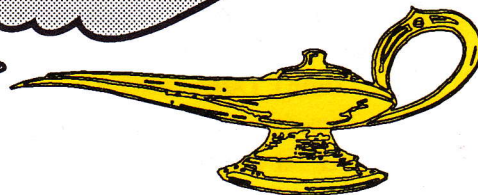


MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA



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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Hi Everyone!...by the time this newsletter reaches you, I should be livin' large in Las Vegas. So should you for that matter. The Desert Magic Seminar XVIII kicks off March 8th. Once again, San Diego will be well represented. I expect that we will get several reports back for MagiCurents or the March meeting. If you would like more information on next year's seminar, call Steven's Magic Emporium @ (316)683-9582.

The Pre-Meeting for April...is dues paying! A renewal form will be in the April newsletter. Please fill it out to update our records. Bring it to April's meeting or mail it back with your check. Dues are \$20.00 for Regular (voting) members. Drivers and significant others are Associate Members with no dues. The Board re-instituted Affiliate Membership (those outside San Diego County), dues are \$12.00.

International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM) Membership...as Ring 76 of IBM, our by-laws specify that our Ring members must be IBM members. To make it easy for us and you, bring your IBM card or the label from your last Linking Ring. We will work with International to clear up any confusion.

Acting Sergeant at Arms...Dick Bush has had a conflict with our meeting times. We hope that Dick will be able to get his schedule back to normal next year. We'll miss you Dick. For the remainder of the year, Marcia Ferree (my lovely S.O.) will be our Acting Sergeant at Arms. Please check in with her when you arrive at meetings and lectures.

I'll see you at the next meeting,

Richard B. Waterhouse

BOARD MEETING

by Mark Flores

The February Board meeting of Ring 76 was attended by Jeff Marcus, Dick and Julie Dale, Don Soul, Greg Wauson, Rick Waterhouse, guest Jim Fry and hosted by me. Our present Sergeant-At-Arms will be unable to complete the rest of his term. Marcia Ferree will fill in until the next election in June.

The Billy McComb lecture will be the highlight of our April meeting. April will also be the annual dues-gathering meeting. Since the lecture is offered free to all members (\$10.00 to non-members) it is a perfect time to join Ring 76 and get a free lecture to boot.

A more efficient way of handling new applications and fees has been established. A receipt of paid dues will go to the new or renewing member. A copy goes to the Treasure. The member will also complete a membership directory form. This information will be entered into our database. Verification of International membership will be done by checking a member's current International membership card or their Linking Ring mailing label.

The Board considered holding an initiation for prospective new recruits. In addition, the affiliate (non-resident) membership class was proposed to accommodate out-of-town members who are still interested in receiving the newsletter. The issue of initiation was tabled temporarily as it is part of the revisions in the Ring 76 by-laws. The initiation will be discussed at a future Board meeting. A motion was made and passed for affiliate membership to be set at a rate of \$12.00 per year which would cover the cost of a yearly mailing.

Finally, Greg brought up the possibility of Ring 76 representation during Magic Week in October. The Board discussed the Ring's involvement, press coverage and the Mayor's proclamation. Rick volunteered to write up a press release at the proper time.

LAST MEETING or what you missed

by Greg Wauson

Our February pre-meeting consisted of informal conversation, meeting someone new, catching up on who's performing where and, for some, dining with friends.

Our lecturer was **RON LONDON** with his easy-going presentation style and ability to entertain an audience. The lecture emphasis was practical, build-it-yourself magic. Ron's favorite magic shop is Walmart, which was evident after seeing the effects he performs using common objects.

The tricks included the transposition of a yellow silk and a red silk in envelopes sealed by spectators. He also presented a short routine in which a glass, then a ball, vanished under cover of a bandanna. Another effect, which looked very magical, was the instant linking of eight 1" curtain rings, which had just been examined. Ron shared several practical pointers such as a hassle-free thumb tip holder. He also did a fast dealer demo.

This lecture was just practical, you-can-do-this-too type effects which, although not eye-poppers, can certainly become staples in many performers' repertoires.

