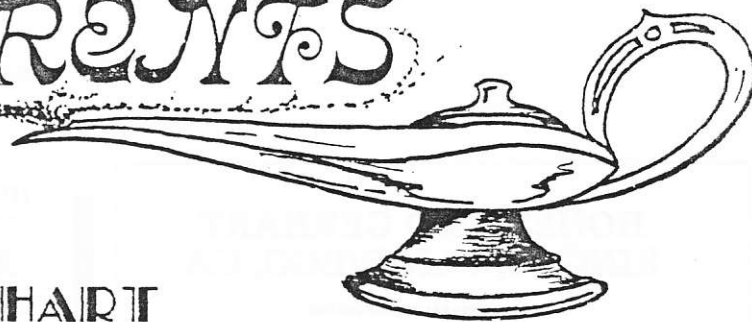


MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

NOVEMBER 1990

VOL III

NO.5

PUBLIC SHOW SUCCESS by Sherry LUFT

Over half full for the Four O'Clock Performance, and close to full for the Evening Showing; our *"STARS OF MAGIC"* Public Show on Saturday, October Twenty Seventh, at the Scottish Rite Center was a great success. Pre-Show entertainment included "walk-around" magic by Ring Seventy Six members and balloon work by clowns "P.J.PINEAPPLE and PERIWINKLE" - THANKS GUYS - You helped make it a great success.

"STARS OF MAGIC" had something for everyone - from comedy to full illusions. **Jack WHITE**, our own Channel Ten Personality & Magician was a very entertaining Master of Ceremonies using his classy natural "showmanship" for a startling mental effect involving twenty chosen cards which he correctly divined, and even a funny *"FRESH FISH"* item. (Nothing is ever too old.)

All the performers in the show were wonderful. We have included the "bio" page from the official program for all of them in this month's *MAGICURRENTS* for those of you who missed it. *ICE &*

PARIS gave us a beautiful, color changing dove act with some skillful candle work, some money magic, and a dove to rabbit production as a closer. **Dick DALE** entertained us with his comedy act using cards, lots of rope, and his famous *"PROFESSOR CHEERS SHORTS"* at the end.

Producer **Don HALBACH** did a great job performing the *"HOUDINI MILK CAN ESCAPE"* without a hitch. He had done the effect on Channel Ten as a "promo". Then it was time for Junior Magician President

(Continued on Page 2)



Prez's Mezzage

Some people make grand and glorious plans and COMMITMENTS, and then never follow up with appropriate action. Others work quietly behind the scenes and accomplish wonderful results without a lot of fanfare. Over the past five months **Don HALBACH** did exactly the right parts of both in producing the superb Public Show on October Twenty Seventh. It was a smash success, as Secretary **Sherry LUFT** has dutifully reported to the left, and **Don** is to be *COMMENDED* and *THANKED* for doing such an exceptional job with the concept, the planning, all the time consuming logistics, promotion, etc. etc. etc. and in making it the over-all success that it was. THANKS are also due to **Mike KLICMAN** for his excellent work as DIRECTOR, all the "helpers", specifically **Vic MINERT, Bob INGALLS, PAT RAVENAL, Brien BERG, Jim ALBURGER, P.J.PINEAPPLE & PERIWINKLE, Elsa HALBACH**, and to all the members who "pushed" tickets, took tickets, hung posters, publicized it, and attended. And Last, but far from Least to **Jack WHITE** for his very able efforts and performance as Master of Ceremonies. **A VERY WELL DONE** to all of you for keeping magic alive so well!

HONEST SID GERHART RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President J.P.Jackson
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Secretary Sherry Luft
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MAGICCURRENTS

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

Logan HALE's award winning, Tannen Magic Camp act to the tune of "*NEW YORK, NEW YORK*". He produced a dove from his Top Hat, "Cane to Silks", and a nice "Twentieth Century Silks", all very smoothly blended together.

