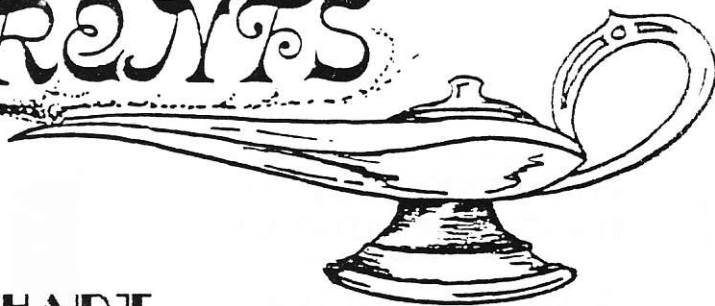


MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

MARCH 1990

VOL II

NO.9

IBM MEMBERSHIP.

A fitting "opener" this month as we approach the end of our Ring Membership year. All Ring dues will expire at the end of April (with the exception of one or two members who have paid through '91), so it's time to start the Ring Membership Drive again, along with our on-going IBM Membership Drive. We are now one hundred and twenty two strong, with a big WELCOME to our newest member **Ruth (Jingles the Clown) SCHILBERG**, who joined at last month's Auction.

For several weeks now, we have been giving away small packages of **Harry HARTMAN's** fifteen year collection of *LINKING RING* magazine, through **BRAD BURT'S MAGIC SHOP**, and we gave away a bunch more to non-IBM members, buyers at our Auction. If you are not getting your monthly issue of *LINKING RING* as part of your IBM Membership you are missing one of the best magic periodicals around, and certainly the most complete! It's got EVERYTHING - Dealer Ads, Ring Reports from all over the world, **John BOOTH's** on-going autobiography, a column on *CONJURING PSYCHOLOGY*,

news from *THE LOTA BOWL*, a column on *OUR MAGICAL HERITAGE*, reviews in *HOCUS in FOCUS*, and of course the monthly *PARADE* - a special section on innovative magic edited by **Phil WILLMARTH**. So -- pick up a package at **Brad's**, and check 'em out, then subscribe with your IBM Membership!

IBM Central sent a package of the new IBM Membership Applications recently which have been revised as of January First 1990 - throw away your stock of old ones! (I've included

(Continued on Page 2)



Prez's Mezzage

Did you hear about the well-known magician who closed his show every night with the bullet catching trick? It was a great success and through the years his reputation grew and grew. It was, however, gnawing at his nerves. After all, eleven have died performing the same effect.

The constant fear of injury (or worse) finally forced him to tell his agent that he was going to quit. The agent looked at him and frantically replied, "But where am I going to find another magician of your caliber?"

Thanks to all of the Dental Health Month volunteers. All of your efforts were sincerely appreciated. See you at the meeting.

HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76. SAN DIEGO. CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President.....	Dick Dale
1st Vice-Pres.....	Brad Burt
2nd Vice-Pres.....	Bob Ingalls
Secretary.....	J.P. Jackson
Treasurer.....	Frank S. Syren
Past Pres.....	Mark Dimenstain
Sgt. at Arms.....	Sherry Luft
Director.....	Ed Forsythe
Director.....	Ed Raymond

MAGICURRENTS

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

LEAD STORY(Cont. from Page 1)

one with this issue of *MAGICURRENTS* which can be easily removed and used to subscribe to the *LINKING RING*. The initial Membership application fee has been increased to ten dollars (it was five) to cover the costs of giving Certificates and Pins to our new members, plus twenty dollars for your first year of *LINKING RING* - a total of thirty dollars. Dues thereafter are only twenty dollars annually.

International Secretary **Marilyn EDWARDS** also included a print-out of our Ring Seventy Six Membership, past and present, for updating. It'll take some effort cause it contains several ex-members who are long gone and whom you may remember: **James** and **Don ATTLE**, now in New York; **Nick BROWN**, now in Pittsburgh; **Belinda KILL**, now in Laguna Hills; even **Jimmy YOSHIDA**, a dealer from Hawaii; **Valdimiz PEREVODCHIKOV**, our Russian friend in Moscow; and of course good ol' **AI KNOX** in North Carolina! Most interesting was about ten San Diegian IBM Members

who are not now active in the Ring - gotta work on them!

AND - the mail also brought a nice note from **Jim BEAMON** - another of our distant members over in Bullhead City, AZ - with some old Ring Seventy Six info. Look inside to see what I did with it. Thanks, **Jim**. Your mail to *MAGICURRENTS* is always most welcome - from EVERYBODY!

FEBRUARY MEETING

... or what you missed.

