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MagiCurrents

Turf & Tails

Magicians Needed

Canine Companions for Independence was founded in 1975 to help people with physical disabilities other than blindness. Since its founding, this program has helped open doors and opportunities for disabled men, women and children in all walks of life.

CCI's own breeding program is the source for most of the animals placed by the program. The animals spend their first 18 months with a volunteer puppy raiser's family receiving socialization and basic training. Then, after eight months of advanced training, the animal knows up to 50 commands and is matched to CCI candidates.

This program and these animals are vitally important to disabled men, women and children here in San Diego. A fund raiser, *Turf & Tails*, is planned for September 28 at the Del Mar Race Track. The event is a *Casino Night* (cocktail dress) event. The Canine Companions for Independence program needs *Ring 76* walk-around magicians willing to donate their time and talent to this worthy cause. Contact Geneva Davis of CCI at 646-8238 or 268-3860 (evenings) for details.

You make the difference!



RING REPORT

By Gary Schwatzwald

The first meeting of our new Ring 76 Board was focused on having the members get to know each other better. We had twenty members and six guests in attendance. The Ring provided soft drinks and snacks to help set a friendly tone.

We started out with a magical mixer designed by vice-president Sherry Luft. Luft taped the name of a famous magician on the back of each member and guest. Members were then allowed to ask yes/no questions of other members & guests to help them

see *RING REPORT* page 4

TAPE TALK

DAVID ROTH EXPERT COIN MAGIC VOLUME 10

By Bob King

David Roth's Volume 10 of his series of coin magic videos covers the use of the Folding Coin and Other Specialty Gaffs.

Professor Louis Hoffman's book *Later Magic* published in 1890 was the first to chronicle a wonderful piece of close-up apparatus described as the Folding Coin (F.C.) There have been some improvements in its appearance such as the profile cut. This involves cutting the coin to conform to the lines of the face on it; however, its construction has remained basically the same for over 100 years.

see *DAVID ROTH* Page 5

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Wauson's Wascally Wabbitt

(The President's Column)

The Olympics of 1996 are history. Hundreds of millions of people throughout the world watched these games. So many, in fact, that for those two weeks certain aspects of our economy (for example, movie theaters) even suffered because so many of us were parked in our living rooms. This was fun stuff. The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat were ours to behold. Some sports were obscure while others dominated the media coverage. Some nations showed up mainly as place-holders to be the "Jamaican bobsled team" of this year's games, while others offered their dream teams who would embarrass their countries if they failed to bring home the gold.

Say, speaking of dream team, I consider the Ring 76 board of officers to be just that. Okay, so the Olympic analogy is r-e-a-l-l-y a stretch but it is topical. (By the way, who was the wiseguy who decided segway will be spelled s-e-g-u-e??) Your board has been hard at work to make our ring the best we can be. We've had two board meetings and a real meeting of our minds about what our club focus should be. We not only plow through our agenda but have fun doing it. Many good ideas have emerged from our discussions and I really appreciate each board member's willingness to voluntarily accept action items to turn these plans into reality.

All the feedback I received about the mixer at the August pre-meeting was positive. Trying to guess the magician's name on our back made a lot of us think and it gave us an opportunity to talk with some new people. This was one of the ideas which grew out of a conversation at our first board meeting. Granted, the people who received Copperfield or Houdini had an easier time but Sherry did a fine job in trying to match our knowledge of magicians with whose name wound up on our backs.

see WAUSON page 4

Scott's Thoughts

by Scott Wells,
A.I.M.C.



Some Advice

For The Young - Part II

We continue this month with questions on entering the magic field that were posed by a 14 year old boy and their respective answers from a variety of professionals and part-time professionals.

7. *What salary range should I expect when I enter this field?*

To gain experience, you should expect to basically give away your show. That means performing for church groups, schools, scout and sporting clubs (soccer, etc.), birthday parties, etc. I don't mean to imply that you should give it away for free all the time, just that you shouldn't expect professional fees for amateur shows. Aside from the few gratis works, I suggest that you initially charge in the neighborhood of \$25 per show.

8. *Are there any fringe benefits (monetary and non-monetary)?*

A pleasant side benefit is that you will be considered a minor celebrity. That is to say, people will come to recognize you as having special skills and a fun person to be around. Your skills will be in demand, people ask you to parties hoping that you will perhaps bring along your "bag of tricks." People also will buy you food and drink for your impromptu performances. They will also tip you with cash from time to time. Dan says that he has traveled around the world and his clients have paid the bill. He has gone places and seen things that he wouldn't have normally see.

9. *Are there geographical areas better suited for this occupation?*

You will find a good base of operations in a metropolitan area that can accommodate convention (trade show) traffic and has an international airport that can whisk you away to the four corners of the earth to perform. Also, you will have access to several restaurants as performing venues. Furthermore, many large companies host sales meet-

ings and award banquets. The more companies in your area, the better. Keep in mind that it's not necessary to have several different shows, but you should be able to perform one or a few set shows/acts that can play over and over for different clients. It's said that the difference between professionals and amateurs is that the amateur does different shows for the same group and the professional does the same show for different groups.