The second half was the full illusion show of *CAMERON & CO.* ably assisted by our own **Mike Klicman** (the show director), and

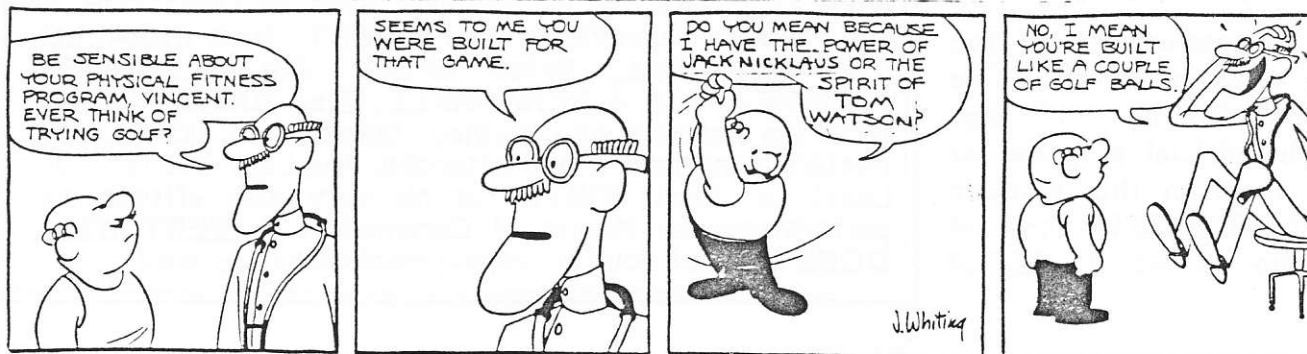
included a "*DOLLHOUSE PRODUCTION*", "*ZIG-ZAG*", a "*TEMPLE SWORD BOX*", and a "*MISMADE LADY*" to the tune of *WEIRD SCIENCE*" - very clever. He did a nice interlude with two helpers from the audience who were to play a magician and his assistant behind a large screen with cutouts for their heads. Only when the screen was removed the lady helper was in the "head removal" position of a large guillotine with male helper in position to pull the release string! He did a comedy silk color change in slow motion (a la Kubuki), a "*METAMORPHOSIS ILLUSION*", and ended with a "*LIGHTER THAN AIR*" Illusion. It was a great show and we look forward to next year's production.

Hail and Farewell

To **Jack MARKLEY**, who leaves us for Barstow, CA. He is one of the founders of the *MAGIC GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA*, the driving force behind the local chapter of *THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN MAGICIANS*, an IBM Member and one of those "Consistent and Regular" performers at Ring Seventy Six meetings. We'll miss your magic and humor, **Jack**. You've been a mainstay!!

VINCENT THE MAGICIAN

by Jim Whiting



OCTOBER MEETING

...or what you missed.

Forty Six Members, Fourteen Guests, and One Junior were present. By a show of hands the membership opted for Monday, December Tenth, for our Annual Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner. **Dick Dale** is our food coordinator. There will not be a regular meeting on December Seventeenth.

We did have a lot of publicity for our Public Show on October Twenty Seventh. On Channel Ten **Don Halbach** did the *MILK CAN ESCAPE*. **Bob INGALLS** performed on Channel Eight. We sent out over two hundred news releases.

Ticket takers on show day included **Mary BROWN**, **Tom CLAYTOR**, **Henry VACA**, and **Jim HOURIGAN**.

Now on to our Swap Meet. We had a lot of Sellers. The **DALES** had fun stuff from a private collection. There's more to be seen at the Auction. **Tom Claytor** was selling his Buck Color Changing Knives alongside **Loch David CRANE**. Skipper **Frank HERMAN** had a tablefull of his products. **J.P. JACKSON** sold leftovers from the Castle Swap Meet. **Roy & Betty ARMSTRONG** had some treasures from their collectibles. **James SWOGER** had new *Viking Haechen* goods. **Jack MARKLEY** had tons of his magic. **Bruce LOVE** sold things from **Ruben's** old shop. **James WEIGELT**, a new member, had great stuff. Ask **Logan HALE** about his bargains. **Bob INGALLS** had magic from his collection, and **Dana LAW** had old *OWEN* pieces. Of course **Brad BURT** had some neat items. It was a great turnout overall, and everyone went home with a treasure. It was also a nice boost for the treasury from the seller's fees.

BOARD MEETING

The Board met at Dick and Julie **DALE's** on Monday, November fifth with **J.P. JACKSON**, **Sherry LUFT**, **Brad BURT**, **Bob INGALLS**, **Mike KLICMAN**, **Chris CASTELLO**, **Jeff and Peggy MARCUS** and **Don HALBACH**. (Super turn-out !)

