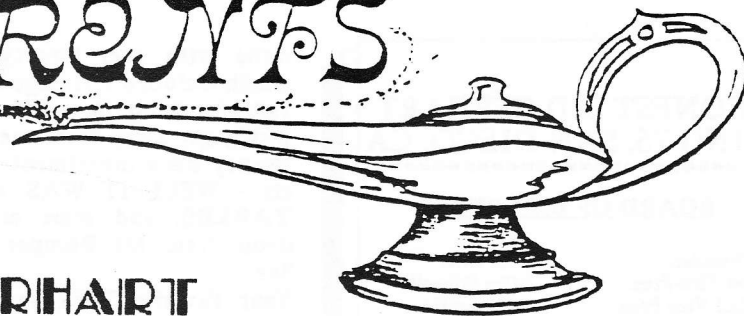


MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

September 1988

IBM INTEREST IS REALLY PICKING UP IN S. DIEGO

WOW! WHAT A MEETING WE HAD ON AUGUST 15TH - (See inside.) - We have fifty five dues-paid members as of this mailing, and another twenty six past or potential members yet to be heard from. We had at least a dozen folks join at the meeting alone. **DON'T MISS OUT** on a fun magic experience - **WE'RE GETTING MORE DYNAMIC ALL THE TIME!**

AND HOW DO YOU LIKE MAGICURRENTS SO FAR? ARE WE GETTING FANCY - OR WHAT? And with the great support from all of you it'll get better 'n better! Comments are always welcome and **DESIRED**. We have **Frank Syren** to thank for this improvement over last month's very busy, three column, patch and paste effort. What you are reading now is the result of his time, format ideas, and computer work in molding this month's issue into a much better letter. **NOT ONLY DID HE WIN** the *Name The Newsletter* contest; he won the job as official **PUBLISHER** too! Thanks, Frank - couldn't do it without you.

This month you'll find a new feature by Frank - his idea, his research and his write up. It's called *Personality of the Month*.

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE? Drop us a note or mention your ideas, likes and dislikes at the next meeting on September nineteenth. Meanwhile - don't forget the Ring 76/98 Exchange Dinner Show on September 19th. - (More inside.) - By the time you get this it will be very close, so take a minute and make your reservations **NOW!**

AUGUST MEETING

...what you missed

WOW! (Again) Twenty-seven members plus twenty-four guests and fifteen performers (plus three more for whom we didn't have time) for the first event in our new home, the La Mesa American Legion Hall. The word is getting out, and the response has been terrific. Four of our guests (members of the North County Magician's Guild) joined on-the-spot, and

several previous Ring 76'ers took a new look and promptly renewed their memberships -SO, by the end of the meeting we had grown to about thirty seven dues paid, card-carrying members **PRESENT! NOT BAD!** We are delighted to have **Frank Herman (Skipper Frank)** back with us, plus **Jack Evans** (President of the North County Group), local working pro **Joe (Mystic) McGrievy**, Magigal Vi Freeland, and old friend **James Alburger**, author of *Get Your Act Together*. Now the rest of you come back too.

(Continued on page 2)



Prez's Mezzage

Most of you should have received my special letter by now. It's my way of saying thanks for entrusting your RING to me for a year, and to let you know, personally, that I seek and solicit your advice, comments, suggestions and general inputs. After all, it's *your* Ring. I'm only going to steer it for a while. I need *YOU* to **HELP** me with ideas for Meetings, Themes, Special Events; things we might want to do regarding the coming convention, and how we can not only recruit new members, but bring back the previous ones. I very much want to hear from you and need your input. Call me. Send me your suggestions direct, or via JP; but by all means **COMMUNICATE!** *AND*, above all, **PARTICIPATE!**

HONEST SID GERHART RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Dick Dale
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MAGICURRENTS

Editor	J.P. Jackson
Publisher	Frank Syren

AUGUST MEETING (continued)

The short business meeting highlighted the tremendous contribution of member **Frank Syren**. Frank has some great ideas for improving **MAGICURRENTS**, and a beautiful desk-top-publishing program which will do incredible things for us.

The Orange County Magic Club's August Swap Meet was announced, and travel arrangements to the September Ring 76/Ring 96 Exchange Banquet/Dinner Show were discussed.

Joe Bertuzzi, California Territorial Vice President, took the floor and shared some of the thoughts and tentative plans for the up-coming Sixty First IBM Convention in July '89, stressing that the more early registrations we get, the better the entertainment budget. He also presented several ideas for local Ring support of the convention and announced a visit by the Convention Committee in January. Joe fielded many questions about the convention, and I promptly ran out of Convention Applications during the break. **REMEMBER** - the Convention fee is sixty dollars for members and eighty five dollars for non-members (which includes IBM membership and a year's subscription to the linking ring). Send your application and check to **IBM CONVENTION 89, P.O. Box 89, Bluffton, OH 45817**.

