



MagiCurrents

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XIV No. 4 April 2000

March Madness Sweeps IBM

“We must be crazy to
sell it at this price”

The March Meeting for Ring 76 is traditionally our annual Swap Meet/ Auction. The Ring sells table space to members and guests who come to sell their wares. Members, guests, and collectors come to buy, sell, and trade.

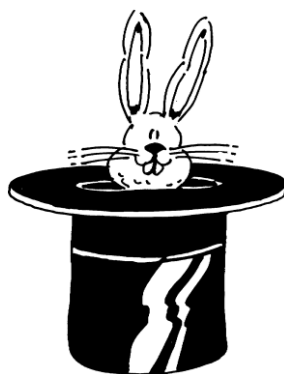
Our pre-meeting was the swap meet. The sellers were few, but the buyers were many. From **JP's collectable books**, the **Armstrong's** magic sets, magazines, to assorted videos and booklets, there was something for everyone.

The business meeting was brief. **President Julie Dale** presided, with Sergeant-at-Arms **Ralph Mauzy** sending his regrets. President Dale announced that Ring 76 had received the Quality Ring Award from the IBM. She expressed her pride in a job well done by all ring members. **Dick**

Dale, VP of Entertainment, talked briefly about the World Desert Seminar he attended in Las Vegas. (*See article by Jack White, pg. 3*) Gary Dismukes gave the treasury report and secretary **Richard Ustick** reminded everyone that dues are payable next month (April) and that our guest lecturer will be Docc Hilford. With no further business, the business meeting was closed.

The Auction was our next order of business. For the donation of an item to be auctioned for the Ring, any member can put his or her magical treasures on the block. Starting with a minimum bid, the audience competes for ownership. VP of Membership, **Tom La Chance**, was our auctioneer. Items on the block included historical posters of Houdini and Germaine, a “Head Chest,” from the Houdini

historical museum, Card Seals, a Jap Hank Box from Chu's Magic of Singapore, and Harry Anderson's book, “Wise Guy.” **Tom Kasner and Jeff Smith** donated their Lie Detector Helmet. The bidding got spirited so a second of this popular effect was put on the block. Videos and pamphlets, magic kits and books, all went to the highest bidder. Buyer, seller, and Ring 76 all profited from this entertaining evening.



**In the month of
April, nothing
is certain but**

death, taxes, and

Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order, at 7:00 p.m., by president Julie Dale. All Board members were present as well as past president Gary Schwartzwald.

First order of business was the April meeting. April is the month when Ring dues are payable. The Board briefly discussed raising the dues, and unanimously rejected the idea. The current financial status of the club is sound, the future looks promising, and therefore no need for change was seen. April will also be a chance to update the membership roster. With the collection of dues, members will be asked to confirm names, addresses, and phone numbers. This is important information for communication within the Ring and needs to be updated periodically.

Treasurer Gary Dismukes reported on last month's Swap Meet/ Auction. We made \$20 on table sales with an additional \$149 on auction proceeds.

The April meeting will also feature the lecture talents of "Docc Hilford." According to the information provided, Docc Hilford will teach stage magic, close-up & cards, bizarre magick, mentalism, and children's shows. The Ring provides this lecture and it is free for all members in good standing. Guests and visitors will be charged \$15. Meeting time is 6:30, as usual, with the lecture to start soon after.

The May meeting will feature money magic. Members are encouraged to come and display their favorite coin and paper magic. There are new coins out and the Ring will be interested to see what magicians will do with them. The pre-meeting will feature San Diego's own

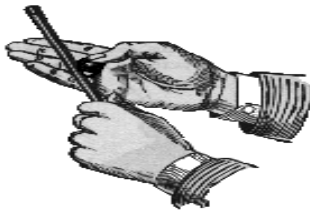
IBM Dues.

That is right master magicians, it is time to renew your membership to "Quality Ring" 76.

Ring dues go to pay for the American Legion Hall, where we have our meetings, they pay for guest lectures and performers, like this month's Docc Hilford, as well as awards, certificates, and the cost of A.C.E.S. This collection of talented young magicians, orchestrated by Rick Bruce, has never failed to entertain, and this will be no exception. Pre-meeting starts at 6:30.