The Board acknowledged a letter and a check for thirty dollars from **Helen HIESHETTER** in memory of our namesake and her former husband, **Sid GERHART**. **Don HALBACH** announced that a check for four hundred dollars will be given to the Bone Marrow Bank of San Diego from the proceeds of the recent public show. A formal presentation will be arranged in the near future. After all show expenses have been paid the balance of the proceeds will come to Ring Seventy Six. **Don & Mike** are already at work on the 1991 show which is scheduled for Saturday, October Nineteenth, 1991. Next year's tickets will be handled by Ticket Master.

It was decided that our annual Christmas Party will be held at the American Legion on Monday, December Tenth. There will be no regular meeting in December.

MORE HAIL & FAREWELL

In the ongoing "lose some, gain some" process we are happy to WELCOME (and in some cases, WELCOME back) the following new Ring Seventy Six Members: **Ralph MAUZY** (still in LaPorte Tex), **Dana LAW**, **Eddie RODRIQUEZ**, **James WEIGELT**, **Angelo ODDO**, **Carlton APPLEBY**, and **Curtis CLARK**.

JUNIOR CORNER

by Logan Hale

Congratulations, fellow Junior Magicians! At our last meeting we celebrated our *ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY*. In attendance were four regular members and two newcomers. Our main topic for this month was yearly "dues". If you want to renew your membership for one year the cost is twelve dollars, or a six month membership is six dollars. Please renew your membership as soon as possible so that your monthly *MAGICURRENTS* will not be discontinued.

After our business meeting, **Logan HALE** performed "*CARD ON THE CEILING*". **Pat RAVENEL** lectured on Close-Up effects, and **Don HALBACH** showed us his "*BILLY THE BALLOON*" routine. "*CARD WARP*" was demonstrated by **Logan HALE**, and **Don** finished up with a wonderful "*FOUR ACE*" effect. Remember to come to the December Meeting on Friday, the Seventh. It's going to be a great meeting.

XMAS POT-LUCK

Now that HALLOWEEN and the PUBLIC SHOW are over it's not too soon to start thinking about our ANNUAL XMAS POT-LUCK DINNER on Monday, December Tenth, in the large Banquet Room. This will be "our meeting" for the month, and we will be treated to some fun magic after dinner. No-host Social Hour will be from Six to Seven PM while we set up all the great dishes you will bring. Dinner will be at Seven Fifteen or so. (See Flyer in this issue)

Last year we had a fantastic spread includ-

ing that great cake, so start thinking about what you can bring to make this year's event even greater than Eighty Nine's. **Dick DALE** will be coordinating the menu (to make sure we don't get forty seven salads and one casserole), and taking reservations. Remember you must bring a dish with you in order to participate. Deadline for reservations will be Six P.M. on Monday, December Third.

NOVEMBER MEETING

...or what's coming

"COMEDY ON STAGE" - a lecture by **Hank MOOREHOUSE** - is our program for the regular meeting on Monday, November Nineteenth. **Hank** will be finishing a week at "the Castle" and is looking forward to a relaxing, fun evening with us. His lecture will include "walk around" magic as well as a few items from Europe. It's all free to Ring Members, so don't miss it. VP **Bob INGALLS** will host a brief Close-Up session starting at Six Forty Five P.M., with the business meeting at Seven Thirty followed by our always great raffle. The Lecture will start promptly at Eight P.M. Lecture Fee for Non-Ring Members is Fifteen Dollars at the door.

The mail just delivered a bunch of nifty flyers for the first International Magic Fair in Vienna, Austria, November Twenty Ninth to December First 1991. I will have them at the meeting so be sure to pick one up at the door. Who knows, you may need to be in Austria a year from now.



SLEIGHTLY NEWS 'ROUND TOWN

by Dick Dale

Instead of a listing this month, an editorial.

We are reluctant to list "who is performing where" anymore because it seems that some magicians don't have the cajones to go out and develop their own gigs. They would rather let other performers go out and do the leg work, sell the venue on magic, and then these vultures come in and try to undercut the price to get the work. COME ON FOLKS! How about showing some integrity? We know who these creeps are, and they do too.

