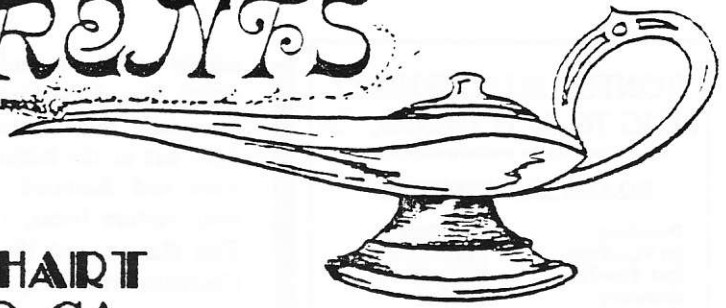


MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA



NOVEMBER 1988

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

And WELCOME to the start of the XMAS rush! Hope you can find this month's *MAGICURRENTS* among all those fliers and catalogs that fill your mailbox this time of year - (I get about five pounds every day). Oh well -- 'tis the season, and all that!

EIGHTY ONE MEMBERS as of this mailing and GROWING! with nine new members joining at the October meeting! WAY TO GO! The membership roster gets obsolete as fast as we can crank it out - but we like it. (Pub. Note: It just takes a few key strokes.) Don't forget to notify me of any address list corrections; check your street number, zip code, spelling, etc., etc. Drop me a note, call me anytime, or slip me a correction at the next meeting, please! Mark WADE, why are you moving to Massachusetts?? - just when it's starting to get real fun?? We'll miss ya, pal - but look at it this way - you'll probably get your *MAGICURRENTS* sooner back there! (Jim Riley is still waiting for the last one in Julian.) WE ARE NOW TRULY INTRA-CONTINENTAL with Al KNOX and Mark on the East Coast.

Convention registrations now pushing seven hundred, and we hear that the Committee may set a top limit, so don't wait. Those of you who are sending in a Convention Application with the non-member fee of eighty five dollars **MUST** include the International Membership Application as well; signed by two endorsers with their IBM numbers. (This is the five by seven tri-fold form, printed with blue ink on white paper, available from me, or at Brad BURT'S shop.) If you are an International member with an IBM number the Convention fee is only

sixty dollars, and you better send it now before you spend it all for Xmas.

In case you missed it, our Mayor proclaimed October twenty fifth to thirty first as official magic week. No photo sessions were scheduled, and we haven't read anything in the paper on it; but Good Friend and fellow Book Collector, Marcus Day, reports he heard that the Mayor read the proclamation at the Monday City Planning Session on the thirty first. She called for a vote which authorized the proclamation, and then asked if there were any magicians present. When none came forth (due to

a communications disconnect) she is reported to have said, "I guess they all disappeared." The official proclamation will be picked up by our Prez. Thanks, Mayor O'Connor.

Don't forget our XMAS MEETING/DINNER on the nineteenth of DECEMBER followed by our Xmas Show for the American Legion folk on Friday the twenty third, seven to eight P.M. Mike STILWELL has a full slate of willing and able performers for the show; but there's still plenty of room in the audience.

Prez's Mezzage



Did you know that Ring 76 performs a monthly magic show? It's the second Tuesday of every month from seven to eight thirty P.M. The show includes both stand-up and close-up acts. By now you're wondering just where this extravaganza takes place. Hopefully, you're also wondering, "How can I get involved?" It's easy. Just show up ready to perform (sounds like a meeting, doesn't it?) at the Balboa Naval Hospital at show time. It's a wonderful place to break in new routines, as well as to keep the old standards polished up. Last month included *Jessie's Comedy Magic Show* (that's Jessie JUDGE), CAL MAYER's act, and WIGEN, THE MAGIC CLOWN (that's Stephan WIGEN) doing balloon animals, hats and juggling. Sherri Barnswell is the coordinator at the hospital, and Jessie and Cal handle our end. Put some magic and happiness into a lot of Navy personnel's lives and, incidently, put some in yours. If you have never performed under these circumstances it is, indeed, a great feeling.

HONEST SID GERHART RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

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MAGICURRENTS

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OCTOBER MEETING ---what you missed!

