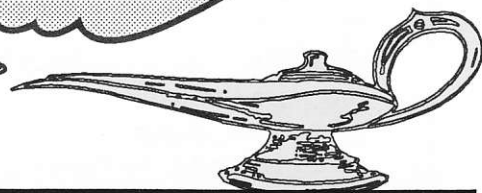


MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA



VOL. VIII NO. 11

NOVEMBER 1994

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Some words to my fellow hobbyists:

As we enter the holiday season, the days of family get togethers, office parties and other performing opportunities, we may be called upon to entertain. As an amateur, I understand the pressure and the need to perform. What follows are a few ways I use to keep from going crazy when "...tis the season".

1. Avoid Peer Pressure

As amateurs, we have the opportunity to choose when, where and what we perform. We are wizards, not trained seals. Just because someone says "show me a trick", we're not obligated to do so. If asked to perform, I will do so only if I'm fully prepared. Otherwise, I demure. It can be done with an air of mystery and confidence. Use a "perhaps a little later" approach.

2. Choose material

Armed with the knowledge that I can't perform every trick I like, I choose a small, well-routined repertoire that is within my skill level. I abandon my usual affinity for learning new and difficult miracles and stop any efforts to invent new effects. Think about it, in a social situation, how many people do you know that can perform even one miracle? Wouldn't you rather watch one or two really killer performance pieces than be forced to sit through 1/2 hour worth of jerky, inconsistent material?

3. Practice & Rehearse

Now that I have chosen my effects, I practice the mechanics of the tricks. I even do this for tricks that I know inside and out. If I plan to perform Professor's Nightmare, I practice to make sure my hands remember what my mind knows. Then I rehearse. This is a little different, and just as important to me. I start by performing the pieces in my head again and again to get the words down that I will use. Then I show them to friends (starting with magicians). Once I have the effects down, I discard tricks that just didn't fit after all and I am pretty much ready to go out and grow in my art.

If you plan to perform this holiday season, consider showing your fellow members in Ring 76 what you are working on, then ask for some constructive criticism and expect a lot of support!

"Excellence is a long and painful journey through mediocrity and past adequacy." — Anonymous

Richard B. Waterhouse

LAST MEETING or what you missed

by Mark Flores

Ring 76's eerie October gathering featured a pre-meeting Haunted Pack demonstration hosted by resident spook, **Rick Waterhouse**. Although the effect itself can raise the hairs on the back of anyone's neck, Rick demonstrated that the proper patter will add the finishing touch.

This year's lecture hopefuls were announced, with **Ron London** scheduled for our February meeting. The Board of Directors would also like to bring in a "big name" for a future lecture and all suggestions will be welcome. Next month is our annual selling event, with a combination auction and swap meet. Rumor has it that **J.P. Jackson** has reserved most of the tables already! The illustrious **Dick Dale (Esq.)** will preside as auctioneer.

With the business behind, it was time for the fun to begin. The 25 members and 4 guests present began their entertainment feast with **Ursula** and her faithful assistant-husband **Fred Rohrer**, who borrowed the services of two unsuspecting guests for the Silks of Fantasia. The effect featured 5 silks knotted every which way on a thick rope and with a little prestidigitation, each one in turn was pulled off the rope without being untied! **Rick Waterhouse** followed with a hand-held spirit closet. Referring back to the ever popular **Fox sisters**, he recounted the story of the origins of spiritualism and a clever device used to speak to the deceased. In Rick's pocket version, a nut and bolt placed under a wooden "spirit cup" writhed and danced until they were completely unthreaded; all the while under the watchful eyes of a wary volunteer. There was obviously more than one type of "spirit" in that cup that evening! The last effect of the evening featured an exclusive video-taping of **Loch Crane's** close-up effects. Although

Loch has established himself as an accomplished stand-up performer, he is also a formidable close-up artist as well.

