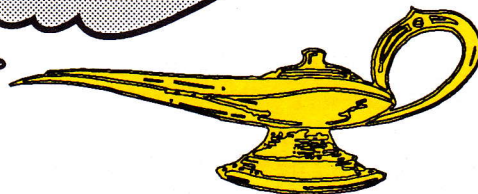


# MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART  
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA



**VOL IX Number 10**

**October 1995**

## Magic Heritage Day

### Details

Villa Montezuma, 1925 K Street, San Diego, Sunday, October 29th 11:00am - 5:00pm. No admission fee. Participating members (anyone who wants to lend a hand) will be able to meet around 9:00 a.m. to begin decorations and tour the museum.

### Entertainment

We have had very positive response for area magicians who are willing to share some of their time to help us out with this event. We currently have six main performers with another four or five that are waiting to see how their calendars shake out. We still a few on our list that have not been contacted. If you or anyone that you know would like to perform, please contact Rick Waterhouse at 461-1875 ASAP.

### The Venue

After Rick did such a great job convincing the club that Heritage park was the ideal venue for our event, the board visited both sites and voted to join forces with the Historical Society and hold the event at Villa Montezuma. It was a narrow decision with many factors. The most compelling reason was a concern that we would not be able to fill Heritage Park with enough performers or activities to really make Magic Heritage Day an event. We were up against a deadline with the Historical Society, and we only had a commitment from

one Heritage Park Merchant. Villa Montezuma is a beautiful venue and has atmosphere leaking from its aged pores. The board feels that this will be a fine venue for our first "outing" in some time and we look forward to working with the San Diego Historical Society.

### Decorations

The board has allocated \$120.00 for Poster Reproductions of vintage stars of Magic. After the event, the posters will be available either for sale or raffle. We'll work it out in November. If any members would like to lend us posters, props, or other atmosphere pieces, please contact Jim Fry (554-0335). We have several areas which are visible, but off limits to the public. We will make every humanly possible effort to assure that nothing is damaged.

### Collector's Corner

We have a wonderful room all picked out for the display of collectible magic and memorabilia. Member JP Jackson has volunteered to loan us part of his collection for display. After his recent experience with the Hollywood set, we are especially grateful for this offer. In order to assure the safety of all collectibles, we will have a "host" in the area at all times. If you would like to display just an item or two, please be sure to tag it with your name. Information cards might be useful if you have time.

See Heritage pg 2

## September Magic!

What a treat for Ring 76'ers at the September pre-meeting. Our own local celebrity, world-famous magic shop entrepreneur and magic teacher **Brad Burt** shared some of the outstanding material on his latest four videos. Brad started with his linking rings video and invited **Jim Jolly** and **Charlie Norris** to shared the stage with him. Using his Chinese Rings, Brad ran through a series of rings linking and unlinking at unbelievable speed. From Jim to Charlie and to Brad, rings linked, uncouple and relinked, ultimately ending when all eight rings had linked together totally.

Brad followed up with a color change routine from his next video. Starting with the King of Diamonds on top of the deck the card changed to the Ace of Clubs, to the Ace of Hearts and back to the King of Diamonds. Brad's detailed explanation after the routine was beautifully simple, though the moves are certainly for the advanced performer. Brad

See September pg 3

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## PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Welcome to October,

As you all know, this month marks *Magic Week*. It also marks *Magic Heritage Day* in San Diego (see *Magic Heritage Day* on page 1 -Ed). My thanks to everyone who has taken an interest in our project; it is only through the active participation of Ring 76 members that this event can happen at all. Magic Heritage Day is sponsored by Ring 76 for our community with a mind towards exposing (in the best sense of the word) our community to the rich heritage of our art along with outstanding contemporary performances. We are supporting this event to promote magic and Ring 76. Any proceeds or donations will be used to offset nominal marketing costs.

I hope that you will be able to make it to the next meeting. Starting at 6:30, we are going to be discussing the event in detail, trying to figure out where our holes are and ... trying to find the talented Ring 76 people who can plug them. After a brief business meeting, I hope you'll trot out your favorite Halloween magic to share with us.