The June meeting will feature our annual Stand-Up Competition. This year the show will be in the big room, at the American Legion Hall, using the fine stage. The board proposed opening this show to members of the American Legion, as a way of thanking them for the use of their building for our meetings. This will be briefly brought up before the membership at April's meeting. Ideas are always welcome from the whole Ring. Ring members in good standing who wish to participate in this year's Stand-Up Competition should notify Dick Dale. One change proposed for this year is in the voting. In the past, it was allowed for all audience members to vote for Stand-Up Performer of the year. This year we will allow only members to vote. This also will be discussed at the April meeting.

The June meeting will also be featuring officer elections. All positions are open, and any member in good standing is encouraged to run. Ring 76 also needs a Nominating Committee.



This group presents the slate of candidates to the membership to be voted on. Those interested in running for office, or being on the nominating

printing and postage for the newsletter you are now holding.

Due can be paid at the door, at this month's meeting, or you can send your dues to **Tom La Chance**.

Ring 76 dues are still only \$20. Less than a tank full of gas. This is the best bargain you will get all year.

committee, or both, should contact president Julie Dale.

July is just around the corner, and will feature our annual Installation Banquet, and awards presentation. As of this meeting, magician Terry Lunceford will provide entertainment.



The last order of business was, for the board, the most gratifying. Ring member Freddie T. Sanchez has

contributed several items for the monthly raffle, and last month's auction. The proceeds raised by these gifts have aided the Ring in all of its business. We all thank you Freddie, and are glad to have you as a member.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next month's Board meeting will be at Gary Dismukes home, April 24, at 7:00pm. As always, all

Board of Directors

members are welcome.

Julie Dale- President
2447 Nielsen Street
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 562-7379
DickDale@juno.com

Tom La Chance- Membership VP
447 Nila Lane
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 441-3747
Magiccat@Hom.com

Dick Dale- Entertainment VP
2447 Nielsen Street
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 562-7379
DickDale@juno.com

Gary Dismukes- Treasurer
10397 Avenida Magnifica

San Diego, CA 92131
(858) 549-8717
dismukes@cts.com

Richard Ustick- Secretary
6040 Bob St.
La Mesa, CA 91942
(619) 463-2407
rustick@flash.net

Ralph Mauzy- Sergeant-At-Arms
P.O. Box 1224
Alpine, CA 91903
(619) 390-7494

Don Soul- Member-At-Large
10068 Branford Rd.
San Diego, CA 92129
(858) 484-3492
McGefty@earthlink.net

Gary Schwartzwald- Past Pres.
6135 Hass St.
La Mesa, CA 91942-4312
(619) 697-9468
gschwartz@Grossmont.k12.ca.us

Breakfast with the Dean of American Magicians

By Jack White

While attending the World Magic Seminar at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas (March 5 to 8th) a group of magicians from Ring 76 invited the Dean of American Magicians, Jay Marshall to join them for breakfast. Jay Marshall recently celebrated his 80th birthday and has spent nearly 65-years of his life in magic. In that time he has appeared on Broadway, edited an independent magic magazine, appeared on the Ed Sullivan TV Show 12-times, operated a successful magic shop in Chicago created a wonderful character and act known as "Lefty" and appeared at almost every magicians convention in the past 45-years. He is a walking encyclopedia of magic and magicians. It was the last morning of the Seminar and to our surprise Jay said he would "love" to join a group of Ring 76er's for breakfast.

Bob Ingalls, Don and Donna Soul, Tom LaChance, a longtime friend of Ring 76 Stan Stabler from Canada my wife and my father in law and myself were joined by the "Dean" Jay Marshall for a conversation about magic, magicians and anything else we wanted to talk about. Jay got things started by giving each of us a one-million dollar bill and a wonderful story about a youngman who really thought it was a million dollars.



When you are at a table in a large restaurant with Jay Marshall you automatically draw attention. The conversation had not gone very far or very long when one of the legends of magic John Calvert approached our group and said hello to Jay. I have known John and invited him and his wife Tammy to join us, which they eagerly did. I could not help but remember a night 44-years earlier when I was just a teenager and borrowed my father's car to drive 60-miles in a blinding fog from Oceanside to Long Beach to see the John Calvert "Evening Of Mystery". I had seen many magic acts but the Calvert show was the first full evening of magic I had ever witnessed.