GAUGHAN FISHIN'

Part 3

By Rick Waterhouse

John's penchant for plucking magic from the past does not stop at mechanical men. At the 3rd Los Angeles Conference on Magic History (11/6/93), Mr. Gaughan resurrected Hooker's Rising Cards. Dr. Samuel Hooker was a leading amateur magician and a chemist by trade. In 1916 he presented "Impossibilities". Showing to a house with a capacity of 20 or so, Hooker went on to mystify the great magicians of his time. The cards were given life to act out dramas and defy physics. Dr. Hooker's card miracles were so impossible that many believed the accounts exaggerated.

RW: How much time did you spend rehearsing the segments of Impossibilities that you performed?

JG: Probably five weeks, a month.

RW: And how long was the piece that you performed?

JG: 22 minutes

RW: Of a 90 minute show?

JG: Yes, uh-huh.

RW: The routine was designed to blow away magicians as I understand it, I mean, that was it's original intent. Did it do it again?

JG: I think it was very successful. And I think that today's audiences, I mean that audience, was really hip. We had the strongest card workers in the world there and unlike with Dr. Hooker... His audiences, they were there knowing they were goin' to see a card rise, but they didn't know how special it was. These people were all prepared. They knew to look out for strings, they knew to look out for being at the right angle, or mirrors or whatever. All of them were experts in their own little area, so I think it worked.

RW: You had the opportunity to confirm or destroy a legend...

JG: This was a lot of pure luck. I mean the legend of Dr. Hooker's rising cards has gone on from 1916 and to bring it out and have today's audience say "oh, is that all it was, well, I could see back then fooling em"...

RW: You were taking a risk.

JG: A big risk because Dr. Hooker was 6'6", a very imposing gentleman. A lot of the hour and a half routine was him talking slowly and waving his arms around. And he was a good card worker. With Antonio and Zoe and all those things, there is not a lot of misdirection or sleight of hand that I have to do, but with the rising cards there is a helluva lot of hands on stuff that I've gotta do. And I'm not a top performer so it's... We didn't know whether that performance was going to work right up until that night. 'Cause we hadn't had an audience here to really get a read off of.

RW: Were you a little nervous when you went into it?

JG: Well, I was beyond that - I was numb.

RW: Did you consider getting anyone else to perform it?

JG: Yeah, uh-huh. The logical choice is always Jim Steinmeyer. And if it wasn't for Jim, it's too bad that Jim wasn't around when Dr. Hooker did this because Jim really knows how to enhance things. And he chose and directed all of that for

me. He knew what the best things were for the performance. Jim is the only other person that knows how that thing works.

RW: He knows the secret, and you know the secret so it's not going to end with you. The next generation of magicians? Are they going to get a chance to see it?

JG: I don't know. It was such a big deal to bring it out and get it together. Like I said, it took the resources of all my shop working on it for six weeks to get it going, maybe longer. Three truckloads of equipment to go over there to set it up, the stage, the lighting, the curtains, the carpeting, you know, everything.

RW: I asked this question before with the automatons, and I'm going to ask it again. Why? You have six weeks of concentrating on a show that you're going to do for one small convention?

JG: Well, I don't know... I just.. uh, the fascination of all of that. It all started with the Chess player which is in the other room here. I always knew that was a magician's illusion. And so coming up with how it worked was a lot of fun. There are over 800 different books and articles written on the Automaton chess player over the past 200 years since it came out in 1769. And all of the ways that they came up with how it worked were wrong. They kinda started right, they all knew that maybe a guy was hidden in there but he was legless or he was a midget and so when we finally found out how it really worked by letters in one museum and letters in another museum back and forth [between] two people. It was a guy that actually worked the thing, who was hidden inside, correcting a guy that was writing an article on it for the chess journal. When we got all that together and we built the thing. [It used] principles of magic. Black Art principles that we never really realized went back 200 years 'cause black art, we thought, was a 19th century thing. So we were real surprised about that and how strong that illusion is. I have no interest at all in chess. I don't know how to play chess or any of that. Most of the people now that are hounding me about it are all chess experts. It's a little embarrassing too when they say Queen's 7 to Rook's 5 not to know what they're talking about.

RW: What do you have going on now? Any big projects?

JG: Well, we just finished working the illusions in Beauty & the Beast. It turned out to be very successful in New York and now they're doing the road show versions of that. These were very successful. The transformation of the beast, are well known magic principles and yet they integrated into the show very nicely.

RW: Still, what kind of a challenge, to have something that the animators created and then have them say, "Can you do this?"