BOARD MEETING

by Mark Flores

The Ring 76 October Board meeting was held, once again, at **Don Soul's** home in Rancho Penasquitos. The meeting was attended by **Don Soul, Rick Waterhouse, Jeff Marcus, Sherry Luft, Dick Dale, Greg Wauson, and Mark Flores**. The main topic of the evening was the upcoming selling event. This year, the selling event will feature a combination swap meet and auction. The normal pre-meeting time will be allotted to a swap meet with tables available for \$5 each to members and \$10 to non-members. Contact **Rick Waterhouse** at 461-1875 prior to the event if you wish to reserve a swap meet table. At the same time, a silent auction will be conducted where each participant may place up to seven items for auction. Attendees will have the opportunity to write in their bids next to the object during the swap meet. The auctioneer, **Mr. Dick Dale**, will then promote up to 40 total items to the live auction. This will comprise the second half of the evening's events. Attendees who wish to bring items to the auction should be prepared to provide a name, brief description and minimum acceptable bid for each item. More details about the silent and live auctions will be provided on the bidding cards every attendee will receive.

Discussion about upcoming lectures centered on the possibility of bringing in a "big name" for our Installation performance/lecture. While weighing the possible benefit of this type of guest (with a typically exorbitant fee), the Board decided to table this discussion while the First Vice-President continues his research.

LIVE

from

Las Vegas!

Yewow! When I started this column, I had no idea of the wealth of magical information that passes through Las Vegas. I may have to do two columns! As it is, I am submitting show reviews separately.

Update:

Siegfried & Roy: "The Magic, The Miracle" (ABC) Will be airing in November, watch for it!

"The Magic of David Copperfield XVII" (CBS) will likely be airing in its usual April slot, as it has for 16 years, but this is not confirmed.

Alert!

I tried to contact Ring 76 the moment I heard, but I did not receive the newsletter letting me know where the meeting was. I hope that at least some of you got the message and were able to watch Inside Edition (Sept. 13).

David Copperfield has filed a five million dollar lawsuit against author Herbert L. Becker and his publisher in an effort to prevent the publication of a book entitled "All the Secrets of Magic Revealed" featuring Copperfield's work most prominently.

Inside Edition interviewed both parties. Copperfield's understanding was that the book was to be biographical and that he would be sent galleys to proof prior to publication. He also claims and has submitted for evidence, a signed secrecy agreement.

According to Becker, he does not remember signing any such agreement. He also does not feel that his book will in any way spoil the magic for an audience member who has read it, saying only that they will simply enjoy seeing the illusion performed.

The book features 12 magicians including Siegfried & Roy,, and among the subtitles

of the galleys that appeared briefly on Inside Edition were "The Floating Ball", and Copperfield's "Flying", however the publisher insists that the book will be touted as Becker's own explanations for the illusions, not Copperfield's.

Also on the Alert is Lance Burton, it seems the Hacienda is up for sale. He has just completed the third year of a four year contract with the Hacienda, but until I have an opportunity to talk to Lance about how this might affect him should the Hacienda be sold, we will just have to wait and see.

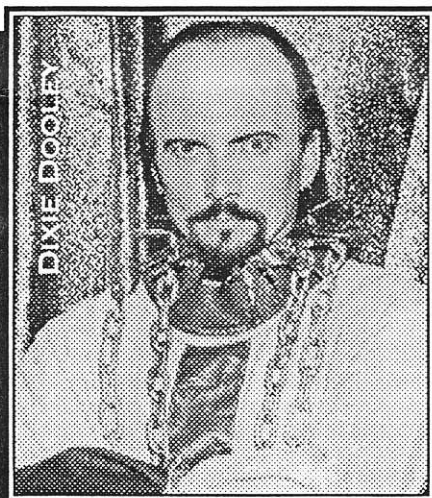
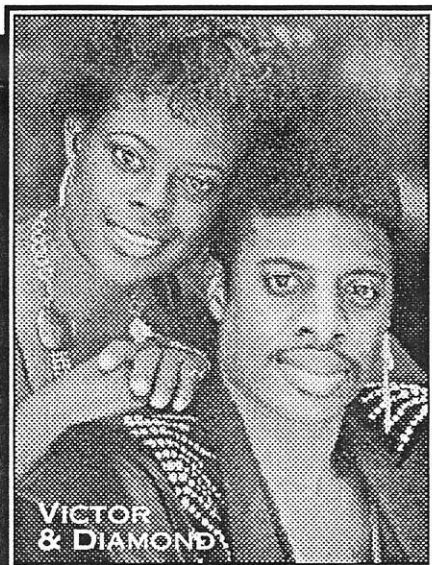
Review: O'Shea's Magic Hall of Fame

As I said earlier, reviews will now be submitted separately to allow for this column. I mention it only to call attention to it. Please look for it this issue.