Joe then took a moment to announce the three newest IBM Territorial Representatives from our area and presented formal certificates to **George Edwards**, **Jim Riley**, and **Mike Stilwell**. Three perfect choices since all are avid magic supporters and dedicated IBM'ers.

Mike Stilwell conducted our monthly

raffle with over twenty great prizes which included a vintage bottle of Napa Valley's finest (a visitor type prize which got away from me in spite of a twenty buck investment in raffle tickets - **WELL IT WAS A COLLECTABLE!**), and some of the newest items from his Bumper & Company line.

Your Favorite Trick or Routine night entertainment started with **SEA WORLD** magician **Steve Sloan** doing **Quadriflex**, a mismade folding bill effect which he did cleanly and to perfection. Steve also gave us a nice mini-lecture on paddle trick adaptations, which he uses to great success with children and adults, on the street on a daily basis. He employs **Craft-Stix**, felt tip markers and glue to create on-the-spot paddle tricks using topical themes from video games, Saturday morning TV shows, movies and breakfast show commercials. Another example of fresh insights applied to old props. He drives the kids nuts with his **COOTIE** paddle, which he can change almost hourly as he goes his rounds at **SEA WORLD**. **Joe Mystic** did a beautiful version of **Bottleneck**, a bottled silk escape which is over twenty five years old and not seen that often. Joe uses an extra large drinking glass, vice the **Hotte** bottle, and two large contrasting silks to create a very nice mystery.

Loch Crane gave us a lengthy, but fun, **Cards Across** effect, complete with sound effects and much audience participation.

Cal Mayers showed us more of his card work with a somewhat confused, but entertaining four chosen card effect involving two aces and two jokers with a turnover revelation which finally worked. It elicited lots of criticism, constructive and otherwise, but it was well-intentioned and lots of fun - **WELL**, what better place to **PRAC-TICE!**

Local and sole magic dealer, **Brad Burt**, brought us another hot item from his shop: his very new age **Crystal Prism** card revelation, which can display not one, but three different chosen cards. Very classy, and very appropriate to the times - **Well**, I think so. I bought one the next day, and it's not even a collectable.

Old friend, and mentalist, **Paul Barton**, performed a hi-tech, and very skillful, elevator card effect with red sixes and red eights; clean, straight forward, and with many a gasp at the finish. *Nice, very nice!*

Terry Runyon, one of our guests from the North County group, did a very workable presentation of the classic **Copper, Silver, Brass Coin Routine**, nicely shortened and very slick.

Newcomer, **Wayne Albert**, drew a few initial Ho-Hum's when he announced his **Houdini Mail Bag**, but had most of us on our feet at the end of a very showy, quick and effective escape from a modern-day, regulation Mail Bag; right under our noses and behind his own very functional/portable screen - **IT WAS GOOD** and fooled many. Instant IBM Qualification for another example of a classic big stage trick gone *Close-Up*. **WELL DONE Wayne!** Come back and bring more.

Jim Riley did his very droll and funny version of the Caveny **Linking Coat Hangers** with his own bits and many *graners* thrown in. (I guess you can come back too, Jim.)

Dave Lambert did a mini-lecture on Uri Gellerism and proceeded to fool us, a la Randy, with watch hand turning, spoon bending and spoon melting. Very nicely done!

Art Judge gave us an improved version of his **Installation Dinner** rope routine with sliding and vanishing knots, and a beautiful cut/restored finish which brought a few **OOOH's** and **AAAH's**.

Mark Dimenstain showed us a new **COSMAR MAGIC** item: a feather plume to silk item which looks great.

Mike Stilwell blew us away with a very, very clean and impossible double-deck prediction and reversed card revelation, which is **NOT** on the market.

Dick Dale brought his pet skunk, **Oreo**, who does funny/corny impressions as **Jaws**, **Kathy Rigby**, **Michael Jackson**, et al.

Lastly, guest **James Swoger**, who has moved to California from his **House of Enchantment** in Pennsylvania, did some incredible open-hand coin manipulation which brought many a gasp. **THANKS JAMES and WELCOME to California!** it was an extra nice finish to another great meeting.

BOARD MEETING

We are ahead of ourselves with this month's Newsletter, and the Board hasn't met yet. We will meet at J.P. Jackson's house on Wednesday, September Seventh about 7:30 PM. Come a bit early, if you want, and look at the *Collection*. Remember *any* member can attend the Board Meetings *anytime* - **YOU ARE WELCOME**. We love to have new ideas from fresh brains.



