



# MagiCurrents

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XIV No. 8 August 2000

## Collector Photo Issue!

### Message from the President

**Julie Dale**

Hello to the new year.

First of all thank you very much for the support that you have shown for this year's Board of Directors. I think that we will have a very exciting year. The installation banquet surveys overwhelmingly indicated that our ring would like to have another area of competition. We would like to ensure that the membership agrees that we are moving in the right direction for our ring, so at this August Meeting we will provide the survey one more time.

The first of the year as your Board, we are previewing and planning upcoming events, ideas, and lecturers which we feel most likely that we will have a fruitful and rewarding year. I would like to charge each one of you to have that same fruitful year. Identify one trick and master it. That's it! Identify it, rehearse it, audition it, practice it, revise it, perform it. Let's get the new year on it way.

Magically,

## July Banquet A Feast for all

For Ring 76, July is a monumental month. It is when we have our annual Installation/ Awards Banquet. A time when we swear in our new officers, and present the awards earned over the previous year. It is also a time when we see the largest attendance, dine on fine cuisine, and enjoy quality entertainment.

The banquet was held in the big hall of the La Mesa chapter of the American Legion. The Mexican buffet was also provided by this fine organization. The table decorations consisted of a giant card, with a flower centerpiece provided by **Gary Schwartzwald**, flanked by a Cups and Balls set on one side, and a top hat with either a dove or a rabbit on the other. Wands, rings, strings, and assorted cards (single and double faced) topped off the decor, with magic theme confetti filling in the blanks. All the decorations were fully functional, and magicians used them freely during the social hour to entertain

### July Meeting

Continued from page 1

The next order of business was the presentation of awards. Over the year Ring 76 has a number of contests and theme nights. The membership and contestants must wait until the Awards Banquet to find out the winners of these events.

The first presentations were the Certificates of Participation. All Ring members who took part in the Close-up and Stand-up contests received this certificate provided by **Ralph Mauzy**. Next came the presentation of awards. The winner of the January Close-up competition was **Terry Godfrey**. The winner of June's Stand-up competition was **Bryan McDaniel**. The award for Entertainer of the Year, the magician who received the most votes, over all, for all performances for the year, went to **Michael Feldman**. The Next presentation was for Member of the Year. Each year the membership votes for that member who has, through their efforts and dedication, improved the quality of Ring 76. This year that award went to secretary **Richard Ustick**. Finally a special Certificate of Appreciation was presented to **Cristina Ustick**. Though not a member of Ring 76, it is through her efforts of folding, stapling, and addressing, that the monthly newsletter, MagiCurrents, makes it out on time to all the members and guests.

After the business meeting came the fun and entertainment for the evening. This year we had the pleasure of watching **Terry Lunceford**, and his "unique approach to magic." Terry started with a pleasant three ring routine. Next he called member **Don Soul** and regaled him with a story of six card repeat. Then perpetual volunteer, **Lyn Javier**, aided Terry with Chinese rice paper vanishes and she called upon **Marcus Day** to help Mr. Lunceford with his egg bag routine. Arms instructor **Charles Norris** failed to be a crack shot as he attempted to use a gun to find a chosen card placed on a small table. The card was finally found, but the table was worse for the experience. Finally the lovely **Dawn McDaniel** tried to overcome her fear of snakes as she worked with a small basket, a chosen card, and a ten foot anaconda, both of which jumped 20 feet before the trick was through.

A good time was had by all.

the many guests. Our thanks to **Richard Ustick**, his son **Alex**, and daughter **Cristina**, for providing these appropriate table decorations.

After dinner, President **Julie Dale** took the microphone and presided over the award ceremony. The first order of business was the presentation of the out going Board of Directors. At the end of their term, the Ring shows it's appreciation by presenting each officer with a plaque. The next order of business was the presentation of the new Board of Directors and their swearing in by IBM territorial VP, Dick Dale. This year the President elect will be **Julie Dale**. **Dick Dale** will be the new Vice-president of Membership and **Tom La Chance** will be the new Vice-president of Entertainment. **Richard Ustick** was re-elected as Secretary, and **Gary Dismukes** will continue as Treasurer. **Don Soul** was elected as Sergeant-at-Arms and **Ralph Mauzy** will be the new Member-at-Large.

