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# MagiCurrents

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## *Adventures in the Middle East*

### July 8<sup>th</sup>, Dateline: Aqaba

By Greg Bart

**S**ometimes mail runs a bit slow out here. I hope that I'm not too late but here are my dues. So, keep sending me MagiCurrents and letting me know what's going on in Magic back in San Diego. My roommate in San Diego has been forwarding my mail to me but it sometimes takes awhile

The last edition that I received was May. Reading is a premium activity when you're out at sea; so, if possible, would you send me the June and July editions together? I really enjoyed Jim Jolly's May '96 article titled "The War Magician" and Rick's overview of the Desert Magic Seminar.

We're currently in port in Aqaba, Jordan. It's a fascinating town, especially the ruins at Petra (the film site used in the Indiana Jones movie in which he finds the Holy Grail.) If you enjoy the heat in San Diego, then the Middle East is the place for you! The average temperature here has been 105-110 F. On the sunny side, at least it's dry heat. We've also been to Thailand and Singapore. I went ashore for a week with the Marines in Thailand and learned a valuable magic lesson when the heat and humidity just about "melted" a few decks of cards. Fortunately, they carry plenty of Bicycle cards in the ship's store. In some of the bars of Singapore, all the patrons sit around playing cards when they're not dancing. It's a bizarre scene: loud music, flashing lights, cigarette smoke.

see JORDAN on page 4



October

## RING REPORT

By Tom La Chance

Those bad boys of magic, Penn & Teller, made their Ring 76 video debut as our November pre-meeting event. Their recent appearance on Jay Leno's Tonight show was replayed, and the act's high and low points were discussed. The final conclusion seemed to be that bold sleight of hand can fly, even on national TV, given the proper misdirection. Another point raised was how a little original thinking can turn a common effect, such as Card To Wallet, into a real "blockbuster" event.

Last minute details for the Magic Day at the Villa community event

see RING REPORT page 2

## TAPE TALK

### EXPERT COIN MAGIC- MADE EASY!

VOL 11 - DAVID ROTH By Bob King

**O**kito Coin Box magic is near to the hearts of many coin purists, particularly our hobbyist brothers and sisters. The penetrations and transpositions made possible with the proper handling of this apparatus are great. If this is your bag, then Volume 11 in the Roth series of video tapes is especially designed with you in mind.

The Theo Bamberg, whose stage name was Okito, is credited with the invention of the Okito Box in 1911. David relates that Theo's inspiration for its discovery was Okito's partner, Joe Klein. Joe was beset with a chronic case of indigestion, thus he always had a small pill case at hand. Bamberg found that the top of Joe's pill box would fit as easily on the top as well as the bottom of its body. This characteristic allows for all of

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## Wauson's Wonderment

(The President's Column)

So much of our efforts in the club have been devoted recently to Magic Day at the Villa (a.k.a. Magic Heritage Day) that this column will take a breather from it.

Last month I told a co-worker I was going to a meeting of our local magic club that night. He said, "That sounds like party, party, party... just doing magic tricks for each other all the time!" Well I have to admit there's some truth to that opinion. It is a lot of fun for people in Ring 76 to perform minor miracles at the meetings and it's often a real kick also for the other members to watch some neat stuff. Where else can you see a Polaroid camera that makes chosen cards appear in the picture or cards that bleed or a great-looking gumball machine that knows how to do a terrific magic trick which seems just impossible?

Sure there's work to having any club, be it for magicians or plumbers. It just happens that magic effects, for most people, are a whole lot more satisfying than a stopped-up sink. (We won't count those who have an Uncle Walter who asks for the 50th time if he's ever shown them his 21-card trick.) There are meetings to plan, activities to coordinate and numerous phone calls to make. I admit that as president there are more responsibilities than there are in that cushy vice-president job in which all you have to do is introduce performers during our meetings. (Just kidding, Sherry...)