EXCHANGE BANQUET

The annual Exchange Banquet/Dinner Show is set for Saturday, September tenth at the **GOLD STAR** Restaurant in Whittier, CA. (See map and directions in this issue.) **Mike Stilwell** has programmed an extra special show for our friends to the north, drawing on local talent which has never performed at this event. **Joe Mystic** will MC a tremendous line-up which includes **Art Judge, Dick Dale, Jim Riley, Bill Shedoudy**, guest stars **Jack Evans** and **Jack Markley**; and all the way from Arizona, **Jim Beamon**, appearing as **DIAMOND JACK**.

The Roast Turkey Dinner starts at 7:00 PM and is \$12.50 per adult and \$10.00 per child. Send reservations and check, payable to IBM 96, to **Vera Brandt**, treasurer of IBM 96; 185 Villa Rita; La Habre, CA 90631. Plan to arrive about 6:00 PM for an hour or so of socializing and greeting old friends from Ring 96. Sit-down dinner at 7:00 PM and the Gala **MIKE STILWELL PRODUCTION** right after.



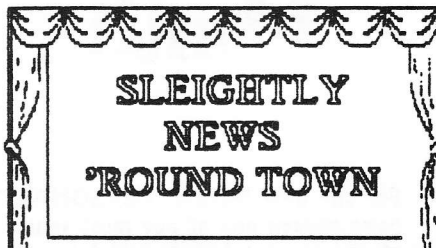
Monday, September nineteenth will be our second meeting at the American Legion Hall in La Mesa (Map in last issue). Even though we will have had a special event on the tenth, we still anticipate a record turn-out for our regular September meeting - and it's gonna be a DOOZIE!

Mike Stilwell (your trusty entertainment chairman) has planned his famous **MYSTERY BAG NIGHT** as follows:

Participants will bring the complete works for an effect in a plain paper bag sans instructions; bags will be scrambled and chosen by volunteer performers, who will then have five minutes to identify and prepare a presentation of whatever's in the bag! There will be no *Chicken-Out* provision - once you pick a bag YOU're ON! Think about it; should be a hoot. Check in with Mike as you arrive and let him know if you have a bag, want to perform, or both.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE. Please sign in at the door with **Ruth Pearson**, our Sergeant-at-Arms, as you arrive at

any of our meetings. We were so swamped on August fifteenth that a few folks slipped past Ruth's Master Record Book. It's important for the bookkeeping, and we don't want to miss acknowledging any guests or Out-of-Town IBM'ers.



- ☆ The **REUBEN E. LEE** on Harbor Island has magic seven nights a week from seven to ten P.M. with **Dick Dale** on Monday and Tuesday and **Robin Freeland** on Wednesday through Sunday
- ☆ Weekend magic at **THE GATHERING** on Goldfinch in Hillcrest has **Dick Dale** on Friday, eight to eleven P.M. and **Craig Stone** on Saturday from eight thirty to eleven P.M.
- ☆ Midweek magic at the **CORVETTE DINER**, also in Hillcrest, with **Mike Stilwell** on Tuesday and Wednesday, seven to nine thirty P.M. and **Joe Mystic** on Thursday, same time.
- ☆ **Stephen John** does table magic at the **IMPROV** in Mission Beach on Friday and Saturday, six to ten P.M. and **Mike Stilwell** is at **VIC'S RESTAURANT** and **FISHERMAN'S GRILLE** in La Jolla on Friday, six to nine P.M.
- ☆ **Craig Stone** is busy - busy, doing street magic at **SEAPORT VILLAGE**, table magic at **LOVE'S WOODPIT BAR-B-Q** in Chula Vista on Wednesday, seven to nine P.M. and at the Grossmont **ROUND TABLE PIZZA** on Thursday, six to eight thirty P.M.
- ☆ **Steve Sloan** was a big hit at our August meeting. Catch him in action at **SEA WORLD** during the evening Street Show for a real lesson in audience participation.
- ☆ **Terry Godfrey** has finally surfaced. Watch him work at the **OLD FERRY LANDING** in Coronado on September third and fourth from noon to four P.M.; then slide up the street to see **J.C. Wagner** at the **SECRET HARBOR** doing what he do best.



