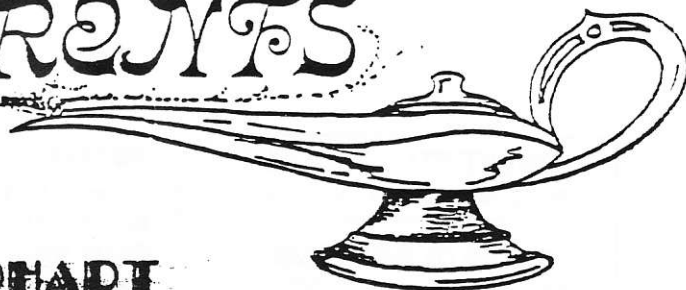


MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

JUNE 1989

CONVENTION SHOW TICKETS ON SALE

- which gives us less than one month 'til CONVENTION TIME! AND it's gonna be a BIGGIE! what with a total sell out, and Harry ANDERSON/Jay JOHNSON booked for opening night. The Civic Theater announced that over twelve hundred public tickets will go on sale this weekend for the evening shows on the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth. Shows will start at eight P.M. with doors open at seven P.M. Prices for the shows on the fifth and sixth are seven, eleven and fifteen dollars. On the seventh and eighth prices are ten, fifteen and seventeen fifty. Children from three to twelve years are a few dollars less. (See what a good deal you get with your convention registration.) You may buy tickets at the Civic Theater Box Office (202 C St.), at Ticketmaster outlets or charge by phone to (619) 236-6510. Be watching the media for a big publicity campaign.

Don't forget the June Fifteenth deadline for the No-Host dinner the night of July Third. The Past Presidents/Convention Committee Cocktail Party (hosted by Ring 76) from six P.M. to seven thirty on July third is open to all Ring Members (no charge), but the dinner, right after at eight, is by reservation only. Your invitation was included in last month's *MAGICURRENTS*. Send it back to me quickly, with your dinner selection and check payable to "IBM Ring 76", and you can just get in under the wire. Last minute reservation space - if any - will be announced at the regular meeting on the nineteenth.

Thanks to Sherry LUFT, our Convention Program ad sales campaign was completed on schedule with over thirteen hundred dollars in total ad sales. Special thanks to BUMPER & COMPANY, Dick DALE, Lach CRANE, Jim ALBERGER, Bob INGALLS, Brad BURT, RING 96, THE GATHERING and CORVETTE DINER for taking out the ads which

contributed so nicely to our total sales.

Time to start cleaning up the *MAGICURRENTS* mailing list - which means **PAY THOSE DUES!** - or lose your monthly newsletter. Those in arrears (two months now) will get this one and July's convention issue AND THAT'S IT! The July Twenty Eighth Annual Installation Dinner (see Board Meeting) is the final Deadline for the 1989/1990 dues of twelve dollars. After that, the new membership list comes out, and

you do want your name on it, DON'T YOU?

IBM Central reports that they are processing Membership Applications for Henry VACA, Tom STEINER and Lori BARRETO. How 'bout you? If you are not getting the *LINKING RING* magazine you're missing out on one of the best parts of being an IBM Member. HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! See ya the day after!

Piez's Mezzage



Well, the end of another year in magic. Another year for Ring 76. It's been a very fruitful year for the Ring in my opinion. Along with the obvious membership rise, performances at meetings have increased and improved. The meeting place seems to be working well, and events are quite varied. More and more establishments in San Diego are featuring magical entertainment, and more of the full-time, as well as the part-time professionals, are getting busier and busier. The year saw the demise of one magic shop and the strengthening of another. It's been a good year. Let's all pitch in, in our individual ways, and make next year an even greater one for all of our magic.

A sincere "thank you" to all of you for re-electing me. I'm going to keep trying this until I get it right.

See you at the meeting with your ring, rope, and silk.

HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President..... Dick Dale
1st Vice-Pres..... Mike Stilwell
2nd Vice-pres..... Ed Forsythe
Secretary..... J.P. Jackson
Treasurer..... Ed Raymond
Past Pres..... Mark Dimenstein
Sgt. at Arms..... Sherry Luft

MAGICURRENTS

Editor..... J.P. Jackson
Publisher..... Frank S. Syren

MAY MEETING
---or what you
missed

Nice turn out for our regular May meeting, and lotsa dues payers too - (keep it coming). Forty Six members and six guests made a nice full room. Had to have an overlong business meeting, what with all the convention news and announcements, but WE PROMISE every continuing effort to keep the biz under fifteen minutes. IBM Certificates, Pins and Membership Cards were presented to **Tom LACHANCE** and **Jan EASTMAN** by President **Dick DALE**. He is holding more membership kits for **Marcus DAY**, **Josef REINNLEITNER**, **Mike CALLAHAN** and **Joe**

FLORIAN.