'NOTHER GREAT MEETING ON THE SEVENTEENTH: A twenty six minute business meeting (we're getting quicker) introduced some twenty one guests, including visitor **Mark CHASE** and his lovely wife, Jo, with us all the way from LAFAYETTE, Indiana; and two of our favorite local pros, **Steve SLOAN** and **Terry GODFREY**, standing in the back. The SWAP MEET was announced for our regular meeting on NOVEMBER TWENTY FIRST; and a poll of the membership resolved that we will have a combined XMAS DINNER/MEETING on DECEMBER NINETEENTH with gift exchange. (More on this in the next **MAGICURRENTS**)

A quick raffle gave away a bunch of good working magic books, and then the forty one members and twenty one guests (nine of whom joined before the entertainment) in attendance, regrouped the chairs for our Guest of Honor - Mr. **Jack WHITE**, our local Channel Ten news personality. Jack, along with his magical interests, is a collector of early film making efforts. Of course, he has included some of the early TV magicians in his collections, who were recorded on Kinescope before the days of Videotape. We were treated to approximately seventy five minutes of great old

movies which included a very early (1930) film of Far Eastern street performers doing some of the incredible things right out of the books: Cups and Balls, Torn and Restored Yarn or Thread, some torture items, the classic Mango Tree illusion, and the inevitable Snake Charming with King Cobras.

A prize in Jack's collection featured **Harry BLACKSTONE SR.** doing about fifteen minutes with a **SVENGALI** deck and six on-stage spectators, aptly demonstrating the classic entertaining style of this great man, no matter *what* the effect. Then a clip of a very, very young **Harry BLACKSTONE JR.** on an early **Mike WALLACE** TV show doing his trademark **VANISHING BIRD CAGE** (It was his father's trademark also.) Also some great pick pocketing with a lot of by-play, and a funny line we heard his famous father use in the previous film clip. **GREAT STUFF!**

One of the early **SUPERCIRCUS** TV shows featured a stylistic *Billiard Ball* and *Multiplying Candle* by a youngish, tux-clad magician whom no one could identify. Great camera work for those days.

A twenty minute film clip showed us **Trini LOPEZ** in a TV Special introducing **RICHIARDI** with a **DOLL HOUSE** illusion and the classic **VANISHING CANARY TO EGG IN LEMON IN GRAPEFRUIT**. The last clip from the forties was really an Army Training Film featuring **John SCARNE** doing a gambling expose for GI's as "what-to-look-out-for" in the way of Card Sharper's tricks and cons. Jack commented that the movie probably created a few GI gamblers along the way.

Many thanks for coming, Jack, and please come back.

NOVEMBER MEETING ---what's coming

TIME TO RUMMAGE ROUND 'N DIG OUT OLD JUN USED MAGIC for our FIRST ANNUAL ever, SWAP MEET; at the regular meeting on Monday, November twenty first. VP **Mike STILWELL** is taking reservations for seller's tables at five dollars per table. Either call him in advance, or sign up at the door when you arrive. So far, I know that **Jack MARKLEY** and **Frank HERMAN**, from up north, are planning to have tables and, of course, yours truly will bring some elegant goodies from the collection: an old lone billiard ball (no shell) to match that partial set YOU have; and a single **PASSE PASSE** bottle **TUBE** with no bottle; and lots of other incredible collectibles. SO -- start looking around for articles to sell, swap, or just plain give away; or plan to just browse and BUY. AGAIN - this SWAP MEET is intended to clear out your small or incomplete, broken items (*read slutz*), so that we can have a really good, full blown, professional AUCTION in FEBRUARY without having to waste time on the little junky things you are supposed to get rid of on November twenty first. If you only have one item or two plan to share a table, or just carry it around for swaps. Just heard that **Brad BURT** will have a table of discounted items from his great shop.

NOW - ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?? We will also try to have BACKWARD TRICK Night as well, depending on the number of candidates, and the size of the SWAP MEET turnout. As usual, we will start assembling at seven P.M. with a short business meeting promptly at seven thirty. WE ASK YOU: PLEASE DO NOT SET UP FOR THE SWAP MEET (DON'T UNPACK) until after the break and raffle. We will slip BACKWARD TRICK PERFORMERS in, either before we start performing, or just after - depending. So if you have a pet effect, or any item which plays well BACKWARDS, bring it along. I've heard this can get as funny as MYSTERY BAG items. See ya there!

BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Monday, November Seventh at **Ed FORSYTHE'S** home with **Ed FORSYTHE, J.P. JACKSON, Dick DALE, Harry HARTMAN, Jane CLEMENTS, V. Robert ALLEN, and Fred and Ursula ROHRER.**

The topic of Magic Lectures and Lecturers for the remainder of the 82/89 year was discussed. The President and Secretary both received several unsolicited proposals from magicians who are asking to lecture for *RING SEVENTY SIX* sometime in the next six to eight months. After a lengthy discussion, the Board resolved that, in view of other, already planned, meeting events (December Dinner Meeting, Xmas Show, February Auction, Spring Elections, etc.) *RING SEVENTY SIX* should sponsor only ONE PAID Lecturer between now and June 1989. To date, proposals have been received from **George SANDS, Ron LONDON and Paul GREEN**, who are currently booking their spring tours. Promotional literature has been requested and will be presented to the Membership for a formal poll when received. Suggestions for other possible Lecturers are welcome.

Harry Hartman proposed the appointment of one or more Standing Committees to help the board, as required, with the Ring Management Work Load (Administrative, Logistics, etc.). The Board heartily agrees and endorses Harry's proposal. Volunteers are being sought.

The concept of selecting a Member-Of-The-Year and a Magician-Of-The-

Year based on a structured point system was presented and discussed. Points could be awarded for shows performed, charity work, general ring support, etc. in either category; and totaled at the year end for determination of the winners. Pros and Cons were discussed with no resolution. The Board will explore this concept further at the next Board Meeting.

Ursula and Fred ROHRER presented an offer to cater the Xmas Dinner at our regular meeting on December Nineteenth. Menu and Prices were discussed. Written proposals from other caterers, as well, will be evaluated by the Board to ensure the very best menu, service and price.

The subject of *RING SEVENTY SIX* Goals and Objectives was discussed. **V. Robert Allen** described the Purpose and Goals *THE MAGIC GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA* established when it was formed, and suggested that the establishment of *RING SEVENTY SIX* goals and objectives, in addition to those provided by the International, might be appropriate. No resolution, tabled for discussion at the next Board Meeting which will be at **J.P. JACKSON'S HOME** on December Fifth.



☆ **Loch CRANE** reports that he has been performing *Modern Miracles* over Champagne Sunday Brunch at **SMEDLEY'S RESTAURANT** (502 Fifth Avenue) in the heart of the **GASLAMP QUARTER**. He was there October Twenty Third and

Thirtieth and November Sixth and Thirteenth. Sorry we missed telling you to see him, also, as the magical **MR. MISTOFFEELES** in the *Golden Hills Theater* production of "CATS". Way to keep busy, Loch.

☆ **Stan ALLEN'S** November issue of *INSIDE MAGIC* reports that we will be seeing more of **David COPPERFIELD** on TV starting on ABC, December Twelfth when he hosts "THE SECRETS OF THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA". His next big TV Special is set for March Third 1989 on CBS, but you can see him before that on tour, live in San Diego, on December Second and Third (Friday & Saturday).

☆ **Stan's GREAT NEWSLETTER** has a two part interview with **PENN & TELLER** this month concluding in December. If you want to know everything that's going on in Magic (Coast-To-Coast) you should be a subscriber.

☆ The **REUBEN E. LEE** on Harbor Island still features **Dick DALE** on Monday and Tuesday, and **Robin FREELAND** Wednesday through Saturday.

☆ **THE GATHERING** on Goldfinch in Hillcrest has **Dick DALE** from eight to eleven on Friday nights, followed by **Mike STILWELL** doing the late show from ten 'til midnight. **Craig Stone** appears on Saturday night.

☆ The **CORVETTE DINER**, also in Hillcrest, has **Mike STILWELL** on Tuesday and Wednesday and **Joe MYSTIC** on Thursday.

☆ **Craig STONE** is also at the **LA MESA ROUND TABLE PIZZA** on Thursday night, and **Mike STILWELL** is at **VIC'S RESTAURANT AND FISHERMAN'S GRILLE** in La Jolla on Fridays.

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SLEIGHTLY NEWS

(continued from page 3)

☆ Stephen JOHN still doing Table Magic at the *IMPROV* in Mission Beach on Friday and Saturday; and J.C. WAGNER nightly at *SECRET HARBOR* in Coronado.

☆ Also from *INSIDE MAGIC*: The news that the SMOTHERS BROTHERS have taped six specials for CBS TV to air from October through May 1989; next one is Thursday, November Twenty Fourth. Expect to see Fielding WEST, Ed ALONZO, and Harry BLACKSTONE JR. But check listings to see who is on when.