10. *Are there any professional organizations that I should join and how much are their annual dues?*

I suggest that you join at least a couple of international organizations because it gives you a "link" to the magic fraternity through their house organs (journals.) Membership in these organizations is often a requirement for joining a local club. The International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM,) with over 10,000 members worldwide, publishes a monthly magazine, The Linking Ring, and is included in the dues. First time dues are \$40 for adults (\$30 for renewal.) The same fee structure applies for youth aged 12 to 18. The Society of American Magicians (SAM) publishes the M.U.M. and they have about 9,000 members worldwide. The SAM also has an excellent youth program (Society of Young Magicians - SYM) and they have their own magazine called the Magic SYMbol. The SYM even has a "merit badge" system for encouraging the youth to learn magic skills. The SAM have an initiation fee of \$15 and annual dues of \$35 for adult while youth membership is \$10 with a \$5 initiation fee.

11. *Are illusions easy to learn?*

Tricks are simple. Making it entertaining is difficult. Dan Garrett draws an analogy to learning to play the piano. One can learn rudimentary skills, enough to entertain and play a few popular songs, or one can spend more time to learn to play the piano and play more difficult, classical pieces.

Most of magic is simple and requires little learning time once you know the fundamentals of sleight of hand. Just look at the instructions that accompany most any magic trick that you buy. There is rarely more

than a few paragraphs of explanation; however, they often refer you to using methods that you should already have in your repertoire (i.e. bring the card to the top of the deck using your favorite method, etc.)

Stage size illusions require quite a bit of practice to get the timing just right and the important thing is to have an assistant who is willing to help and wants the effect/act/show to be as successful. That way they give their best performance because of their positive attitude. It's said that magic is simple once you know the secret. Dan says that magic is not easy once you know the secret. That's when you start to learn.

12. *Will the job be worth while in the future?*

All jobs are just jobs if you don't enjoy them. Jobs become careers when you are committed to their success, they make you a good living wage and, most importantly, you have fun doing it. As to whether you will find life as a magician to be worth while in the future, it's up to you and your attitude toward the art. Do you plan on elevating the art of magic or letting it exist in the ordinary?

Magic is used in treating physically and emotionally handicapped and most definitely changes their lives. Magic is also a powerful communication tool. Everyone tells jokes but not everyone does magic. You will be remembered way out of proportion to whatever you do. Magic can also be worth while if you consider how it can affect others lives by adding joy to their otherwise magic-less lives. You can create mystery from nothing at all and bring astonishment and hope to everyone. And that should make life worth while.

REVIEWERS WANTED

Have you read a book on magic recently? Bought and tried a new trick? Been to a magical event? Planning to see something extraordinary? Then MagiCurrents needs you!

Reviews and reviewers are needed for each month's newsletter. We want to know what you think, what you are doing and what you see happening in the magic community. Participate!

ASK THE PRO



Curtis R. Clark

QUESTION: How do you keep the tricks you've done for a group or table in mind so you don't repeat the same material?

CURTIS CLARK: There is more than one way to answer this...

First off, most restaurant workers will tell you they have a set opening routine to let them feel out the table before going into some of their favorite standard routines.

I honestly just usually remember what tricks I have already performed for a table when I come by a second time to do another set for them. However if you don't remember what effects you have already done for them, just ask. They'll tell you with answers like you did the one with the little sponge balls" and then you did the thing with the card where it came out of your wallet" etc.

Now this question could also mean, how do you know or remember what tricks you did when a group comes back to see you again another time? Once again, I usually do have a set of opening routines that I almost always start out with, so I would start by NOT doing any of those.

Instead, I would go into some of my other follow-up routines which are just as strong. HOWEVER some of these repeat people will request to see particular tricks or they may have brought in new people to see you and they want you to show them a trick they have told their friend about. In

this type of situation I don't mind doing the trick that has been requested, BUT I suggest NOT doing it when they ask for it. Work it into the routine somewhere when they are not expecting it and maybe add on a new twist or turn to it so you can also blow away the person who asked to see it.

It is also important to know what effects/props you have in what pocket so when they do request something, or you go for your next item, you know where it is without searching every pocket you have.

This is how I handle it, hope it answered the question.

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE PRO? Send it to MagiCurrents.

Curtis Clark has been performing at restaurants, clubs and conventions for over thirteen years. Curtis performs at the Gathering Thursday evenings 6:30 - 9 and at Moose McGillycuddy's Fridays from 6:00-9:00.

Magic Castle



Night

By Gary Dismukes

On August 19th the Magic Castle hosted Ring 76 for a complimentary cocktail party and meeting with several of the Castle's Membership Committee and Board of Directors.

