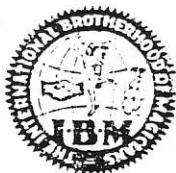
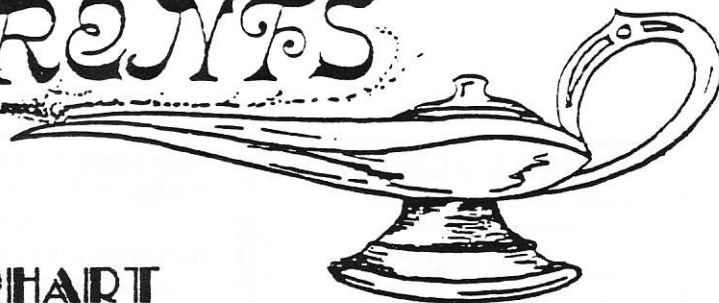


MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

JULY 1989

EARLY CONVENTION CHECK-IN

IT'S HERE - THE 61ST IBM CONVENTION: Magic & Magicians everywhere -- Magic at the *OMNI*, at the WESTGATE, in HORTON PLAZA, at the CIVIC THEATER -- Magic at THE *GATHERING* and *CORVETTE DINER*.

Be sure to take advantage of the Early-Bird Convention Check-In on TUESDAY, July Fourth from Seven to Nine PM. The Convention Registration Desk on the Second Floor of the *OMNI* will be open during those hours for Early-Bird Check-In. Normal Registration opens at Eight AM on Wednesday, the Fifth, and will probably be jammed - so slip down to the *OMNI* during the early evening of the Fourth and grab your Convention Registration Package (Program, Schedules, Tickets, etc.), ahead of the crowd. Be sure to take along your IBM paid receipt which shows your registration number. Then see me at the WELCOME / HOSPITALITY DESK and pick up your RING 76 Name Tag if you didn't get it at the last meeting.

PARKING: In response to the most often asked question lately, "WHERE DO WE PARK?" ANSWER: Anywhere you want! Seriously, folks, the following information may help: Parking at *HORTON PLAZA* is free after Five PM. The first three hours at

Horton Plaza are also free, and then it's one buck per hour after the first three. The "word" is that the *OMNI* Valet Parking at eight dollars a day may be the best deal cause nearby city parking lots are as much as ten dollars a

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Prez's Mezzage

I do about fifteen to twenty charity (read that "free") shows a year. It's like paying back the community for all that it has done for me. It also gives one a good feeling. Sooo-, *The United Negro College Fund* needs five magicians to perform walk around magic on October twenty fifth from Five Forty Five to Seven. The names will appear in both the program and the invitation. Dinner is included in the deal. In fact, they want to spread us around at different tables so the attendees can talk with a "star". Please call me at 562-7379 before July Tenth if you are interested in helping a worthy cause. Please.

This is your last newsletter and last month of membership if you have not renewed your dues yet. If you haven't, please do so. J.P. needs somebody to talk to.

We'll see you at the cocktail party on the Third, the convention on the fifth through the eighth, the meeting on the seventeenth, and the Installation Dinner on the twenty eighth. Should be a fun month!

HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

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MAGICURRENTS

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

LEAD STORY (Cont. from Page 1)

day. (Better yet, park at *Hortas Plaza* and move your car every three hours.) A doctored-up map of *HORTON PLAZA* is included with this issue of *MAGICURRENTS* to show you the traffic flow into and around the *OMNI*. The following routes may also be helpful: From the East - Use Highway 94 which becomes "F" Street, crosses Fourth Street and goes right into the Fourth Avenue Parking Garage. From the North - Use Interstate Five to the Front Street Exit, south on Front Street, cross Broadway, left on "E" Street, and right into Broadway Circle entrance to front door of the *OMNI*. From the West or the South you're on your own. Good Luck!

CAUTION : This is your last *MAGICURRENTS* if you don't pay those 1989/90 dues of Twelve Dollars, now

three months in arrears. See Treasurer Ed RAYMOND or me at the regular meeting on July seventeenth or at the Installation Dinner on the Twenty Eighth - and that will be the **LAST CALL!**

IBM Central is processing the Membership Application for Billy **WHITCOMB**. How about yours? **HAPPY FOURTH & SIXTY FIRST** - See ya at the **WELCOME DESK**.

JUNE MEETING
---or what you
missed

Fifty Two Members and Six Guests came to the June Meeting to pick up our fancy, new, official RING 76 Name Tags (just in time for the Convention), to cast their secret ballots for the 1989/90 Member-of-the-Year and to hear T V P Joe **BERTUZZI** report on last minute convention plans and special activities. President Dick **DALE** presented IBM Membership Pins and Certificates to **Marcus DAY**, **Joe FLORIAN** and **Mike CALLAHAN** and is still holding others for presentation. **Magic Mike STILWELL** conducted our monthly raffle with about two dozen nifty items from from his "Works", five new members joined at the break, and away we went for *ROPES / SILKS and RING*

NIGHT. Jack **EVANS** started with a very timely "BATMAN" and the "JOKER" tied-on-rope release with his usual scintillating and clever patter. **David SMITH** performed for about fifteen minutes with a beautiful Ring & Rope routine which included a "toss-on" flourish and immediate release, a ring onto knot and release effect, several ring onto rope moves, and then shifted gears with a well done Deck-in-Napkin Card Stab. Both Jack **EVANS** and **David SMITH** deserve a special "Thank You". They are always ready, willing and able to perform - AND DO!