Several years ago I was talking to one of my roommates about how much work it was for me as coordinator of our Sunday school class at church. He cut to the bottom line when he asked, "Yes, but do you ENJOY the responsibility?" That was a good question but it didn't take long to think and realize I very much did enjoy it. There's something gratifying now, as there was then, about being part of a team effort.

see WAUSON page 7

## ASK THE PRO



Curtis R. Clark

### QUESTION:

When performing strolling close-up, either a party or restaurant, is it better working out of your pockets or a case you carry around with you?

**CURTIS CLARK:** Whether you work out of your pockets or a case also depends on the place you are working and what you are wearing. If, for example, you are wearing a suit or tux with a lot of pocket space then there would be no need for a case. However, if you are wearing a nice shirt, a vest with little or no pocket space, a case may come in handy. Providing of course you are working a place or party where it would not be a problem (consider too that a case could get in the way for you to carry around).

I also don't suggest carrying a case around with you in a restaurant. There is typically little table space to begin with and a case would be in the way. If you do have to carry a case because of lack of pocket space, try to set it on an empty chair at the table or on the floor out of the way. Be aware of other customers and servers that may come by when you place the case.

If you have plenty of pockets but some of the items you use are too big so you carry the case around with you ask yourself a couple questions: Are these tricks really suitable for close-up situations? Is this trick/routine really strong enough for to carry this case around? Is there some way I could leave it behind the bar or hostess stand and just grab the prop on a "when I need it" basis?

Another suggestion for outdoor picnic situations for strolling magic is a fanny pack or bike pouch type bag. I have personally used these when I have limited or no pockets in hot weather. Very effective for carrying

props and blends in with the venue. If you are dressed in black and wear a black fanny pack it blends in nicely. It could also be used for restaurant work solving a lot of space problems for you.

Every situation is different. For restaurants and parties ask yourself: What do you have space for? What dress is appropriate? What material do you plan to use? The answer to these types of questions should make your answer for your situation almost obvious. Remember, think through what it will look like to your audience and your customer, you want to make the right lasting impression.

### 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 Thursdays 6:30 - 9:00 and at Moose McGillycuddy's Fridays 6:00 - 9:00.

### RING REPORT from page 1

dominated the early part of the meeting. President Greg Wauson touched on several details, most of which were to be finalized at the Board Meeting scheduled for the following night. Our business portion of the meeting began with Greg announcing that Tom Kasner will serve out the current term as Sergeant-at-Arms. Tom replaces Ralph Mauzy, who unfortunately had to resign the post last month due to illness. We all send our hopes for a speedy recovery out to Ralph and thanks to Tom for filling the position. His first act as an officer was to announce that we had 27 members and 4 guests present.

Treasurer Bill Monroe gave an update on scheduling a lecturer for our November meeting, as well as future lectures. President Wauson announced that the Alzheimer's Family Center was seeking magicians for volunteer work entertaining their patients. This is a worthwhile endeavor and anyone interested should contact Greg. Ring member Mary Brown is also looking for some assistance. It seems her school's

popular she needs some help dealing with the size of the classes. Members who have free time during the day and want to help should talk to Mary at the next meeting.

Notes of interest on ring members included news that Treasurer Monroe and his wife Jen became parents on Sept. 27 with the arrival of a daughter, Alexis Rene. Jeff Marcos reported that his wife Peg had minor foot surgery earlier that day. It sounds like Peg, Alexis Rene and the new parents are all doing fine.

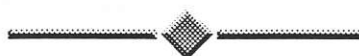
After the break it was onto "Spooky Halloween Magic", presented by an excellent group of performers. Jeff Smith lead off the show with a very clever "Poltergeist" detecting camera routine involving Mary Brown. He took a Polaroid photograph of Mary, which was then sealed in an envelope. After selecting a card, Mary opened the envelope and discovered that in it, she was holding the very card she had just selected. The photo caused quite a stir as it was passed around. Jeff also introduced his guest Sandy, who went on to become the official Ring 76 D.V. (designated volunteer) of the evening.