As our party arrived early, we were able to sneak in to an early show in the Close-Up Gallery where we were unexpectedly treated to the pleasantly cantankerous antics of Castle mainstay Billy McComb, who had been dragged away from his dinner (so he said) to sub for the scheduled performer.

Following the close-up show, seven ring members plus several spouses attended the Ring 76 reception, where we were welcomed by current Academy of Magical Arts

president **Mark Wilson** along with Castle creator **Milt Larsen**, **Irene Larsen**, and several members of the Board. San Diego Ring members were invited to consider joining the Magic Castle, but this was a low-key membership drive, with the major portion of the evening spent enjoying the shows in the Castle's three theaters.

The reception was held in one of the newer sections of the club, a downstairs extension complete with bar, dance floor, and a new theater wing still under construction. After partaking of hors d'oeuvres and drinks, Mark Wilson gave a short overture on the history of the Castle and the Academy of Magical Arts and solicited brief introductions from the other board members and hosts. Membership applications were then made available to the Ring attendees. Last year's Ring president and Castle member Rick Bruce was also on hand to encourage us to become members. (One Ring 76 member did take the plunge that evening, with a few others giving it serious consideration.)

We were then left on our own to continue socializing and to head off to the main show in the Palace of Mystery, where we were entertained by **Eric Buss** (a recent IBM contest winner) and **Mystina** (soon to open in Las Vegas after her run in Atlantic City).

Eric Buss performed a clever act with the theme of a magician coming home to hang up his clothes after a hard day's work, and finding doves and other paraphernalia hidden among his shoes, socks, underwear, etc (don't worry, this was a G-rated act!).

In the next act, Mystina set her sights on our own **Ty Smith** for a dramatic and amusing sword-thru-neck number that involved binding Ty to a chair, apparently piercing his jugular, and eventually rewarding him with a kiss on the forehead and a bottle of champagne from thin air.

Following the Palace show, the next stop was the Parlour, with gentlemanly sleight of hand presented by **Eric Evans**. Ty again was a lucky volunteer, this time risking only his coat rather than his neck to penetra-

tion by a knife. To end the evening several of us checked out the Castle museum before heading back down to San Diego.

We're very fortunate to live so close to this truly unique private magic club. Ring 76 members are encouraged to consider joining the Magic Castle, especially given the reasonable discount given for non-resident memberships. The benefits of becoming a magician member include: a monthly newsletter with announcements about upcoming performers and events (such as the annual Halloween party), free access to the Castle for yourself and up to eight guests, guest passes to give to friends and associates, and full access to the Castle's extensive reference library and video library. For more information about joining, ask one of our Ring's Castle members or call the Magic Castle at 213-851-3313.

(Editor's Note: Tim Vient of the Magic Castle commented after the event that "the 'club night' for Ring 76 was the best group we've had so far... wish they all were as good." Any Ring 76 member who would like a guest pass to the Magic Castle, call Jim Fry, 554-0335)

Wauson from page 2

Thanks for your participation in not only the pre-meeting but also the "my first magic trick" segment. It's always a plus when a large number of people perform at our meetings. The highlight for me was hearing the stories shared about what happened when the various magicians first demonstrated their tricks. Most of us were kids when we showed off our first small illusions. Whether we had a gracious adult who played dumb and showered us with praise or whether we embarrassed ourselves in front of our peers may have had an influence in getting us to where we are today in our pursuit of magic.

I like what is happening in our ring. So many people are getting involved in our activities. A good example of this was on August 19, when 12 of us (including spouses) carpooled to the Magic Castle for a reception with Mark Wilson and some other Castle

luminaries. What a privilege! All of us who went thoroughly enjoyed it. And thanks to Gary Dismukes for his article about our visit, elsewhere in this newsletter.

Wherever we may be as performers, let's keep learning, having fun entertaining others and get to know some other magicians. Until next time...

Sincerely,

Greg

You Can Be the Difference Volunteer!

RING REPORT from page 1

guess the magicians name on their back. Only two questions were allowed before members were required to move on, meet another member and ask more questions.

The first two members to guess their secret identity were teenage guest David Neubauer doing double duty as Seigfreid and Roy and Betty Armstrong as a stunning Lance Burton. Both David and Betty received magical and edible prizes which they refused to share.

Ring officers then gave brief reports and introduced themselves and our guests for the evening. President Greg Wauson stated that the transition of officers was going well. He asked those in attendance for feedback regarding our Installation Banquet last month. The members reached consensus that the *Evening of Magic* was a pleasure and Treasurer Bill Monroe reported that it was also financially successful. Credit goes to our past board, especially Past President Rick Bruce.