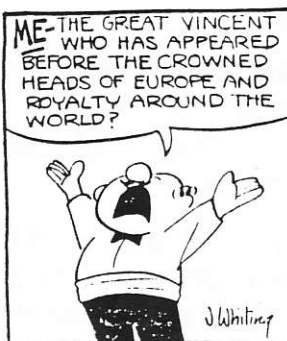
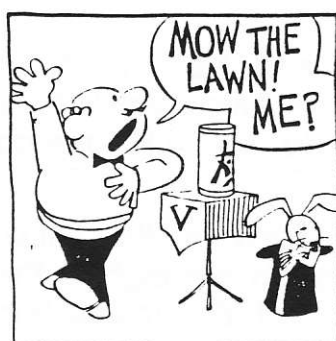
Bob INGALLS, our new, incoming Second Vice President, came back to show us his *GYPSY THREAD* item again, only this time he taught it like he was supposed to do in May - only a month late! **David OBOZA**, another always-ready-to-perform Member, gave us another "ROPESTATIONAL" routine from our recent **George SANDS** lecture, and it was even better than the great one he did in April - proof of what diligenc and practice can do!

Veteran old pro, **James SWOGER**, had an intriguing Do-As-I-Do Ring and Rope item with the release of a red bangle, trapped on a cord by a blue bangle - naturally, only his would release. **Jessie JUDGE** demonstrated his ever-increasing skill with his trusty *CUT AND RESTORED ROPE* routine with tied knots, sliding knots, and vanishing

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VINCENT THE MAGICIAN

by JIM WHITING



knots using his re-located *CUTINO CUT SCISSORS*.

Local *FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN MAGICIANS* Treasurer, **Jack MARKLEY**, got up on a chair to show us a hilarious "*STIFF ROPE*" routine with a funny, funny story about his "Gran-Paw, the Tight Rope Walker" (with changing emphasis on "tight"). He announced an upcoming Public Show by the F C M Chapter in Vista, and gave us an advance look with a nice Gospel version of the *TWENTIETH CENTURY SILKS*. Dual Member, **Ken STILLMAN**, is the new president of this fine group, and that now makes three different magic clubs in the greater San Diego area. **David URQUIDI**, back in town for a visit, treated us to some very nice work with a borrowed finger ring, a Ring from Rope release, a Ring from Knot release, a release from a rope loop in the spectator's hand, a table-top version of Ring onto Rope under a silk and finished with a showy Ring onto Wand AND Rope in the spectator's hand - very professional stuff. **Mark (COSMAR) DIMENSTEIN** capped the evening with his new "*ASTROBLAST*" - a beautiful Table Lamp which reveals a torn corner, chosen card or a vanished silk in a shattering light bulb. Check the ads in the trade publications for a longer description and the versatility of this effect for mental or comedy magic - **Mark** didn't have time.

BOARD MEETING

The Board met on June Twenty Ninth with **Dick DALE**, **Mike STILWELL**, **J P JACKSON**, **Frank SYREN**, **Ed RAYMOND**, **Ed FORSYTHE**, **Harry HARTMAN**, **Julie DALE**, **Pat HANNUM**, and **Fred & Ursula ROHRER**. (What a nice turnout. Thanks for coming.) **TVP Joe BERTUZZI** joined us for a final review of convention activities and action items. **Mike STILWELL** reviewed plans for the Children's Hospital Benefit Show on July Third, and various details for the *RING 76* Cocktail Party and No-Host dinner on July Third were finalized.

Frank SYREN, the incoming Treasurer, described plans for the computerization of *RING 76* bookkeeping and outlined computer files for the various income and expense accounts. Frank's system will give us an almost day-to-day look at the Ring's accounts with minimal effort and the ability to segregate total costs for the newsletter, raffles, etc. **JP JACKSON** reported that the Treasurer's books have been audited, corrected and verified as of June Twenty Eighth. The Treasurers will begin their turn-over after the July Seventeenth meeting.

By general consensus, the Board agreed that the July Twenty Eighth Installation Dinner should be held at the La Mesa American Legion Hall (our regular meeting place),

subject to the availability of the Banquet Rooms. Various locations for the September Exchange Dinner with *RING 76* were also discussed, and several possible sites identified for investigation. The next Board meeting will be at **Mike STILWELL'S** on August Seventh.

JULY MEETING

--whats coming

La Mesa American Legion Hall
Spring & University Streets in La Mesa
(Spring Street Exit off Interstate 8)

We still have many of our new, official *RING 76* Name Tags left for distribution. If you didn't get yours at the Convention then be sure to pick it up at the regular meeting on the Seventeenth - See **Sherry LUFT** at the door.

