



MagiCurrents

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XV No. 2 February 2001

Don Soul Seeks Job of Ring 76 President

Don Soul active member of Ring 76 and current member of the Board of Directors announced he would actively pursue the job of ring president when the current term of office expires in July 2001.



Don has been around magic all of his life. As a youngster he can remember sitting with his sister and watching their father practice billiard ball manipulations in front of a mirror. Don's father was an artist, played the guitar and organ but most of all enjoyed entertaining with magic.

During that period of his life Don had a mild interest in magic but never actually became interested in magic as a hobby.

When his father died Don inherited a box of magic props and books. They were left on a shelf in the garage to gather dust for years. Then two things happened to spark Don's interest in magic.

At a restaurant in Kearny Mesa a magician by the name of Brandon Scott came by the table and did the "Chop Cup" and a "Sponge Ball" routine. Everyone at the table was amazed and very entertained. Don told his friends he knew those tricks they were things his father had done.

About the same time Uri Geller was making the rounds of the television talk show circuit and amazing audiences with his mental magic. Don also knew how Uri did some of his tricks. So he got his dad's box of props off of the shelf and began to practice his magic.

See **Don for President**, page 5

Letter's To The Editor: What's Due:

Once again the Board of Directors are wrestling with what to charge members in the form of dues in the coming year. Some believe the dues should be raised to \$25.00 a year others want to keep the dues at \$20 per year.

I am against raising the dues to \$25 and instead strongly support and urge the board to raise the dues to \$36 a year. Before you start screaming and yelling please hear my reasoning for this increase.

For your money Ring 76 offers strong monthly meetings. Each member is given an opportunity to participate, perform and improve his or her skills. You are given free two quality lectures and several special lectures at a reasonable additional cost. There are special meetings like the holiday buffet with professional entertainment. The installation banquet again with professional entertainment.

There are two contests each year with awards. The ring is publishing a quality newsletter with new useful information. There are awards, shows and special programs. Opportunities to learn and become better magicians. Is all of this not worth paying \$3-dollars per meeting? That's what the annual dues of \$36.00 per year amounts to.

We have a national IBM Convention coming to San Diego. Lets prove to the rest of the country that Ring 76 is truly a strong ring and magic is alive and well in San Diego.

Gary Schwartzwald
Past President Ring 76

The editors of MagiCurrents thank Gary Schwartzwald for this letter and look forward to hearing from other members on the subject of dues and other issues facing the San Diego magic community.

January Meeting

January is comedy month for Ring 76. A time to put away the more serious aspects of our craft, and look at the lighter side.

The pre-meeting featured a panel discussion on the importance of performance and stage craft. Sometimes overlooked by the magician, it is not the trick, but how it is presented that is important.

Dick Dale and **Mike Clickman** led an informative review of basic stage directions, the importance of being reviewed before you perform, and presenting yourself as well as the effect. Magic is more than just doing tricks, and this brief lecture reminded us of that.

Julie Dale called the meeting to order. Treasurer **Gary Dismukes** sent his regrets, but the rest of the Board of Directors were present. Thirty-two members and five guests filled the American Legion hall. **Dick Dale** announced the upcoming lecture by Ali Bongo, and Gary Schwartzwald announced that Falkenstein and Willard have been signed to preform at July's installation banquet.

The next order of business was the audition of new members. It is Ring 76's policy that all new members must audition before the group. Tonight' auditioners were **Tom McCarthy** and **Bob Matchinske** (with his lovely assistant Cheryl Boyd). Tom dazzled us with a Monty effect with blank cards, then again with queens, while Bob start off with a cut and restored string, went to cards manufactured by the Otis elevator corporation, and finished with a flashy billiard ball routine set to the best music available a kazoo. Both performers received bounding applause and unanimous acceptance

With that, the business meeting was closed and the magic portion art of the evening could begin.

Baffing Bill Cody started the show by calling up **Richard Ustick** and **Jamie Henkin**. A card was selected and amount of that card was magically transported from Jamie's hand into Richard's. Cody then took an Indian knife (with Norwegian blade), stabbed it into a deck, and removed the chosen card. **Dennis Filangeri**, whose Indian name is "Dances with pasta," presented a king and queen card transposition set to rhyme. The patter in verse enhanced an already well honed performance.