CROSS TALK

● Jack EVANS, President of the *MAGIC GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA*, reports that Arnold FURST finally showed up for his thrice scheduled lecture on the First of November, and lectured for about three hours with the usual great stuff from his many, many years in the business. He had his books and tricks for sale at great prices and did land office deals after the lecture (a twenty five dollar book for twelve fifty). About forty folk showed up for the Pot-Luck dinner before, and consumed lots of food. I hear Loch Crane attended and became a member on the spot when he saw the pot-luck super spread. If you don't belong to this group too, you should, cause it's a fun group of people. Don't forget their annual AUCTION on Tuesday, December sixth.

● Nice official letter from *IBM Ring Twenty One* in Hollywood (*THE CARYL FLEMING RING*) announcing the results of their September elections: Ed SCHIFF of Tarzana is the new President; Joseph SELPH is Vice President; David YONKERS, Treasurer; and Lesley MANNING is Secretary. Past President is Roy ZIMMERMAN of Woodland Hills. Met Lesley (the new Secretary) at the *MAGIC CASTLE* Swap Meet in October; very nice lady, and as enthusiastic about *Ring Twenty One* as we are about *Ring Seventy Six*. Just received their six page November Newsletter with scads of good info, and it even included a blank Convention Application as an extra page. NEAT IDEA. We will do the same early next year. They too are starting a *NAME-THE-NEWSLETTER-CONTEST* and cited "*MAGICURRENTS*" as a good newsletter at their last Board Meeting.

● SIEGFRIED and ROY, who came to the United States twenty years ago with a fledgling magic act and achieved international fame, have become U.S. Citizens. "I've wanted in my heart for a long time to be an American," Siegfried Fischbacher said following a special flag-bedecked ceremony at the U.S. Courthouse in Las Vegas. "I'm elated, very grateful, very honored," Roy Uwe Ludwig Horn said as members of their magic show crowded around.

● Performers Numbers, as discussed at the October meeting, have been assigned, and will be put into use early next year. We will publish a new Membership ROSTER with the December *MAGICURRENTS* showing your number. Stick it in your memory bank and BE PREPARED!

● *RING NINETY SIX*, Long Beach, announces their annual Installation

Dinner and SPECTACULAR SHOW for Saturday, November Twenty Sixth at the *GOLD STAR RESTAURANT* in Whittier. (The same great place we went for the Exchange Banquet.) Dale SALWAK is arranging the Banquet show so it should be great. Ask me for further details at the meeting on November Twenty First if you are interested.

● Happy to announce that the *RING SEVENTY SIX* Library has been inventoried, cataloged, computerized and is ready for use. I still owe you a copy of the Master Inventory List which is working. Meanwhile if you know of a certain book or periodical you want to borrow; call, write, or tell me, and I'll bring it to the next meeting. The following Library Rules apply: Basic checkout is one month (meeting to meeting). Basic checkout fee is twenty five cents per month - BUT you deposit one dollar cash with me when you pick up the item. You'll get seventy five cents back at the next meeting when you turn it back in; OR you are fined twenty five cents for each meeting thereafter that you forget to bring in the item. After the fourth meeting and your dollar is gone, I COME TO YOUR HOUSE BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND FOUR A.M. TO GET IT. Simple rules, but we hope effective, and intended to keep our great LIBRARY moving around.

● Nice call from Indiana friend, Mark CHASE, who joined us at the October Meeting, to thank us for our hospitality. As guessed, he has already started making plans to move out here in the spring - Talk about a membership recruiting program!

J.P. Jackson
J.P. JACKSON

569-0096

Personality of the Month



Story by FRANK S. SYREN

Caricature by GEORGE EDWARDS

It is appropriate that we honor the president of our Ring early in this series, particularly since he has been with us only a little more than a year and a half, and many of us have had little chance to get to know him. Of course we know he is a charming, skilled, and very professional entertainer, but, to my pleased surprise, it turns out that he has had a most amazing and varied career.

Dick Dale was born in Duluth, Minnesota on November twenty second, 1939. The family soon moved to Waukesha, Wisconsin where his father founded *Dale Chevrolet*. Dick grew up in a household where

automobiles and automobile sales was the bread of life. His interest in magic sprouted early. His mother says he was five although Dick's earliest magical memory is three years later. In any case his father, who had a fledgling interest in magic, often brought home pocket tricks and novelties to intrigue his precocious son. The bug bit.