Wauson then encouraged our guest to become IBM members, highlight the new slick membership card. The new membership card was met with enthusiastic oohh's and ahh's. President Wauson thanked Jim Fry for his continued efforts doing our outstanding newsletter. Wauson asked the membership if there was someone willing to assist Fry with the duplicating and mailing of the news-

letter. Volunteers will be selected soon.

Wauson then asked Jeff Smith to come up and be recognized as the newest member of Ring 76. Smith was presented a certificate honoring him for his excellent audition in June. This led to an audition performance by **Paul Tomey**. Tomey did a routine based in cards with a patter discussing Houdini and escapism. Tomey routine was cohesive and captivating. He was unanimously voted in as a member. Stop by and help us honor him at our September meeting.

Raffle tickets were then sold and three members and one guest were the lucky door prize winners. No Board members won prizes. This process will be examined at our next Board meeting.

The theme for our evenings performances was 'The first trick you ever learned'. **Jim Riley** broke the ice with a cube on string. Riley did a humorous and engaging presentation of Cubio. He was followed by **Fred Rohrer** who did three old tricks. He performed a coin into a nest of matchboxes, a nickel to a dime in another box, and then he closed with a slide box that mysteriously had a nickel disappear.

Henry Vaca then showed us a card trick he learned from his grandfather. Vaca showed us the four rooms at the Four of Hearts Hotel. Each room was then occupied by a Jack, Queen, King and an Ace. With a smooth maneuver all the Jacks, Queens, Kings and Aces were in their own rooms.

Greg Wauson the led us through a mental math trick that was very effective and appropriate for our setting in a math classroom. Through excellent patter **Jeff Smith** took us back to his childhood playground for a Color Vision box trick.

Don Soul told us a wonderful and sad story of his first performance. He then did a unique Double-X effect. **Bill Monroe** did a card trick he learned many years ago in a bowling alley. The climax was the discovery of the card held in a spectators fist.

Dick Ustick used some fanciful patter to take us back with him to his first magic shop visit and the learning of the Professors Nightmare.

Our final performer was **Rick Bruce** who reminded us to remember the magic in the spectators view. He did this effectively while doing a thumb tip silk vanish. It was a great evening highlighted by member participation.

ATTENTION Ring 76 Members A Benefit For



Saturday
September 28

*Del Mar
Race Track*

Volunteer Magicians Needed

Contact: Geneva Davis
646-8238
or 268-3860 evenings

Performance Whoas

"Anybody else ever gotten nervous the first time they performed for other magicians? I think I'm safe in assuming that the vast majority of magicians can relate to that experience. I have been performing magic for over 22 years now (professionally for 12), and I STILL get nervous performing for other magicians. I seldom, if ever perform at club meetings."

Maybe I'm a freak of nature or something (I've been called worse) but I don't get nervous at all when performing for other magicians. I always perform at our club meetings (shame on you for not BTW!). Here's my reasoning: I'm in a room full of magicians. Am I going to fool them? Not likely. Will they appreciate my technique if I do well? Probably. Will they offer Constructive criticism if I do poorly? Definitely. See? I can't lose!

Basically, I don't set out to fool magicians, mainly because I would rather focus on entertaining my audience, but also because it's damn hard to do! ;) Don't get me wrong, I like to fool other magicians, it's just not often my goal. Hope this helps..

-- J[magic by]Franklin --

-- Member I.B.M. Ring #56 ==
frankln@midwest.net --

(Seen recently in the Electronic Grymoire and reprinted with kind permission from Joseph Franklin.)

On TV

The Magician, starring Bill Bixby, from the early 1970's, is currently airing on the Sci-Fi channel. Weekdays, 9 a.m.(PDT)

DAVID ROTH from page 1

"The Magic Mint" starts things off with a quarter held in the right thumb and forefinger placing it cleanly into an empty left hand. A mystical gesture causes the quarter to be joined by a half dollar. The fifty cent piece is placed away and the quarter is now transformed into a half dollar by a mere wave of the hand. A folding half dollar and some simple sleeving are needed to perform this startling little vignette. David's attention to basic theater is always a subtle part of his presentations as has been observed in reviewing other of his works. He is continually reminding us of the importance of a magical gesture or word spoken that is credited for the effect that is produced. In his words, "Something has to account for the magic."

When one thinks of the (F.C.), the most likely use would be in the clas-

sic effect "Coin In The Bottle." Michael Ammar's treatment of this old chestnut is wonderful, but leave it to D.R. to top them all. David's version has the coin penetrating the bottom of a beer bottle & being retrieved after passage thru it's neck. That's where the similarity to the classic effect ends. His premise is that once the coin is clearly inside, there are only two ways to remove it. First, the bottle could be broken; however, this is a messy and potentially dangerous method. In addition, he remarks with a smile, "there's a refund due on it's return." The second possibility would be to magically turn the bottle inside out, thus freeing it's contents. Following the coin's exit from the neck of the vessel, it is shown to have turned inside out. The bottle is rotated to reveal that the label is now clearly on the inside of the bottle.