I've spoken with a gentleman named George Rowe, aka Kalamar, about the show he'll be presenting Tuesday, October 17 at "A Better World." Many of you know that "A Better World" is on Goldfinch across the street from Dan Thomas's The Gathering. George shared details of his performance with me and, I must say, I am truly looking forward to it. Kalamar has been performing far longer than I have been living and has headlined Casinos, Circuses and appeared with the Radio City Music Hall review. George will have a *Magician's Reception* after the performance to chat and share stories of his touring career. If I have not yet whetted your appetite, let me just say this: *Chung Ling Soo Bullet Catch*. I hope you'll make Kalamar's show. If you would like me to pick up tickets for you, please call and I'll buy and deliver them at the October Ring 76 meeting.

One final note: I joined Ring 76 because I felt that I would benefit from exposure to other magicians. I came in wanting a few tricks, but I have benefited in ways that I never thought possible. Now, I've come to want more than a club that serves my needs. My association with the club has taken a new spin. Now, I want to participate in an organization that serves the needs of Magic. Weird isn't it? I think of Magic the way some think of politics or religion. It is so special to me because of what I, at my larval stage, have already gained from it. I want every magician in San Diego to succeed, because their success fires the passion that I have for Magic. I want every non-magician in San Diego to have a story about the magician that they saw who made a <Something> appear/disappear/become ... I want you to want these things with me. I hope you'll join me in this mission. Spring for a ticket to a show when the Marshal Silvers, Ray Wolds, Kalamars or other allied artists come to town. Give a few hours to a club sponsored event. Spread the word. Put warm bodies where they can experience this thing that moves us all. I promise you, the payback will far outweigh the cost.

Warm Regards,

*Richard A. Waterhouse*

*Heritage*, from pg 1

Remember, we are not here to expose magic, so a zombie on a stick is probably not a good display item (unless its hidden behind a gaudy foulard). Please call Rick if you would like to display something from your personal collection.

### *Video Kiosks*

An exciting aspect of *Magic Heritage Day* will be the viewing areas which will display information about the IBM, contemporary magic programs, and archival footage of Kellar, Houdini, Dante, and more!!! Jim Fry is working on getting permission to show a couple of previously televised specials, while Jim Jolly is working with the SAM librarian to select a number of archival tapes from their library. Rick Waterhouse has been in contact with Tony Hassini who has given permission to play his Great Masters of Magic tape and the Las Vegas Movie and Magic

hall of fame. We still haven't figured out how to play all of these tapes. Any member who would like to loan us a VCR & TV (especially both in one unit) should contact Jim Jolly (273-8485).

### *Concessions*

The board, after lengthy discussion, has decided that our best course is not to ever commercialize this event. Our entertainers are donating their time with the understanding that our event is to benefit the community, not just the club. We have agreed to have a donation box at the IBM booth (which still needs people to staff it) and sell bake sale type concessions. At the next meeting we will be looking for someone willing to lead this effort. PLEASE help if you can.

### *Marketing*

A press release has been written and shared with the Historical Society. The SDHS has printed a blurb on the event in

their current newsletter. Ursula Roher has arranged for a Mayoral Proclamation which should receive some media notice. Sherry Luft, Jim and Jim will be working on other promotions during the month of October. These will include window cards, flyers, and media contacts.

### *Seance*

In keeping with the history of the house, we will be providing at least one Seance style show in the evening. This will be an historical recreation and lecture. Due to limited seating, this will be a charged event. All proceeds will be split between Ring 76 and the SDHS. We are looking for an evening crew who would not mind staying after dark to assist with this performance, please contact Rick Waterhouse (461-1875) if you are interested.

***The Scroll of Destiny* Revealed on Stage by Kalamar. One Nite Only 10/17/95 8:00pm**

showed those present an exquisitely smoothly executed side steal. A wonderful teaser for the treasures on his video.

Brad's third video dealt with the pass. Brad discussed Richard Kaufmann's treatment of the pass and said that the only undetected pass he's seen was David Harkey's. Brad explained that misdirection is the best way to execute a perfect pass. "If your hands are being burned by your spectators, wait until the moment they get tired, then execute the pass." Brad explained 3 different pass techniques, the classic, the front riffle and the rear riffle pass followed by the half-pass. Brad expanded on the material from the video sharing some moves not found on the pass video.