SLEIGHTLY NEWS is not a job opportunity list, Gang. It is to be used as a reference as to where good magic can be seen. Period. And don't rationalize price-cutting as competition, because it isn't. Keep the rates fair and equitable to all concerned. If you don't know, ask any of the working professionals, and they'll be glad to give you a ballpark figure as to what you should be asking.

We will list only those performers that personally contact me, **Dick Dale**, at 562-7379. I'm appearing at Baxter's in El Cajon for Sunday Brunch.

IN MEMORIUM

Honorary Member **Helen HIESHETTER**, the former wife of our namesake, recently sent her yearly donation to the ring in memory of **Sid Gerhart**. Her lovely note is quoted, with her permission, as follows:

"Dear Ring Number Seventy Six, Enclosed is

my yearly check in memory of my husband, **Sid GERHART**. I'm so proud the Ring is named for him, as he lived magic night and day. I love *MAGICURRENTS* which I receive each month, and I do thank the club for it. The big Magic Show coming up on October Twenty Seventh happens to fall on his birthday as he was born on that date in 1911. I'm so proud of all the members and staff that are doing so much with magic these days. Much love to all, **Helenouise HIESHETTER**."

We thank you, Helen, for keeping his name alive and allowing us to perpetuate it.

CROSS TALK

- *MAGIC GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA* will hold the November Meeting on the Sixth at *THE KINGS TABLE* Restaurant - a Dinner Meeting for members only - and their Swap Meet at the December Meeting on the Fourth. Call **Scott FISHER** at 753-4524 to reserve a Seller's Table.
- The *INTERNATIONAL MAGIC AWARDS* finally appeared locally on Tuesday, October Thirtieth, via Channel Sixty Nine (KTTY). I'm sure one of us taped it in case you missed it. Winners were: **Michael AMMAR** - Sleight of Hand, **David WILLIAMSON** - Close-Up, **Lance BURTON** - Best Stage Magic, **AMAZING JOHNATHON** - Best Comedy Magic, **Jeff HOBSON** - Best use of Comedy in a Magic Performance, **Jason AKLEXANDER** - Best Junior Magician, **Brian DILL** - Best Teenage Magician, **Princess TENKO** - Best Escape Artist, **The PEN-DRAGONS** - Best Illusionists, **John GAUGHAN** - Best New Design (but it wasn't mentioned on the show, Too Bad).

SIEG. FRIED & ROY - Entertainer of the Year. **John FISHER** was given the *HOUDINI AWARD* for preservation and promotion of magic, and **Dai VERNON** and **Mark WILSON** were given Lifetime Achievement Awards. **New Kids on the Block** won an award for Best Contemporary Use of Magic in Another Medium. **Steve BAKER** was also given a Lifetime Achievement Award for his Escape Magic, and **Max Maven** was voted best Psychological Entertainer. **Harry BLACKSTONE JR.** hosted a very full Two Hour Show with lots of celebrity presenters and even more commercials! A bit boring as a Magic Show with all the cutaways, "live feeds", and people introducing people who introduced other people, but it was an *Awards Show* primarily, and as such it was "not bad".

- **Stan ALLEN's** *INSIDE MAGIC* informs us that the "*QUANTUM LEAP*" episode on magic called *THE GREAT SPONTINI* is now set to air on Friday, November Sixteenth. You might just get this in time to

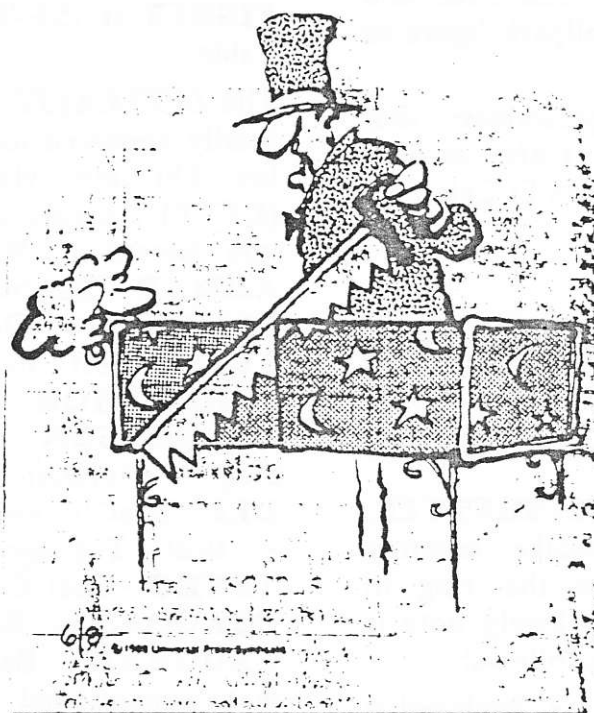
watch. **Dan BIRCH** was the magic consultant.