### See July Meeting, Page 2

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by president Julie Dale. Ralph Mauzy sent his regrets, past president Gary Schwartzwald attended, and all other board members were present.

The first order of business was the results of the survey conducted during the installation banquet. Of the membership present, sixteen forms were returned. Three new ideas for meeting themes were Ladies Only magic, Platform Magic, and Book Reviews. For guest lecturers for the Ring, Mac King, Michael Amar, and Steve Valentine were heavily suggested. These will be taken under consideration by the board, and will be reflected in the new year's schedule of events. It was also noted that sixteen responses was not a fair representation of the Ring membership. The board decided to hold another survey during the August meeting. All members are encouraged to participate in the survey or express their opinions to a board member by the August meeting.

The current survey listed Rope and String magic as the number one interest for pre-meeting events. This was followed by cards, coins, reviews of current videos, paper magic, selling events, lecture by a member, and favorite tricks. For the actual meeting theme, the Close-up contest, Stand-up contest, and comedy magic came in at the top of the list, with favorite tricks, selling events, cards, coins, rope and string, lectures, and dealer nights. In view of the limit of this information, the board decided to restrict the future meeting schedule until the second survey.

Loch David Crane came to the board to discuss this year's magic week at the Villa Montezuma. He is proposing magic entertainment, by Ring 76 members, Saturday, October 28. Reasonably priced tickets will be sold to the magic performances with profits being divided between the Ring, the Historical Society, and Villa Montezuma. Additional monies may be generated with the sale of refreshments. The board showed interest in this proposal and asked Loch to present it to the membership at the August meeting.

Julie Dale reported that the American Legion hall has been secured for the foreseeable future.

Pending the results of the August survey, a limited schedule was formulated for the next few months. August's pre-meeting will feature several video previews. The meeting theme will be "My Favorite Trick." Members are encouraged to bring and perform the tricks they particularly like. September will feature a surprise pre-meeting teach it, with Rope and String magic as the meeting

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## Board Meeting

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submitting an original trick, or an original spin on an old favorite, should contact Dick Dale or Tom La Chance. Format for the tricks will be published in the newsletter.

With no further business, the meeting was

magic week is coming, and the Villa Montezuma will  
 am play host to conjuring events. Each needs

**Loch David Crane Needs You!**  
 performers and staff to make this a profitable event

for Ring and art.

More details at the August meeting.

theme. Other than the December Holiday banquet, the July installation banquet and the April's dues and guest lecture, the rest of the calendar is plastic.

Richard Ustick re-introduced the idea of producing a



calendar for Ring 76. The idea is to have a special calendar for the new millennium (2001), featuring both the greats of magic and Ring 76 members. Don Soul and Richard Ustick will research the project and put together format and budget ideas. This will be presented to the membership, and decided by the board.

Dick Dale brought up the idea of submitting a "Hocus Pocus Parade," for the Linking Ring. Members who would be interested in



adjourned. The next meeting will be held at the home of Tom La Chance, on August 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. As always, all members are welcome to attend.

## July's Installation Banquet

Gary Dismukes, his wife, and guests



Ring 76 says good-bye to outgoing board members  
board members

Ring 76 says hello to newly elected

year's Ring 76

Michael      Terry  
Feldman      Godfrey



The winners of this  
Competitions

Dick              Bryan  
Richard  
Dale              McDaniel  
Ustick

**More**

**Pictures**

**from the Installation Banquet**

Table decorations were lovely and functional

Ring member Jack White entertains young  
Alex Ustick with a classic of magic



Terry Lunceford  
provided dazzling after dinner entertainment

## The King in Vegas and Hot Rod

by Gary Schwartzwald

*MagiCurrents will always be pleased to offer opinions and  
information  
from it's readers and other members of the magic community -Ed.*