New member Paul Thomey followed with a timely effect detailing the lost art of vampire killing. Sandy, our DV, selected a small card to serve as the vampire and sealed it in an envelope "coffin". Although this was shuffled in with several other "coffins", Paul was able to find and kill the vampire in a surprising and graphic manner. (Perfect for Halloween and kids birthday parties.) Loch David Crane continued the offbeat magic with two pointed effects. Again calling on our DV, Loch performed an entertaining Needle Thru Balloon routine, followed by his unique version of Needle Thru Arm. His presentation and dialog were both dynamic and attention getting.

Treasurer Monroe broke from the theme with a brief card effect (as he pointed out, these are spooky to a lot of people). The four kings and queens were randomly mixed and shown to be in unmatched sets. A few magical passes thru Bill's hand then returned the cards to their paired sets. Our final performer, Rick Bruce, switched

from his usual style to present an effect dealing with live people. Calling on Sandy for one last time, Rick performed his supernatural version of Ashes On The Palm.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Joe Mystic set up his Gumball effect from Collectors Workshop. This apparatus looks like a supermarket toy vending machine, yet will deliver a spectators vanished ring (or whatever) in a very unique way. Although a bit pricey, this is a really nice prop which generated a lot of interest. Thank you Joe for bringing it in.



## John Carney's CARNEYCOPIA

By Mark Attwood

Despite the fact that the main name displayed on the front page of this wonderful book is that of John Carney (actually shown twice as, in the long running tradition of magic books, he has managed to work his name into the title - see Bob Barlens review of Sanky Panky in the October edition as another example of this strange predilection for such word games) the writer is the redoubtable Stephen Minch, well known for his other works on famous magi such as two volumes of "The Collected Works Of Alex Elmsley" and nearly a thousand pages in no less than three (count them) volumes of "The Vernon Chronicles".

While Stephen Minch has a style that is somewhat reminiscent of the writers from several decades ago his text is always clear, descriptive to a fault and if, by the time you finish reading about a routine, you still don't know how to do it then it is almost certainly you that has the problem. He clearly holds John Carney in high regard as his admiration shows clearly in the recounting of nearly every effect.

The format of the book is that of forty plus short chapters with each being a complete routine. Complete because in every case you are taken step by step through the routine from basic description to detailed presen-

see **CARNEYCOPIA** on page 6

## Paul Gertner in Baltimore

By Michael S. Tulkoff

On Sunday, October 13th, '96 Paul Gertner made his first ever appearance in Baltimore as a guest of our Kellar-Thurston Society of American Magicians Assembly #6. Paul performed for an hour, we then had a break for meals, making new friends etc. and then Paul lectured and answered questions for two more hours. What a great day without the distractions of a harried and busy convention atmosphere. Of the nearly 75 attendees who spoke with me personally, every one, bar none, had only raves about Paul and the venue of the event, the food, location and nice people who were a part of it all. In the audience we had the honor of Howie Schwarzman, who just celebrated 35 years with the SAM, as well as award winner Marc DeSouza, Denny Haney of international Denny and Lee fame and published author and inventor Joe Bruno. (If I left anyone else out, please forgive me.)

Paul did more than I can relate here but highlights I will touch upon. He opened with some lovely coin work, a variation of coins across where the finale was nearly a miser's dream shower of coins seeming to stream out of four playing cards and a jumbo coin to top it off.

Paul shared so much card technique in his routines it would fill many screens of text. What I enjoyed was his signed card work using a layman from the audience. Paul also performed a routine which is explained in his lecture notes called, "Photo Copy" Using psychology which he explained in his lecture, the chosen card is not only "invisibly" palmed (he "explains palming" to the lay audience) but it is "photographed" onto a previously shown xerox of his empty hand. When the folded xerox of his hand is opened at the routine's conclusion, it contains the spectator's actual chosen card to boot. Very pretty and if you utilize Paul's method you only need a xerox machine, a Humber Wallet and a deck of cards. Bravo!

