



MagiCurrents



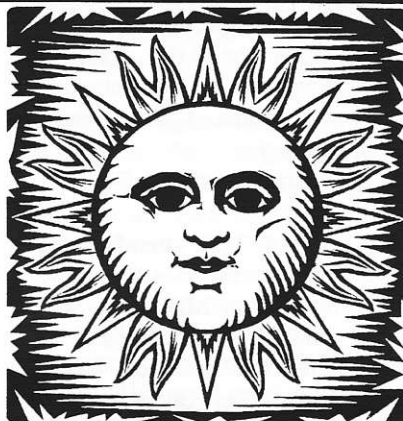
Our June Meeting June 9, 1997

by Gary Schwartzwald

Bill Monroe opened our meeting with a teach-in of three effects. Monroe showed us David Roth's *Hanging Coins*, Dan Harlan's *Traveling Tips* and *Snap Jack* by Aldo Colombini. There was a lot of participation, especially with Harlan's *Traveling Tips* effect. Bill did a great job; we all learned something and thank you.

President **Greg Wauson** then welcomed members and introduced guests. The following announcements were made: **John Fedko** will lecture at Greg Wauson's home on June 23rd, **Eric Anderson** will lecture on June 25th and our installation banquet performer, **Daryl**, will lecture on July 15th. The installation dinner will be held at Van Winkles Restaurant on July 14th. Starting time is 6:30 p.m. The installation dinner will cost \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Ticket prices will increase on July 10th so sign up early. The Daryl lecture the following night will cost only \$5 for members and the now-traditional \$15 for non-members. Don Soul was thanked for his outstanding work on the June newsletter and additional newsletter help was requested.

Ballots for the 1997 - 98 slate of Ring 76 officers were distributed.



Our next year's board will be:
Bill Monroe - member at large
Greg Wauson - member at large
Tom Kasner - sergeant-at-arms
Julie Dale - treasurer
Don Soul - secretary
Dick Dale - entertainment vice-president
Tom La Chance - membership vice-president
and **Gary Schwartzwald** as president for a day. Last year's Ring 76 member of the year, **Rick Bruce**, collected votes to determine this year's member of the year. The winner will be

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Well, folks, this newsletter marks the end of the term for the present board. It seems like yesterday that I pounded the table with the gavel to open the first Ring 76 meeting at which I presided. That meeting started with a get-to-know-one-another mixer in which Sherry taped the name of a famous magician on each person's back. We found out "famous" is relative and also that none of us knows everyone else in the club. And even more importantly, it's very satisfying to meet new people and to get to know better many of those familiar faces we see each month.

I look back over the past 12 months and take pride in our club which has sought to keep our meetings attractive. After all, people are busy and why should we take our time to go to some meeting when we could be

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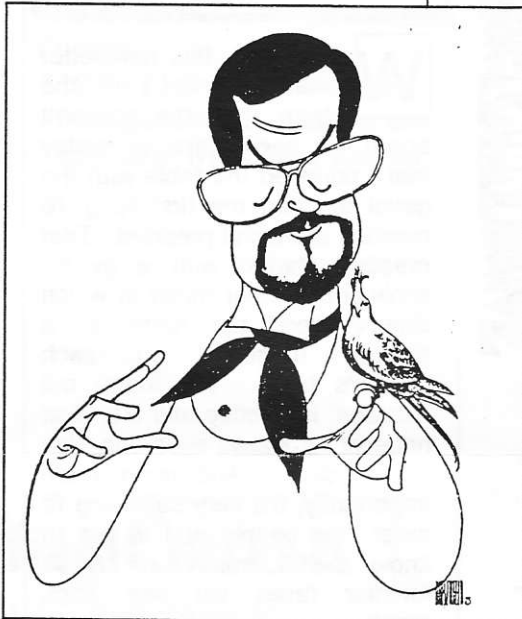
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Harry Bouton Blackstone Jr. 1934-1997

In 1934 I was fortunate enough to see The Great Blackstone (Harry Sr.) at the Riverside Theater in Milwaukee. At age nine this was, and still is, one of the most magical moments of my life. It was my



introduction to the Blackstone family and their wonderful magic. I never could figure out (until years later) why the little girl seated directly in front of me had such a large head start to the stage where she would eventually receive a live white rabbit.