Announcements:

Everyone is welcome to attend the Gary Darwin Wednesday night magician's free for all. The "meetings" are held each Wednesday night from 10:00 pm to the wee hours at Pat's Chinese located inside the Commercial Center at 953 E. Sahara Ave. about 1 mile East of the Sahara Casino. The Commercial Center is open and outdoors, just pull in the entrance and turn right. Pat's is located to the right in the NW corner of the center. The meet is strictly social, no formalities. As Las Vegas is largely a transient town, no local IBM Ring exists. Also, be forewarned that Gary Darwin is the proud owner of a karaoke machine, so be prepared for a concert! The price of admission is a drink from the bar and a little applause for the singers.

Catch Gary Norsigian performing at the Showboat. He works as a roving closeup magician performing for those in lines throughout the casino and he is very good! ■



Spotlight

Review:

Magic and Movie Hall of Fame

by L.M. Flatt

Business owners generally realize that besides the name, location is everything. Unfortunately, no one thought of that when locating the Magic and Movie Hall of Fame inside O'Sheas Casino in Las Vegas. Have you never heard of O'Sheas? Well, it is not new. It has been in existence for at least five years and is nestled snugly in between the Flamingo Hilton which owns it, and the Imperial Palace. If you squint and look hard, you might actually see it as you head across the street to Caesars Palace.

O'Sheas is a small, dark, quiet Irish pub-like casino, on the first floor, with the second floor leased out to the Magic and Movie Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame includes a magic shop, and comes complete with talented demonstrators like store manager, Rob Alispach, Jackie McDade and Darin Martineau, a sizable gift shop, the magic and movie museum, and a Magian stage show, "That's Magic" featuring a small collection of talented performers. The show plays daily in the Houdini Theatre at 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., and is dark Thursdays. SAM and IBM members identifying themselves are eligible to receive a 10% discount on purchases from the magic and gift shop.

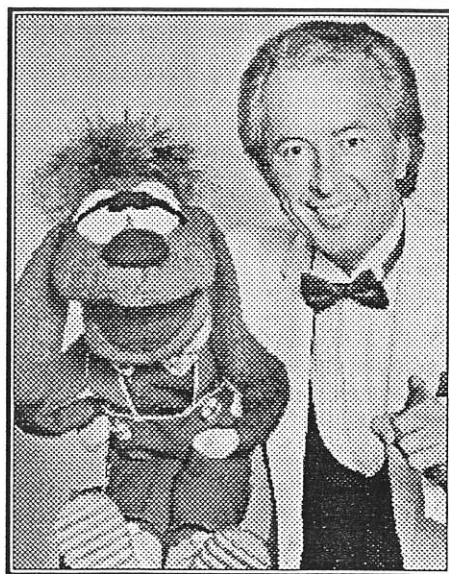
Admission to "That's Magic" is a modest \$14.50 which includes a 50 minute show and the museum tour. The museum tour by itself is \$5.50. Among those playing in "That's Magic" is Host Dixie Dooley, an accomplished escapologist, who puts his all into his stage presence and exotic, mystical moustache and goatee "look". When the Magic & Movie Hall of Fame first opened in July, the dedicated Dooley hung 40 feet above the crowds on the strip, freeing himself from a straitjacket to help promote it. Dooley's Houdini collection may be seen on display inside the museum.

Performing as two or three or four is ventriloquist Valentine Vox & "George", whose extensive and impressive collection of ventriloquism memorabilia is also on display inside the museum.

Also appearing are the very talented Victor & Diamond, whose presence entrances the audience. Their chemistry is palpable, a "feel good" couple whose performance is refreshing, missing that certain cynicism which seems to pervade the air of many magic performances.