Paul performed and later fully explained in his lecture his version of the famous "Unshuffled" routine



which he credits to Harry Lorayne and Charlie Miller and a Dr. Ewer from a Genii article in 1973. Paul's additions make it, IMHO, his own. BTW, I saw him perform this at a medical convention for lay people spelling out the name of his employer, a drug company, on the side of the deck. This too, is explained in the lecture notes and is the routine which utilizes the Faro shuffle so flawlessly. In addition, we were shown (also in his lecture notes) some neat and clean handling of a card to shirt breast pocket technique.

We were treated further to a lovely, seemingly impromptu, bill into cigarette called, logically, "The Bill In The Cigarette" and this too is in the lecture notes. What makes this so strong is the corner of the bill is torn off to act as a receipt and, of course, the exact bill appears in the cigarette which, BTW, is borrowed from an audience member.

Dick Biow, of the EG, has a terrific booklet out called 'The Sponge Ball King's Cups and Balls' published by Robinson Wizard. I am very carefully poring over it with my highlighter pen. I bring it up because our Jim Sisti of the EG writes an introduction which does justice to seeing Paul Gerner's cups and balls art at work. According to Jim, "Harry Houdini is credited with observing that a competent performance of the cups is the best watermark for someone's skill as a conjurer." Jim goes on to specifically name Paul as a "modern day master" but to read those words is one thing and to see Paul live is another. Not only did his famous 'Steel and Silver' dazzle us all but he did it on a raised platform with a forward tilted table by raising its back legs. Think about that. Paul had no problem contending with "talking" ball bearings or a slanted table which, I can attest, caused those steel balls to run, not roll. Superb.

Paul further performed his dice and hat routine. At first you may think it very similar to cups and balls but its uniqueness enables it to truly stand on its own. Also a must see, as was everything Paul performed. Open as usual, Paul later shared dice palming tips and related thoughts.

The lecture was equally fabulous. Did people leave? None that I saw!

Paul truly exudes so much desire for each of us to be our best in magic and succeed it is as if he is taking each and every one of us beneath his wing as a student. Paul demonstrated time again his methods on handling, psychology, approach, routing, methodology, you name it. Questions from the audience were open and frank and answering Paul held back nothing whatsoever. Words shared toward the end of his lecture were particularly supportive. To paraphrase, he said we need not all aim to be one of the best in the world or nothing at all. He spoke admiringly of Gene Anderson of newspaper tear fame who, with a career as a chemist (I believe I got that correct) has brought his magic into his life and work so well and so finely that even after retirement he can segue into performing full time if he so chooses.

I have seen enough lectures where the speaker is obviously concerned with hawking his wares to the point he cracks jokes about buying from him or his wife won't let him home, etc. I usually leave if that begins to happen. Paul Gertner?!?!? Folks, the man does not need your money, he rarely lectures in the first place and he is booked by multinational corporations for conventions more than a year in advance. This man does not do the "lecture circuit" as I call it. He is a gentleman and wonderful advocate for magicians. What a pleasure to meet him and benefit from his kind words. See him and meet him if you possibly can. We in Baltimore are sure glad we did!

Stay tuned as the SAM #6 brings other greats to town and we hope you can join us for them. Many thanks to those who helped with the event including Eger Bill Bonnell, my compeer in SAM #6. Thanks much to Denny Haney who handled everyone's needs flawlessly. Paul enjoyed visiting the Denny & Lee Magic Studio later in the evening after dinner and was wowed by the quality, selection and hard to find items.

Signing off,

*Michael Tulkoff*

SAM #6 President

(Ed Note: Our thanks to Michael for letting us reprint this EG article.)

## Ring 76 Board Meeting

October 15, 1996 - Villa Montezuma

Thanks to Rick Bruce for arranging the location, which will also be the venue for the Magic Day at the Villa planned for Sunday, October 27. Present were: Sherry Luft, Bill Monroe, Tom Kasner, Don Soul, Rick Bruce, Loch David Crane, Gary Dismukes, Greg Wauson, Tony Arambarri (who lives at the Villa Montezuma) and Nancy Leer from the San Diego Historical Society.