Our annual AUCTION was the February event with eleven sellers (tons of good stuff), forty eight members and ten guests present including good friend, San Diegian, and past president of Ring Seventy Six - **J. C. WAGNER**, card and close-up working pro. He was visiting in town for a few days prior to starting a long lecture tour which includes the *ABBOTT'S CLOSE-UP CONVENTION*.

Dr. Bob ALLEN (President of the *MAGICIANS GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA*) conducted an exceptional seminar/workshop entitled "Magic in the Spectator's Hands" as our pre-meeting event, while the sellers lugged in the auctionables. We welcomed our many guests during the business meeting, announced the Auction Rules, and President **Dick DALE** expressed much appreciation to **Dr. Caroline BAUER** for her donation of a box of good working props to the Ring's Auction. **Dr. BAUER** is an ex-member of Ring Ninety Six, now in our area, and we welcome her as a potential Ring Seventy Six member. Her donation alone netted close to two hundred dollars for the Ring's Treasury, and included many

(Continued on Page 3)

VINCENT THE MAGICIAN

by Jim Whiting



SUPREME items and a beautiful *ABBOTT'S MUTILATED PARASOL*, which sold quickly after spirited bidding. We had our usual raffle of some thirty extra-nice items from *BUMPER & CO's Magic Works*, and took a break for socializing and the Auction Preview.

Brad BURT took the floor as the duty auctioneer with **Dick DALE** and **J.P.JACKSON** as "passers". **Sherry LUFT** and **Marcus DAY** manned the "recorder" desk with Treasurer **Frank SYREN** in the cashier's spot, and we started a long, long auction. **Bob ALLEN**, **Larry FRANKEL**, **Jack MARKLEY**, **Don HALBACH**, **Paul KILLEA**, **Mark DIMENSTAIN**, **Loch CRANE**, **J.P.JACKSON**, **Dorothy HATCHETT**, **Terry LUNCEFORD**, and **Dick DALE** (with the donation) all had close to one hundred and fifty items with little or no junk. Even then, we only got through about eighty five percent of the stuff, and it went on far too long. BUT it was fun and most went home with some super bargain and one or two collectibles. Total sales were in excess of thirteen hundred dollars, a tad better than last year, and resulted in a nice, hefty input to the club's coffers.

Before he left the area, long time member and ex-officer, **Harry HARTMAN**, donated his fifteen year's worth of *LINKING RINGS* to the Ring. As part of our 1990 Membership drive they have been bundled into stacks of two or three issues along with an IBM Membership Application and a nice promo letter to Magic Enthusiasts, and placed in *BRAD BURT'S MAGIC SHOP* as give-aways to the customers. They were also given out to non-IBM buyers at our Auction in an effort to encourage potential subscribers. Thank you, **Harry**, in Des Moines, for your help in our recruitment efforts! We miss YA!

BOARD MEETING

The Board met on March Fifth with **Dick** and **Julie DALE**, **J.P. JACKSON**, and **Jeff** and **Peggy MARCUS**. A quick review of the Ring's financial status resulted in the consensus that Dues for the 1990/1991 Membership Year will not have to be raised and will remain at Twelve Dollars.

The *SAN DIEGO JUNIOR MAGICIANS* have requested permission to conduct a fund raising effort by selling baked goods during the break at regular meetings of Ring Seventy Six. The Board agreed that the idea had much merit, for the Juniors and the Ring, and will present it to the membership for a vote at the next regular meeting on Monday, March Nineteenth. If approved we will get the necessary clearance from the American Legion before implementation.

The Board discussed further requirements for the Public Show, fund-raiser suggested at last month's meeting and identified the following Show Committee positions necessary for a successful effort: Chairman, Ticket Sales, Director, Stage Manager, and Master of Ceremonies. The Board will be actively seeking volunteers to serve in these jobs, in addition to a good location, a Sponsor and, of course, Performers.

The next Board Meeting will be at **Dick** and **Julie DALE's** on Monday, April Second

MARCH MEETING

---or what's coming

"PICK A TRICK FROM YOUR FIRST YEAR IN MAGIC - AND DO IT." is the theme for the regular meeting on Monday, March Nineteenth. (Wow - I can hardly remember a trick from the last year in magic; much less the first.) But it sounds FUN and should prompt you to dig into those files, archives, and old shoeboxes to find out what you did do, way back then. (Maybe

(Continued on Page 4)

the junior group oughtta do the whole thing.) Call **Brad Burt** at 571-4749 to get on the "performer's list", or sign up with him when you get to the meeting.