In 1960, I stooged for Harry, Jr. at the Playboy Club in Detroit. He graciously talked with me after the show. We talked about his dad, and most of all, magic. Harry always went to Abbotts in Colon every August. So did I. We shared quite a few beers at the Legion after the evening shows. We talked about our sons that preceded us in death, both at age 21. Most of all, we talked magic. One year at Abbotts, his act was introduced by MarcoM in the following manner: "This next act is

a couple. He's Harry and she's Gay. Fortunately, that's not reversed."

In 1942 the members of IBM Ring 23 in Cleveland named their club in honor of Harry Blackstone. In 1992, Harry Jr. joined the present members in celebrating the golden anniversary of the club. His last major TV appearance was in the fall of 1996 when he introduced the 50 contestants in the Miss America

Pageant. In December he was featured as a main attraction at Caesar's Casino in Atlantic City.

In 1997 I attended the memorial service for Harry. It was on May 18 at the First Congregational Church in Redlands. It was a beautiful celebration of Harry's life. Five friends gave heartfelt, emotional eulogies. Rich Bloch of Collector's Workshop, in his eulogy told of the time in late 1996 that Harry was rehearsing the Floating Lightbulb. He was frail and ravaged by his horrible

disease. When the time came for him to join his wife Gay on stage, he struggled up the steps and then fell as he reached the top. Gay cushioned the fall by cradling his head. Rich took off his own jacket, rushed over and placed it under Harry's head. Rich looked down at Harry and said, "Are you comfortable?" Harry looked up and replied, "I make a pretty decent living." His sense of humor and courage were with him right to the end.

Over 500 people were in attendance. It was a Who's Who of magic. Some of those attending were, in no particular order: Milt and Arlene Larsen, Kevin James, Glenn and Frances Falkenstein, Trini Peller, Peter Pit, Karrell Fox, Abb Dickson,

Dale Salwak, Max Abrams, Harry Anderson, Irene Erika and Libby Larsen, Lance Burton, Mike Caveney, Mac King, Billy McComb, Mary and Nani Wilson, the dean of the USC drama school, Charles Reynolds, Bill Smith, Jim Steinmeyer, Becky and Zaney Blaney, Marvin Roy, Amos Lefkovitch, Ricky Dunn and Norm Nielsen.

He was loved by many - his family, his friends, his audiences. Godspeed, my friend.

Dick Dale

MEETING from page 1

announced at our installation dinner on July 14th.

We then had the pleasure of the following fine roving teach-ins: **Don Soul** taught us to do a perfect Faro Shuffle, **Paul Thomey** showed us how to make Something from Nothing, **Jeff Marcus** taught the Heel Steal, **Bill Monroe** taught David Williamson's Striking Vanish and **Gary Dismukes** showed the Paul Harris Bizarre Twist. We concluded with a fine audition by **Dave Ebert**. Dave started out with a smooth Chop Cup routine. He then turned a quarter into a ring and then used there in a ring off the string routine leading into a Ring through a string. Dave finished with a very good cut and restored rope routine. Dave Ebert had a great audition and we are happy to have him as our newest member. We look forward to seeing you at the installation dinner on July 14.

from PRESIDENT on page 2

home watching the Chargers or spending time with our families or other friends? That was a question Gary Schwartzwald asked and your board tried to keep that in mind as we planned our activities. Our desire was to keep our meetings with a personal touch, whether it's a teach-in or just getting caught up with another member over Fritos and Coke.

Adding refreshments was a nice addition we've gotten some good feedback about. We also tightened the flow of the monthly meetings by phasing out the 6:30 p.m. "pre-meeting" and instead merging it into our regular meeting. This allowed us to be more flexible in that we no longer start our regular meeting at 7:30 regardless if there was a lot of dead time on nights with a very short pre-meeting. We've continued to shrink the business part of our meetings to allow us to concentrate on magic. And lectures by Dean Dill and Tom Mullica brought us a lot of fun as well as some insight into what makes magic really entertaining and satisfying. We also presented our second Magic Heritage Day which was very successful, maybe not financially, but in terms of the enjoyment of the people who visited as well as those who were involved in presenting it.