- And Again from **Stan ALLEN: PENN & TELLER's** network special called *"DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME"* will appear on NBC at Eight P.M. on November Twenty Third, but it may get shuffled around like most of the magical specials on TV. So check the listings.
- Brad Burt is sponsoring a lecture by Richard Turner on Wednesday, December Twelfth at his Magic Shop (Brad's) on Convoy Street. The admission fee is fifteen dollars. Space is limited so come early or make reservations.

J. P. Jackson

J.P.JACKSON

Tel. 569-0096



"Janice, I want a divorce."

'COMEDY ON STAGE'

a LECTURE by:



Mon - NOV 19th La Mesa Legion Hall

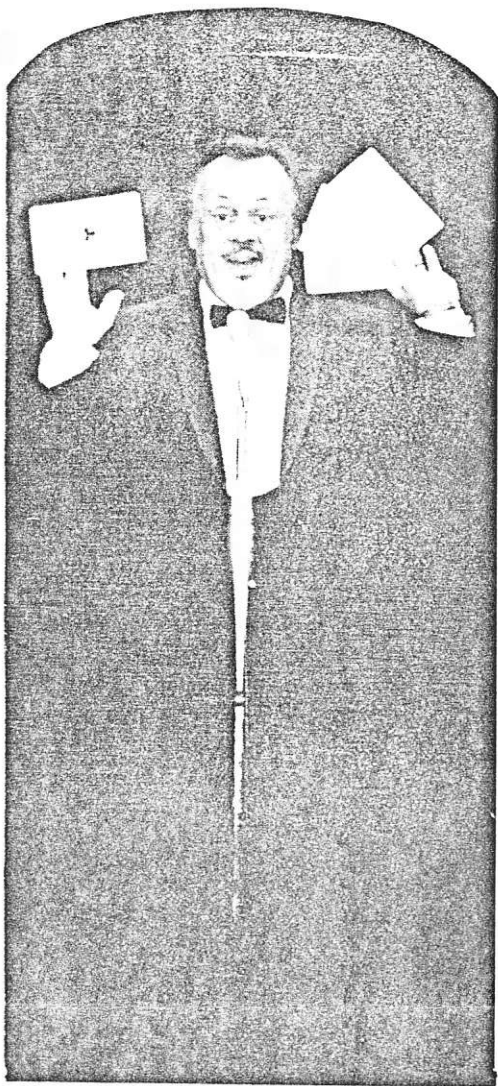
hosted by:

8 pm

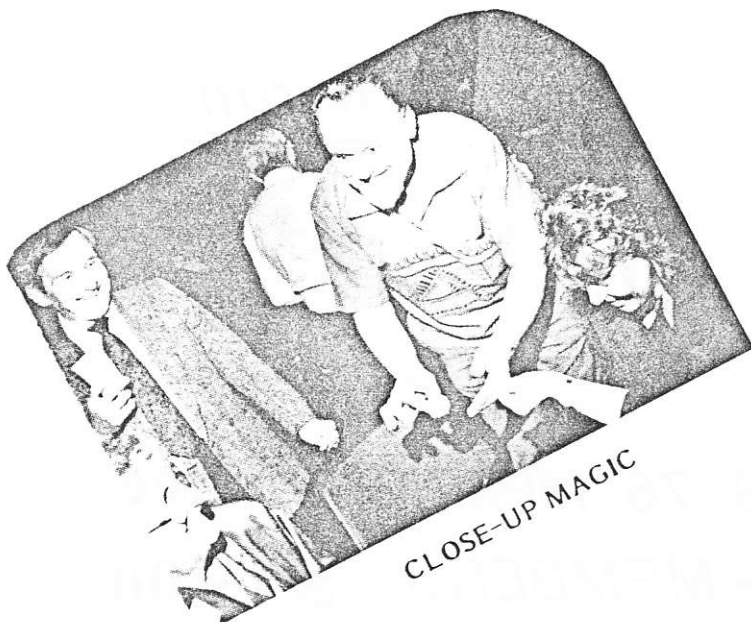
IBM RING 76

RING 76 MEMBERS: free

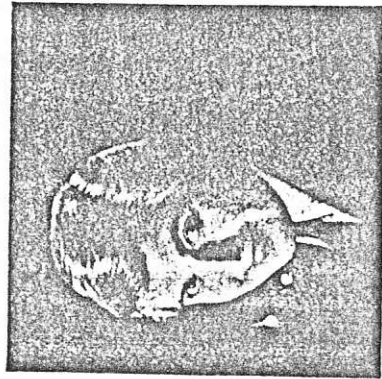
NON - MEMBERS: \$15.00



ON STAGE AT THE MAGIC CASTLE

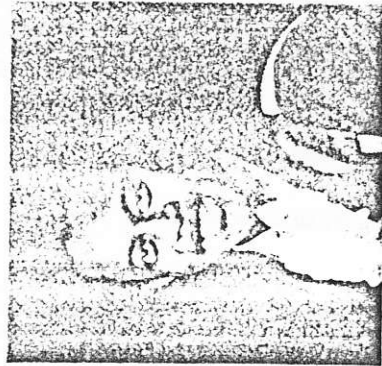


THE ARTISTS



JACK WHITE

Well known Channel 10 T.V. personality. Our thanks to Jack White for volunteering his time, talent, and expertise to the show.



ICE and PARIS

Ice, a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Magic Castle, has been performing professionally since 1980. Along with his lovely assistant, Paris, this outstanding magician has entertained audiences throughout California, Las Vegas, Dallas, St. Louis and the Bahamas.



DICK DALE

Dick has been performing since the age of 8 and his accomplishments are many. He has performed and won competitions in the midwest and in Las Vegas. He has worked in TV and commercials, is past president of Ring 76 and Ring 36, teaches magic through the community education system and manufactures magical effects for the trade.

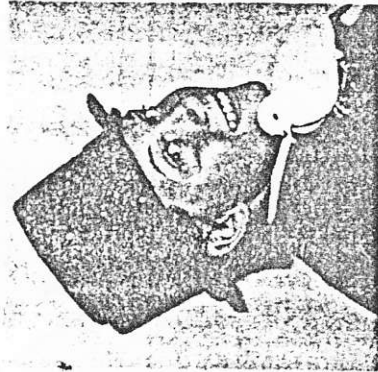
THE ARTISTS

DON HALL



Although an avid enthusiast of magic for over 40 years, Don did not start performing publicly until 1982. He is as much at home on the stage as he is performing intimately to a small group. Don is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Magic Castle and is the Adult Coordinator for the San Diego Junior Magicians.

LOGAN HALE



Logan's interest in magic was sparked about two years ago when he chose to do a school project on "The History of Magic". Since then Logan has taken formal training and spends much of his free time attending magic lectures and seminars. He is the President of the San Diego Junior Magicians and in August of this year won first place in his category at Tannen's Magic Camp in New York.

CAMERON and COMPANY

Cameron, who has been in the entertainment field for over twenty years, has assembled one of California's finest cast. These entertainers will surprise you with their innovative approach to the art of illusion.

By MARK SAUER
Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

Houdini Spirit Eluded Seance ... Or Did It?

A pair of foot-high candles cast the proper eerie pall over the solemn faces of 11 hopeful souls. They sat on Halloween night with hands joined, heads bowed, around a long narrow table in the upper reaches of a century-old house that is now a restaurant on a bluff overlooking Old Town.

The chair to the right of the medium, Kathy Ciambone, was vacant. It was reserved for Harry Houdini, the world-famous escape artist and master magician who died 56 years ago on Halloween.

Those seated around the table were magicians, Houdini's brethren, assembled for a seance. They were gathered to beseech Harry to momentarily slip the shackles of the hereafter and drop by for a visit.

A straightjacket and handcuffs — symbols of Houdini's art — were placed on the table near a framed photograph of the man who astonished audiences and confounded jailers the world over, boasting no constraint could hold him.