At the age of eight the youthful prodigitor organized and promoted a neighborhood circus which garnered newspaper coverage, was well received, and *made a profit*. As he recalls, he performed the *EASY HAT LOADER* and the *MILK PITCHER* in the show.

The Great Blackstone came to town the next year, and Dick was taken to see the Master at the Riverside Theater in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Thus was the seed - planted earlier by his father and the pocket tricks - nurtured and set. To this day he can remember details of that show.

There was no magic club in Waukesha, but there was a magic store, *BOB'S MAGIC SHOP*, later to become *JEST FOR FUN*. The proprietor, Don Lamb, became a good friend and remains so to this day. It was his guidance that led Dick to the magic suitable for his age and experience.

Then, to put it in Dick's own words, "Somehow I got connected with Lawton." Don Lawton lived in Wisconsin in those days. He later moved to St. Louis, and then to L.A. to become a host at the castle. Dick says, "His humor was my kind of humor - the corny, and the puns, and the plays on words and all - that's why I appreciate him so much. I've got his books. I've got his video tape. We've corresponded over the years. I've got a Lawton file that I treasure." This was the third major influence on Dick's magical life.

In 1957 he graduated from Waukesha High. He had worked at his Dad's dealership after school and during vacations, and it was natural that he should have developed an interest in *GENERAL MOTORS INSTITUTE*, later known as *GM*, in Flint, Michigan.

Despite the common misconception that "any dealer's son can get into *GM*", the college was independent and maintained high academic standards. However, Dick was an excellent student and was easily accepted. *GM* used a cooperative program whereby students spent work periods in an industry related to their discipline, interspersed with their academic studies. As a result it took a chronological five year period to complete four years of academic work. The benefits are obvious, not the least of which was the regular salary earned. Dick's assignment was to the Chevrolet Division of General Motors. He was to spend the next nine and a half years there.

In Flint Dick had his first opportunity to join a magic club, the *FLINT MAGIC CLUB*, an offshoot of which was *RING 36*, *THE H. LEONARD EVA RING*. Dick says, "Leonard was the dean of Michigan magicians. He would be like Al Knox was to San Diego. He was a very

MAGIC WANTED

This sub-column will appear, when applicable, for MEMBERS who are looking for specific magic items: props, instructions, books magazines, etc. etc. Please call me, J.P., or slip me a note at the meeting if you want me to run your "wants". For starters, J.P. needs the July 1948 issue of *GENII* magazine (Vol 12 #11). HELP! Please.

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(Continued on Page 6)

DALE (Continued)

dear friend who has since passed away. I have most of his magical estate." Dick remained an active member of Ring 36 until he came to San Diego, nearly thirty years later. He served two terms as president, the last one in 1986, just before he left. If you will look at the March, 1987 issue of *THE LINKING RING* you can read of the sorrow with which Ring 36 bid him farewell. As was implied above, Dick remained with Chevrolet after graduating with honors from GMI in 1963 with a BS in Industrial Engineering. His progress was nothing short of meteoric. He started on the production line and rose to become the youngest General Foreman in the history of the company. But the relentless, grinding repetition soon became boring to a gifted, imaginative individual like Dick. His interest in magic never slackened, and by this time he was working professionally; but he had other interests as well. With his entire life closely allied to the automotive industry he naturally was interested in cars; working on cars, driving cars, and finally racing cars. There was a race track in Flint, and he began working in the pits and driving race cars. In the *Indys* type races the pit stops are of crucial importance, and Dick's specialty, as a pit man, became fuel. "We got so proficient we could load forty gallons of fuel into a car in sixteen seconds." Dick rarely uses the pronoun "I". In all, Dick spent sixteen years involved in this activity, serving drivers such as Dale Earnhardt, Richard Petty, and the Unser brothers, Bobby, Jerry and Al. He also found time for some drag racing and, another significant activity, slot-car racing.

Most of us don't even know that slot-cars were ever important enough to engage adults in racing them professionally. Dick traveled all over the country doing just that. What's more, he and a partner opened two hobby shops primarily devoted to slotcars. Starting out as a part time business, the shops grew until Dick was finally able to leave General Motors.

The shops prospered for several years, and then the partners saw that interest in the fad was slackening. They had been prescient enough to see the future early and sold the shops for a good price. As our story progresses you will see that Dick possessed the essential attribute for most of life's successes: A good head for business.