We were recently reminded of something we've been missing. We used to have *ROUND-TABLES*, *WORKSHOPS*, and *TEACH-INS* between Seven and Seven Thirty on Meeting Nights. What with all the business lately we seem to have lost track of this fun and instructional phase of our meetings. **WELL - IT'S BACK!** **George EDWARDS** has volunteered to host another of his great *WORKSHOPS* as he has done so well and so often in the past. So - show up at Six Forty Five or so and find **George** in the *WORKSHOP* Corner. The subject will be cards so bring your own deck.

Business meeting promptly at Seven Thirty (over quickly), our usual raffle, break and

(Continued on Page 4)

then into our theme for the evening: MAGIC with NUMBERS. Go look up "Magic Squares" in Hilliard's GREATER MAGIC or check out Martin GARDNER'S MATHMAGIC and MYSTERY and come prepared. (Oh, if you gotta split hairs, dice are included too.)

COMING EVENTS AND CONVENTION NEWS

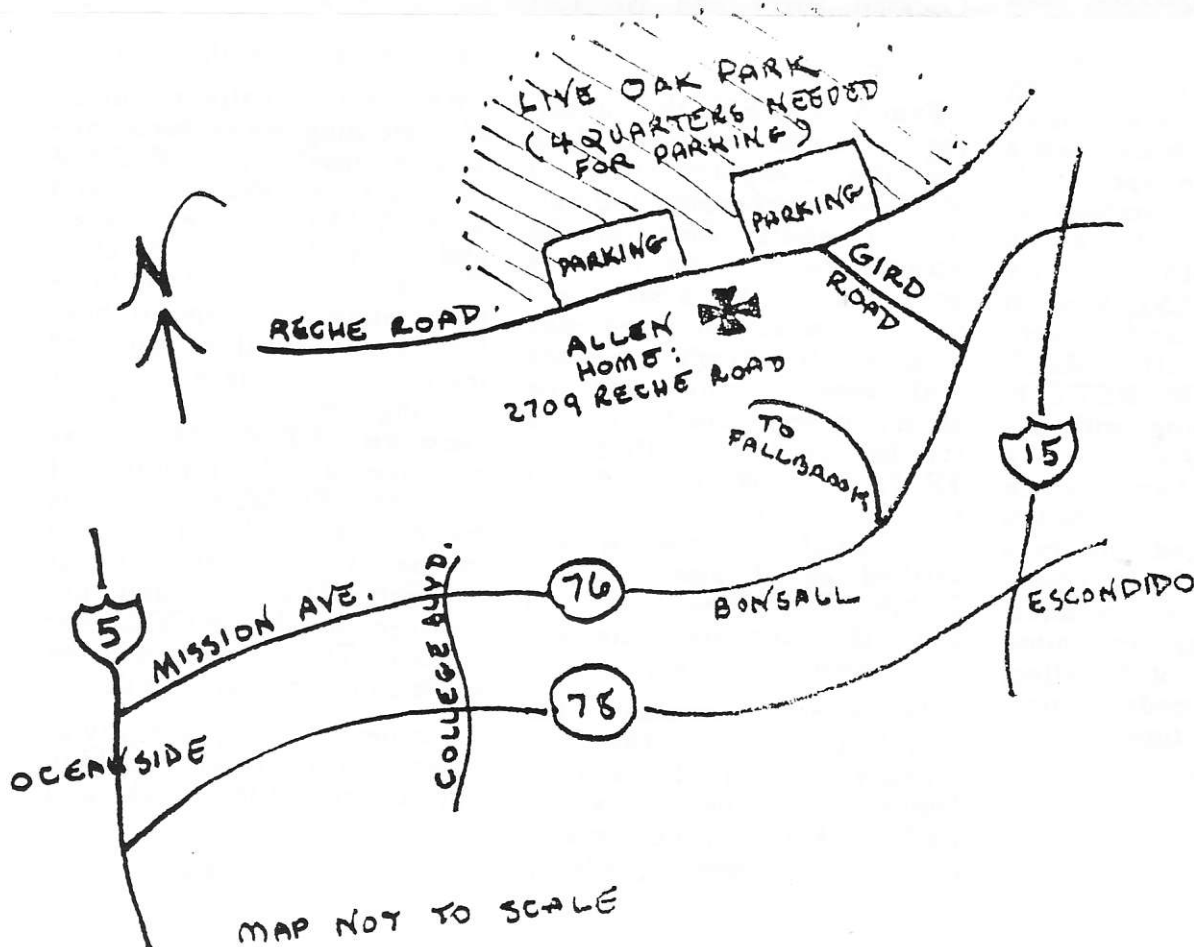
- Check out your Convention Program carefully when you get it, and look for information about special events

sponsored by "AT YOUR SERVICE" of *NORDSTROM'S* Department Store in *HORTON PLAZA*. They have gone out of their way to make the IBM Convention an extra special event by providing "WELCOME KITS" for all the IBM spouses, and by scheduling events in the store to coincide with the Convention Week, including an all-day "BLOCK PARTY" on Saturday, the Eighth.