Starting at about six forty five P.M. or so, **Mark DIMENSTAIN** will give us a "Dealer/Demo Display", featuring some of the newer items from *COSMAR MAGIC*, and he has a couple of new goodies that you will like. In case you didn't know, **Mark** has converted half of his workshop into a show room of his products and welcomes visitors. Give him a call, and go see it some time.

You can pay your next year's dues during the break if you're so inclined (a month early and still only twelve dollars), and then we'll have our usual RAFFLE, which seems to get better and better every month - THANKS MIKE for bringing such great stuff. Keep it coming!

SLEIGHTLY NEWS 'ROUND TOWN

- ☆ Many public THANKS to Members **Henry VACA**, **Dick BUSH**, **Jessie JUDGE**, **Mike STILWELL**, and **Dick DALE** for their magic help in February with the celebration of NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH. The theme was "*There's Magic In Your Smile*", and all contributed a little "dental magic" for a nice afternoon of festivities in our Balboa Park. **Dick** and **Mike** also did spots on local TV to promote the event.
- ☆ Last month I mentioned that the *AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS* show at eight P.M. Sundays on ABC TV was looking for funny home videos of magic or magicians. Well they ran a few on last Sunday, the tenth, and they were very quick and funny. Short clip of a young man whose

doves didn't want to wait for their "cage production" and took off, flapping around his head. Another fellow doing the *Meir Yedid Hand Twisting Illusion* (looked good); and best of all was a young man, trying to look very, very stylish, who couldn't get his *DOVE PAN* lit. Then the torch for his *TORCH TO CANE* wouldn't light, the cane only opened half way, and when he went back to put the lid on his *DOVE PAN*, the whole side of his table was on fire! (A Lesson there some where.) One last clip of the same lad with the loose doves now trying to hold on to a rabbit that didn't want to be held at all, and it all ended up with his back drop falling over on him, and the rabbit heading for the wings. This is a funny show, but it looks like they exhausted the magic clips.

- ☆ From **Stan ALLEN'S INSIDE MAGIC** - **Nick LEWIN** will be on the COMEDY CLUB NETWORK at Nine Thirty P.M. on March Nineteenth (our meeting night). This is a "SHOWTIME" Cable Show, so have someone tape it and watch it after you get home from our meeting.

- ☆ And don't forget the **COPPERFIELD** Special on CBS, March Thirtieth at Eight P.M.: a one hour special with **David** challenging NIAGARA FALLS as the "closer".

CROSS TALK

- Very nice turnout for the **Dick ZIMMERMAN** lecture at *MAGICIAN'S GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA* in Carlsbad last week - everybody showed up except the guest lecturer himself! Must have been a "disconnect" because **Dick ZIMMERMAN** is a Pro from from way back. (Check your

(Continued on Page 5)

file of *GENII* for Novemember 1983 - a whole special issue on him and his career.) Another real Pro, good ol' **Frank HERMAN**, (always ready) filled in nicely with choice stuff from his recent lecture at the PCAM Convention last month - whatta "trooper". **Frank** also gave a report on the convention in general, to wit: "FANTASTIC!" Lots of originality (shows and contests), an unannounced visit by **Al GOSHMAN** who was at his very best, **John KENNEDY**, **Mike AMMAR**; and absolutely great accommodations and facilities at the *RADDISON HOTEL* where everybody had a mini-suite. **Jack MARKLEY** lectured at the FCM Convention in Riverside the same weekend and will give a brief report in the next MGSC Newsletter. Their next meeting is on Tuesday, April Third with the theme: "Magic with Paper or Cardboard".

- **LAST MINUTE NEWS** - Just heard that MGSC may be able to re-book **Dick ZIMMERMAN** for their regular meeting on April Third. I'm sure there will be an official announcement at our meeting on March Nineteenth. Stay tuned!
- Newest member, **Ruth (Jingles) SCHILBERG**, is coordinating the *Vista Fellowship of Christian Magicians'* Pot-Luck Dinner and Auction on Saturday, March Thirty First. Call her at (619) 726-3029 to make your reservation.
- Extra good issue of *INSIDE MAGIC* from **Stan ALLEN** this month which included the "PASSPORT" Convention Guide for 1990. This is a very neat "catalog" of just about every convention that's happening through 1990 and beyond. Darn near worth the price of a subscription alone - which is twenty-four dollars per year. The "PASSPORT" also includes a convention synopsis by **Stan** and a good article by **Hank MOOREHOUSE** called "SO YOU WANT

TO PERFORM AT A MAJOR CONVENTION?" **Stan** also reports that the *LAS VEGAS DESERT SEMINAR* (March Fifteenth thru Seventeenth) has added **CHAPEAU**, **Topper MARTIN**, **Nicholas NIGHT**, **Franz HARARY**, and **Johnny Ace PALMER**. **Lynette CHAPPELL** will be the guest at the Ladies' Breakfast.