Dick has had four children. The first, Scott, was a career soldier in the Airforce who was drowned in a cruel accident several years ago. Next, came a girl, Michelle, who is married and practicing medicine in Chicago. A third child, Lori, is a student in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Michigan. More about the fourth, Erica, later.

After the hobby shops, Dick started a new phase in his life. He went into sales. When asked if he found that difficult, after the highly technical life he had led heretofore, he said, "I come from a sales oriented family. It was in my blood. I enjoyed it very much. I sold light industrial equipment; loaders, backhoes, that sort of thing. I became quite proficient demonstrating most of the equipment. I worked my way up to sales manager and even won a trip to Las Vegas." Dick spent several years selling, but then it was time for the next amazing facet of his career. He became a jeweler.

A friend of his, who operated a jewelry store, was looking for help. As Dick says, "I'd never done it, but I was good with my hands, creative, engineering background; all things you can put to use. I set diamonds, created designs. In fact I created Julie's wedding band; carved it in wax, cast it, set the stone, the whole job." He worked as a jeweler for eight or nine years during which time he was doing graduate work at the University of Michigan and Centrel Michigan University culminating in a Specialist/Masters Degree in Educational Administration.

Then he became an educator, starting out as a vocational instructor in the local high

school in Flint. This was in 1977. He eventually became director of Vocational Education. In 1984 he was offered the position of Regional Manager in Student Recruiting at his old Alma Mater, GMI.

You can almost see all the pieces coming together. The many years of industrial and technical experience, the public relations value of his years in magic, the lifetime sales background; all seemed to contribute perfectly to a vocation of student recruiting for a technical institute. After about a year he was promoted to Director of Admissions at GMI.

In addition, Dick was, for six years, Director of Entertainment for *HISTORICAL CROSSROADS VILLAGE*, a theme park in Flint. The park operated for a fifteen week season during the summer. Dick and his company did five magic shows a day, seven days a week during this period, completely changing the show every season.

In his own words, "That was a really good way to get an act tight. So I've got six tight, firm acts that I can do. Anything from 'cutting in half' to coin ladders, to a medicine pitch, to a Chinese Act and more. I've got all the wardrobe, all the equipment, everything that's needed. We had fourteen employees and a fifty six thousand dollar budget each season. Decent situation. Not a small time operation."

One anecdote from those days bears repeating. During the fourth show, on one of those hectic days, Dick was doing a rope trick before two hundred and fifty people when he suddenly discovered he had cut off the tip of his left thumb. With the help of the park doctor he made it to the fifth show, however, his first trick required a thumb tip on his left thumb, which was already occupied by a voluminous bandage. He managed to make the tip work on his first finger and got through the show, but from then on, whenever he did a rope trick at the magic club his peers would solemnly warn him to, "Cut the white - not the pink!"

DALE (Continued)

"

Several years ago the Dale family entered the magic contest in *JOE STEVENS' DESERT SEMINAR*. There were two hundred entrants among whom thirty were chosen to perform. The Dales were the opening act on the first night at *THE FRONTIER*. They had chosen to do their black art act. The act is titled "*THE WIZARD OF AAHS*" and, naturally, uses musical themes from the motion picture of a similar name. It is unique and worthy of an extended description.

At the curtain Dick is found frozen in position in a picture frame of light. He is dressed in white and in "white face", leaning on his cane. When he comes into motion he goes into a standard dancing cane routine for about twenty seconds. Suddenly the cane splits into two canes. One of them gets away from him, and he puts the other down to pursue the escapee. As he grasps at it, it suddenly turns into a broom and the music segues into the witch music. The recalcitrant broom continues to evade him, flying about the stage and, occasionally, buzzing him like an angry hornet. He, finally, manages to get hold of it, whereupon it changes back to a cane.

He puts this cane down and mimes catching an object in space. With mime he indicates that the object is an invisible cube. He carefully places the cube upon the flat of his outstretched hand. As he withdraws the hand the cube becomes visible, suspended in space, then begins to grow until it changes into a miniature white house which spins in the vortex of a magical tornado as the cyclone music segues in. The house lands with a bone shaking thud on the stage floor. The wizard politely knocks on the house door whereupon the roof flies open and out steps his daughter, Erica, as Dorothy.