The fourth video contains a range of techniques, moves and gimmicks. Brad shared a beautifully deceptive knife force that is nearly fool proof and invisible. Following the pre-meeting, the Board of Directors conducted the business meeting. There were a number of important topics were covered including Magic Heritage and how Ring 76 can be a significant force. Jim Jolly presented a very positive financial position for Ring 76 and then presented Greg Bart with a Certificate of Appreciation for his audition at the August meeting. Mark Flores reported that the Bylaws of Ring 76 are with I.B.M. legal advisor. Dick Dale, TVP, announced an October 6th fund raising show for homeless in San Diego where 300-500 people are expected. Tom Owen announced he is acquiring tickets to the Black Watch marching band, contact him for further information. Rick Waterhouse explained the Ring's options for Magic Heritage and solicited volunteers for everything from manning booths to performing. The dates discussed where October 28th and 29th.

Following the business meeting, Gary Salisbury did a 15 minute presentation on magic and computers. Gary shared how computers are being used in magic and by magicians and dealers. Gary covered everything from facsimiles to Web pages.

The main meeting began with a wonderful presentation of a torn and restored

theater ticket by Bob Ingalls. Bob managed to really fool most of the audience with his presentation. Bob was followed by Bill Monroe who did a slick card trick where a card disappeared from a packet only to appear face up in a deck. Joe Florian presented some wonderful rope slights (perhaps from the tapes Daryl tapes Joe is reviewing in *MagiCurrents*) followed immediately by Jeff Marcus performing a rope routine. At the last minute, Rick Waterhouse concluded the meeting with a packet trick where the thought of card in a packet turns blank.



The puzzle has been a real stumper. Asked to name the Board members pictured in the August 95 issue of *MagiCurrents*, there has not been one completely correct response. Of course, there hasn't even been a response. The challenge was too much!?! for magicians?! OK, here's a hint: Shown were Rick Waterhouse, Sherry Luft, Jim Jolly, Greg Wauson and Dick Bush. Absent were Mark Flores and Jim Fry. Got a clue now? One more month to get the correct answer to any board member to WIN (big in) 95.

## Board Report

The September Board meeting convened Monday, September 25 at 7 p.m. at Jim Fry's house. Present were Dick Dale (TVP), Rick Waterhouse, Greg Wauson, Mark Flores, Jim Jolly, Sherry Luft, Jim Fry and Jeff Marcus. The main issues on the evening's agenda was *Magic Heritage Day* and *Ring 76* involvement and the Ring's by-laws.

Rick asked Dick to check on *Ring 76* information at IBM headquarters since

some information is thought to be missing. Greg brought up two future meeting topics: a Brad Burt lecture and a Fred Rohrer performance. The Board deferred these topics to the next Board meeting. Rick and Jim Jolly's ritualization of new Ring 76 members was briefly discussed and also deferred to another month.

Mark Flores reported that there were two minor issues from the attorney on the by-laws. Mark will move to bring the by-laws forward to the full Ring 76 membership.

The Board visited two potential sites for Magic Heritage Day: Villa Montezuma and Heritage Park. Both were analyzed for their potential for bringing a broader understanding of magic and Ring 76 here in San Diego. The Board voted and decided on Villa Montezuma as the site for this year's Magic Heritage Day. Local magicians who have volunteered to perform include: Mike Stillwell, Curtis Clark, Joe Mystic, Rick Waterhouse and Greg Wauson. Other who have expressed an interest and may perform include Monte Straton and Craig Stone. The Board is also checking with Jack White, Bob Ingalls, Snicker Doodle (Diane Lane), and Fred Rohrer.

Jim Jolly and Jim Fry will be getting posters together for display around town and, together with Sherry Luft, will be promoting the day and the event. Someone is needed to lead a Bake Sale for the day. The Historical Society newsletter has announced the event to its membership. The Mayor's office will be issuing a Proclamation of Magic Heritage and the Board of Ring 76 will accept the Proclamation.