Joe MYSTIC proposed that we start a list of folks who have spare rooms or bunks which could be made available to convention attendees who can't get a room for the Convention. **GREAT IDEA!** The Secretary has the list with **Joe's** name at the top. Call me anytime to sign up if you can accomodate out-of-towners in July.

Under New Business **VI FREELAND**, as spokesperson for the nominating committee, presented the recommended Slate Of Ring Officers for the 1989/1990 Membership Year. The following candidates were nominated unanimously: **Dick DALE** for President, **Mike STILWELL** for 1st Vice President, **Bob INGALLS** for 2nd Vice President, **Frank SYREN** for Treasurer, **J.P. JACKSON** for Secretary, and **Sherry LUFT** for Sgt-at-Arms. There were no further nominations and after a formal motion to vote the slate as proposed, all candidates were elected by unanimous vote.

And then it was DO A TRICK AND TEACH IT time. **Joe MYSTIC** lead off with a nice clear demonstration of LINKING PAPER MATCHES (held between thumb and forefinger) and showed us a well-covered "get ready" move. This is a stunning routine and should not be overlooked - almost too strong when done by a master - and it permits lots of great by-play. **Loch CRANE** shared his **AWE-SUM** modification of **John KENNEDY's FLAME THROWER MATCH**,

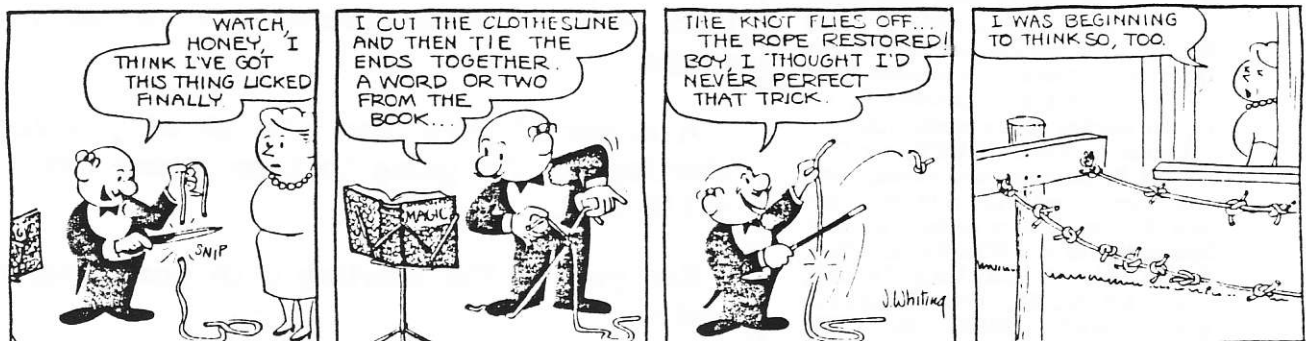
and described the materials and construction necessary for four to six foot bursts of flame, all day long, ideal for a parade situation or other longish "on" time. **Joe FLORIAN** taught his CHOP CUP with some extra clever penetration moves, Gambling "Con" patter and another great penetration/production of the final large ball. **Jack EVANS** displayed a fancy velvet bag containing every possible variation of RUBIK CUBE type puzzle (pyramid, sphere, cubes, etc.) with funny gags and bits, then showed us how to solve the basic puzzle instantaneously in a small ornate box.

Jeff MARCUS shared his favorite thumbtip (or Dye Tube) tip-over "pick-up" move for use in stuffing in the last tiny bit of about-to-color-change silk. Very, very clever, and it neatly avoids the usual, too visible shift from a "stuffing finger" to the final stuff with a thumb. Past President **Mark DIMENSTAIN** came up with a nice embellishment on **Jeff's** demonstration by showing us a neat under-the-arm acquitment o thumb tip or dye tube, which permits a very clean finish to any thumb tip work. **Cal(Jumbo Card)MAYERS** did a very nice, no hands Poker deal(force) with six spectators, which resulted in his accurate prediction of the five lowest cards in the five Poker hands dealt. Simple set-up, very clean and very strong for lay-men as a gambling demo - don't overlook this one either.

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VINCENT THE MAGICIAN

by **JIM WHITING**



Jack **MARKLEY** borrowed a dollar bill, rolled it into a tube, poured in a shot of water, immediately unrolled the bill and returned it clean and empty! A stunner, which he showed us how to set up, handle and measure out the right amount of the secret stuff. **Bob INGALLS** gave us a nice presentation of the *BROKEN AND RESTORED THREAD* (Gypsy Thread) - but you were supposed to *teach* it!