John began reminiscing with Jay Marshall about one of the last times they had been together. They were both in London and John had a show to give and could not find the right kind of thread to present his famous "Dancing Handkerchief" routine. So as the story was told the two of them took off looking for thread. They found it in a small novelty store near a prominent Pub where they were forced to stop and take refreshment.

Calvert told us about his days touring the world with his magic show he estimates he has presented his full evening magic show ten-thousand times. His performing time on stage was cut down in the 1940's because he was busy making movies in Hollywood. He told us that he only had 12-weeks away from the studio every year in those days and he would spend most of that time on his yacht and his next port of call was the location of his next magic show.



John Calvert is 88 years young. He is touring the country giving a lecture on his style of magic. He presented a lecture for the Las Vegas Society of American Magicians immediately following the World Magic Seminar. Those in

real thing. Calvert talked about one of the features of his show "seeing with his finger tips." Blindfold methods that had been taught to him when he was just a young college student by Dr. Harlan Tarbell.

MagiCurrents is published monthly by

Marshall and Calvert laughed about their mistakes on stage and television and in shows around the world. But they never blamed anyone but themselves for their blunders. During our breakfast they never once criticized a fellow magician or belittled another performer. They told jokes on each other and on themselves, but never a harsh word about anyone else. They are true gentlemen.

At one point in the breakfast Calvert wanted to show the group a trick. He asked me to stand up, it took me a moment or two to realize why everyone was laughing. John had stolen my wrist watch and was proudly displaying it over my shoulder. He did it three times during breakfast and I can truthfully tell you two of those times I had no idea it was missing the third time I had a feeling it was about to go but never felt it leave my wrist. John Calvert is still a master showman.

the audience included Nani Darnell-Wilson. She went to work in the Calvert show as a box jumper when she was 17-years old. Her husband Mark Wilson stood up in the audience and said he has been making a living for years off of every thing his wife learned from John Calvert.

So here we were having breakfast with two of the legends of the magic world. They freely discussed their methods of effectively doing magic. Jay fondly remembered the late Skipper Frank Herman and talked about Houdini. Jay does an exact copy of Houdini's autograph. Jay told us he always does it with a ball point pen that way it can't be confused with the

DOCC HILFORD

KIDZ, KARDZ AND KILLER PRESENTATIONZ

Hit the road with someone who actually makes his living as a full time pro!

You'll Learn:

- ▼ STAGE MAGIC
- ▲ CLOSE-UP & CARDS
- ◆ BIZARRE MAGIC
- ▲ CHILDREN SHOWS
- ✖ MENTALISM

Docc has authored **23 original magic books** and videos. He is the editor of **The New Invocation**, the oldest international bizarre magick magazine in the world!

You'll Learn:

- ▼ STAGE MAGIC
- ▲ CLOSE-UP & CARDS
- ◆ BIZARRE MAGIC
- ▲ CHILDREN SHOWS
- ✖ MENTALISM

"You give them the good stuff!"
Teller - Penn & Teller

"...truly marvelous..."
Marvin Roy - Mr. Electric

"Your material is brilliant!"
Harry Blackstone Jr.

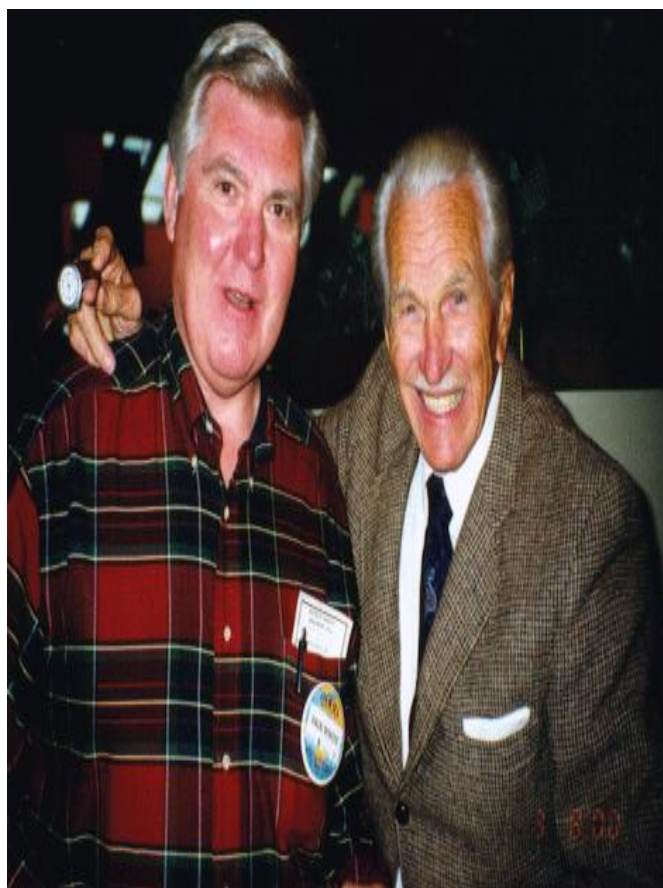
"clear, easy and direct material"
Karol Fox - King of Kohn