Anyone who can volunteer to support this event is requested to be at the October meeting when the issues surrounding the event will be discussed in detail. Or, contact any Board member: Rick (461-1875), Greg Wauson (566-5654), Jim Jolly (273-8485), Mark Flores (462-4943), Sherry Luft (543-0354), Dick Bush (561-0247) or Jim Fry (554-0335).



# The Reviews

## Daryl's 3-video set:

### *Expert Rope Magic Made Easy!* (Part 2)

by Joe Florian

The third and last video (Volume 8, "The Great White Rope") shows you the culmination of what can be done with the basics learned in the previous volumes. However, the video starts off weakly with some wane "specialty knots" like converting a slip knot to a square knot and vice versa and some neck penetrations. This will appeal to people who appreciate the puzzle aspect of rope magic. The Cat's Cradle Penetration should have been left out; it fools no one. The video then picks up with advanced moves involving rope and ring. These moves are fascinating but require expert and artistic performance by the magician. But this is the goal we strive for. Correct?! Sitting between the two mountains of the rope and ring magic and the finale of this is tape are two gems: "Sliding & Vanishing Knot" and "The Jumping Knot". Fun to perform. The video finally reaches its climax with Daryl's Rope Routine and the "Jumping Knot of Pakistan". The Daryl rope routine has been published separately by Daryl and will not be commented on until later. But for my money, the best routine in the entire series is the Jumping Knot of Pakistan - another Daryl creation and available at your magic dealers since it requires a special rope. It is logically compelling but dressed with some flourishes, confines itself to a simple theme and ends with a bang. The "bang" is so amazing and perplexing to the spectators that they will not forget this for days! In effect, at the end of the routine, a white knot is thrown onto one end of a red rope, then slid to the other end, then dissolved to leave a white three inch section in a red rope which is thrown out for examination. Wow!

Nothing in life is perfect. So now I will mention what I think are the omissions and

shortcomings of the series. They are truly minor and are dwarfed by the enormity and importance of what Daryl has accomplished. Other reviewers will have their own opinions I'm sure. In terms of what was omitted, in deference to George Sands, Daryl should have performed Ropsational. This routine was ground breaking in its time and I still prefer it over the Daryl routine; I have seen both performed by the creators and to mind, the Sands routine is more startling to an audience. Even the mighty Daryl has succumbed to a common temptation: to create the perfect routine - the "mother of all rope routines". The problem with this is that parts of the Daryl routine dilute the other parts. For example, in the beginning of the routine, the ends of the rope are removed, tucked under the arm, and the illusion of an endless circle of rope is attempted. What's the audience to conclude from this? Certainly not that the rope is perfectly ordinary! This sabotages everything that follows. In the Sands routine (they way I saw him perform it), you are never aware of any extra pieces or detachable knots. It looks like he starts off with an ordinary rope, cuts without scissors the rope into two unequal pieces, stretches them to equalize them, restores the rope, switches the ends around in a mysterious manner, ties a knot and slides it around, ends with three knots on the rope and tosses it to the audience for examination. This is truly a startling effect.

To amplify this point, you would never expose that fact that you have an extra piece of rope and then do the "Zella Ring on Rope" (Volume 7). This trick uses an extra piece (surprise, surprise!). When scheduling a performance, don't include routines that dilute each other. The most common example is don't combine cut and restored routines where in some cases the audience

See DARYL pg 5

## *A Dream of Aces*

by Jim Jolly

The large copy in the ad caught my eye. "This is the trick that inspired David Copperfield in his latest TV special." I remembered DC's "Unexplained Forces" special and marveled at the masterful card manipulation David demonstrated during that trick. I was already sold on "Dream of Aces" because I wanted to learn how to do what Copperfield did. I dug out my video of the Copperfield special and reviewed the trick again. It was a close Up card trick supposedly inspired by his grandfather where he cut the aces from a deck, made them vanish and reappear under the ace of spades in another pile. The effect was done without words with the theme from *Cousins* playing in the background. The flourishes David used to cut the aces, the very magical vanishes, the color changes and musical pacing disguised the fact that this was really a very fancy version of MacDonald's Aces.