- Last chance to see **Dale SALWAK**'s "STARS OF MAGIC" Show at Riverside City College on March Thirty First, including **Ron ANDERSON**, **Amos LEVKOVITCH**, and *LES ARNOLD & COMPANY*.
- If you missed **J.C. WAGNER**'s first book, *SEVEN SECRETS*, published by **Chuck MARTINEZ** in 1978 and now long out of print; HANG ON, it's being re-released by L. & L. Publishing for Ten Dollars. It contains some of J.C.'s best stuff from the early days of the old Magic Lounge. (I know, I was there.)
- The *ACADEMY OF MAGICAL ARTS* held their Twenty Eighth Annual Black-Tie Awards Banquet on Saturday, March Tenth with **Nicholas NIGHT**, **Topper MARTYN**, **FANTASIO**, and **Greg WILSON**. The Board of Directors announced the Annual Awards listed on Page 6.



ACADEMY OF MAGICAL ARTS ANNUAL AWARDS

AWARD OF MERIT

Jim Starr

MASTER'S FELLOWSHIP

Peter Warlock

SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP

John Fisher

CLOSE UP

Dave Williamson

PERFORMING FELLOWSHIP

Topper Martyn

LITERARY FELLOWSHIP

David Price

PARLOUR

John Carney

STAGE

Amos LEVKOVITCH

MAGICIAN OF THE YEAR

Princess Tenko

CREATIVE FELLOWSHIP

Dick Zimmerman

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. John Booth

LECTURE

Dale Salwak

JUNIOR CORNER

by Don Halbach

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

....and a little bit

Our March Meeting was called to order by President Logan Hale, and our main topic of business was fund raising. Several ideas were mentioned, but the best was to discuss the selling of refreshments to the Ring Seventy Six members at IBM meetings. We will discuss this with the IBM officers for input and approval. Name tags will be ready by next meeting and, with that, we adjourned the business part of the meeting.

We were next treated to performances by members, **Anthony CORREA**, **Aaron HOSKINS**, and **Richard KILLEANY**.

We were then treated to some great rope and card effects by our Ring Seventy Sixer, **Jessie JUDGE**. Everyone enjoyed the effects and words of wisdom from an all around performer. Many thanks, **Jessie**, for the time and effort.

We welcomed three new members to the group, bringing our total up to twenty three. Total attendance was seventeen.

The next meeting of *SDM* will be held on Friday, April Sixth, at Seven PM at **BRAD BURTS MAGIC SHOP**, Plaza del Sol, San Diego. For more information call **Don HALBACH** at 549-6901.

From the January 1975 issue of the Ring 76 newsletter, "*THE SPIRIT OF 76*" (courtesy of **Jim BEAMON** and **Jim RILEY**): **Jim RILEY** was President, **Nick BROWN** was secretary, and the newsletter staff included **Jim Riley**, **Bob POZNER** (who later donated his book collection to the Ring Seventy Six library), **George EDWARDS**, and **Jim BEAMON**. I've reproduced a page from the newsletter (using two different copies) so you can see how it was then. (See Page 7) Best of all, with the exception of **Bob POZNER** and **Nick BROWN**, the key people fifteen years ago are still MEMBERS! (Anybody got anything from 1965?)



J. P. JACKSON

569 0096

THE SPIRIT OF 76

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

Jim Riley, President
P.O. Box 671
Julian, Calif. 92036
765-0015

JANUARY 1975

Nick Brown, Secretary
4327 Texas St.
San Diego, Calif. 92104
297-1357

Friday, January 3rd
United Methodist Church
4075 Park Blvd.

7:30 Welcome!
8:00 Short business
meeting, followed
by magic!

The program, besides
being Thrift Nite, will
also feature any Ring
member who joined in
1974....Come and join
in the fun!



GE

*
OCH, A'M AWA TAE
RING 76
THEY'RE HAVING A
"THRIFT" NIGHT

* WHICH MEANS IN ENGLISH
BRING AND PERFORM A
TRICK THAT COST MAXIMUM
\$3.00 — NO CARDS!!! —

Houdini Letter May Aid Trapped Miners

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mine safety officials have unearthed a half-century-old letter from escape artist Harry Houdini they say may provide help for trapped coal miners.