CROSS TALK

- This is the *last* Newsletter going to non-dues-paying *previous* member. Check your address label. If it has a small (3/4") green stick-on label affixed then the treasurer has found you in arrears, or to put it bluntly, **YOU'RE ELEVEN BUCKS SHORT SINCE APRIL**, and you've been carried long enough! Send your check, payable to **I B M RING 76** to **Ed Raymond**; 6902 Mission Gorge Road; San Diego, CA 92120, and you'll continue to receive this wonderful periodical on a regular basis. Better yet, come to the next meeting on the nineteenth and pay up in person. **END OF COMMERCIAL.**
- Stan Allen's **INSIDE MAGIC** reports that **KOHL & COMPANY** will appear on the **Jerry Lewis MDA TELETHON** on September fifth. Other magicians are currently being booked - check local listings.
- **Harry Eng - Sigrid O'Brian - Ray Sarwinski:** Come Back! **Jon Kovarovic - Bob Pozner:** Are you still out there? Come see for yourselves on the nineteenth, and you'll come back for good!
- Fellow Collectors and Magic Book lovers should be aware that a little known, but great source exists just two hours to the North in Fullerton CA. Good friend, **John Cannon**, runs a great shop called **ALLADIN BOOKS** and **MEMORABILIA** at 122 West Commonwealth Avenue in downtown Fullerton, just one block west of Harbor Boulevard. John is primarily a used book dealer, specializing in first editions, entertainment books, conjuring and movie memorabilia; but has recently acquired a couple of collections of extremely nice magic props which are on display and may be purchased, if John will part with them. He carries a very complete selection of new, recently published magic books; used magic books published in the last twenty years, which are in excellent condition; and even a few rare, antiquarian editions for the *real* collector. It's well worth the trip north. Try north on I5, north on 55, west on 91, exit north on Harbor Blvd.

(continued on page 4)

CROSS TALK(continued)

- and left on Commonwealth. Tell him I sent ya!
- FISM winners from the U.S. include: **Johnny Ace Palmer** - Grand Prix. **Joe Given** - First, and **John Carney** - Second, in Close-Up; and **Tom Mullica** - Third, in Comedy Magic. Our own **David Urquidi** competed over the six days with over 150 magicians. How about a report, Dave? (Or write it up for the newsletter.)
- The *Brad Burt Magic Shop Newsletter* has just hit the street and announces the next session of his *School of Magic* for August twenty seventh. Yes, you just missed it - but check in at Brad's shop for the *next* start date. The price is fifty dollars, which includes about thirty dollars in magic props. If you don't get Brad's *NEWSLETTER* you should. *It's almost as good as this one. (Kidding, kidding - just kidding.) Drop in , or call him at (619) 571-4749 to get on his mailing list.*
- Also from **Stan Allen's IN-SIDE MAGIC - PENN** and **TELLER** will take part in the MTV Music Video awards show on September seventh. See it on the Cable MTV Channel at 9:00 P.M. EST or 6:00 P.M. PST. (We can watch it before the Board Meeting.)
- The Magic Guild of Southern California announces guest lecturer **Roberta Griffin** at their next meeting on September sixth. Roberta will talk about her life in Magic with her husband, **Ken**, (who passed away not too long ago) and the years and years they spent on the "road" with a good ol' full-stage Magic show. She will complete her talk with a demonstration of "Rag Pictures", an almost gone field of magic - saw her perform years

Personality of the Month



For our new feature, **PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH**, it is fitting that we have chosen one of our most senior and most venerable members. He is also one of the most colorful, which was no small factor in our making the selection. George Edwards is a genial, sly wizard who has captivated just about every one of us at some time or another, whether with his ring on the rope or, perhaps, his unusual and fiendishly clever four ace routine. George believes what his first teacher and long time friend taught him long ago. "The method is unimportant. It is the effect that counts, and however you achieve it doesn't matter." (Short of mayhem we suspect.) It is with the source of that quote that our story begins.

George's father was in the British army during the first World War when George was born. The year was 1916 and the place was Liverpool, England. Shortly afterwards George's father was wounded and sent to a hospital in France. In the next bed was a man who would change George's life. His name was Dick Pitchford, and he and Mr. Edwards became good friends although, as often happens, they lost contact with one another when they were "demobbed".

It was many years later, when George was about eight, that Dick Pitchford turned up again. Mr. Edwards, who had opened a pub in Liverpool after the war, had taken his wife to the theater. There was a magician on the bill who turned out to be none other than Dick Pitchford, Mr. Edwards' old war buddy. Naturally Edwards went backstage to meet his old friend, and of course, invited him home. Thus did George meet Dick Pitchford.