Sherry has been arranging the performers into time slots. Twenty to 25 visitors at the event will be let into the house every half hour and divided into two rooms. In one room will be part of J.P. Jackson's magic collection where Gary Salisbury will, hopefully as last year, be able to delight the visitors with an interesting story about each piece. In the other room will be one of the performers. After 15 minutes the groups will switch. After another 15 minutes both groups will join in the music room for a 20-minute performance.

Volunteers are needed for serving refreshments, greeting visitors at the front gate, staffing the Ring 76 "booth" in the bistro area of the house to tell people about our club and various other responsibilities. Five docents from the historical society are planned to serve with Ring 76 folks. Bill Monroe and Loch will try to get a covering for the refreshment area outside. Rick and Greg will ask their lovely respective wives to help with refreshments, as they did last year. Volunteers will work in shifts so they can enjoy other parts of the event.

Advertising is primarily being handled by the historical society. Rick or Greg may be able to arrange to appear for a brief spot on a local TV station.

The Villa Montezuma donation box will be at the front gate, staffed by one Ring 76 member and one docent. Donations will be divided 50/50 between Ring 76 and the historical society. Any other income from refreshments, face painting or balloon sculptures will belong to Ring 76.

See **BOARD** on Page 7

**JORDAN** from page 1

and in every corner, everyone's holding a fan of cards! I looked around, and thought to myself, "What a Great opportunity to do magic." One of our Harrier guys was trying to pick up a Singapore girl who was only interested in playing cards. He's a great guy and is usually pretty smooth with the ladies, but unfortunately he also had a small language barrier to overcome. So, I suspended what I consider two sacred axioms about performing magic. First, magic is not to be used to pick up women. It just seems cheezy to say "Pick a card, any card. Oh, and by the way, can I have your number?" Second, I avoid using a non-magician as a confederate. Usually you have to reveal a trick's secret to the confederate. If everyone is a confederate, then nobody's the audience.

Anyway, after a few beers, it was easy to rationalize setting aside these two axioms. After all, the Harrier guy had stood Shore Patrol duty with me the previous night. So, we already had that special bond of serving in combat together: try monitoring 4,000 Sailors and Marines in a major city in Asia. The least I could do was help out a buddy in need. Besides, what a great opportunity to demonstrate a cross-service joint operation by a Navy-Marine Corps team.

I mentioned to my comrade in arms that he didn't need to speak a foreign language to communicate with his new friend. He could simply read her mind. I offered to shuffle the deck for the girl. While shuffling, I would show the Marine the bottom card of the deck. I then motioned to the Singaporean to select a card and forced the bottom card on her using Harry Loraine's reverse fan force (it's in Close Up Card Magic under Fan Prediction #2). She was amazed when the Marine could read her mind! We did this again and again and played it up for a while. I even had him leave the room while I was shuffling the deck, having her pick a card and return it. It was pretty hilarious. Well, he successfully picked up the girl, and then the rest of the Harrier guys wanted me to make them into mind readers too. However, I decided to go with the old P.T. Barnum idea of always leaving them wanting more

and told them that I had no idea how their fellow officer did the trick. The best part was that the sleight was literally invisible. Even my Marine confederate didn't know how I could get the girl to pick the right card every time! It was easy to do and spontaneous. I heartily recommend this sleight to anybody who is also at my basic level of card magic.

As for Jordan: No magic to perform or watch here. Needless to say, the situation here is confusing enough for the natives without adding magic to the equation. In the mean time, I'm quietly working my way through Card Shark — great book. I'll write again soon and let you know how things are going.



(Editor's Note: write and say hi to Greg, his address is:

LT Gregory R. Bart, JAGC, USNR  
COMPHIBRON THREE  
UNIT 25097  
FPO AP 96601-5802

or send him email at:

cpr3box@nosc.mil  
just put LT Bart in the title line and he'll get it.)

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Didn't you miss  
Scott's Thoughts this month?