Mac King & Mike Close in their monthly review column in *Magic* comment regularly on the value of books versus video in teaching new tricks. Both agreed that well written books are best for teaching the trick but video is best for working out the timing of the effect. Gary Ouellet has put together a unique way of teaching a trick. In the package was a 42-page photo-illustrated book that explained the trick. It also provided the required gaff cards but the unique item was a video tape that shows Gary's performance of the trick. It also shows Alain Choquette and his handling performed as a demonstration then during a live performance on stage. Expecting to see an explanation of Copperfield's card trick I was at first a little disappointed. I had missed a note in the original ad that said, "David modified the handling for a TV only presentation." I found that David "modified the handling"

See ACES p

so much that it seemed like a completely different trick. David had added a number of sleights designed to work most effectively for the narrow perspective of the TV camera.

But after reading the book, watching the video and practicing the trick I found it is a very magical trick and when done to music is a joy to watch and perform. The trick's most difficult sleight is a double lift but a two-handed double vanish of the last two aces also takes some dexterity and coordination. Gary also teaches The Most Outrageous Cut of All, a terrific false cut, and his 3-Second Wonder cut-to-the-aces trick. It was fun timing the moves to match a musical background (maybe Gary should have added an audio cassette to the package). If you already do MacDonald's Aces you might not want to pay \$29.95 to learn a different handling but if you want to learn a pretty and poignant approach to one of the world's greatest card effects then "A Dream of Aces" is well worth the money. I look forward to the next release in the Master Video Series.

"A Dream of Aces" Gary Ouellet on MacDonald's Aces \$29.95 from Camirand Academy of Magic Inc.  
PO Box 269, Longueuil, QC, Canada J4H 3X6

DARYL, from pg 4

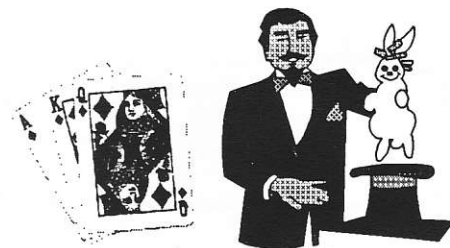
never sees extra pieces or knots with routines that feature sliding knots and knots that pop off all over the place. The worst offender is the "Vishnu Rope Mystery". (Sorry Bob Ellis). It is a veritable lesson on how to do the cut and restored rope trick. This scissors move along the rope, does an obvious and suspicious move for a phony cut, the ends are tied and the sequence repeated for a second cut and tie. The magician then visibly slides the knots off the rope!???

Another classic effect that suffers is the "Professor's Nightmare". If you have just seen that the magician can pluck off pieces of rope from a rope, isn't stretching a rope a little anticlimactic? The only improvement I've seen in the "Professor's Nightmare" is the false count. I've seen so many magicians try to improve the routine by doing the switch of the ends instead of just lining them as you line up all six ends as

in the original version. This is running when your not being chased and is only an attempt to keep ahead of other magicians - a futile task. Then they awkwardly fish for the three hanging ends to execute the stretching. What's the audience to think? You have forced a conclusion (even though it may be wrong). But a major school of thought is that you should never force a conclusion. Leave multiple thought patterns for the spectators to pursue. This gives magic that wonderfully intoxicating effect as the audience tries to search for solutions, can't keep up with other possible solutions emerging from the rest of the unfolding routine and succumbs to just being seduced by the magic. If you force a conclusion, the thinking (and the wonderment) stops. "Awe it's a trick rope" or whatever. When you start the stretch with all six ends lined up, you engage the audience into thinking for the briefest moment: "Are there any combinations of 6 taken 3 at a time that would produce this effect?". In physics this looks to me like a transformation I've seen in relativistic string theory! It looks mathematically weird as the ropes with the six ends lined up are stretched to the equal configuration. That is the impression I got when first seeing this great classic. So beware of "improved" versions of the classics. (Another egregious example is "Card Warp").

Daryl rolls the credits after each video, but a glaring omission is the Ring & Rope Book by Philip Willmarth. This is the definitive encyclopedia of rope and ring work.