The Magic and Movie Hall of Fame is the real draw. Boasting a 20,000 square foot museum estimated at a \$3.5 million collection of memorabilia. The museum is 69% magic history, 39% ventriloquism, and 2% movie-related, and really ought to be renamed the Magic and Ventriloquism Hall of Fame.

The entrance to the museum features automaton from other eras setting the mood. To the right of the entrance is a sizable collection of magic books and



VALENTINE & "GEORGE"

magazines from the past in a mini library setting. Glass enclosed cases of silk scarves, bird cages and other smaller props line the wall. The displays are merely that, displays. Anyone entering the museum cannot handle or in any way get any closer than arm's length to any prop, effectively protecting the secrets of the illusions. Mini stages have been set up to chronologically exhibit the magicians featured leading the viewer through a fairly complete history of magic beginning with Harry Kellar, (1849-1922), a video presentation of Kellar's levitation, and a synopsis of the effect's founder, J.N. Maskelyne (1867), and ending with the late Orson Welles, which leads into another section of living magicians.

Each exhibit includes a built-in video monitor which runs an original film clip of the illusion on display as it was performed by the magician represented. This makes each exhibit all the more interesting and is

the primary selling point of the Magic and Movie museum. It is a unique privilege to be able to view an original performance of an illusion and subsequently has a greater impact on museum visitors.

The principal founders of the museum decided it would be nicer to ask living magicians if they would like to be represented, and if so, to design their own exhibits. Those who have displayed so far include: The Amazing Randi, Siegfried & Roy, Doug Henning, and Harry Anderson. More recently, Shimada has also chosen to be featured and at the time of this writing has donated props to a forth-coming exhibit, others are also on the way. Be sure to request Mrs. Deanna Shimada as your Hostess, she is as personable as she is informative, and be sure to congratulate her, the Shimadas have been married for almost 30 years!

On a more personal note, as I walked the halls concluding the magic segment of the museum, I was struck by the notion that many a magician has given his life for his art. Until that moment I had not considered before the physical danger many performers actually put themselves in including such escapes as a 60,000 volt electric chair, assorted spiked cabinets, the dagger chair, Houdini's water torture and the infamous bullet catch routine. It was a very sobering experience which renewed my appreciation for the art of magic, making the visit more than worthwhile.

Moving into the ventriloquism section, as established by Valentine Vox, more than 400 "vetricolist" dummies are collected. Glass shelves of books on witchcraft cases indicating acts of ventriloquism and current books on the subject as authored by Vox, lead the way through the maze of displays which include Jay Johnson & "Bob," Arthur Prince & "Jim," Shari Lewis & "Lamb Chop," Paul Winchell & "Jerry Mahoney," and Willie Tyler & "Lester" among others, bringing back fond memories of variety show performances. One is indelibly left with the feeling that these dummies are somehow alive.

The movie section is small and unimpressive in comparison to the rest of the museum and is, otherwise, unnecessary.

A lovely antique arcade leads back into and through the gift shop. Enjoy! ■

as seen in *Linking Ring* 20 years ago...

by Jeff Marcus

Ring 76 President was Jim Riley. Other members mentioned in the Ring report included: Will Starr, George Edwards, Gary Dismukes, Jim Beamon, Bob Pozner, & Mike Rogers (whose lecture was coming up the following month.)

Advertisements included animal balloons for \$2.50 per 200 (as opposed to a gross).

It was reported in the *Linking Ring* that **David Theodorus Bamberg**, better known as **Fu Manchu**, had died in Buenos Aires at age 70. There has never been another family like the Bambergs who have enjoyed such world-wide celebrity and for so many years. The obituary, written by Chen Kai, talked about David's father, **Theodorus Bamberg**, (1875-1963) the very well-known Okito. David's grandfather, **David Tobias Bamberg**, was named Royal Magician of the Holland court in 1870. His great-grandfather was **Tobias Bamberg** (1812-1870). His great-great-grandfather was **David Leendert Bamberg** (1786-1869) who was a favorite in the Royal Court of Holland. David's great-great-great grandfather, **Eleaser Bamberg** (1760 - 1833) was known as the "Crippled Devil" because he lost one leg fighting during Napoleon's time. He used his wooden leg as a secret load source. Finally, **Jasper Bamberg** performed as far back as the early 1700's. This was the earliest creditable record of the Bamberg family may go back even further!. **Fu Manchu's** son chose not to follow in the family business. Thus ended a "Magic Dynasty" of at least seven generations!