Loch **CRANE** came back to close the evening's entertainment with a nice card item called "*THREE MATES*". Loch reports that he learned it at a Ring 96 meeting and is now passing it along to Ring 76. A very easy-to-do and impressive prediction and revelation of the "mates" of three chosen cards as they are turned up on three separate piles.

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

HELPERS STILL NEEDED - The secretary needs a few more members with Bar-Tending skills to help out in the President's Suite the evening of July third, July sixth and July eighth. Many thanks, so far, to **Dick BUSH**, **Joe MYSTIC**, **Mike STILWELL** and **Marc HALBERG** for offering to help out. Now - who else can? Call me anytime at 569-0096. **AND** -the June meeting on the nineteenth will be the last chance to get on the "Convention Helper" list. Still need a few more folk to help out in the Close-Up Rooms, with the Lectures, Stage Contests, etc. After the June Meeting we will make assignments, and let you know as to time and place. With a couple of more workers we will all only have to work once.

NEW ITEM - Just learned that we may need to provide **USHERS** for the first night's show on the fifth at the Civic Theater. (After the first night everyone will know where they sit, hopefully.) Doors open at seven P.M., so we need some folks to arrive about six P.M., check out the seating arrangement and be prepared to help out folks as they start arriving. (You won't miss the show as you'll already have your seat.) Call me at 569-0096 to get on the Usher List.

BOARD MEETING

The Board met on June Fifth with **Dick DALE**, **Mike STILWELL**, **Ed FORSYTHE**, **Ed RAYMOND**, **J.P. JACKSON**, **Sherry LUFT**, **Harry HARTMAN** and **Fred and Ursula ROHRER**. **T.V.P. Joe BERTUZZI** joined us for another review of Convention planning to date, and action items still outstanding. In open discussion the board agreed that the new Ring officers, elected at the May meeting, will assume their duties effective with the annual Installation Dinner. Saturday, July twenty eighth, has been targeted as the date for the Installation Dinner at a time and place to be determined. The Dinner will be in addition to our regular meeting on July seventeenth.

By vote, two board members dissenting, the Board agreed to continue the Ring 76 tradition of electing a Member-Of-The-Year by secret ballot. Ballot slips will be passed out at the June meeting on the nineteenth, collected at the break and evaluated by a special to be designated by the president. Member-Of-The-Year should be the person who has made the most significant contributions to Ring 76 during the 1988/1989 Membership Year. Any member is eligible, and the results will be announced at the Installation Dinner.

Tentative plans for the Annual Exchange Banquet/Show with Long Beach Ring 96 were discussed. The Exchange Banquet will be in addition to the regular meeting on September Eighteenth. Tentative dates of either Saturday, the sixteenth, or Saturday, the twenty third of September, have been set aside. Details to follow after liaison with Ring 96. This year Ring 76 hosts and Ring 96 provides the show. Next Board Meeting is set for Thursday, June Twenty Ninth, at **Ed RAYMOND's** home - a little early because of the convention.

JUNE MEETING ...whats coming

Our **BRAND NEW, EXTRA FANCY, RING 76 NAME TAGS** (for each and every member) have been bought, paid for and delivered. **THEY ARE GLORIOUS** - and will be available at the door for the June Meeting on the nineteenth. Please pick them up as you come in (only yours) and sign-off for it on the list with our Sgt-At-Arms. Then pick up a **BALLOT SLIP** for your vote for **MEMBER-OF-THE-YEAR**. Fill it out with your choice of the Ring Member who has contributed most significantly to the Ring during the last year (all write in candidates), fold it up a couple of times and give it to the Sgt-At-Arms at the break. Results will be kept secret until the Installation Dinner.

We will have the usual business session (short as possible), announcements, late-breaking Convention news and our regular **RAFFLE**. The magic theme for the evening is: **ROPES/SILKS & RING**. So bust out your favorite rope or silk item, or rope & ring, or silk and ring, or whatever, and come prepared to show your best stuff!

SLEIGHTLY NEWS 'ROUND TOWN

☆**Sherry LUFT** organized and coordinated a nice effort recently for the **MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS BRUNCH SOCIETY**, a local branch of the National M/S Society, composed of young, single professionals. They held their semi-annual Fund Raiser at the Santa Fe Depot on Saturday, June Tenth; a very fancy Black-Tie affair with a Russian theme. Sherry is an active member of this group, as well as being our Sgt-at-Arms, and recruited **MAGIC MIKE STILWELL**, **Jessie JUDGE**, **Don HALBACH**

(Continued on Page 4)

and President Dick DALE for a two hour benefit show which helped make the evening a huge success.