Ann, Julie, Jacob, and I woke up early to start our week long vacation with a drive to Las Vegas. The drive was easy and we went straight to Harrah's to get some lunch and see if we could get tickets to the one o'clock Mac King show. Our timing worked out well. We purchased the \$11 tickets, had a good lunch, and then went in to see the show. We ended up with front row seats. Mac King strolled out, said "Howdy, I'm Mac King", and the fun began. He was dressed in a suit he claimed used to be his grand fathers suit, and before that it was his grandmothers sofa. From the look of it, that could be true. He did a variety of simple magic tricks that carried well. He did a cleverly presented cut and restored rope routine that led into a rope routine similar to Aldo Colombini's *Tight Rope*. King also did a variety of card tricks including a cards across routine. One card trick included a signed card to pocket. The helping spectator signed the back of the card, which comically, made it quite easy to find in the deck. The card, as well as a Fig Newton, showed up in Mac Kings pocket, shoe, and behind his zipper. He did an excellent job keeping the audience involved and laughing. His use of tag lines such as "Howdy, I'm Mac King", and "You betcha", got bigger laughs each time. There is a lot to learn from Mac King. He instantly made friends with the audience, handled all tricks smoothly, used tag lines repeatedly for a bigger laugh each time, and used laughter as misdirection. I guess it is not that hard to get away with palming a card if everyone is laughing. He dressed in a style that worked for him, but was unique from the typical Las Vegas magicians' black leather pants. Really, would you want to see Mac King in black leather pants? After the show Mac King was in the lobby selling and signing t-shirts. Again, he was easy going and continued to win everyone over. He signed jumbo cards for Julie and Jacob and a playing card for me. Yes, all three cards were kings. Clever aye? We had our picture taken with Mac King, the best magic deal in Las Vegas and then went to check in at the Jockey Club.

By not planning ahead, I ended up borrowing a deck of jumbo cards from Dick Ustick. Upon returning to San Diego I knew I needed to repay Dick Ustick a deck of jumbo cards. I went to Brad Burt's where I received my usual treatment (don't ask) and ran into ex-ACES T dot J dot and Rodney. They had just gotten back from a parade (go ahead and ask). They were both out going and friendly and seem to be doing well in college and in life. Rodney treated us to a high quality card routine. He is very good; yes his card work is hot. It is always a

pleasure to see these ACES and to see magic in a magic shop. The next day we went to the Magic Shop in Seaport Village to see if they had a deck of jumbo cards in stock. There their counter man (Gary) showed us a few excellent coin tricks and then showed a few card tricks he was working on. The card tricks were from The Royal Road to Card Magic, which he promptly sold to a customer interested in card magic. By the way, The Seaport Village Magic Shop does offer IBM members a substantial discount.

MagiCurrents is published monthly by

*MagiCurrents welcomes articles, pictures, news, and art work from all members of Ring 76, members of the IBM, and magicians with a point of view. Material may be submitted by mail, in person, or by e-mail to rustick@flash.net. Materials may be edited for space and content, and become the property of MagiCurrents.*

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

Membership Questions should be sent to the club treasurer, Gary Dismukes.

All Ring 76 members must be members in good standing with the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

Articles, contributions, and letters should be sent to: MagiCurrents

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## Remembering Frank Herman:

By Jack White



Most of us remember Frank Herman as “Skipper Frank” from the famous kid’s television show on KTLA (Channel 5, Los Angeles) in the 1960’s. But Frank was known for his magic long before that television show. The photograph on this page was taken

I remember a Sunday afternoon about 1982, at his little magic shop on Mission Avenue in Oceanside. The shop was closed but Frank spotted me looking in the window and opened the door and invited me in to look around. He still had some of his hearing abilities and his health was reasonably good for what he had

been through. There was some “invisible thread” on the counter that he had been working up a routine with, he told me he always thought the Magic Mouse or Running Mouse, as some referred to it, was one of the best pitch items he had ever seen for magicians.