- Last month's *MAGICURENTS* provided your 1989/90 Planning Guide - a sort of Year-at-a-Glance, to give you an idea what's in store, meeting dates, special events, etc. Inputs and/or ideas are

always welcome and desired. Call me anytime with your thoughts, or bring them to any Board Meeting.

- Don't forget the *MAGICIAN'S GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA* picnic at *LIVE OAK PARK* in Fallbrook on Sunday, July Ninth, the day after the Convention ends. Great way to relax and watch Guest Lecturer, **Phil WILLMARTH**, the *LINKING RING* Parade Editor. RING 76 has been specifically invited, even if you're not a member of this Fun Group, so plan to take something edible to share. Better yet, call **Bob ALLEN** at 723-7307 and get on the sign-up list. Plan to arrive about One PM or sooner and bring four quarters for the all-day parking meter. (See Map)



- Then, a week later, is our regular meeting on July Seventeenth with a special new (old) feature brought back. (See July Meeting --- what's coming.)
 - AND - start making plans for our annual Installation Dinner on Friday, July Twenty Eight. (Details to follow by special Flyer.)
- AND THAT'S ENOUGH FOR JULY!!



★ AND, if you don't have enough to do right now. Check out the activities in *BELMONT PARK* at Mission Blvd. and West Mission Bay Drive. Member **Loch CRANE** has been very active with his "*SAVE THE COASTER*" project for some time now, and will be doing his suspended, Straight-Jacket Escape at Five PM on Tuesday, the Fourth. Go cheer for him on your way to the Early Convention Check-In at the *OMNI*.

★ *THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN MAGICIANS* in Vista, CA., will present a free Public Show on Monday, August Seventh at the *WEST COAST BAPTIST CHURCH* - their regular meeting place. **Jack MARKLEY** gave us a nice preview at our June Meeting, so be sure to find time to see this new group in action.

★ AND REMEMBER - *THE GATHERING* has MAGIC in the evenings, Thursday through Saturday, and it's a great place to have dinner, too.

★ *CORVETTE DINER* has **MAGIC MIKE** and **JOE MYSTIC** at work Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday so go see them after dinner at *THE GATHERING*.

★ Member **Terry GOD-FRIED** is hard at work at the *DEL MAR FAIR* doing three shows a day for the kids. Go find him in his "*PIPSQUEAK PARK*" or whatever it's called.

★ And when you get tired of all the magic at the *OMNI*, wander over to *SEAPORT VILLAGE* and catch member **Craig STONE** doing daily street magic.

CROSS TALK



● *THE MAGICIAN'S GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA* is planning a special event for *RING 76* on Thursday, September Twenty-First. They will entertain us with **DR. HOCKEN-LOCKER's** "*PEERLESS POLYNESIAN PERFORMING FLEA CIRCUS*" and "*GARLIC*". (No, I don't know either, but I'm sure going to go see.) Watch *CROSSTALK* for further details.

● The *MGSC* is also looking for performers and clowns who can donate their time and talent for the annual *VISTA STREET FAIR* in August. This can be great exposure so call **Jack MARKLEY** at 724-6558 for details and to get on the "list".

● And if you want another July event, don't forget the *RING 96* annual picnic in La Habra on Sunday, July Sixteenth (day before our regular meeting). Call Secretary **Joyce BASCH** at (213) 598-1988 for details or find her at the Convention.

● SEE YOU AT THE PARTY on the Third and/or at EARLY CONVENTION CHECK-IN on the Fourth. -- HAVE A FUN CONVENTION.

J.P. Jackson

J.P. JACKSON

569-0096

Personality of the Month

by Frank S. Syren

This month we're honored to present one of the communities best known and well liked personalities: our past President, Channel Ten Anchorman, Jack White.

Jack and Lynn White live in an attractive, two story, stucco house in Mission Hills. It was built in 1916 and has been modernized to take advantage of its generous proportions. There is a pleasant screened-in patio at the rear of the building which also adjoins a separate play house and bar further to the rear. In the playhouse Jack has some of his fine collection of antique magic and posters displayed, and there is a large roll-down screen for the projection of his vintage magic films. The patio also gives access to the lawn and the kidney shaped pool at the back of the lot. Jack never planned on going into Television Broadcasting. Actually, in college he majored in Business Administration, and planned on becoming an accountant. But he *always* knew he was a magician.

It all started with a magic show at an Elk's Father and Son Dinner in Oceanside when he was about eleven. Oceanside was the city where Jack was born and grew up. He doesn't know who the magician was, but the next day he discovered the classified advertisements under the heading "MAGIC TRICKS, PUZZLES AND JOKES" in *POPULAR SCIENCE* and *POPULAR MECHANICS*.