I think one area which could have been beefed up was giving the members more opportunities to get their own experience performing. Most of our meetings provided time for members to stand up and perform but I think more could have been done in this area to allow us to improve as entertainers. We enjoy being entertained but sometimes need an extra push to try out in front of a live audience that trick we've

been practicing. Possibly we could have offered some meetings with a time for critiques of the performers from the audience?

Ring 76 has some real strengths: a consistent place to meet in a very comfortable, spacious and well-lit room, sound financial condition, a club which passes out free \$20 bills at each meeting (just wanted to see if you're still reading this) and a healthy attendance each month. But it's not large numbers of members or the amount of money in our checking account which is most important. It's the people themselves! We have many people who not only love magic but are willing to devote their time and energy to make Ring 76 all it can be. This past year we've had many people working behind the scenes in several areas from helping with the newsletter to preparing our meeting room to bringing in refreshments and raffle prizes. Thanks to all of you who have been so supportive this past year. And I especially thank the other members of the board who have not only done their jobs but have made my job as president genuinely enjoyable: Sherry, Bill, Gary, Tom, Don, Rick and Ralph.

In the words of Red Skelton, good night and may God bless.

Greg

Ring 76 June Board Meeting

Time: 7:00 pm
Location: President Greg Wauson's house
Attending Officers: Greg Wauson, Don Soul, Bill Monroe and Tom Kasner

Greg opened the meeting and announced past president Fred Rohrer's entrance into the ICU ward of Scripps Green Hospital in La Jolla after heart surgery. A motion was made by Don Soul to send flowers and was seconded by Tom Kasner. (Editor's note: Tom suggested a bouquet of spring flowers.) Don will purchase and present the bouquet.

New members Myron Joseph, David Ebert and Gabriel Travers, who recently auditioned for entrance into Ring 76, will be given appreciation awards as made by Greg Wauson.

Greg announced that a final appeal for the \$5 participation fee which some dealers did not pay at the recent swap meet will be made at the installation banquet.

Greg announced that Rick Bruce is in charge of obtaining the outgoing officer's plaques for the installation banquet. The only detail regarding the banquet as yet unresolved is a location for the lecture to occur the following night. After a discussion of venues both explored and as yet to be pursued, it was determined to encourage Gary Schwartzwald to continue his search and that Tom Kasner will research the possibility of using an inexpensive community center.

Tom then counted money received to this point from members who have already paid for the banquet or lecture or both. Due to a bookkeeping oversight, it appears that the fund is short \$25 from 5 of 6 members listed as prepaying for the lecture. Greg apologized for letting the matter stand at this point in order to proceed with the meeting. Door prizes for the banquet will be obtained by Tom Kasner. With the departure of Greg Wauson on vacation from July 3rd through

July 13th, Tom Kasner agreed to handle receipt of installation banquet and lecture payments in Greg's absence. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the honor of swearing in the new officers at the banquet will go to past president Rick Bruce.

All attending board members agreed with Greg that all officers should have a supply of Ring 76 and I.B.M. membership forms with them at Ring meetings to promote the club. More copies of each form will be obtained and issued by Bill Monroe.

The meeting was then adjourned.

TAPE TALK

by Bill King

The Elegant Rope Magic of Tabary
"Magic With Knots & More, Volume 2"

The second in the Francis Tabary collection of rope videos is a nice extension of the his first presentation. Tabary, known primarily by his last name, is a recent F.I.S.M. winner from France who uses only a few pieces of clothesline to work the wonders he displays. His manner is very smooth and disarming, playing his medium much as a musical instrument. This gentleman is a master in direction of an audiences' focus at any one point in his act.

There are three rope routines and a ring and string offering in store for you. Let's see what this tape can teach us.

Routine #1 begins with the display of a nine-foot length of rope and the production of a knot

at either end. The knots are then caused to vanish one at a time. We now witness the flash appearance of two knots at once. The following "shazam" vanish of the two at once completes the cycle. This piece is too short to be classified as a routine, but could serve as a quick opener to another bit of business.

One observation at this point: the explanation portion of both of Tabary's tapes are exhaustive. I found myself rewinding his stuff less often than others because the moves are repeated often enough with different camera angles to make learning easier.