JG: Well, there's a lot of compromise there because you have many people giving input into that thing. A lot of Directors and high powered lighting designers, so everyone brings to the table their own way that they think that it should work. So that's always very hard. It's very hard. Especially in live performances. On film you can have a hundred people there and it only has to work once.

RW: Are you currently working on any big projects?

JG: Well, other than the Power Rangers and the road shows of Beauty & the Beast, that's most of our time. Big Shows.

(To be continued . . .)

LIVE

from

Las Vegas!



Angelica



Tony Clark

Happy Belated New Year! I know, it has been a few since anyone has heard from me. This unfortunately has largely been due to overwork and illness, but I am on the road to recovery now. Not too much took place over the holidays here, in fact many shows closed down in favor of revamping, including "Splash" and "Spellbound". The entire cast of Spellbound, with the exception of comedy magician Jeff Hopson, was completely replaced. I will report on the new show as soon as I can catch it and not anything else! (cough, hack, wheeze)

Update:

Siegfried & Roy: "The Magic, The Miracle" (ABC) I hope everyone managed to catch this special! It was terrific! Particularly their choice of BGM (background music) from the movie "Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story", one of my personal favorites used in the later half of the show. Siegfried & Roy took a break when Roy needed a bit of leg surgery, but they are back now, just having signed a new multi-million dollar contract.

Congratulations!

And speaking of big contracts, congratulations go to Lance Burton. In December he signed a deal with Steve Wynn to perform at the new Dunes project. The particulars — \$100 million over 13 years, now that's job security!

Alert!

If anyone would like to take their own personal guided tour of the famous secret Copperfield museum, run down to your local book store and pick up a copy of the March issue of Architectural Digest. There is a fabulous layout featuring the highlights of the warehouse which I have yet to see only from the outside. It is well worth it. It is unfortunate, however, that the publication must appear in the shadow of David's split with Claudia Schiffer following an extended engagement, reported on Feb. 17.

Hellos & Thanks

Hello and thanks to Jeff and Peggy Marcus who came into town for the CES convention and taking the time to call me.

Unfortunately, Peggy was ill and so she allowed me to fill in for her attendance for one day of the convention. This allowed Jeff and I to take in a few of the magicians performing at the expo. It is a very different kind of magic indeed to be able to sell a company while performing an art which is largely intended to sell yourself. My applause to all of the magicians brave enough to try! Thanks again, Peg!

Magic & Movie Hall of Fame

For those of you who don't know, I have been working full time at the the Thomas & Mack Center at UNLV, and part time at the Magic & Movie Hall of Fame, however, most of my information actually comes from local news sources and contacts. Victor and Diamond made their final appearance at M&M Jan. 8. We were very sad to lose them, but they will be reappearing in April at the Westward Ho, here in Las Vegas. Scheduled to appear in the spot of guest artist was Christopher Hart of "Addams Family" fame, unfortunately, Christopher threw out his back opening night. Rick Shaw was quickly substituted and did a good job as a quick filler, during which time a search went out to whoever was available and we pulled in "Angelica" from France to finish out the gig. Watch for a write up by Deanna Shimada to appear sometime soon in Genii. Currently appearing is Tony Clark. A wonderful talent and a must see, you won't see this guy without his own stage for very long, so make an effort if you are in town to see the show!

Personal Note

I have found that many entertainers on the whole do so much backstabbing, it is reaching critical levels. Remember, if you don't like someone's performance you need mention it only once, but to go on and on about it only makes YOU look bad. This is something I learned a long time ago as a kid and applies even more so as an adult. As far as I am concerned, anyone brave enough to get on stage in front of a bunch of total strangers, knowing they will be judged even if they do nothing more than stand there gets a big round of applause from me! ■

COMING UP

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
 6:30 Pre-meeting:
 TBA
 7:30pm Lecture
 Billy McComb

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 The Dale's

June 1-4 **Las Vegas Close-Up**
 Las Vegas, NV.

June 12 **Ring 76 Meeting**
 Location: Hungry Hunter
 6:30 Pre-meeting:
 "Coins"
 7:30pm Meeting
 Theme: "Kids Magic"

June 17 **Ring 21's "Day Of Magic"**
 Hollywood

June 19 **Ring 76 Board Meeting**
 7:00pm The Dale's

July **Ring 76 Meeting**
 Installation Banquet
 Time & Place TBA

July 12-15 **67th Annual IBM**
 Convention
 Oakland, CA.

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