Frank then produced a freshly printed set of instructions, at the top of the page it read “Instructions for Twisty”. “Have you ever seen Twisty?” Frank asked, I said no I hadn’t and knew I was about to get a demonstration. He told me that more and more magicians were discovering the income-rewarding fields of restaurant and party walk around entertaining. Then he added that Twisty was an ideal profit making item for magicians and that his instruction sheets would give me the inside information.

Twisty was a little colorful caterpillar like creature with cute eyes and operated very much like the Magic Mouse with a piece of invisible thread. But Twisty had more personality and could do a lot more tricks; in Frank’s hands the little piece of fabric and plastic came to life and was most entertaining. In those days you could purchase a dozen of the Twisty creatures with a quantity of invisible string and instructions for about 55 cents a piece and sell them for \$2-dollars. Frank was selling them in his shop, at swap meets and when he worked close-up magic in restaurants.

I purchased the instructions and a dozen Twisty sets and practiced for a while mostly for my own amusement and then forgot about that pleasant afternoon in Franks shop and the cute little worm that could do “101 tricks or your money back”, that was part of Franks patter.



About eight months later I was in Germany working on a television program called “San Diego Goes To War” a documentary about World War II. My crew needed a little break from work so we decided to take a walk around the streets of Berlin.

We had only gone a few blocks when I found a pitchman working on a busy sidewalk. He was pitching “Twisty” and he was selling them by the dozens. But even more interesting to me, this street-smart salesman was using Franks routine and patter.

As the assembled crowd would laugh I would ask our interrupter to tell me what the pitchman said, and he was delivering Frank’s jokes word for word from the patter sheet Frank had sold me months earlier.

“What do you do with Twisty when he’s one year old? You wish him a Happy Birthday!” Right out of Frank’s instruction sheets.

I once again was reminded that in magic it is a small world and what started out here in San Diego County could be seen half way round the world on a street corner in another language. As soon as I returned to



San Diego I went up to see Frank and show him the above photograph and tell him the story. A big smile crept across his face and then he said: "I told you it was a good money making effect, do you want to buy another dozen or so?" He never was a person to let a potential sale pass him buy.

### Attention Ring 76 Members!

~~October's Ring meeting will feature a lecture by the~~  
talented **Martin Lewis**. Mr. Lewis, an engaging Englishman with long tapered fingers ideal for the performance of his art, has spent his entire life involved with prestidigitation. Martin has performed his feats of illusion and magic throughout the world.

This is a **free lecture** for all Ring 76 members in good standing. Guests are welcome with an admission fee of \$15 a head.

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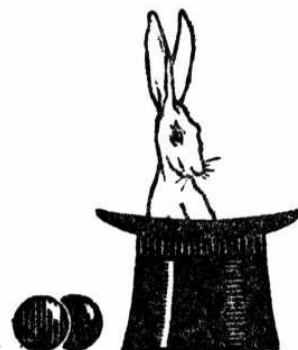
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s



**Bryan McDaniel -**

Stand-up performer of the Year

**Terry Godfrey-**

Close-up performer of the Year

**Michael Feldman-**

Entertainer of the Year

**Richard Ustick-**

Member of the Year

A hearty hand from Ring 76

survey, and let the Board know what you want in your Ring.

The year is rapidly drawing to a close. The new year will be upon us. How will you keep track of all the dates? How about a magic calendar from Ring 76. At the next

meeting the Board will present ideas for a Ring 76 calendar filled with magical and practical information. But we need your input. Come August 14 and tell us what you think.

The August meeting will feature a survey of Ring 76 members. This survey will help the Board direct Ring activities for the coming year. Attend, fill out a

Should Ring 76 submit a Parade to Linking Ring? Do you have an original effect or a new take on classic one? Would you like to share this with the magical community. Come discuss this idea at the next meeting, August 14.

## Magic in the News

### **SIEGFRIED AND ROY MEET GOD AND THE DEVIL**

(8/8/00)

Siegfried and Roy are the latest guests on Entertaindom's animated game show "The God and Devil Show." The four minute long animated parody presents satorical humor at the

expense of Siegfried and Roy then gives the viewer an opportunity to vote on whether they should be sent to Heaven or to Hell. God says, "These guys don't know anything about magic! They just have tigers!"

