



Pete Disa for The Pittsburgh Press

Jeremy Ivcic, 5, of Eighty Four feeds a baby goat, one of a variety of animals in his family's petting zoo that will be part of Bassettown '85.

Kids' stuff

Animals, characters, puppets the stars

By Judith Greer

For The Pittsburgh Press

Children can participate in everything from fantasy to nature at Bassettown '85.

Featured this year are walking, talking characters such as the Pittsburgh Steelers Terrible Fan, a magic show with Ronald McDonald, a puppet theater and a petting zoo.

Petting zoo

Children can visit goats, lambs, pigs, chicks, ducks and a miniature horse Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the parking lot near the square.

Steve and Jan Ivcic of Eighty Four, Greene County, own the animals, which they have raised from their births. When the animals were born, the Ivcics kept the newborns away from their mothers and fed them their mothers' milk with a bottle. This rearing, Mrs. Ivcic said, teaches the animals to associate people with food.

"Then, you'll have an animal that will love you for life."

Children will see the Ivcics' newborn, dehorned goats, such as Pretty

Paula, Betty Hoop and Sad Sally, which has a crooked nose and crooked legs.

The miniature horses — Pebbles, Bam Bam and Trouble — are 1½-year-old male stallions that will not grow more than 34 inches by age 3.

All the animals have names, and they each have a different personality, Mrs. Ivcic said.

For example, there is Hot Lips the Lamb, named because she "is always searching for that bottle" when fed. And, there is Yosemite Sam, the pig, called by Mrs. Ivcic "the craziest pig" she has ever owned because "he used to jump up and down all the time screaming, just like that little (cartoon) character."

Children can visit the petting zoo, which travels around the area, for 50 cents. And, they can purchase a feeding cup for the same amount.

The Terrible Fan

The Terrible Fan will roam the grounds, welcoming everyone to the festival from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday.

The 7½-foot character, which sports The Terrible Towel, a 3-foot-wide tassel cap and size 25 saddle shoes, will extend his foot-long hands to embrace children with hugs.

"Kids look at my size and are sometimes tentative, but then they just really get involved with it. It's just a lovable, approachable character. Because of the size and height

"... I do anything — I twist, I do the Mashed Potato; I break dance, and most of it is spontaneous."

— The Terrible Fan

"It's a sort of chemistry going on when you meet people and you get them to sing and dance with you. And I do anything — I twist, I do the Mashed Potato; I break dance, and most of it is spontaneous."

The Terrible Fan will travel to Bassettown in The Terrible Van, which features artist Larry Snow's air-brushed painting honoring the Steelers' 50th year anniversary in 1983. The painting highlights decades of players, right through the Super Bowl seasons.

Ronald McDonald

Ronald McDonald will be starring in his magic show, "The Big Red Shoe Revue."

Children with the biggest smiles will be selected to help Ronald with his tricks, said Michelle Sherman, a McDonald's community representative who helped book the show for Bassettown.

Ronald's stage will fold out from his van at 2 p.m. Friday. After the show, he will give away special

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