"Coins Through The Table" pushes the use of the (F.C.) to it's ultimate utility. The standard effect has four coins passing through a solid table one at a time. An easy series of moves puts you in position to display four coins in the left hand, close it and upon raising it from the table openly display only three. No lapping or Han Ping Chien just dropping your hand face down and rotating it face up to produce a stunning display. This one will delight even the most cynical of coin workers. The method can be repeated once more going from three coins to two. Going from two coins to one now brings a great sound illusion into play. This is a variation of our friend and mentor Roger Klaus' piece entitled "Coins For Connoisseurs." (I had to look up that last one.) The effect audibly portrays your left hand holding two coins when in reality there is but one. The work on this magical creation is available in detail on the tape.

"Biting A Coin" has the magus taking a bite out of a (F.C.) and replacing it. Not for all occasions, but a cute bit nonetheless. "Scotch & Soda" is a well used transformation of a coin in a spectator's hand. One variation of this effect lets you place the 50 cent piece and 20 centavo in the helper's hand, having them pull out one coin. When the hand is opened, lo and behold there sits a quarter!

The handling is easy and the effect is dramatic. The downside for a walk-around performer is the necessary reset with a bang ring. "Dime & Penny" was a T. Nelson Downs creation around 1900. It is essentially a takeoff on "Scotch and Soda" with the silver coin, a dime, and the copper one, a penny. The possibilities are numerous with it happening in the spectators hand. Rounding out this genre of the coin world is "Copper, Silver, Brass" with several twists on transformations. This effect's latest form is presented as "Chinese, Copper, Silver". This gaffed group incorporates an ingenious idea that allows you to display a lone half dollar and with no suspicious moves and change it into two coins, a copper and a Chinese coin with a hole in it. You can now provide some entertaining stuff that cuts out alot of the work. The structure of the routine allows examination of all parties at the conclusion.

"Stack of Quarters" is a highly visual penetration of a pile of quarters through a spectator's hand leaving in their place a stack of pennies. This one goes way back to 1633 published in Hocus Pocus, Jr. Bert Allerton was the first to substitute a rolled up dollar bill for the traditional cone as the magic tube used in the routine.

"Cigarette Through Quarter" is a classic in it's own right. The gimmick allows you to insert a cigarette or pencil through the coin visually and better yet, remove it cleanly in the same fashion. In contrast to John Cornelius' amazing "Pen Thru Anything" you actually see the penetration. The downside is that the coin can only be displayed from it's tail side. Conversely, John's little beauty allows the coin to not only be borrowed but also be marked on both sides if you like. In addition, the reverse penetration happens in full view with the coin instantly returned, still marked for examination. Small earth magnets allow for stretching the envelope of this marvelous standard of our craft.

"The Eraser Coin" is a Roth creation that utilizes a believable premise and a gaffus that with one lone switch does the job for you. If you do a good deal of coin work for folks, the question of how you keep your coins clean will often come up. You offer your

personal method for keeping coins bright, especially in the nooks and crannies, by the use of an eraser. The eraser then proceeds to go berserk virtually rubbing off two edges and most of the tail side of the coin. In David's early handling, the damaged coin was restored, but he now simply hands it out for examination. "... and that's how I clean my coins, but it takes a softer touch than that." This routine can stand alone as a finish to other coin work.

"The Karate Coin" makes you an instant Chuck Norris. A coin is penetrated by your right forefinger and after display, penetrated by your left forefinger, then restored. The body of the routine includes a Changeover Palm attributed to Mohammed Bey back in the forties which is my pick as the Move of the Tape.

Thanks for listening.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: "TAPE TALK" is a regular monthly column available to the magic community. This month's column was provided to Ring 76 at no cost. A subscription to *Tape Talk* is \$15 a year. We plan to acquire this service unless there is significant opposition. Let a Board Member know your feelings on the matter.)

RINGS AROUND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

IBM Ring 21 meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Hollywood Church, Franklin and Highland, Hollywood. Contact Mark Bovee (213) 654-7301.

IBM Ring 96 meets on the 3rd Saturday at 8:00 PM at Farmers & Merchants Bank in Seal Beach. Contact Bill Pearce (714) 962-7087.

IBM Ring 291 meets on the 1st Wednesday at 7:00 PM at the Joslyn Senior Center, 73-750 Catalina Way, Palm Desert. Contact Roberta Rey Doggett (619) 341-8292

IBM Ring 313 meets the last Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine. Contact Tom Clifford (714) 448-9533.

IBM Ring 254 meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 PM at Hollywood East, 225 N. Del Rosa Drive, San Bernadino. Contact Paul Cash (909) 355-7249.



Dan Garrett Lecture

By Jim Jolly

Members of Ring 76 and other San Diego magicians received a special treat on August 22nd courtesy of Dick Dale. A lecture by Dan Garrett. Dan Garrett, who hails from the suburbs of Atlanta is one of magic's great inventors and thinkers. Dan is a past president of SAM and has been a cornerstone of the magical fraternity for many many years.