**I.B.M. Ring 76**

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**DAVID ROTH** from page 1

the fine things that are possible with this little gem.

David starts off things with a discussion of the Standard Turnover Move. Next, Lou Tannen's "Cross-Hand Move" is shown. David, as usual, improves on these with one of his own that is direct, one-handed, and very easy to do. It could be entitled "The Right Thumb Turnover", a Rothism for simplicity itself. The "Table Turnover" is shown and adds something to the body of knowledge if you work on a table. A tip-lid turnover is credited to Frank Thompson. Steals are treated next with a number of moves involved. "Final Turnover Moves" which complete the routine are included.

From 1911 to 1974 the art remained pretty much the same as to the handling. Enter the treatment of David who, as a teenager, was totally intrigued with the equipment. It was then that he began to devise his wonderful moves and routines that, in my opinion, define pure coin work with the box today.

The series of "Roth Moves" begins with his methods for stealing coins without the use of turnovers. These include taking a coin from the top or bottom of the stack using the box itself for cover. The "Click Pass Move" is a diabolical way of placing only one coin of two in a stack into the box, the second sliding *under* the box. The steal is now automatic, since one coin is already outside the box. Several variations are shown, the next being more baffling than the last. The "Center Steal" is a marvelous variation on the "Click Pass Move". The "Bold Steal", based on Ed Marlo's action with cards is neat. The "Edge Grip Steal" and the "Rim Steal" are more advanced technically, but within your reach with some practice. The "Scoop Stack Rim Steal Switch" has to be viewed to be believed. More Roth Moves include four coins placed fairly into the box, hands shown empty, lid removed, and only three fall out!?

To expand a bit on the "Rim Steal", this is a look into the meticulous thinking of David Roth. You see four coins placed into the box, but only three make it. The final one is

left on the rim. When placing a coin into the box, there is not one but two clicking sounds that are heard. The fourth coin's dual click is effected by first placing the coin on the rim and then, under cover, lifting it and letting it snap once more to the rim. As the old song goes, little things mean a lot. A variation of the "Rim Steal" allows you to palm off all four coins leaving the box entirely empty.

The "Boston Box" a.k.a. the "German Box" (originally made of German silver) is a spin-off of Okito's creation. A coin is placed in the recessed bottom to replicate a box full of coins right side up or upside down . . . ? You now add a lid and you have a George Boston version. Now four coins can convincingly penetrate the hand, *one at a time!* Zowie stuff! Box switches are next. The Spellbound and BoBo switches along with the Shuttle Pass accomplish the work. Finally the "Slot Box" is discussed that will mechanically hold a coin inside as it is turned over.

Having covered the sleights and equipment, David now demonstrates a number of routines with explanations following each one. Multi-camera angles give you the views you need to properly understand the work. "Out With Five" utilizes five coins and a Slot Box, but only four coins are seen throughout the with penetration happening into and out of the box. David's "Touch Production", included in this sequence is, in your scribe's opinion, one of his best ever contributions to coin artistry.

"Box Through Hand" is David's closer in his Okito Box show. Four coins penetrate one hand then the other. The finale is a complete surprise when the **box itself** makes the penetration leaving the coins on the back of the hand. This is as visual a close-up effect as there is in all of our craft!!!

Thanks for listening.

(Editor's Note: Bob King's *Tape Talk* column is a bi-monthly feature of *MagiCurrents* and runs alternately with *Scott's Thought*. Please send any questions, comments, ideas or suggestions to *MagiCurrents* or to Scott Wells at [SWells4691@aol.com](mailto:SWells4691@aol.com)).

**CARNEYCOPIA** from page 3

tation with, and here is where the book really comes into its own, Mr. Carney's little touches that turn some OK tricks into real magic.

The split of effects is roughly two thirds cards with the remaining one third being a fine mixture, mostly money or money related magic like coins through glass, coins in bottles, an excellent \$100 bill switch with three quarters thrown in for good measure and even a mental effect.

If you are in the market for a book on stage illusions then pass this one by as these are all close-up tricks that would work well for small presentations, table hopping or walk about shows.

