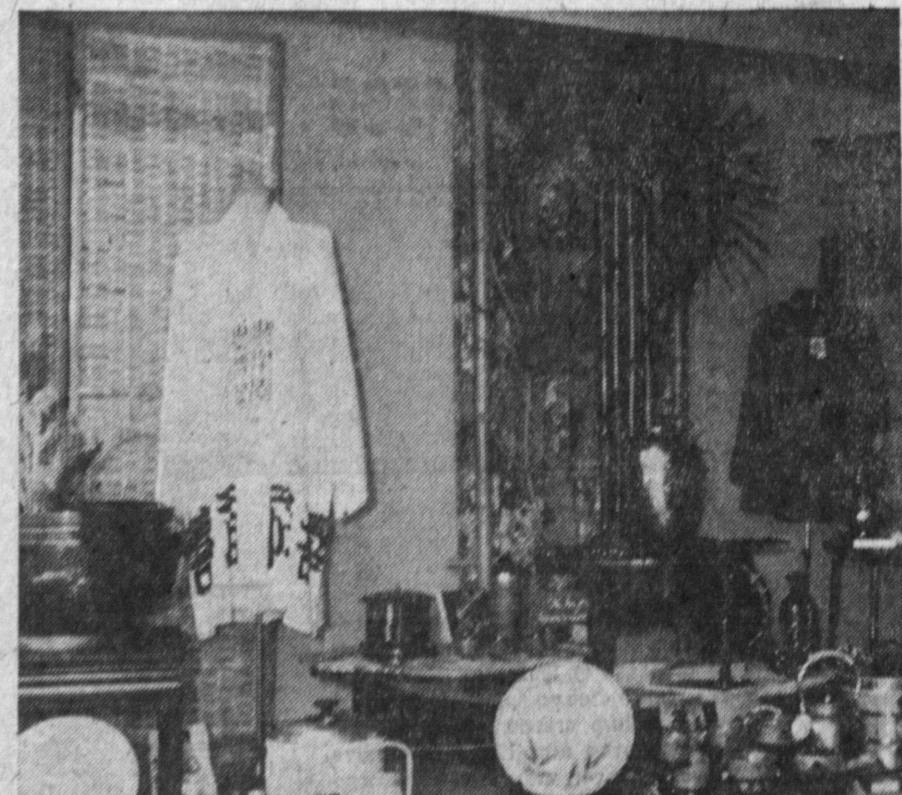
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