His lecture covered areas of magic that made Dan Garrett famous: kid's show magic, trade show magic, and adult magic. During the course of his lecture,

Dan demonstrated some trademark effects as well as his versions of classic magic effect like Professor's Nightmare. Attendees were treated to not only Dan's special touches to these proven gems of magic but Dan took the time to explain the theory behind his handlings.

Dan demonstrated some mistakes people make with thumbtips and gave us some simple "tips" to improve the loading and unloading of larger silks.

He showed us some nifty moves with sponge bananas and shocked more than a few when he named a playing card merely "thought of" by a spectator. Dan said he doesn't do a lot of "knuckle-busters" when an easier sleight will work as well but he did teach the lateral palm of a card and demonstrated it's use in an "out" situation.

One of my personal favorite effects was a nostalgia piece where some old 45 rpm records changed colors set to some timeless music. It was funny, colorful, and surprising. Just like Dan Garrett!

Sometimes Dan seemed to be creating different effects on the spot;

he would hold a prop and verbalize the different ways it could be used in a magic trick. One of the best things about his lecture was his prices. Dan said he really believed lecture notes should not cost an arm and a leg since everyone has already paid for the lecture. His prices were very reasonable for the items he brought with him and he discounted a number of things on the spot.

It was a wonderful lecture by one of magic's fine gentlemen. Thanks to Dan and to Dick Dale for bringing him to San Diego.



Darwin Ortiz at the Card Table

BY DARWIN ORTIZ, GOD OF CARDS
(OK, so it doesn't say "God of cards" in the actual title - it's still true!)

A Review by Bob Barlen

I have had this book for a few months and I thought I'd review it for the E.G. First let me state that Darwin Ortiz is my favorite card magician, so this review may be a bit biased. I really enjoy his material and I think you will too if you do any card work or gambling routines.

This book has two sections; card table artifice and legerdemain, which bears a remarkable resemblance to "The Expert at the Card Table" by S.W. Erdnase. Darwin is a serious student of Erdnase, and is indeed an expert at the card table. It certainly shows when you see the techniques needed for some of the tricks in this book! It is mainly all difficult material that will require weeks or months of practice to master. It is definitely worth it, for all the material in this book is top class. I'll describe a few of my favorite routines from it:

Darwin's Three Card Monte - This is a three card monte trick that uses the real techniques of the monte hustler. Like almost all the effects in the book, it uses no gaffed cards, just sleight of hand. This is a very commercial routine because it is actually that - a routine. You don't just keep playing monte until you have proven beyond the point where anyone cares that you have control of the cards.

Jumping Gemini - This is a very strong packet trick with some very amazing changes. Basically, you

have four two of diamonds. These transform into four ten of spades, and are finally shown to be the four kings. This is a really great handling and doesn't rely on the flustration count for the changes.

Darwin's Wild Card - This is a great handling for the standard "Wild Card" trick. This is the strongest and most visual handling I've ever seen.

The Dream Card - This is my favorite trick. Not just my favorite trick in the book, but my FAVORITE trick. This is the best magic trick I have seen in my life, card magic or otherwise. The effect is this: You remove your wallet and show that you have a face down red backed card in the zippered compartment. You have signed the back of the red card so it isn't confused with any of the other cards you may be using. This is your "mystery card" and it is designed to predict an event in the future, so you don't show its face to the audience.

Now from a blue deck you have a spectator select any card, and they really can take out ANY card they wish. They sign the card on the face or mark it in some way, and you then loose it in the deck - it goes anywhere, no Tilt move or anything like that. You then remove your wallet and show that the card in the zippered compartment, the card with the red back which you have signed, is the SPECTATOR'S signed card!

I can't think of a more mind blowing trick! Note that they really do touch the blue backed card, and they see that it has a blue back on multiple occasions. Without a doubt, this effect is easily worth the price of the book. Fortunately, you get many more great tricks for your \$35.

Plus there is a detailed description of the **Pinky Count**. I urge anyone who buys this book to learn this move. I've put in the weeks of required practice and it is worth it! The write up is full of tips from the master himself.

On TOP of that, there are like 15 more gambling routines which I haven't even learned yet. The give the appearance of super-human skill with a pack of cards, and, in some cases, require it! This is a great book! If you

do any card stuff you will treasure your copy. Also, if you like this book, run out and buy "*Cardshark*" his new masterpiece. You won't be sorry. Like I said before, run, don't walk, to your magic dealer and buy a copy of Darwin Ortiz at the Card Table today!

Bob Barlen (bbarlen@mgl.ca)

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from the deck of the

USS KITTY HAWK

by Jim Jolly

Underway once again for a couple of weeks of at-sea training with some other units America's military forces. On one hand it's tough leaving our families and friends again but on the other hand we don't have to listen to the thousands of Republican Convention stories.