Our friends in *THE MAGIC GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA* are planning a picnic for their next meeting on Sunday, July Ninth, at Fallbrook Park. Phil WILLMARTH, the *LINKING RING* "PARADE" editor will be the guest of honor and the featured Lecturer. Ring 76 is invited and, if you belong to this fine group (and you should), their DUES are due too! Twelve dollars to Mr. Jack MARKLEY will keep you on their membership List for another year.

☆From Stan ALLEN's great *INSIDE MAGIC* Newsletter - watch the tube for Rudy COBY on Sunday, June eighteenth, on ABC's "INCREDIBLE SUNDAY"; and The Magic NAPOLEANS a week later on Sunday, June twenty fifth - same show. Then catch PENN & TELLER on "LATE NIGHT WITH DAVID LETTERMAN" on the twenty seventh.

☆BRAD BURTS *MAGIC SHOP* will sponsor a lecture by FUKAI at seven P.M. on Monday, June twenty sixth. FUKAI was the second place winner at this year's *DESERT SEMINAR XII* in Las Vegas. Fee is ten dollars and space is limited. Call Brad at 571-4749 to reserve a seat.

☆We hear that Paul and Sharon BARTON's *PHANTOM OF THE OPERA* trip recently was a super success. If you missed it then you probably missed the whole show. It is completely sold out for it's entire run, and scalper prices are up to about five hundred dollars per ticket.

☆DAN THOMAS' *THE GATHERING* restaurant in Hillcrest features: Craig STONE on Fridays and Saturdays, and Mike CALLAHAN on Thursdays.

☆AND down a few blocks at *CORVETTE DINER* you can enjoy Fifties type music, food and fun along with magic by our own *MAGIC MIKE* on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and Joe MYSTIC on Thursdays.

☆For a fun Sunday, have brunch at *BAXTER'S* in El Cajon and watch President Dick DALE do his thing. Then head north to *WILD ANIMAL PARK* and catch Joe MYSTIC at work - live.

☆And again from *INSIDE MAGIC*: Harry BLACKSTONE Jr. is playing "Mephisto the Magician" in NBC's day-time show, "Santa Barbara". It's a recurring role for six or eight episodes from now thru late June. (You day-time TV fans can check it out, and let us know.)

CROSS TALK



● RING 96, Long Beach will have their annual Picnic on Sunday, July Sixteenth, at the *BRANDT MANSION* in La Habra. The day will feature a lecture by Belgium's **Christian CHELMAN** who will be appearing at the *MAGIC CASTLE* around the same time period. (See me for details.)

● AND - if you get this in time - RING 96 will host the "Ultimate Assistant": **BRENDA** on Saturday, June Seventeenth, at eight thirty P.M. with her *MERV TAYLOR/BOB HASKELL GAMBLING LECTURE*. They meet at the *IACO-*

BONI LIBRARY, 5020 N. Clark Ave. in Lakewood, CA. Only a two hour run up Route 5 to Route 405 to the Lakewood exit.

● *INSIDE MAGIC* and friend, **Joyce BASCH**, (President of the Orange County Magic Club) inform us that *MAGICALS INTERNATIONAL* celebrates it's Fiftieth Anniversary this year. Parent Assembly #1 and Hollywood *MAGICALS* #8 will be celebrating with a dinner and show on Saturday, June Twenty Fourth; Five P.M. Social Hour; Six P.M. Dinner; and a Seven P.M. Show at the home of **Winnie ZIMMERMAN**, 22650 Macfarlane Dr., Woodland Hills, CA. Reservations through **Fay STEWART** at (818) 449-2451. Donation is Eleven Dollars and Fifty Cents per person.

☆*ORANGE COUNTY MAGIC CLUB* will sponsor a Flea Market on Tuesday, June Twentieth, at *OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH*, 12301 Magnolia St., Garden Grove, CA. Call Joyce at (213) 598-1988 for further details.

J. P. Jackson

J.P. JACKSON

569-0096

Personality of the Month

by FRANK S. SYREN



This month we are honored to review the personality and career of one of the most dynamic, high flying and irrepressible characters in this or any club - possibly the world. If this characterization seems extravagant, then let us add the qualification "consistent with the strictures of an orderly and disciplined life." Without those last limitations he would probably "have really knocked your socks off", possibly not too wisely, but certainly flamboyantly. We might, however, add another qualification - "but he ain't dead yet!"