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Bryan McDaniel called upon Julie Dale to assist him in a baffling card trick with a well trained rabbit puppet. **Greg Wauson** started with a good opening remark, then with the help of **Jeff Smith** demonstrated his version of Martin Lewis' "cardiographic." In Greg's version the pack is drawn, then handed to the spectator to find the chosen card. An inside joke any magician would find amusing. **Tom Kassner** called **Charlie Norris** up to the front of the room to pick a card. A larger card was held up, back to the audience, and a young lady was asked to use her "psychic" powers to guess the value of Charlie's card. A mysterious pattern of lights formed on the back of the large card aiding the prediction. **Bob Pozner** finished the evening of comedy magic with a routine culled from every magic bar in San Diego.

As always the talents of Ring 76 were well represented. Next month will be the annual Close-up Competition. All members are invited to enter.

Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00, in the home of Secretary Richard Ustick. Ralph Mauzy sent his regrets, all other board members and Gary Schwartzwald were present.

The first order of business was the 2002 national IBM convention. Julie Dale reports that it has been decided that the convention will be held here in San Diego. Details, such as the date, will be announced later. Ring 76 will stand to profit from the convention. As the host ring we will make money from the ad sales in the program.

The next meeting, February, will be featuring the annual Close-Up competition. All members who are interested in participating should contact Tom La Chance.

The March meeting will be the annual swap meet and auction. Members will only be charged \$10 a table to sell their wares. The auction will be held after the swap meet. Richard Ustick will be this year's auctioneer. All members who wish to auction their magic are welcome to do so. The only fee is to donate an item to be auctioned for the benefit of the ring. You do not have to participate in the swap meet to auction your items.

The April meeting will feature dues collection and guest lecture. The lecturer is still to be determined. The theme for the May meeting will be paper magic, with a video to be shown at the pre-meeting. June will host the annual Stand-Up contest. All members in good standing are welcomed to perform. July will feature the Installation banquet. Falkenstein and Willard have been confirmed as performers for this year's banquet and it will be held at the American Legion Hall.

The next order of business was the current financial condition of Ring 76. Treasurer Gary Dismukes has reported that, due to unusual monetary burdens, the treasury is very low. The exact figure is not know as the latest bank statement was not available, and receipts from the last raffle were yet to be deposited. One solution for the problem was to increase membership dues. On a vote of 6-1 this idea was tabled for discussion with the Ring at the next meeting. Gary Schwartzwald will write an editorial for the newsletter outline the reasons

why a dues increase is in the best interest of the Ring.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on February 26th, at the home of Gary Dismukes. As always, all members are welcome to attend.

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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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Mike Klicman Gives Mini-Lecture to Ring:

Actor-magician and longtime Ring 76 member Mike Klicman gave a quick lecture on stage deportment at the January meeting. Aided by Dick Dale the two men talked about many important points on presenting yourself and your magic during a mini-lecture. In his free spirited way Mike answered many questions from members in an informative and humorous manner.

Mike has spent the past nine years living in Hollywood and has worked in many popular television sit-com's and dramatic programs. He was also employed at the Magic Castle and has a solid background in magic.

Recently Mike and his new bride returned to San Diego County. Joining Klicman at the January meeting was another special guest Cameron who has a large illusion show and for the past five years has been working cruise ships.

Cameron's touring has been cut short because of an illness in his family. He plans to spend the next several months working here in the Southern California area. Known by just one name "Cameron" was joined at the meeting by his attractive assistant Jamie Beth Henin.

In the late 1980's Cameron was the featured act at two major fundraisers for Ring 76. He did his large illusion show that included three assistants. Mike Klicman was the stage manager on both of those Ring 76 shows.

Both Mike Klicman and Cameron are respected professional performers and it is hoped they will be regular guests at future Ring 76 meetings because both men have much to contribute.



Left Mike Klicman, Jamie Beth Henin & Cameron. Three guests at the January meeting.

Two New Members Audition in January

Closeup Month

This year's Ring 76 Closeup Competition is this Monday, February 12.

All members are encouraged to step up and show off their legerdermain.

February is

Tom McCarthy and Bob Matchinske auditioned before the Ring 76 membership prior to the start of the January meeting. After their performance both men were accepted into the ring with an over whelming "yes" vote.



Left: Bob Matchinske, his assistant Cheryl Boyd and Tom McCarthy.

Tom McCarthy a longtime radio & TV broadcaster and member of Brad Burt's Magic Shop staff presented a very beautiful version of the "Virginia City Shuffle" card routine.

Next came Bob Matchinske who brought along a female assistant Cheryl Boyd. The highlight of Bob's audition was accompanying himself on a kazoo like horn and doing a very nice multiplying billiard ball routine.

Our congratulations to both of these new IBM Ring 76 members.