Docc has traveled with:

- ✈ Alice Cooper
- ✈ Tammy Wynett
- ✈ Gallagher
- ✈ Willie Nelson
- ✈ IBM Corp
- ✈ H&R Bloch
- ✈ Bank One

MONDAY
APRIL 10
6:30 PM

WHERE:
American Legion Hall



I have learned all kinds of tricks, routines, and patter at magicians conventions over the years but I have never had the pleasure of sitting down with a couple of true legends in magic and been able to have a conversation with them about being a magic performer. For myself and the others at the table that Wednesday morning it was more than just another breakfast at a magicians convention, it was an exciting event.

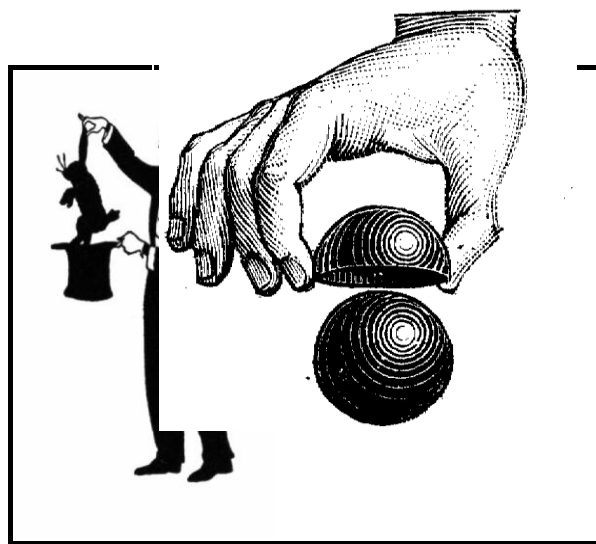
The lesson being the next time you are in a group of magicians and you want to get to know them a little better. Invite them to breakfast it will probably turn out to be a breakfast you will never forget. Especially if you can get the Dean Of American Magicians to join you. You never know who else might show up at your table.

MagiCurrents welcomes articles, pictures, news and artwork from all members of Ring 76, members of the IBM, and magicians with a point of view. Material can be submitted by mail, in person, or by e-mail to rustick@flash.net.

Letters and articles may be edited for space, and become the property of MagiCurrents.

Ring 76 Presents

This is a free lecture for all Ring members in good standing. Non-members and guest are welcome, and admission is only \$15.



May is Money Magic Month!

Bring all your Coin and currency conjuring to share with fellow magicians

Demonstrate your skills with Eisenhowers, Kennedys, and Sacagaweas
Monday, May 8

The Ring 76 Stand-Up Competition is coming in June!

This year's show will be on the big stage at the American



bers in good standing can for the title of e Year." This year we will be Mesa Chapter of the American watch the show. ne competition please contact k Dale.

Upcoming Events

April 10

Dues Due

Pre-Meeting: Dues collection 6:30 pm
Meeting Theme: **Docc Hilford Lecture**
Board Meeting 4/24 at the home of Gary Dismukes 7:00pm

May 8

Pre-Meeting: **ACES showcase** 6:30pm
Meeting Theme: **Money Magic**
Board Meeting 5/22 at the home of Julie Dale 7:00pm

June 12

Pre-Meeting: **Election of Officers** 6:30pm
Meeting Theme: **Stand-Up Competition**
Board Meeting 6/28 at the home of



Richard Ustick 7:00pm

April 2000

Volume XIV No. 4

MagiCurrents

6040 Bob St.

La Mesa, CA 91942