Although many of us may not know him personally, we're all familiar with his breezy, but meticulous reportage of this club's recent history. Rarely has any club enjoyed such detailed scrutiny by such an articulate and attentive reporter. We're referring, of course, to our loquacious secretary, J.P. Jackson. (The word "loquacious" is intended in its finest sense.)

John P. Jackson was born on July tenth, 1936, on the Northside of Chicago. At the time his family lived in one of the first dwellings designed by the architectural genius, Frank Lloyd Wright. Had the family remained in Chicago, J.P.'s life in magic would probably have been quite different than it was. Then, as now, Chicago, along with New York, was one of the two great magical centers of the country. L.A. was a close third. However,

when J.P. was still an infant the family moved to Stevens Point, Wis.

Stevens Point was a city of about fifteen thousand; semi-rural and dairy farm oriented, the kind of mid-western community that is often considered the bed rock of America. J.P. remembers that there was a market square right in the center of town where the farmers would come to sell produce on Saturday morning.

There were no magic shops in Stevens Point, however, and J.P. knew no magicians. One of the boys in his school had a grandfather who did an annual magic show at the Elks Club and provided J.P. with some of his first inspiration, but J.P. never got to know him. Mr. Jackson, who worked for a dairy chemical company, traveled four days out of the week and enjoyed bringing J.P. home tricks, jokes and novelties he picked up in the cities he visited. Oddly enough, it was a joke novelty that triggered that first interest - the seedling each of us remembers, the moment when we all first realize that we, too, might learn to do magic. The object in J.P.'s case was a false thumb; not a thumb tip, but a swollen, lacerated, gory, rubber abomination of a thumb; wrapped in a blood-soaked bandage. Being the typical ham that we all are, the eight year old boy could not just display the thumb to his mother - he had to have a production. To set the stage for his illusion he went out

to the woodshed, which was within hearing of the house, and began noisily banging with a hammer. When he felt sure his racket had attracted his mother's attention he let out a blood curdling scream and raced into the house, clamorously wagging the ugly thumb in his mother's face. As he says, "She almost died." Thus did the boy first realize the thrill of creating an illusion. J.P. still has that thumb.

His next discovery was the Johnson Smith catalogue. That hoary tome, the treasure of all pre-WWII youngsters who wanted to do magic, was the source of his first bag of tricks. We can all remember the anguish of waiting for the package to arrive in the mail. Shortly after this came the Gilbert Mysto Magic set. Actually J.P. had two. First there was a No.2, and later a No.4. There must be thousands of magicians who started out with one of these sets.

The first formal presentation of J.P. Jackson, the magician, took place in his living room when he was between eight and ten years old. There were about thirty paying guests, but J.P. remembers that he made more money on pop corn; which kept his mother busy in the kitchen during the performance. His repertoire included, among other effects, the Chinese Linking Rings and a silk dyeing effect. The latter trick did not go so well as he recalls.

Often, when Mr. Jackson had a slow week on the road, he would take J.P. and his mother traveling with him. If the itinerary included Madison, Wis. J.P. would get to visit the Bull's Eye Magic Shop in that city; or if Milwaukee, The Magic Mart. The biggest treat, however, were the trips back to Chicago, which came every other Thanksgiving when the family joined old friends for the holiday. J.P.'s father would take him on a tour of all the famous Chicago magic stores. There would be Joe Berg's Studio where he could ogle all the glamorous equip-

(Continued on Page 6)

ment, including, he remembers, an Okito Checker Cabinet; Irelands; and Jim Sherman's National Magic Shop in the Palmer House. J.P. would take two day's to spend his hard earned three dollars. It would seem that the great hero of these expeditions must have been his long-suffering father. There was a branch of Central State Teacher's College in Stevens Point which operated a Training School at which the student teachers taught. J.P. went through all eight grades of the Training School. Later the college became a branch of the University of Wisconsin. He went to a high school called P.J. Jacobs High School in Stevens Point, graduating with a class of between three and four hundred in 1954. In high school he played first string center on the football team and was on the tennis squad. His extra curricular activities included the Drama Club, the French Club, the Sports Club and the Annual Fair and Supper at which he did magic and was a member of an Indian Dance Team.

During the summer after his seventh grade in grammar school, when a carnival came to town, J.P. went out to the grounds and offered his services putting up tents, or whatever other services were required. He wound up getting a job at the pony ride. He says, "My first job in show business was shoveling manure in a pony ring."