Sensing the opportunity was nigh, Ciambone hushed the 50 or so onlookers (mostly lingering diners) and commenced the attempt at spiritual linkup by appealing to Houdini's wife, Bess, who is also deceased.

"Bess, please help us," she pleaded in a weird tone — the high, plaintive pitch a new widow might use while kneeling at the foot of a deathbed.

"We know you were never successful when you tried to reach Harry, but maybe this is the night. Have him give us a sign ... open a window or close a door."

With that, the medium joined the others in silent anticipation.

Harry Houdini was more than a wizard of escape and magician without peer. He was a showman on the scale of P.T. Barnum.

Thirty years before television, when sound had not yet been married to motion pictures and radio was an infant, Houdini managed to become world famous through his keen sense of public relations.

To be sure, his death-defying feats amazed even the most hardened skeptic and his determination to continually outdo imitators and challengers (as well as himself) was limitless.

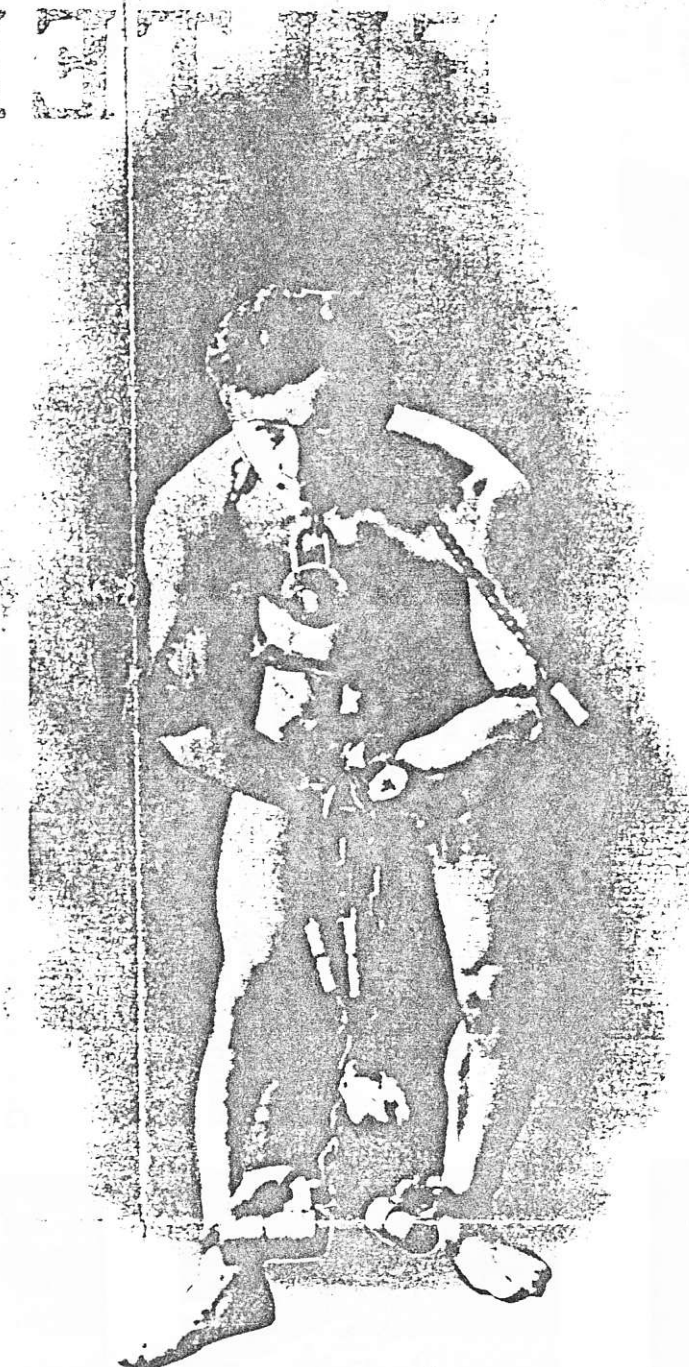
His standing "Challenge To The World" offered 1,000 English pounds to anyone who could duplicate his escapes under test conditions. The challenge was never taken up.

But equal to Houdini's prowess for getting out of chains and trunks and leg irons and sealed water tanks was his knack for getting into the newspaper. Rarely did "The Escape King" face death without a battery of reporters on hand to chronicle the feat.