Daryl redeems his minor indiscretions with the "Jumping Knot of Pakistan". This is my favorite routine in the series. More importantly, Daryl's prodigious research project has unified rope magic into a one-stop-shop course on rope magic for those who wish to learn and for those who wish to expend their knowledge. All the elements are here for you to invent and endless supply of rope routines. For the creative of you out there, we await the next creation of "The Great YOUNAMini's Rope Routine"!



## At The Shops

**Brad Burt's**  
4690 Convoy  
San Diego, CA  
(619) 571-4749


Hours: M-T 10:00-6:00  
Friday 10:00-8:00  
Sat: 10-6 Sun 12-4

It's Halloween and the busiest time of the year for Magic Shops around the country. Brad always has the latest in Magic and information and some of the best demonstrators in town. Expect a rush of people in the shop all of October.

**The Magic Shop**  
849 W. Harbor Drive  
San Diego, CA  
(619) 236-1556  
Hours: Sun-Sat 10:00-9:00

Mary Coley, owner of The Magic Shop, says there are a number of new tricks in including: "Suit Yourself" (\$9.95), "The Incredible Traffic Light" (\$4.95), "Gimmie Five" (a great five and one trick) (\$20.95), "Rat Trap" for clowns (a big bang in a bag) (\$10.99), "The Casino Deck" (\$12.95) and the new "Pager Threader Reel" by Sorcerer (\$48.95). The Magic Shop does onsite demos of tricks and Ring 76 magicians are invited to stop by anytime (I.B.M. members showing their membership cards receive a 10% discount). The Shop is now on winter hours, closing at 9 p.m.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	<b>9 - Ring Meeting</b> Hungry Hunter 402 Fletcher Parkway El Cajon, CA 442-0617		10	11	12	13
15		<b>17 - Kalamazoo</b> <b>The Man who Knows</b> A Better World - 8 p.m. 4010 Goldfinch St. San Diego, CA 260-8011		18	19	20
22	<b>23 Board Mtg</b> 7pm - Jim Fry's - 554-0335 4046 Caminito Treviso		25	26	27	28
<b>29 Magic Day</b> 11 a.m. through 9 p.m. Villa Montezuma 1925 K Street		30	<b>31 - Halloween</b> 			

**October 1995**



## At The Castle

(All shows subject to change. Information based on best available at press time. Call the Magic Castle for up to date information.)

### OCTOBER 2 - 8

CLOSE-UP E: Jerry Andrus  
L: Fernando Keops  
PARLOUR E:: Bodine Balasco  
L: Dana Daniels  
PALACE: Peter Pit  
Luna Shemada  
Jeff McBride

### OCTOBER 9 - 15

CLOSE-UP E: Aldo Colombini  
L: Gary Norsigian  
PARLOUR E: Bob Dorian  
L: Danny Sylvester  
PALACE: Christopher Hart  
Larry Wilson Show

### OCTOBER 16 - 22

CLOSE-UP E: Celeste  
L: George Tovar  
PARLOUR E: Jason Tong  
L: Mike Elkan  
PALACE: Bruce Gold  
Bruce Block  
The Gustavsons

### OCTOBER 23 - 29

CLOSE-UP E: Dan McCarthy  
L: Bob Jardine  
PARLOUR E: Jonathan Neal  
L: Dick Barry  
PALACE: Chuck Fayne  
Randy Pryor  
Dale Salwak

### OCTOBER 30 - NOV 5

CLOSE-UP E: Monte Smith  
L: Randall Richman  
PARLOUR E: Brian Gillis  
L: Joe Monti

PALACE:

T. C. Tahoe  
Goldfinger & Dove  
Craig Dickens

### NOVEMBER 6 - 12

CLOSE-UP E: John Fedko  
L: Whit Haydn  
PARLOUR E: The Falkensteins  
L: Alfonso

PALACE: Terry Seabrooke  
Mystina  
Bob Borgia

### NOVEMBER 13 - 19

CLOSE-UP E: David Yee  
L: David Malek  
PARLOUR E: James Hamilton  
L: Chuck Fayne

PALACE: Jonathan Neal  
The Vetlugins  
John Shryock

1994-1995

## HONEST SID GERHART RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

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2447 Nielsen Street  
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