Some of my favorite effects were:

**Fruit cup** - the old faithful bill in the lemon but definitely with a twist.

**Transplant** - A nice variation of Dai Vernon's "Picking Off the Pip"

**The Logical Bill Trick** - The previously mentioned \$1 to \$100 bill change with three 50c pieces being squeezed from the dollar first.

**A Polite Penetration** - A stack of coins through the spectators hand trick that remembers that in places like the US and England it just isn't done to hang on to a person for long periods of time.

**The Thirteenth Victim** - My favorite of them all, a comedy "bullet catch". While it might not measure up to the Penn and Teller routine we all saw on last years WGM II it makes up for a little less drama with a lot more comedy.

Almost all of the routines can be performed without the need to resort to expensive gimmicks and in every case the sleights are explained in the kind of detail that far too many books loftily leave out in what appears to be a pursuit of a place in the Guinness Book Of Records for getting the most tricks stuffed into the fewest pages.

Having said all these good things you might be sitting there thinking "Here come the rapier like put-downs" but no, in fact I've saved telling you about the best until now.



After the obligatory couple of heart warming introductions to the book by John Carneys big buddies Michael Skinner and Mike Caveney, both of who have the decency to admit as much, and a similar page or so from the good Mr. Minch we are treated to twenty pages of treasure from Carney himself under the title "Secret Philosophy". Think of it as a diamond nestling amongst the pearls and it is in these few pages where he gives out some of the real secrets of magic that some would argue would be worth the cost of the book without the tricks.

In summary for the beginners and intermediate magicians amongst us this is a "must have" book. In addition to a well rounded selection of close-up routines to add to your repertoire you will learn some techniques that are applicable to many magic presentations. Even the more advanced practitioners of our art could probably learn, or certainly relearn, a thing or two about misdirection and creating that "magical moment" as Michael Skinner calls it from this book. Anyone can make a sponge ball appear from nowhere but John Carney aided by Steven Minch can tell you how to make it look like magic.

(Ed Note: Our thanks to Mark Attwood from EG for his review. You can reach Mark at [mattwood@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mattwood@ix.netcom.com))

## Volunteers Needed

The Alzheimer's Group of Escondido is looking for magicians of all kinds for recurring performances.

If you can donation  
some of your time  
contact Elaine Simpson at  
**480-2283**

2017 Felicita Road  
Escondido, CA 92025

from BOARD page 4

One other source of income may be photographs taken of the visitors with the house or a magician. Thanks to Loch for this idea. Tom built on the idea by suggesting using his digital camera which would enable an overlay of the face of Houdini or Jesse Shepard (the originator of the house) to appear in the picture.

Rick will try to get some videos of magic greats and Loch will plan to bring several posters. Rick will make programs. Sherry and Rich Robertson will be the inside stage managers, Greg will perform that function for the outside stage. Hopefully we can get the club's 4 x 8 platform for use outside. Greg will buy 4 or 5 business card holders to help the performers advertise at the event.

One more planning meeting will be at the Villa Montezuma on Thursday, October 24 at 6:00 pm. Following the meeting, Rick will present a seance for people associated with the historical society. Rick offered to head up Ring 76's sponsorship of a youth magic club. Greg will contact Gary Schwartzwald about a location for the December potluck. The board voted unanimously to invite Dean Dill as the lecturer at our November meeting.

- Greg Wauson  
President

WAUSON from page 2

By the way, did you read the IBM convention reviews written by Jon Racherbaumer in the October Linking Ring? That guy really uses words in a beautiful way to paint mental pictures. He hit the nail on the head when he said the scary proximity of close-up magic severely tests magicians' personalities and, you know, Eugene Burger really DOES seem "like a philosopher ready for a night on the town." Don't miss these articles!

Until next time...

Greg

"...ethical conjurers do not lie to their audiences... they mislead them."