"From then on," he says, "my primary objective in life was writing off for as many magic catalogs as I could possibly get. The first one I got (and I still have it) was from *THE MAGICIAN* at Kingston Station in Philadelphia, PA. I had *MAX HOLDEN'S* and later *TANNEN'S* out of New York. I had *NATIONAL MAGIC'S* out of Chicago. *BERT EASLEY* had a shop in Phoenix, Arizona. He put out a catalog. And then *U.F. GRANT* put out a catalog. There was a guy in Maryland by the name of *PHIL THOMAS* who had the *YOGI MAGIC MART*. Phil was one of those guys who could keep your mail box filled every week with all kinds of mailings and clippings and things like that. *DON LAWTON* had a publication that came out monthly (it *seemed* more frequently) called *LINES FROM LAWTON*. It was a four or five page newsletter in which he would write about new tricks on the market, and he would give you little routines, and of course he had things for sale. I was always sending away for some kind of trick or other, spending about every penny I could get my hands on.

"I remember, finally, my mother telling me that if I *really* wanted to be a magician, to quit wasting my money on things like that, and go down to the public library. She said there would be a whole section just on magic. I did that and, of course, was terribly amazed to find that there were more magic books than I could ever imagine having been written."

Oceanside at that time was a community of about six thousand permanent residents which swelled to twelve thousand in the tourist season. There were no magic shops or magic clubs, so far as Jack knew. He was forced to rely on his books and catalogs to advance his interest in our art. This, as many of you know from sad experience, is the hard way to learn magic. Jack says, "I didn't have a teacher. I picked it all up myself, and when I couldn't figure out something I would watch others. And, believe me, where I grew up in Oceanside there were not many other magicians.

"Once in a while a traveling show would come through. I remember once *Bill Chaudet* played Oceanside. Bill was Blackstone's nephew. (Later I got to know him rather well.) I saw his show, was just terribly impressed, and went back to see the second show later in the evening. And I finally got up enough nerve to go backstage. Now I was, probably, fifteen years old. I think I told him that I had learned what I knew on my own. I had the Tarbell course by then. I said, 'Mr. Chaudet, I have one request to make. Would you teach me how you forced a card?' He just looked at me and smiled. Now that is probably one of the first things you learn: how to force a playing card, but I never had a foolproof way to do it. Well, he showed me a force that I use to this day; just a simple little riffle shuffle force." Quite an acquisition in one evening for an aspiring young magician.

Jack went through grammar school, high school and two years of college in Oceanside. He did magic shows, practiced incessantly but, somehow, never dreamed of a magical career. It had been impressed upon him that business was the career he should pursue. He played baseball, but not basket ball. He was growing rapidly, eventually reaching six four and, as a tall, gangling youth, was too uncoordinated for football or basketball. Magic was an important, but carefully segregated part of his life. Also he found no lack of coordination shuffling a pack of cards.

During his high school years he often got into San Diego to visit *PEGGY HARBIN'S FUN SHOP* in downtown San Diego. *Jim Riley* worked there during his high school years, and the two boys became acquainted. Jack says, "I had a tremendous amount of respect for Jim. I was terribly impressed with his talents. I used to love to go in and talk with him. However, he was not my teacher." The two men are the same age (as is *Dick Dale*, incidently.) 1939 was a good year for magicians.

Asked where he got the money to spend on magic he said, "In my earlier days I had a paper route. I was a very fortunate young man. My family wasn't wealthy, but whatever money I earned I was able to spend on what I wanted.

Another powerful influence, that probably contributed to the demise of his planned career as an accountant, was his part time job during high school. He started out as an usher in an Oceanside Theater, later worked in the snack bar, and eventually became a manager; thus becoming acquainted with the Segal brothers who were later to play a part in his career in magic. For a young man he made a pretty good salary. In retrospect, it would seem that business administration never had a chance.

His theater experience gave him some insight into show business. "I understood, I think, about show business. A lot of people don't realize what it is. They look at it, and see a lot of performers down there having a good time, not understanding that this *is* a BUSINESS, and that you do have to have the business acumen...as well as the polished act. And I was taught that by some very shrewd showmen, John and Robert Segal. They were the ones who helped me put together my first spook show. They taught me the importance of advertising, among other things."

When it came time for college, Jack took his first two years at *MIRA COSTA* in Oceanside. And then he transferred to *THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA*. Hollywood was the magical center of the West Coast although the *MAGIC CASTLE* did not yet exist. And Jack fell right into the middle of it.

"I can remember the *CHAVEZ MAGIC SHOP* on Sunset Boulevard. When you went in there it was like being in a real Magic Parlor. There were illusions all over, and then there were beautiful show cases just filled with dazzling apparatus."

And then Jack had one of the ultimate experiences for a young magician. He got a part time job as a salesman at *THE HOLLYWOOD MAGIC SHOP* which was operated by **LOUIS ST. PIERRE**. Jack stayed there two years and, of course, got to know most of the of the West Coast magicians, and many Hollywood celebrities.

One night when Jack was alone in the shop **CHESTER MORRIS** and **EDGAR BERGEN** came in together. After looking around for a while Edgar looked at his watch and urged Chester to leave with him, saying "they had an appointment." Chester lingered, professing an intense interest in some equipment at the rear of the shop. When he, too, also departed Jack discovered that the cash register was gone. Of course he panicked and called the police.