Routine # 2 starts with the same nine foot rope held with the middle at one end and the ends at the other. Perfectly normal; however, in two swift moves, the middle jumps to the far end and the ends take its' place. A knot is formed on one end of the rope and it immediately jumps to the other end and then vanishes. A loop of rope is made and a knot is tied in the center of the loop!? The knot then mysteriously vanishes as quickly as it appeared.

The loop is broken by clapping the hands together and two ends fall in view with knots on them. Finally the two ends are placed into the outside coat pocket with the middle held in the hand. Shazooie (Spell Check hated that one) - the ends appear in the hand and - you guessed it - the middle is in the pocket.

The last section involves a three-rope sequence beginning with the display of two equal pieces. The ends are tied together and the resultin knot moves by unknown means to a spot two feet away - shown - and then moves back to its original position in the middle. The knot jumps over to one end

and untied to reveal a short length of rope. The short one is once again reunited with the long one displaying one long unit. A gesture later, a medium-sized piece is broken off from the long one. This is truly an unusual way to enter the realm of our old pal, the middle section of the "Professor's Nightmare." We now have the familiar three equal pieces of rope displayed and proven. For my money, Dan Garrett's proving moves seen by your scribe several years ago at one of his lectures, are the definitive way to show that the audience is truly seeing three equal lengths of hemp. The third part is another departure from the norm with the three equal pieces going to two short ones. The longer of the two ropes is tied end-to-end forming a loop. One is now melted onto the other with as visual a picture as can be portrayed. This move was mentioned in the review of Tabary's first tape; this move is a keeper.

Tabary's Ring & String routine has the two components united and separated in ways that have not been accounted for in recent magical literature. If this type of routine is what you're looking for then you are indeed in luck!

My overall view of Tabary's two tapes is that they showcase an elegant presentation with Tabary himself attired in a well-tailored dark business suit. His command of the English language is limited at this stage, so he has to rely on his visual skills to an extreme. These talents, fortunate for the onlooker, are extremely substantial. This tape is the most inclusive and forward looking treatment of rope magic available.

Bill

IBM Ring 76 proudly presents

DARYL

performing at the Ring 76 installation dinner!

Monday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Van Winkle's Restaurant

10055 Mission Gorge Rd. in Santee

and your choice of: 1. chicken & ribs 3. roast beef
 2. ham 4. vegetarian plate

(Indicate your choice when you order tickets from Tom Kasner)

Before July 10: \$15 per person or \$25 per couple

On and after July 10: \$20 per person or \$30 per couple

and the next night RING 76 PRESENTS A LECTURE BY DARYL:

- \$5 for Ring 76 members (\$15 for non-members)
- Tuesday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m. sharp
- Tierrasanta Recreation Center

11220 Clairemont Mesa Bl.

Take I-15 to Clairemont Mesa Bl. & go east a mile past Santo Rd.
Lecture is in room 2; look for the Apple Corps sign

Tickets for the dinner and lecture are available from:

Tom Kasner

12859 Calle De Las Rosas, San Diego, CA 92129-3014
(619)484-0695



I.B.M. Ring 76

1997 Board of Directors

Greg Wauson - President
11007 Red Robin Place
San Diego, CA 92126
(619) 566-5654
wauson@incom.net

Sherry Luft - Vice President
3760 Florida St. #208
San Diego, CA 92104
(619) 543-0354

Bill Monroe - Treasurer
589 North Johnson, Apt. 257
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 590-1134

Gary Schwartzwald - Secretary
6135 Haas St.
La Mesa, CA 92042
(619) 697-9468

Tom Kasner - Sergeant-At-Arms
12859 Calle De Las Rosas
San Diego, CA 92129-3014
(619) 484-0695

Don Soul - Member-At-Large
10068 Branford Drive
San Diego, CA 92129
(619) 484-3492

Rick Bruce - Member-At-Large
7710 Hazard Center Rd, #226
San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 299-1875
rbruce@pmrp.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$10/year for out of the area magicians.

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

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DON'T GO TO SCHOOL...