Houdini's letter to a Bureau of Mines consultant was typed hours after he survived for 91 minutes in a sealed iron coffin submerged in a swimming pool. The letter was found in a recent housecleaning at the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration.

Officials said the letter apparently never has been publicized, and its existence in their files was something of a surprise.

Houdini's basic conclusion was that fear rather than lack of air caused the death of many miners and others trapped in air-tight compartments.

His advice was to remain calm and control breathing to stretch out a limited air

supply. That advice remains valid today, say mine safety scientists.

"I know you are doing a worthwhile work and as my body and brain are trained for this particular line, I am at your service," the famous magician wrote to Dr. W. J. McConnell, a Bureau of Mines medical consultant on mine safety.

The three-page, single-spaced letter bearing Houdini's signature was written Aug. 5, 1926, less than four months before his death.

Houdini described in great detail his efforts to survive 91 minutes in the coffin on what scientists of the day said was only a five-minute supply of air.

Houdini stressed that he managed the feat by re-animating still and carefully controlling his breathing, rather than through tricks or so-called supernatural powers.

WASN'T THE CHRISTMAS PARTY GREAT? Too bad that we had to cancel but reservations were at a minimum and obligations of many sorts cropped up.

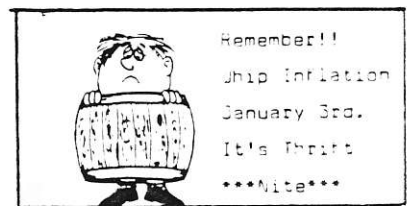
Contributed by
Helen Gerhart

Saturday Review
World

Ancient Arts

Let me cast serious doubt on prostitution's being "the oldest profession" ("The Oldest Profession in Nevada—and Elsewhere," September 7). The late Harry Blackstone, last of the big-time magicians, competently affirmed to me that *magic* is the oldest profession. Blackstone had made a considerable study of his art, describing it as a seeming manipulation of the supernatural and quoting that it produced observable results by means of non-observable operations. The earliest magicians, said Blackstone, were the primal shamans or medicine men, and they followed their profession before primitive woman learned she could use herself for profit.

Ken Murray
Sturgis, Mich.

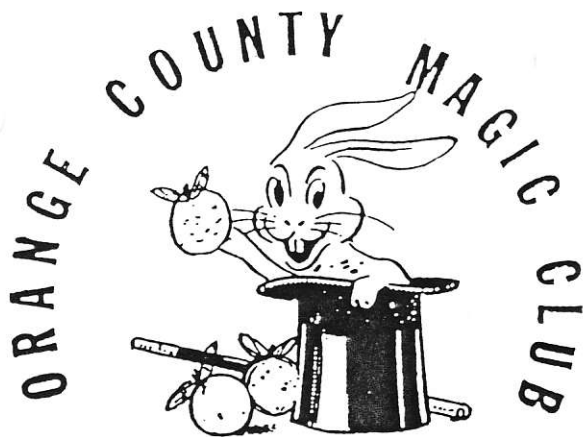


Remember!!
Ship Inflation
January 3rd.
It's Thrift
...Nite...

This month's
SPIRIT Staff:

Jim Riley, Bob Wagner,
George Edwards, Jim
Beamon.





MAGIC LECTURE



FUKAI & KIMIKA

- * From Osaka, Japan-Hiromasa Fukai and Kimika
- * Performed at the Theatre Princess Grace in Monte-Carlo
- * 1989 Desert Seminar "Peoples Choice" runner-up
- * Featured on Paul Daniels TV Show in the United Kingdom
- * It's all done with parasols!!!

Experience the Magic

of

Fukai & Kimika

British Magicians Report Blackpool Convention - "A testimony to technological innovation was Hiromasa Fukai and his lotus-blossom wife Kimika who stunned television and club audiences with what some experts described as the most original act ever seen".

Colon, Michigan Express (8-5-87)- Fukai and Kimika, " This charming two-some will delight and amaze with their magic which combines the oldest of the old with the newest of the new ".

WHEN: Tuesday, March 20, 1990 at 8:00 P.M.

WHERE: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
12301 Magnolia Blvd.
Garden Grove, CA.
(North of Garden Grove Blvd., Just past Lampson. Parking
in front or around back)

COST: Free to current members of O.C.M.C., I.A.M., and Ring 96 (IBM).
\$5.00 for all others.

MORE INFORMATION: Joyce Basch
213-598-1988
or
Bill Pearce
714-962-7087



MAGICURRENTS

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



Roy & Betty Armstrong
2548 Littleton Road
El Cajon CA 92020