I intended this column to be about magic in the different ports I'll visit once we leave for a six-month deployment in October. I've written to an IBM Ring in Hong Kong and have a couple of contacts in Singapore. I've been communicating with fellow Ring 76'er, Greg Bart, who is also a Navy lieutenant and is currently in the Persian Gulf. So hopefully, I'll get the scoop on magic happenings in the Middle East. We also have potential port calls in Australia and Thailand depending on the world situation this winter.

Since we didn't visit any exotic ports this month, except San Diego I'll limit my comments to the magic I've been doing around the ship.

I feel very fortunate to be assigned to a ship with over 5,000 people. A lot of old-timer professionals talk about the advantages of having "someplace to be bad" as they developed their skills in magic. Many perfected their craft by doing shows for friends and family. Some worked for various charity groups until they became good enough to feel they could charge for their performances.

I've been assigned to USS KITTY HAWK since February and by now the word is generally out that I'm a

magician. It's a rare day that goes by that I don't perform some "impromptu" effect.

I spend a lot of my spare time perfecting my "impromptu" performances. Since my schedule and daily routine varies very little when I'm at sea, I can almost predict the situations where I may be asked to "show us a trick." Before and after meetings and meal times are the most likely scenarios.

Armed with that information I can act flattered that they ask, then appear to try to think of something, then let them have it with the effect I've been working hard to develop.

No matter how many times you practice in front of a mirror or read the directions to a trick, nothing can replace actually doing it in front of someone for real. I've gained a lot of knowledge about what can go wrong with effects. I have developed different endings for tricks that I can go to depending on the situation. I've become better at picking the right "helper" out of a group. I can see if people laugh when they're supposed to laugh and gasp when they're supposed to gasp. I also have to kind of keep track of who has seen what.

My closest coworkers have seen a lot of my stuff so I have to be careful about showing them the same tricks. I always perform with the utmost respect for my craft and with the knowledge that many of these people have never seen a magician up close. I feel it's my responsibility to leave them with a good feeling about magic and magicians. I think in the long run...that's the real trick.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: you can write to Jim at AmazinJim@aol.com or, aboard ship: Lt. J. Jolly, USS Kitty Hawk, IM2 Division, FPO AP 96634-2770. I sure when he's out to sea he'd enjoy hearing from you and hearing about what you are doing!)

Ring 76 Board Meeting

August 20, 1996

Home of Greg and Brenda Wauson

Attendees: Sherri Luft, Ralph Mauzy, Bill Monroe, Don Soul, Greg Wauson, and Gary Schwartzwald.

Magic Castle Visit

Twelve Ring 76 members were guest of the Magic Castle on August 19th. At last report they were very tired from having a great time at the Castle while mingling with Mark Wilson, Milt Larson, etc. Hopefully the Ring will be invited again next summer.

Transition of Duties

The transition of duties seems to be going well. Name tags were discussed at length. The board is considering providing new name badges for the membership. Instead of the paper in plastic badges, we are exploring more professional engraved badges. Mauzy will gather style options and prices. The board will decide this at the next meeting.

Lectures

The board discussed possible options for the November lecture. Bill Monroe and Sherry Luft were given several potential lecturers and will pursue a big name, high talent person. Details will be provided as they are available. If you have any leads, contact Sherry Luft. Thank you for your patience and stay curious.

Next Meeting

The September meeting was discussed at great length. The Pre-meeting will be a video teach in. Bill Monroe will select three tricks, on video, that we all can learn. The board felt it was very important that members not only watch the video but get a chance to practice. In this newsletter we have listed the items you need to bring to be able to participate.

The meeting will provide you with four excellent roving magic instructors who will work with small groups teaching a trick. Each group will have time to work with each instructor. The board is inviting members to teach their stuff. Again, to keep you participating and learning, in this newsletter we have listed the items you need to bring to be able to participate. You are going to learn so much magic at our September meeting.

Magic Heritage day

There was much discussion regarding Magic Heritage Day. Here is the short version. Rick Bruce will contact the Historical Society to determine the date and location of

Magic Heritage Day. We expect to have the date and location by Sept. 4.

Luft and Wauson will work together to line up performers. They will check last years list and recruit new performers. Don Soul has agreed to do caricatures again and Greg Wauson will perform a 15 minute kids show. Performers will be arranged by Oct. 4, with back-up performers selected by Oct. 11.

Ralph Mauzy has volunteered to work on marketing Magic Heritage Day. The board agreed there needs to be a planning meeting for Magic Heritage Day and that Don Soul and Rick Bruce should provide the leadership. Considering his being volunteered, Rick probably won't miss another board meeting.

Board Meeting Locations

Board meetings will be held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The September meeting will (most likely) be held at the Schwartzwald's. Tell a friend and join us.