There was also an article about our own former member, Will Starr, performing at the Naval & Marine hospitals every month for 10 years! The article went on to say that one of Will's achievements was helping Colonel G. N. "Jinks" McCain, a highly-decorated Marine officer, to train his shrapnel-torn fingers & hands. What is interesting is that "Jinks" recently moved to the area and is now an officer of the North County Magic Club! Also, a new applicant's name was published - Mike Close!

REVIEW

by Greg Wauson

Steve Spellman's Magic Show

My wife called me at work and said she had received a flyer advertising a magician's full evening show that night. Well, that sounds more interesting than another late night at the office. At five bucks per person at an elementary school, what kind of show would this be? I left work, we packed up the kids and got ready to go to... where? Suffice it to say that we finally found the auditorium. Since the flyer was handed out to kids at the school, no address was included.

Our search for the magic show was well worth it. We enjoyed magic ranging from a hat tear to some large illusions. I had never heard of Steve Spellman before, but this magician from Oceanside puts on a very entertaining show.

The entertainment started very S-L-O-W-L-Y with a somber assistant telling the kids the behavior for the show. The curtain opened and we saw fog, lots of fog. It cleared to reveal a large box which appeared empty when the assistant waved a light bulb behind it. He then probably shouldn't have tried a Roger Daltrey flourish with the light. It broke and his waving his hand behind the box was barely discernible. Out popped a beautiful female assistant and then Steve Spellman appeared.

Steve has the ability to communicate with an audience. He created situations with some of the spectators and played off them very well. All the effects are well-known to magicians but Steve does them smoothly. Kids and adults were all entertained. The highlight of the show occurred when he thanked a volunteer for helping with a transposition trick with a large duck. I was surprised he called the volunteer back so he could repeat it in slow motion so all could see the secret. I won't reveal his hilarious "explanation", but it involves a huge rabbit!

Despite early difficulties and a cordless microphone that garbled the assistant's words, this show, which featured the transposition of his female assistant into a full-size tiger, is one I highly recommend.

COMING UP

Nov. 14 Ring 76 Meeting
Location: Hungry Hunter
6:30pm
Auction/Swap Meet

Nov. 26 World's Greatest Magic
9:00pm NBC-TV

Nov. 28 Ring 76 Board Meeting
7:00pm Rick Waterhouse's

Dec. 12 Holiday Pot Luck
Dick Bush's (tentative)

Dec. 19 Ring 76 Board Meeting
7:00pm Rick Waterhouse's
(Note: one week early)

Dec. 31 Stars of Magic - Poway
Performing Arts Center

Jan. 9, 1995 Ring 76 Meeting
Location: Hungry Hunter
6:30pm Pre-meeting:
"False Shuffles"
7:30pm Meeting
Theme: "Old Tricks"

Jan. 23 Ring 76 Board Meeting
7:00pm Mark Flores'

Feb. 9-11 Convention at the Capital
Sacramento, CA

Feb. 13 Ring 76 Meeting
Ron London lecture

Feb. 27 Ring 76 Board Meeting
7:00pm Mark Flores'

Mar. 13 Ring 76 Meeting
Location: Hungry Hunter
6:30pm Pre-meeting:
"Showmanship & Patter"
7:30pm Meeting
Theme: "St. Paddy's Magic"

Mar. 27 Ring 76 Board Meeting
7:00pm Sherry Luft's

Apr. 10 Ring 76 Meeting
Location: Hungry Hunter
6:30pm Pre-meeting:
"TBA"
7:30pm Meeting
Theme: "TBA"

Apr. 24 Ring 76 Board Meeting
7:00pm Sherry Luft's

May 8 Ring 76 Meeting
Location: Hungry Hunter
6:30pm Pre-meeting:
"Chemistry Magic"
7:30pm Meeting
Theme: "Flower Magic"

May 22 Ring 76 Board Meeting
7:00pm Dick & Julie Dale's

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