- James Randi, *Conjuring*

## WHERE TO FIND THE SHOWS?

By Joe Mystic

Saturday  
night, October  
19, 1996. It's the  
Mercy Ball at the  
Hotel Del Coronado and Joe  
Mystic is there  
performing -



FREE. Is Joe a great Philanthropist? Does he owe Mercy Hospital a debt of gratitude. No and again No. There were 300 doctors, lawyers and bankers with their spouses there. All rich people paying \$200 a plate and buying thousands of dollars in merchandise. They are a decked out in expensive costumes or tuxedos and gowns. Many of them are showoffs. Outward appearance to them is everything. Everyone of them potentially has private parties and they have the money to provide the best in entertainment to try to impress their friends.

Some people feel that doing free shows makes you a cheap entertainer. Not so. Doing cheap shows makes you a cheap entertainer. If I would have charged \$50 or required dinner, I would have turned myself into a cheap entertainer. Offering myself free of charge, I was a great humanitarian (at least in their eyes). Numerous business cards were requested and passed out. I don't doubt that I will receive a call or two to book a party from attendees that I was able to entertain. The next step is to pack plenty of business cards when you perform at the subsequent parties. These parties can snowball into quite a nice circuit. If you get only one thought from this article, forget the free shows, wherever you entertain, carry BUSINESS CARDS. I hope to write monthly articles to help tickle your imagination and give you insight as to WHERE TO FIND THE SHOWS.

(Joe Mystic is a professional magician in San Diego and writes a regular column for MagiCurrents. Send comments, questions and suggestions to MagiCurrents.)



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

#### OCTOBER 21 - 27

E. CLOSE-UP: John Shearer  
L. CLOSE-UP: David Malek  
E. PARLOUR: Terry Lunceford  
L. PARLOUR: George Tovar  
PALACE: Terry Seabrooke  
Torkova  
Loren C. Michaels

#### OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 3

E. CLOSE-UP: Jeff Davis  
L. CLOSE-UP: Randall Richman  
E. PARLOUR: Howard Jay  
L. PARLOUR: Joe Monti  
PALACE: Bruce Block  
James Chantler Brown  
Dan Birch

#### NOVEMBER 4 - 10

E. CLOSE-UP: Mike Rogers  
L. CLOSE-UP: Steve Valenti  
E. PARLOUR: Guy Bavli  
L. PARLOUR: Billy McComb  
PALACE: Larry Clark  
Mystina  
Victor & Diamond

#### NOVEMBER 11 - 17

E. CLOSE-UP: Peter Tappan  
L. CLOSE-UP: Fr Jim Blantz  
E. PARLOUR: Dan Harlan  
L. PARLOUR: Bob Cassidy  
PALACE: Rich Bloch  
Mike Douglas  
Franz Harary

#### NOVEMBER 18 - 24

E. CLOSE-UP: Monte Smith  
L. CLOSE-UP: Mark Elsdon  
E. PARLOUR: Marvyn Roy  
L. PARLOUR: Michael Chaut  
PALACE: Danny Cole  
Glenn Falkenstein  
Frances Willard

#### NOV 25 - DEC 1

E. CLOSE-UP: David Yee  
L. CLOSE-UP: Jim Starr  
E. PARLOUR: Joyce Basch  
L. PARLOUR: Alfonso  
PALACE: Dana Daniels  
Randy Pryor  
Mayseo

#### DECEMBER 2 - 8

E. CLOSE-UP: Billy McComb  
L. CLOSE-UP: Steve Dacri  
E. PARLOUR: Bob Dorian  
L. PARLOUR: Ken Smith  
PALACE: Fred Becker  
Ron Lucas  
Ed Alonzo

#### MAGIC CASTLE LECTURERS

Oct 27 - Torkova  
Nov 10 - Dan Harlan  
Nov 17 - Bob Cassidy  
Nov 24 - Mark Elsdon  
Dec 1 - John Fedco  
Dec 15 - Dale Salwak

<http://www.magiccastle.org>

## Dean Dill Lecture

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November 11, 1996  
6:30 PM

...

Francis W. Parker 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