He shoveled for a week and then was hired for the "Ring Toss" concession for the second week of the carnival. During that week he met a delightful young man, an art teacher from Milwaukee, named Jim Hophensberger. Hoppy, as he was called, and his wife supplemented his teacher's pay running a game concession with the

carnival. The next summer J.P. worked games for Hoppy and traveled with the carnival for a few weeks. The kids who worked at the carnivals were called "punks". J.P. was a punk during the carnival season all through the high school years. One year, while he was working a three ball game, he learned juggling and used the talent to "turn the tip" i.e. attract customers. The only time he did any magic at the carnival turned out to be quite a disappointment. The operator of the side show approached him one day and said, "My magician blew the show. (left town) Would you like to be the magician in the side show?"

J.P. says, "I was just enamored with that

I said to myself, 'This is it. The Big Time.' So I worked up a couple of things and prepared to knock 'em dead. When it came my turn I started up a twenty minute routine and was promptly cut off after the rope trick. I learned what carnival magic was all about. "Naw, naw," the boss said. 'Ya do the rope trick. Ya tell 'em a dirty joke, and ya move 'em on to the Bearded Lady. We gotta get 'em outta here to get the next crowd in.' "That wasn't my idea of doing magic. I did one show and went back to my ball game."

Somewhere in J.P.'s carnival days he picked up the know-how to run a Three Card Monte pitch. On bad days when the crowd was thin and business was slow, he would often set up his barrel head in front of his booth and start flicking his three cards around. When he found a sucker who would bet a few dimes against him an interesting moral paradox would arise. Somehow, when he was inside the booth, dispensing worthless prizes for successful tosses at a dime a pitch (and collecting 25% commission on the take) his soul felt unblemished. Out on the barrethead, raw dime against raw dime and keeping the whole take for himself, he began to feel guilty. Instead of winning every dime he found himself beginning to split with the sucker, often actually losing money - something no self-respecting carnie would ever do. The summer after J.P. graduated from high school was his last with the carnival. He had been toying with applying for one of the military academies, and discussed it with his father. The week that the carnival was playing Stillwater, Minnesota his father showed up and said,

To J.P. Jackson
A fellow collector
to great Thumb Tipping
Happy Thumb Tipping
Gary Danni
Las Vegas, Nev
7-11-87



(Continued on Page 7)

JACKSON (Cont. from Page 6)

"If you're serious about the service academies I've found a prep school you should go to."

That was decision time. J.P. had also been considering going south with the carnival for the winter, an exotic prospect that was very appealing. He had always known he would go to college some day but, with tuition rates soaring, every year he waited would be more expensive. Then, too, the prospect of getting a college education and getting paid for it was very appealing. He had money saved up from the carnival so off he went to Minneapolis to the prep school. It was actually a school to prepare prospective cadets and midshipmen to take the entrance examinations. During his year there he became an expert at passing entrance exams for the Naval Academy, the Military Academy, the Coast Guard Academy, the Merchant Marine Academy, and even the brand new Air Force Academy. He also got courses in American Literature and a lot of math. He had written to his senator, but heard nothing. Much later he heard from an aide who said Sen. McCarthy was too busy at the time to take time for Congressional appointments. He also had written to Congressman Laird, later to become Secretary of Defense, Melvin Laird. In the meantime he was accepted at the Merchant Marine Academy. Shortly after that he heard from Laird, who told him to take the entrance exam for Annapolis, which he passed with a good mark, and learned that he was the second alternate for the U.S. Naval Academy for July of '55. During his high school years, Laird had been a guest at a Lions Club meeting at which J.P. had performed. He was never sure whether this had been a factor in his selection. In August he again heard from Laird. Of the thirteen hundred odd plebes who had begun plebe summer in July enough had dropped out so that he now would be admitted. He reported in August, later realizing that all he had missed was the task of rowing enormous whale boats

around Chesapeake Bay, thus saving many blisters on the palms and behind.

That was how J.P. embarked on the four year grind that would make him an officer in the United States Navy. In his own words this is how it went:

"So, I went in there in the summer of '55 without really knowing 'Who' or 'When' or 'Why' or 'What', but I was committed to it! Every day that went by in that academy, I said, 'I'm going to stay here!' because every day that went by was a day wasted had I flunked out, or been kicked out. I don't know why. I don't think I was that smart, but somehow I had a tenacity that I still have to this day - STICK TO IT!"

This would be a good time to tell where the nickname "J.P." came from. The explanation is quite simple. In the plebe year all the midshipmen are issued work uniforms with their names stenciled on them in large letters. His said "J.P. JACKSON" and no one ever called him anything else from then on.