Getting Together

Tom Clifford of the Santa Ana, John Fedko Ring approached Wauson to see if the two Rings could get together for an evening of mingling and magic. The board thought this would be great. What do you think?

The board discussed how to deal with young members and young potential members. The by-laws were reviewed and discussed but no changes were proposed at this time. People 12 years old and older can join the local Ring.

It was suggested that Rick Bruce should start a Juniors Ring. Thank you again Rick.

- Gary Schwartzwald
Ring 76 Secretary

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The next Ring 76 board meeting is scheduled for September 17th at Greg Wauson's house. Board meetings are open to all Ring 76 members.)

*Magical Arts Guild In Cucamonga
(M.A.G.I.C.)
by Mark Mullins*

M.A.G.I.C. extends an invitation to the members and friends of Ring 76 to join us for **Dealers Night** on August 27 at 8:00 p.m.

DEALERS' NIGHT AND DEMO

This is our only open meeting, therefore, you do not want to miss this GREAT opportunity!

CONFIRMED DEALERS

Alberto
Art Guild
Brad Burt Magic
CHAZZ
Dean Dill
Discount Tuxedo
Fedko Magic Company
Gary Frank
Magic Tech
POOF It's Magic
Smoke 'N Mirrors Productions
The Magic Company
Wonderful Magic Production

Location:

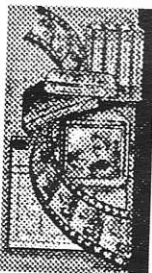
SENIOR CENTER

(Formerly: Rancho Cucamonga
Recreation Center)
9791 Arrow Route

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91780
For information call Tommy Garbin
(714) 971-2411

We would be more than pleased to see all of your members join us!!!

M.A.G.I.C. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 8.00 p.m. at the above location.



VIDEO WORKSHOP September 9

A Video Workshop is the next Ring 76 meeting. Plan to bring a dollar bill, a coin, a deck of cards, and a pen. This should be a **Do Not Miss Meeting** so mark your calendar and see you on September 9!



I.B.M. Ring 76

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SUBSCRIPTIONS to MagiCurrents are \$10 per year for out of the area magicians.

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS should be sent to the club Treasurer, Bill Monroe. All Ring 76 Members must be a member in good standing with the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

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MagiCurrents

4046 Caminito Terviso
San Diego, CA 92122-1993
or emailed to: jimfry@ix.netcom.com

Ring 76 Meetings

October 14

Pre-Meeting

Magic Heritage Day (MHD)

Meeting

**Spooky Halloween Magic
-or- (MHD) Practice**

October 15

Board Meeting

Rick Bruce's house

November 11

Really Cool Lecture

November 19

Board Meeting

Gary Schwartzwald's house

MAGIC CASTLE LECTURERS

Sep 1 - Johnny Lonn

Sep 15 - Mike Caveney

Sep 29 - Richard Sherman

Oct 6 - Chad Long

Oct 20 - Peter Studebaker

Oct 27 - Torkova



All shows subject to change. Information based on best available at press time. Call the Magic Castle for up to date information (213) 851-3313

SEPTEMBER 3 - 8

E. CLOSE-UP

L. CLOSE-UP

E. PARLOUR

L. PARLOUR

PALACE

Chuck Fayne

Johnny Ace Palmer

Aldo Colombini

Alan Rich

Bruce Gold

Chuck Jones & Co

SEPTEMBER 9 - 15

E. CLOSE-UP

L. CLOSE-UP

E. PARLOUR

L. PARLOUR

PALACE

Mike Barger

Loren C. Michaels

Mac King

Ken Smith

Mike Caveney

Tina Lenert

John Gaughan

SEPTEMBER 16 - 22

E. CLOSE-UP

L. CLOSE-UP

E. PARLOUR

L. PARLOUR

PALACE

David Regal

Barry Price

Bornstein & Reid

Jeff Martin

Robert Baxt

Mike Elkan

SEPTEMBER 23 - 29

E. CLOSE-UP

L. CLOSE-UP

E. PARLOUR

L. PARLOUR

PALACE

Lee Bayless

Dylan Sardo

Matt Fore

Tom Ogden

Mark Haslam

Jonathan David Bass

SEP 30 - OCT 6

E. CLOSE-UP

L. CLOSE-UP

E. PARLOUR

L. PARLOUR

PALACE

Jerry Andrus

Chad Long

Jillian Gotlib

David Sandy

Doug Malloy

Larry Wilson & Co

<http://www.magiccastle.org>

Roving Teach-In

Pre-meeting:

Video Workshop

• • •

September 9, 1996

6:30 PM

• • •

Francis Park School
6501 Linda Vista Rd
San Diego, CA

MagiCurrents

4046 Caminito Terviso

San Diego, CA 92122-1993



Roy & Betty Armstrong

2548 Littleton Road

El Cajon, CA 92020