The first time they ever did the act, a magician, who was running lights from the booth, and had actually been at rehearsals, was heard to say, "(Expletive deleted)! Where the hell did that kid come from?" We trust he caught himself moments later.

Dorothy exits, and the wizard takes a pail and brush and paints in the yellow brick road. The three major supporting characters appear in the form of giant heads: the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion.

The wizard picks up his cane which transforms into a scroll. Upon unrolling

dancing into view. The wizard picks them up but they disappear. (If Dick is performing before magicians he does a back palm, the shoe back palm.) Now the bucket rises to his hand. The brush does some mischievous things, but he finally grabs it and paints in the rainbow which glows under ultraviolet light. It is a very moving moment.



No! ITS NOT A THUMB TIP.
ITS THE TIP OF my THUMB.

the scroll it is revealed to be a poster of the witch which he hangs up on a convenient bracket. Then Lo! the evil creature herself comes to life right out of the poster. The wizard picks up the handy bucket and mimes throwing the contents at her whereupon she visibly melts.

At this point the ruby slippers come

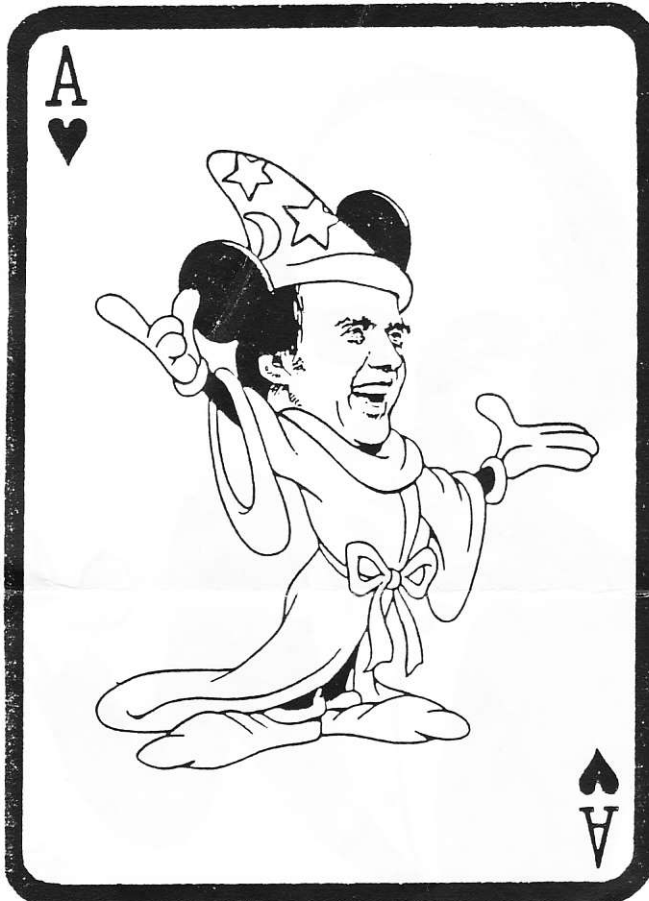
Joe Stevens at the *FRONTIER* said, "I had tears in my eyes. What a start to a convention!"

Then the wizard paints himself out. "I start at my feet, and I just disappear - stroke by stroke," says Dick.

In 1976 Dick Dale and Julie Johnson were married. She has been his partner

DALE (Continued)

and assistant ever since, besides giving him a new daughter, Erica, who is now eleven. Without Julie the *WIZARD OF AAHS* would never work, although Erica is rapidly becoming a competent assistant.



Dick and Julie had spent most of their adult lives in Flint. Most of their friends live there. But in recent years Flint had begun to change. It had never been a great metropolis or a great cultural center, but of course there were sophisticated and cultured people who lived there. In recent years, however, Flint had become, in Dick's words, "an economic and racial disaster. It's a tinder keg. General Motors has closed three plants. Twenty five thousand people are out of work. Crime. Drugs. I could tell you war stories. So we wanted out!"