### **GLOBAL ENCOUNTER**

(8/7/00)

In an article from the Sacramento Bee entitled "David Copperfield still the grand illusionist," the newest illusion "the Global Encounter" is described in detail. It also begs the question, has Copperfield made his job more difficult by delivering grand illusion after grand illusion. How

do you continue to improve upon the impact of your performance if you have levitated over the Grand Canyon and made the Statue of Liberty disappear?

"Perhaps Copperfield has backed himself into a corner, creating massive illusion upon massive illusion until there is nowhere to go that is not anticlimactic. Perhaps he should go into the political arena. Can he make Saddam Hussein disappear? Animate Al Gore? Prestidigitate an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord? We can dream."

### WYRICK VIDEO (8/7/00)

Soon to open a new show at the Sahara, magician Steve Wyrick is scheduled to video a segment to be used as an opener for the new production. On Tuesday, Las Vegas-based Century Productions will film the magician as he drives a Lamborghini and a motorcycle past the "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign on the Strip. Discussing his new gig at the Sahara, Wyrick said, "This is the gig I've been waiting for since I arrived here. They're giving me a brand new theater with a full-blown proscenium arch and complete fly system. We're going to be able to do some massive new illusions." The Sahara will build a retractable-roof showroom to provide clearance for a hovering helicopter illusion.

### MELINDA REBORN (8/4/00)

The Las Vegas Review Journal introduces us to an all new Melinda in an article entitled, "Melinda updates her

magic show for Venetian run." In the article, Mike Weatherford says, "The Melinda show comes back to town with a brassy, stylish look, fresh music and energetic staging, yet somehow doesn't sacrifice the sweetness." Brother David Saxe produces the new show with Gary Oulet acting as director. In addition to the standard illusions and cabinet effects, Melinda has incorporated a number of audience interaction segments. Juggler Anthony Gatto is a welcome holdover from the old days. He originally joined Melinda when her show appeared at the Landmark.

result, the sleepy hamlet more than doubled in size for one week each year as the magic faithful head to town. Abbott's employee/magician Gordon Miller is quoted in the article saying, "The basic attraction at the Get-Together is that it is all the other magic performers in the area. It is a little town and that's the charm of it." Among the featured performers is Rich Bloch, Ken Groves, Rick W., Todd Robbins, Jeff McBride and Pavel.

### VIOLENT ART (8/3/00)

Penn and Teller return to the Hollywood Theater at the MGM Grand today for a 9 PM show. In an article appearing in the Las Vegas Review Journal, an encounter between the magic duo and comedian Marty Allen is described in which Penn Jillette is quoted saying, "We don't believe there can be art without violence." Though Allen did not seem to know how to react to such a statement, it is obvious that it is a formula that Penn and Teller have found successful.

### MAGIC CAPITOL (8/3/00)

From our convention calendar it is easy to see that it is time for the annual Abbot's Get-together in Colon, Mi. You can also get more info from the Abbott's web site or from an article appearing in Michigan Live. The Magic Capitol of the World, Colon Michigan has hosted the convention since 1934 when it was started by magician Percy Abbott. As a

*These, and other items of interest, can be found on The Linking Page . . . "where magic and the internet come together"*  
<http://www.linkingpage.com>

## Upcoming



## Events

August 14

August Meeting,  
6:30

Pre-Meeting

American Legion Hall  
Video

Previews

7:00 Meeting Theme: My Favorite Trick

Board Meeting 8/28 at the home of  
Tom La Chance

August's

September 11

September Meeting, American Legion Hall

6:30 Pre-Meeting Surprise Teach-in

**Trick**

show it to

friends at Ring 76!

7:00 Meeting Theme: Rope & String Magic  
Board Meeting 9/25 at the home of

Julie Dale

Meeting Theme is

**My Favorite**

Bring that gem you have  
always loved, and

All you

**August 2000**

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