"I took my magic with me that plebe year," he says, "and when the upper classmen came back that fall I let it be known that I could entertain. Often I had to report to upper classmen's rooms, usually as a result of a missed question in the mess hall. The meals were always the question period. We plebes would be asked many professional questions such as, 'What is the main armament of an Iowa Class battleship?'. If we didn't know we would report, 'I'll find out, Sir,' and then we did, and reported back to the upper classman's room that evening. The whole principle was to teach us how to do research and solve problems. I would turn these sessions into a magic show. I got through plebe year easier than most because of that."

In the beginning of J.P.'s second year at the academy he found that he was drifting away from magic. It had done its job the year before, but now he was becoming immersed in the service, and the academy, and the enormous amount of concentration required to absorb all

the new information that was impacting him from every side. He enjoyed the academy, but it was hard. By his own admission, he was no whiz kid.

"As I am proud to announce," he says, "I graduated in the upper three fourths of my class." His class was the Class of '59, and, in fairness to himself, he should have said he was in the upper two thirds.

On his sixty day graduation leave he went home, packed up all his magic and drove his new little sports car to Chicago where he sold the entire lot to the Chicago Magic Company for fifteen dollars. It didn't even pay for the gas. To this day he can't say why he did it.

"I guess it was because I knew I owed the navy four years, and that I would have tremendous obligations, often twenty four hours a day. It was like putting aside childish things, getting on with life. It didn't and doesn't make much sense in hind sight."

His first duty assignment was on an old destroyer escort in Newport, R.I. Then he went to another destroyer in Key West, Florida. On this tour he watched the Russian missiles going into Cuba. And watched them leave again when President Kennedy ordered them out.

His next duty was on a big old fleet oiler as operations officer. He enjoyed this duty because it was so functional.

"I'd always been in a training environment before - chasing imaginary submarines, firing at imaginary planes. Now we had the job of loading 1200 gasoline onto 1200 ships. I got a sense of accomplishment out of that."

In 1965 J.P. was sent to Vietnam where he spent two years as an Advisor on river patrol. Then onto Washington where he met Susie Lambiotte and married her in 1968.

"I waited until I was thirty two so as not to make an impetuous decision, but it didn't do any good," J.P. says wryly. He

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JACKSON (Cont. from Page 7)

and Susie had three boys together and then were divorced in 1982.

Immediately after the marriage J.P. was sent to Newport for training and on to Vallejo for missile training. During J.P.'s years on sea duty and in Vietnam the Navy had gradually changed from guns to missiles, and he had to be brought up to date.

After the completion of his re-education in 1969 he was assigned to a destroyer based in Japan.

At the conclusion of his Japanese assignment J.P. started home by way of Australia. He had intended visiting all his old buddies from Vietnam, but while he was doing the tourist bit in Sydney he came upon a **MAGIC SHOP**. It had been twelve years since he had impetuously given up magic and a lot of new gadgets and gimmicks had been developed. The most notable one, from his point of view, was the **CHOP CUP**. In an instant his love of magic was reanimated. He left Australia with a bag full of new magic.

On returning to the States he was assigned to a teaching post at the Missile

School in Napa, CA, where the family remained for four years. His magic hobby again full-blown, he joined the Napa Valley Magician's Guild, a small independent club and a most congenial group, composed mostly of husbands and wives. J.P. served as secretary of the club and published a little newsletter, the precursor of **MAGICURRENTS**. He became an active performer, did shows all over Napa, and generally rejoined our world.

At about this time his father had been cleaning the attic back in Stevens Point and discovered a trove of magic which J.P. had missed in his ritualistic divestment back in 1959. In the collection were all his old magic books and all his catalogs. There were even Christmas "wish" lists in his eight year old hand. Lists composed mostly of magic "wants".