Ring 76 is installing its new officers at the July meeting. However, the meeting will be at Van Winkle's Restaurant in Santee instead of at Francis Parker School. Join us on July 14 for the dinner with our special guest performer, Daryl. He will present a lecture on July 15 in Tierrasanta. These both should be terrific events for the San Diego magic community. See you there!

(Editor's note: We're privileged to have two Tape Talk articles this month; let us know what you think...)

TAPE TALK by Bill King

Tom Mullica's Expert Impromptu Magic Made Easy Vol. 16

A-1 Multimedia features Tom in their 16th video volume. This is act II of his first offering on magic using ordinary things.

"The Crazy One" begins with a daffy thing entitled "Blown Away." If you were his teacher in school and you saw him blow his nose into a handkerchief and the cloth flew straight away from his face, how would you react?! "Pencil Thru Handkerchief" is a delightful penetration effect using a borrowed hank and an ungaffed pencil. "The Mouse" is your writer's favorite of the entire tape. A handkerchief is borrowed and folded into a small tube with a tail on both ends. It is now fashioned into what looks like a tiny mouse. The enchanting little creature comes alive moving across your hand and up your shirt or the front of your coat. Creating something so animated . . .

from someone's inanimate pocket hank - - THAT - - my friends, is simply wonderful. "The Indian Bean Mystery" is a piece that Tom says he saw done in Korea while he was stationed there with the Army. The performer placed four small pea-like objects - one at a time - into his left eye, his right eye, his nose, and his mouth. All four then appear - one at a time - from his mouth. The premise observes the fact that all the facial features are linked by the nasal passages. Tom proceeds to replicate his version of the feat.

"Breaking Off A Button" is an inventive departure from the usual "torn-n-restored" stuff in that a man's vest or coat is used. A button is torn from the garment and then put back in it's proper place in a flash. What can I say about the definitive sucker bit of the art, "Paper Balls Over The Head." This Tony Slydini creation is amplified by Tom with the addition of the disappearance - to the victim - of a solid object. Adding insult-to-injury, the re-appearance of the same object comes from behind their head. (As an aside

here my friends, this corner of our art makes my teeth hurt.) A very nice silk production is next. The hands can be shown empty and the sleeves pulled up one at a time. A silk of any size will then appear with the hands well away from the body. A Shimada-like move with a silk rather than a dove.

"The Cork Transfer" is an interesting puzzle using two small pieces of cork. Each one is gripped between forefinger and thumb of both hands in an intertwined position. To clarify this situation,

"Much of what you will view here is time-tested stuff that you've probably seen in many magic primers."

Man's Handcuffs." You now simply part your hands and the penetration happens. "Torn 'n Restored Bill" is an interesting treatment of this effect as to the method. A borrowed bill is used with no other props. The bill is truly torn and then cleanly restored. The only drawback is that you have to switch the bill to return it to it's owner if you don't want them to discover the secret.

Next on the menu is another mental piece entitled "Mental 9." Nine business or playing cards are laid out on the table and one is designated as the selection. An associate of the performer who was out of the room at the time is now invited back. You now begin pointing to each of the cards one at a time and your associate is able to divine the card selected. One nice feature of this handling is the cards may be laid out in any order on the table before the divination begins. "Cut n' Restored Handkerchief" is an illusion that will really grab you - - I promise! A borrowed hank is twirled into a rope and then truly cut in the center. One end is even dropped (inadvertently) so there is no question that there are two separate parts. The pieces are placed together, spun around once or twice and then opened into the same triangular shape as in at the start of the effect. Wow!! You'll have to do a switch to return the unharmed cloth to the spectator, but the overall reaction of the audience will make the effort well worth it.

Thanks again for listening,
Bill

What's Happening

Monday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m.:
Installation dinner at Van
Winkle's Restaurant.
10055 Mission Gorge Rd.
in Santee. Tickets are
available from Tom Kasner.

Tuesday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m.:
Daryl lecture at the
Tierrasanta Recreation
Center.
11220 Clairemont Mesa Bl.
You guessed it - tickets are
available from Tom Kasner.

Get your tickets
for the
installation
dinner and
Daryl's lecture
today!

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11007 Red Robin Pl.
San Diego, CA 92126



ALWAYS
USE ZIP CODE



Roy & Betty Armstrong
2548 Littleton Road
El Cajon, CA 92020