When the squad car arrived, and he explained that someone had lifted the cash register one of the officers asked him quizzically, "What's that out on the sidewalk?" Jack looked out and, sure enough, the missing cash register was sitting out on the sidewalk, and Edgar and Chester were across the street convulsed with laughter.

One customer of Hollywood Magic, who had a profound influence on Jack's life, was an old pro named **Henry Vallou**. Henry had toured the country for years with a spook show, and Jack told him that he would like to do a similar show.

To Jack's astounded delight Henry responded, "Well, come on over to my house. I've got about twenty trunks full of equipment. You can have it all."

In Jack's own words, "And he gave me the whole thing - advertising campaign too - he gave me everything. He was not an old man - perhaps in his fifties. He'd just had enough of it.

"So I put together *DOCTOR BLOOD'S ZOMBI SHOW*. I talked John and Robert Segal into letting me put it on in one of their Oceanside theaters." This was during a summer vacation from college. Jack continued, "We put it on and made a substantial amount of money; whereupon the Segals helped me book the show into theaters around Southern California.

"I remember playing the Laguna Beach Theater and damn near being killed. The crowd was so raucous because they didn't want to see a glorified magic show. They wanted to see real spirits and supernatural things dance across the stage which, of course, they weren't going to see - with mine or any other show. They practically tore the theater apart that night. At that point I was thinking, 'Do I really want to do this?'

"The next night we played Twenty Nine Palms, out in the middle of the desert. When we got out there we discovered that it wasn't a hard top theater - it was a Drive-In Theater we'd been booked into. Up to this time we'd always had the benefit of a proscenium arch and a spotlight and we really didn't know what to do. So we did the best we could. We just set the whole thing up on the roof of the snack bar, and when the time came for the show (it was a Midnight Show) we told everybody, 'Get out of your cars and gather around.'

"The theater thought it was wonderful because they did such a great snack bar business, and the show went over pretty well, despite the conditions. It was a hot night, and the audience didn't have to sit in their hot cars. There was a whisper of a breeze by

showtime. But what I hadn't realized was how entertainment starved they were out there. I think they could only get a couple of television channels. We had a full house.

"After the spook show they got back in their cars, and we ran an old movie. Well, while the movie was running, the manager came to me and said, 'We've got about as many more people outside that we can't get in. Would you be willing to do a second show tonight?'"

Naturally, we agreed and, at about two forty five A.M., we started a second show with the house two thirds full.

"After the second show we were all sitting around relaxing with something cool, and we decided that, maybe, the Laguna Beach experience was just a bad one. This audience liked what we did. Maybe it was the 'tank town' audiences, so's to speak, that really appreciated what you did. So from then on we never worried about playing 'large towns'. We always played the tank towns. We always had appreciative audiences, and we did very well."

"I was in college, studying Business Administration, when some one came along and said there was a radio station that was looking for an announcer. I went down to this station and found it was actually three stations, an AM, an FM, and a TV station. I got the position and my job was on the FM side, playing records from six PM 'til midnight. I could sit there and do my homework, occasionally make a little announcement - most everything was on tape. It was just a marvelous job for me at the time.

"Across the hall, on the AM side, they had this big radio station. It had a six o'clock newscast that was very well sponsored and was distributed to a network of stations in Southern California. But the fellow who did that show had a drinking problem. Sometimes he wouldn't show up. Then they'd come over and get me and I'd read the news. Finally, one night the program director became very upset. He said, 'I'm going to fire that guy. From now on I want you to come in and just read the news.' Well, I was making the (to me) princely sum of sixty five dollars a week, and that was all the money in the world. I could just see that sixty five bucks a week going right out the window. I figured that for thirty minutes a day what are they going to pay me - ten, twenty dollars? So I said, 'Can't I do both jobs?'"

"The program director looked at me and asked why I would want to do both, so I explained that I had become accustomed to the sixty five dollars a week. He said they'd pay me eighty dollars a week, and I'd just have to read the news.

"Right then something snapped in my mind, and I said to myself, 'There might be a way to make a buck in this business.'"

Jack still wasn't beginning to think of broadcasting as a career. It was just another 'great way to make a buck.'

"That was really my first taste of the news. Later I found out that you didn't just read the news. You, first, had to write the news, and you had to understand a little bit of what's in it." And that's how Jack got into Broadcasting.

When he got out of college he came down to San Diego and went to work for KOWN, which was a radio station out in Escondido. When he says "out in Escondido" he literally means *"OUT IN THE COUNTRY"*. There was a meat packing plant a quarter of a mile down the road. That's how remote they were. He always said that that radio station kind of smelled like "Corral No. 5". (Not Chanel No.5.)

He worked there for about eight months, and then was drafted into the Army. When they asked him what he did in civilian life he said he worked in radio and, miraculously, that's where they put him. He spent his Army years in Radio at Fort Bragg, NC. His Commanding Officer was General William Westmoreland - just before the General was sent to Vietnam.