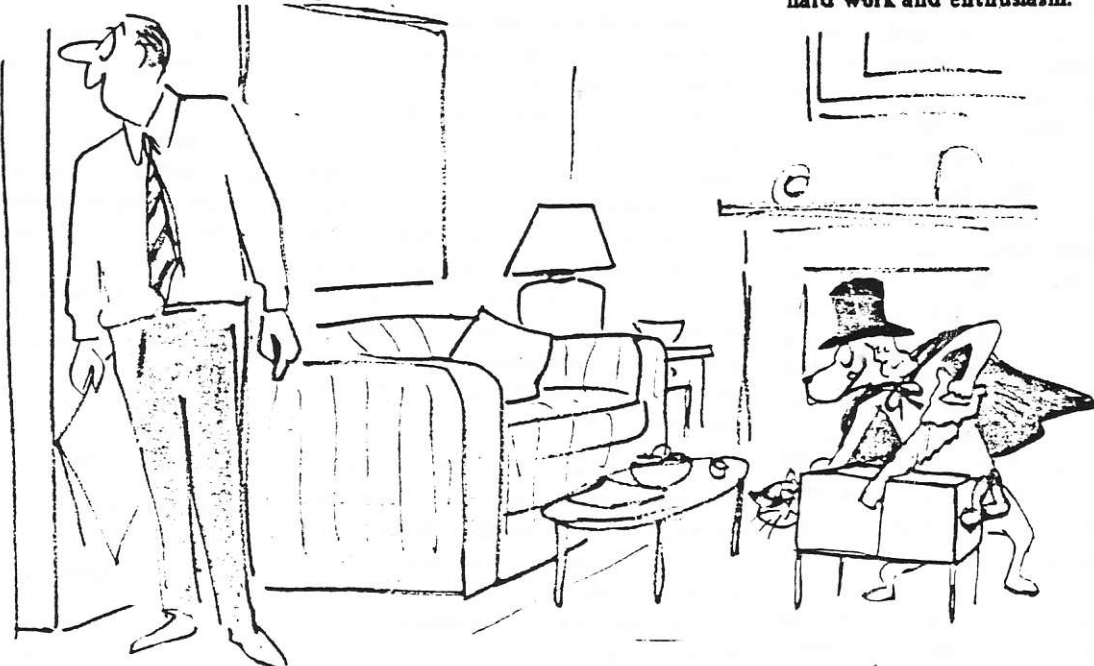
"Well, going over those old catalogs, all marked with the things I wanted and never got, made me want them more than ever, just as they would have been way back then. Maybe you could say I focused on John P. Jackson's youthful dreams. "That started it," he says. "I had already begun accumulating magic - we're all accumulators - but I didn't know I was a Collector then. There's quite a difference. Collectors focus on

some particular phase or type of magic - say P&L or Thayer, Egg Bags, Rings, etc. I am an unfocused Collector.

Living in the Vallejo area J.P. met Lloyd Jones, the well known magical book publisher. He also often attended Ring 38 meetings in San Francisco and got to know Byron Walker, who owns the largest privately held magic book collection in America. Through these two men he began to realize the value of old magic books. After that delightful assignment J.P. was transferred to San Diego where he joined Ring 76. He also met Mike Stilwell and J.C. Wagner and even worked part time in their **MAGIC LOUNGE** after his first retirement from the Navy.

When he retired the first time he and the family went back to Napa seeking the happiness they had had there. But it was too late, and it was there that he and Susie parted company. He went back in the Navy, even getting his old job back here in San Diego, which was, of course, our good fortune since he stayed here when he retired for the second time in 1986.

Since then he has been busy raising his family and enriching Ring 76 with his hard work and enthusiasm.



"Come here a minute, dear. Skeeter's learned a new trick."

TENTATIVE PLANNING CALENDAR: 1989-1990

JULY '89: Brd. Thur. June 29th
 17th: Mtg. theme: Magic with Numbers
 Spcl. event: Convention
 Installation Dinner: Fri 28 July

AUG '89: Brd. 7th
 21st: Mtg. theme:
 Spcl. event: Exchg. w/ MGSC ?

SEPT '89: Brd. ____
 18th: Mtg. theme:
 Spcl. event: Exchg. Din w/ 96
 (76 Host)

OCT '89: Brd. 2nd
 16th: Mtg. theme:
 Spcl. event: Morehouse Lect. ?

NOV '89: Brd. 6th
 20th: Mtg. theme: SWAP Meet ?
 Spcl. event:

DEC '89: Brd. 4th
 18th: Mtg. theme: XMAS Dinr.
 Spcl. event: XMAS Show

JAN '90: Brd. ____
 15th: Mtg. theme:
 Spcl. event:

FEB '90: Brd. 5th
 19th: Mtg. theme: Annual AUCTION
 Spcl. event:

MAR '90: Brd. 5th
 19th: Mtg. theme:
 Spcl. event:

APR '90: Brd. 2nd
 16th: Mtg. theme:
 Spcl. event:

MAY '90: Brd. 7th
 21st: Mtg. theme: (Nominations)
 Spcl. event:

JUNE '90: Brd. 4th
 18th: Mtg. theme: (Elections)
 Spcl. event:

JULY '90: Brd. 2nd
 16th: Mtg. theme: (Installation Dinr.) ?
 Spcl. event: IBM Convention - St. Louis

POSSIBLES:

Brad Burt Dealer night
 Bumper Dealer night
 Lecture by _____

Pot Luck Picnic/Cook-out
 Paul Diamond Dealer Show
 Geo. SANDS visit

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