From then on whenever Dick Pitchford played Liverpool, which was a regular stop on the music hall circuit, he stayed at the Edwards'; becoming, in affect, a dear relative. In fact, little George always addressed him as "Uncle Dick". Uncle Dick became particularly fond of the boy and undertook to teach him a few tricks. Is it any wonder that such a bright and imaginative boy quickly became a student of magic?

ago, and she is fantastic. If you've never seen a pro do "Rag Pictures", visit the North County Group on the sixth and learn about another aspect of magical entertainment. They meet in the Community Services Room of the Lutheran Health Facility, corner of Grand and Carlsbad Bouvelard in Carlsbad, at seven thirty P.M.

J. P. Jackson
J. P. Jackson
(619) 569 0096

Later on Pitchford went to Australia and, as George said, "kind of disappeared out of our lives. "Years later he resurfaced," George continued," but of course he wasn't Pitchford anymore. He was Cardini. In the meantime I had gone off to sea, and New York was like a second home to me, and he was living in New York. Of course he wasn't there very often. Whenever he was, though, when I was in port, I used to visit with him. After the second war when he was getting older and not traveling so much I used to visit with him quite often. It was amazing the people I met there. There was Dai Vernon,

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PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

(Continued from page 4)

Mr. Craig, and you name 'em. Everybody went to Cardini. He never went to anybody."

George was a good student in school. He didn't abandon all else to concentrate on magic, as many of us have done. He attended the Alfred Street School for the primary grades and Saint Margaret's Higher Grades School for the upper grades. Naturally, he frequently entertained his fellow students with magic, but he also found time to play soccer for Saint Margaret's.

He didn't forget magic, however, soon seeking out the local magic shop, an establishment on Moor Fields Street in Liverpool known as the *WIZARD'S DEN*. There was a club associated with the shop, also known as the *WIZARD'S DEN*, which became the first of George's many magic clubs.

In his last year at Saint Margaret's he passed the qualifying exams and was accepted for admission to Oxford University. However, since he was only fourteen, he would not have been able to actually enter for four years, when he became eighteen. To fill this hiatus George announced to his family that he would "like to see the world."

"If you're going to see the world you might as well get paid for it," said his father, and contacted a friend with the Cunard Line where Mr. Edwards had worked before the First War. Thus came about the second major event in George Edward's life. He went to sea as a bell boy on the Cunard Line's *Samaria*.

The course of the boy's life was set. He spent thirty two years with the Cunard organization, rising from bell boy to Chief Steward on the first Queen Mary, supervising one thousand employees serving sixteen thousand meals a day. As Chief Steward he wore three stripes on his sleeve.

In 1947 George and Olive Mary Wood were married and the couple set up

housekeeping in Liverpool. In 1949 they were blessed with a baby boy, Robert Andrew, and in 1956 their daughter, Diane, was born.

In the course of his career George circled the world eleven times, attended and graduated from L'Ecole De Cordon Blue in Paris, attained a fellowship from the Hotel and Catering Institute in London, became an associate of Societe de Gastronomes, Paris, and a member of the Guild of Sommeliers, Paris and London. During World War II he served in the Scottish Highlanders.

In 1962 George decided that the future of the great liners was dismal. Why should people take five days to cross the Atlantic when the great jets could make the trip in a few hours. He had visited San Diego in his travels and knew that "we have the greatest climate in the world." Olive had a sister here, and the family visited with her while George got established in America's finest city.

Now retired, George has been an outstanding Restaurateur and Chef de Cuisine in San Diego, serving in several fine clubs such as the San Diego Yacht Club, the Southwestern Yacht Club and The Singing Hills Country Club in El Cajon. He has also served as executive chef in several well known restaurants in the area. Unfortunately, many commercial establishments have been willing to pay George a generous salary to set up their restaurants, create their menus and establish a clientele. When business was booming, however, they often sought to enhance profits by hiring a less expensive chef to replace George. They always retained the menus though.

George has been a faithful member of Ring 76 since 1969. Only Jim Riley precedes him in seniority. He has held every office in the ring, some several times - he can't remember all the years. In addition to Ring 76 he is a member of The Order of Merlin, the exclusive Magic Circle in London and the even more exclusive Inner Circle,

the International Guild of Predidigitators, the Supreme Magician's Club, and The Invisible Lodge.

Most of his magic is performed for charitable organizations these days. He loves doing close-up magic and magic for children. A particular favorite of his is the Special Olympics where he did a show recently.

George has not been alone in his service to Ring 76. Olive is also a member and has served as Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Ring Report correspondent to the Linking Ring. She also served as President of the Magigals Chapter which was once sponsored by Ring 76.

Diane Edwards was active with the Junior Magicians when she was a child and once won second prize in the Junior Magician of the Year contest.

Altogether a very magical family!