Jack did a lot of magic while he was in the service. He remembers one Thanksgiving when they were trying to line up some entertainment for some of the guys who were left at the Post. "Everything they had fell through," he says. "The guy who was supposed to play the guitar couldn't play. Somebody stepped on his guitar the night before. They knew I was always doing these little tricks, so they came to me to entertain. I didn't have much stuff with me. You know that in the Army you only have these two foot lockers, so you're limited to how much you can carry. Well, they didn't have anything else, so they pushed a couple of tables together in the mess hall. I got a hank of rope and a couple of other things, and I got a couple of guys to stooge for me, and we put together a little act. And it went over very well."

During this period Jack had been doing some writing. He had gone down to Sarasota, FL, where Ringling Brothers had just pulled out of their old winter quarters, done some research, and written an article on the circus which he sold to a national magazine. As fate would have it, a man in New York, who was about to produce a television special on the circus, read the article. Jack was just getting out of the Army and the man tracked him down and asked him to write a television special on the circus. Jack knew absolutely nothing about television at the time, but he and the producer went up to Barabou, WI, where the circus' new winter quarters were located, and Jack wrote the special. The man literally talked him through it.

While they were working on that special the producer kept telling him that when they were through they were going up to the Aleutian Islands and make another special. However, Jack was not ready for that. He had just got his discharge and all he wanted to do was to go back to Southern California and chase girls around the beach, and have a good time. So he went home.

When he got home his mother said, "There's a man who's been calling you from New York. You'd better call him."

It was the circus special producer who said, "My offer for the Aleutians still stands. We leave the day after tomorrow."

But Jack wasn't ready so the man went off without him. However, he must have been very impressed with Jack's talents because when he got back from the Aleutians he called again.

"Come on up to NBC in Burbank," he said. 'I've got a job for you.'

"So, one afternoon I drove up there to Burbank, and before I got out of the place I was working for NBC News. That was on a Thursday afternoon in August 1965. I actually went to work on Friday. I started out as sort of a coordinator. I was going to coordinate the film coming out of Vietnam. Saturday night the Watts riots erupted, and I was thrown into one of the biggest news stories of the year.

"I worked up there in L.A. for NBC about three years. I got into TV announcing - did some morning cut-ins - and then I became disillusioned. I wanted to do some other things, specials like those I now do on Channel 10. I began calling all the affiliate stations all along the West Coast. Among them I called Channel Ten in San Diego (It was KOGO NBC at that time), introduced myself, and the man on the other end of the line said he was the new news director - he had just come to work here. He invited me to come down and talk to him. He said that he didn't have a job for me right that day, but he was going to have a job open, and he would like me to fill it

"He said, 'I will call you, and when I do I will expect you to be down here two weeks later.' A few weeks later he called me and I came on down. That was twenty one years ago."

Jack had planned on spending only a year or so in San Diego, and then going back to L.A. "Instead, I had this ongoing love affair with San Diego," he says. "I'm still here."

He particularly enjoys the specials he does. He says, "I'm out in the field every night. Something is happening in San Diego every night and we're out there reporting on it live."

One of his favorite specials was "*SAN DIEGO REMEMBERS WORLD WAR II*" For this the crew had to go to Europe. Jack says, "While we were in Europe I visited Magic Shops everywhere we went."

In 1970 Jack joined Ring 76. Will Starr gave him his application. In 1971 he was First Vice President, and in 1972 he was President. Unfortunately his television activities have prevented him from being active in the Ring since then, but he has maintained his membership in the International.

During the convention he plans on making some journalistic visits to the proceedings, and he will, probably, be doing some specials on the event from the *OMNI* or the *CIVIC THEATER*.

Jack has always felt that having done so much magic, having performed before the public so many times, was a great asset to him when he got into Broadcasting. "That experience gave me a certain *feel*. Even though the audience isn't there for what you do, I think there is a timing that you've built up with live audience. The timing is still there. I can actually see them - in my minds eye - even though I'm just looking at two red lights. I can even tell when they are going to laugh and make comments to one another. At those moments I look down at the papers on my desk and pause - so they won't miss the next line."

It would seem to be one of the most valuable skills a television performer could have. And Jack certainly has them all. We look forward to the day when his career will again allow him to become an active member of Ring 76.

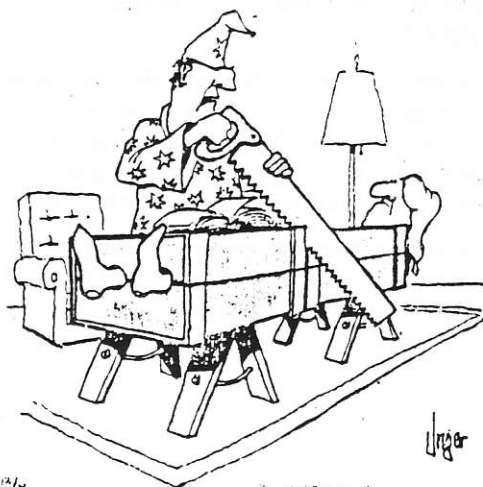
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"'Witchcraft Weekly'! You've got to be ...