His popularity was such that legions of admirers born decades after Houdini's death perpetuate the notion that if it is possible to make contact from "the other side," he will be the one to do it — for the publicity if for no other reason.

Houdini's lifelong fascination with death spawned in him a voracious interest in spiritualism. He exposed dozens of mediums that claimed to communicate with the dead, even though his quest to find a genuine one never flagged.

After the death of his beloved mother, Houdini intensified his exploration of the spirit world in an effort to reach her in the beyond. Though never tasting even a drop



HARRY HOUDINI: too tied up to join the seance?

of success in this pursuit, Houdini made a pact with his wife that whoever died first would try to contact the survivor from the grave. A secret code was established between them.

After Houdini died in a Detroit hospital

on Halloween, 1926, Bess set about reaching him. She tried seances for several years afterward. But instead of reaching her late husband, several mediums reached Bess and claimed to have communicated with Houdini. They, too, were proven false.

Still, the seances persist nearly 40 years after the death of Bess.

The 52-member San Diego "ring," or local chapter, of the International Brotherhood of Magicians staged the Old Town seance Sunday night without pretention.

"If it happens, if Houdini contacts us, I will be the first one out of here — I'll be shocked and scared to death," said George Edwards, a native of London, a magician for 25 years and a member of the San Diego ring.

"But this is an authentic seance, we're giving it a genuine try," continued the former chief steward of the liner Queen Mary and now retired here from the restaurant business.

Ciambone, the medium whose husband is president of the local ring, tried. The magicians seated around the table tried. Even the onlookers, most of whom were dressed out for Halloween, tried. Everybody tried, with the possible exception of Harry Houdini.

"I'm afraid we will not be able to contact him tonight," Ciambone said after a few minutes of silent straining. "Maybe next year."

"Wait a minute," came a British-tinged voice from the rear. "There might be another method."

Edwards emerged from the shadows, an unmistakable gleam in his eye. He would need someone "completely neutral," an onlooker, Edwards said, and Pam Gray of Pacific Beach materialized.

Edwards gave her a padlock and six keys. Following instructions, Gray tried all six before finding the one that worked. She mixed it in with the other keys and then placed each key in a small manila envelope and laid the six envelopes in a row on the table.

Opening a pack of ordinary playing cards, Edwards then asked Gray to pick one. Without looking at it and without showing it to anyone, Gray placed the card into a small wooden box.

Next, Edwards handed Gray two small blackboard slates and asked her to examine them. Satisfied that they were clean, Gray did as she was told and placed them face to face on the table next to the row of envelopes containing the keys. The wooden box holding the card was placed on top of the chalkboards.

Edwards asked that all minds be focused on Houdini. After this brief psychic sounding, he asked Gray to hold up the chalkboards.

One read: "Try the second key from the left. Fraternally, Harry Houdini." The other said: "King of spades. Howard Thurston."

Naturally, the card in the box was the king of spades and the second key from the left opened the lock. The late Howard Thurston, explained Edwards, was a respected American magician and close friend of Houdini.

As an astonished Gray reiterated that the slates were clean and the keys well mixed before she placed them on the table, the non-magicians in attendance gasped and applauded.

"Don't get me wrong, we did not contact Harry Houdini here tonight," said Edwards out of the crowd's earshot. "But we had to give these people something to take home with them."

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR MEETING ON MON. DEC. 17

--- but we will have our

IBM RING SEVENTY SIX
XMAS POT-LUCK DINNER

on

MONDAY - DECEMBER TENTH
(Note Date Change)

at

La Mesa American Legion - The Large Banquet Room

6 PM - 7 PM

NO HOST SOCIAL HOUR

7:15 (Or So)

POT-LUCK DINNER

8:45 PM

SHOW TIME w/ VP Bob INGALLS, Don Halbach
and featuring Logan Hale with
his award winning Magic

IMPORTANT

You must bring a dish in order to participate in the dinner and the show

*** RÉPONDEZ S'IL VOUS PLAÎT ***

DICK DALE (Tel. 562-7379) will be coordinating the menu. Call and tell him what you plan to bring.

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS MON. DEC. 3, at 6 PM

MAGICURRENTS

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



First Class

Roy & Betty Armstrong
2548 Littleton Road
El Cajon CA 92020