With the help of several books they

analyzed exactly where in the country they wanted to go. They made lists of the things they wanted out of life and what they wanted from a city. In this process of analysis Dick discovered that he wanted to make magic his primary livelihood. They finally narrowed their preferences to five cities (although, privately, they had already chosen San Diego). Their choices were Atlanta, Denver, San Luis Obispo, Boulder, Colorado, and San Diego. Their plan was that either Dick, or all three of them would go to each city, and that they would live there, not as tourists, but as though it were their home. They would find quarters with a kitchenette, shop in the stores, talk to shopkeepers,

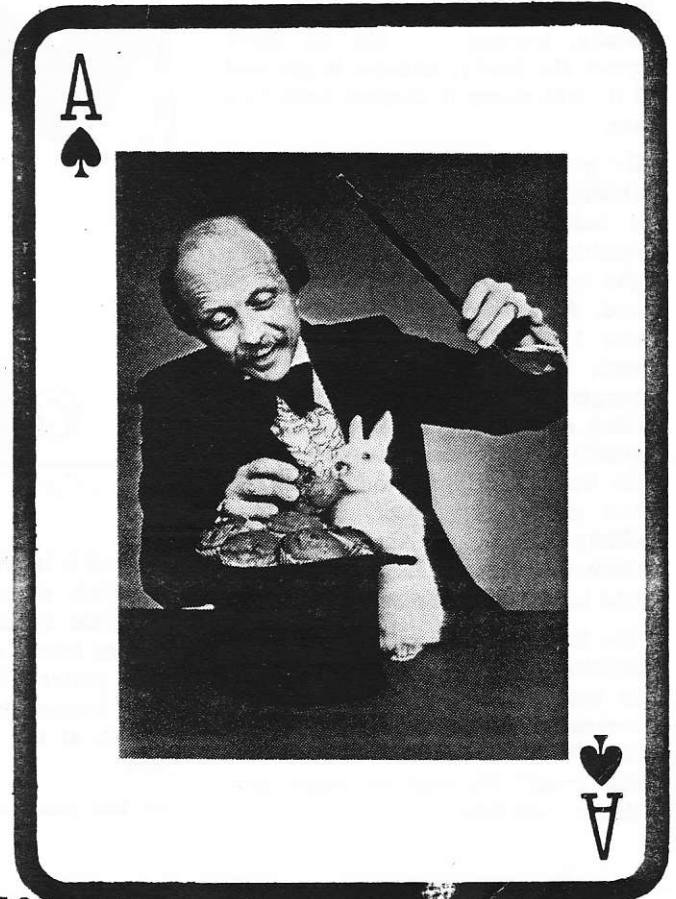
waitresses, taxi drives and anyone else they could find to talk to, trying to get the flavor of the city. Dick did not say whether they had completed their survey when they decided on San Diego. At any rate they *did* - and they *came*. And now we can appreciate - to a

degree - Ring 36's loss, and our **GAIN**.

Since coming to San Diego Dick has been designated AT&T's official magician. He had called AT&T's marketing division in New Jersey and was surprised by a visit from a marketing rep for an extended interview. It turned out that they were looking for small business men as features for some videos they were making. Dick qualified, as a full time magician. The rep returned to New Jersey with several tapes of Dick's work.

The result was that a film crew of eight flew out here: everything from director, to assistant director to cameraman, right down to gaffer. They shot for three days; in his office, in his rehearsal room, outside his house, and before a specially recruited audience at the Coronado Keys Yacht Club.

It has been used in a six minute infocommercial for AT&T which has won some awards in the television industry. It was also used as a tag on a *Larimar* "HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS" video tape. He's been told that it's going to be edited into a two minute commercial for national cable.





RING SEVENTY SIX XMAS DINNER MEETING

Monday, December Nineteenth

featuring:

No-Host Bar Hors D'Oeuvres
Catered Buffet Dinner including --

Steamboat Round of Beef
Assorted Vegetables

Salad
Dessert

Rolls
Coffee

Social Hour	6:30 - 7:30
Dinner	7:30 - 8:30

-and entertainment by the
SCINTILLATING
HUMOROUS
and even *AMAZING!*

JACK EVANS

----- RING 76 XMAS DINNER RESERVATION -----

Deadline for Reservations is MAIL DELIVERY on Monday, December 5, 1988

Bring your reservations to next meeting or mail to Ed RAYMOND, 6902-1/2 Mission Gorge Rd., San Diego, CA 92120
Make checks payable to "IBM RING 76".

Please make reservations for.....

Number in partyat \$10.00 each. (Incl. tax & tip)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$.....

MAGICURRENTS

5746 Tortuga Road
San Diego, CA 92124
Tel. (619) 569-0096



L. Leroy Armstrong
2548 Littleton Road
El Cajon, CA 92020