... kidding."

DICK & JULIE
By Unger



"Don't forget I'm only practicing, so
let me know if you feel anything."

SEVEN CITY BLOCKS OF SHOPPING, DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT

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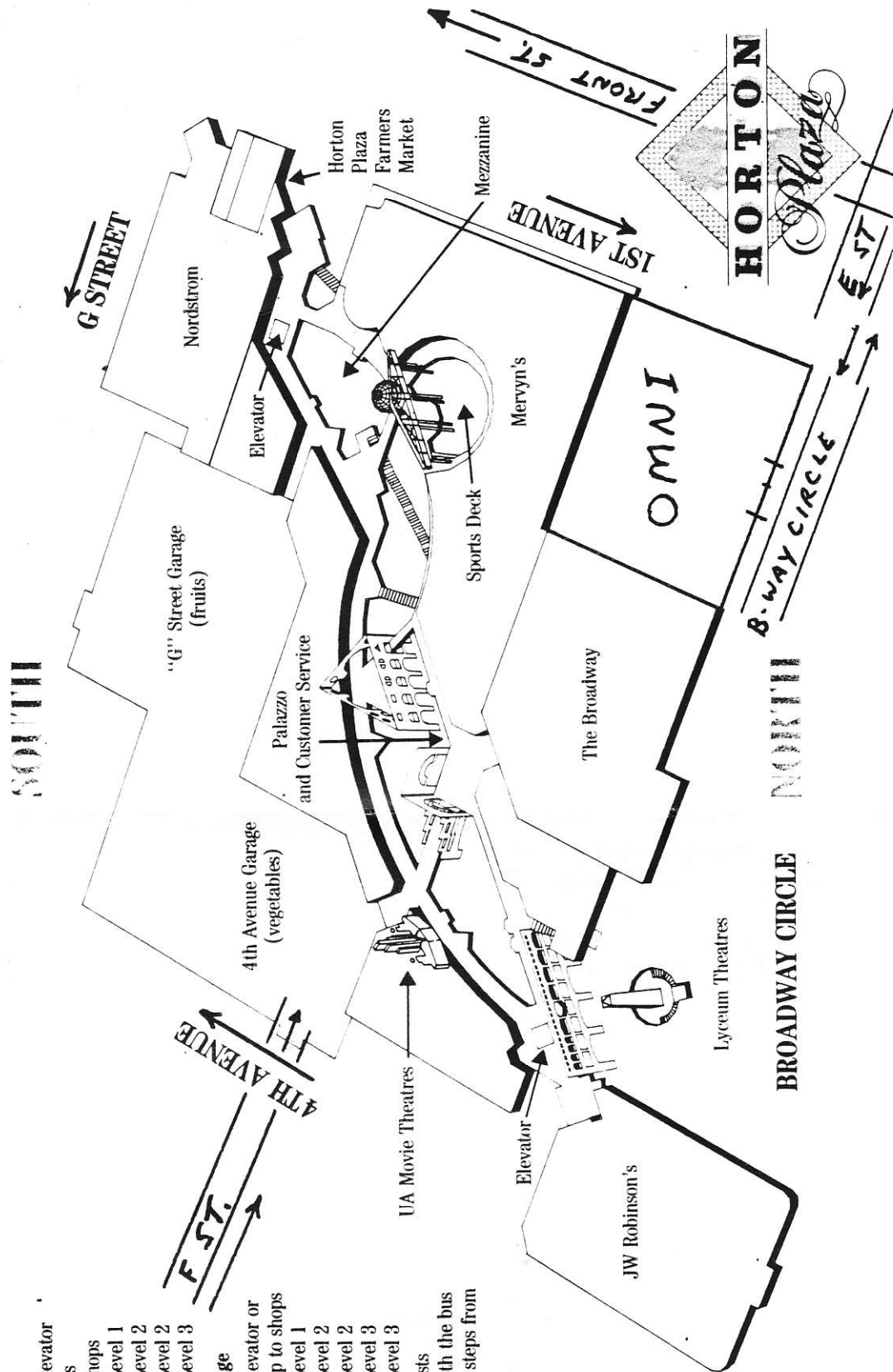
G Street Garage

- | | | |
|-----|------------|-------------------------------------|
| P-1 | Grape | Take elevator or stairs up to shops |
| P-2 | Watermelon | |
| P-3 | Orange | |
| P-4 | Pineapple | Plaza Level 1 |
| P-5 | Strawberry | Plaza Level 2 |
| P-6 | Cherry | Plaza Level 2 |
| P-7 | Lemon | Plaza Level 3 |

Fourth Avenue Garage

- | | | |
|-----|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| P-2 | Carrot | Take elevator or stairs up to shops |
| P-3 | Pepper | |
| P-4 | Avocado | Plaza Level 1 |
| P-5 | Tomato | Plaza Level 2 |
| P-6 | Onion | Plaza Level 2 |
| P-7 | Corn | Plaza Level 3 |
| P-8 | Artichoke | Plaza Level 3 |

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