Ali Bongo Lecture Draws Big Crowd:

A special mid-January lecture by Britain's most beloved magic character Ali Bongo drew 32-magicians from throughout Southern California.

We learned that Ali's real name is William Wallace and he is a direct descendent of William Wallace the Scottish Conquer of the 17th Century.

Ali presented a variety of routines and effects in his two and a half-hour lecture.

"The Happy Medium" was a clever mental routine with cards and a shopping bag. "Chung Ling Hoo-Dini" is a very baffling ring on string. He showed those in attendance a very unique Karrell Fox wrist tie that is impromptu and quite entertaining. There were 16-tricks and routines in the lecture.

The most enjoyable part of the evening however were the very interesting stories he told about working in dozens of shows and his creative efforts with other magicians on television.



(Three longtime friends. Left to right, Jack Evans, Ali Bongo and Jim Swoger)

In the audience were two longtime friends of Ali Bongo's, Oceanside magician Jack Evans who brought a large group from Riverside County to the lecture. Also in the front row was veteran magic dealer, inventor, manufacturer and magician Jim Swoger also from Oceanside. Jim celebrated his 83rd Birthday on January 26th and his 77th year in magic.

On January 10th of this year, the magic community lost another of its members. It is always sad when a friend departs, but it is a greater loss



when that departure goes without notice. It is the policy of *MagiCurrents*, whenever possible, to take a moment and recognize the life of a magician, through the words of those who knew them well - ED

Phil The Magnificent Dies

by Jack White

Phil Stagg, better known to his fellow magicians as "Phil the Magnificent" died January 10th, after a long illness that included Leukemia, Cancer and Heart trouble.

Phil served in the U.S. Navy in World War II and saw action in the South Pacific. He retired from the Navy in 1969 after 31 years as a com-missioned officer. Stagg then went to work for the County of San Diego as a Deputy Public Administrator and held that position for 13 years. He and his wife Helen grew up living across the street from each other and enjoyed 55-years of married life.

Phil did not find magic as a hobby until late in life. But once his interest in the art was piqued he became a full-time magic enthusiast. He read books, talked with fellow magicians, watched videotapes and began doing shows for friends and civic groups. He loved to spend time in magic shops doing a close-up trick for anyone that would watch. He was a member of IBM Ring 76 and in his home workshop began building his own stage effects. His changing card under glass was a work of art. As was his color-changing rose routine.

Phil also knew and worked on ideas with magicians Gary Salisbury and Jim Burns. Phil and Jim Burns were longtime friends and spent hours talking magic and working out routines that Jim would perform on his tour of County Fairs. Phil the Magnificent was a comedy magician. But most of all he enjoyed the rewards that performing brings to those who practice magic as a hobby. Even during his illness he took time to practice his sleights and was always coming up with new trick ideas and routines.

Don for President

continued from page 1

He learned some new skills and put together a close-up routine, mostly involving cards. All of this happened about 1978.

Enjoying close-up magic he was always looking to expand his knowledge and he remembered the success that Uri Geller was having with his mental magic. Don purchased a copy of Ted Annemann's "Practical Mental Effects". He immersed himself in the book and created an act featuring mentalism.

About this time he joined the IBM and Ring 76 and he became a member of SAM and the Magic Castle in Hollywood. He now knew the enjoyment his father had experienced years earlier doing magic shows.

Recently Ring 76 members have witnessed Don's alter ego "The Amazing ShamanDon, Mystic Seer" in performance. ShamanDon's brand of magic often times gets more laughs than the surprise of mystery. It is most of all entertaining. ShamanDon has performed at the exclusive Friars Club in Beverly Hills. Actress June Foray was in the audience of

Ali Bongo's lecture was booked by Ring 76, at the last minute and was too late for promoting in the January issue of *MagiCurrents*. Most people were informed of the lecture and the \$15-dollar fee through an aggressive telephone blitz by Don Soul and Jack White.

In a recent letter, Stagg wrote: "I've experienced 12-miracles in my 80-years on earth. If another occurs and I regain my health, God will have blessed me again. But at my age one can not be greedy. I have done my time honorably. I can ask for no more."

Tom Kasner Ring 76 member since 1993, is moving to Altoona, Pennsylvania. He has purchased a three story, seven bedroom house in Altoona and left San Diego in January. High taxes and skyrocketing utility bills are Tom's main reasons for moving out of state. Tom wants to continue to keep in contact with San Diego magicians via e-mail. His address is tkasner@aol.com. We all say good luck Tom and don't forget to pack your winter cloths.

Terry Godfrey, a hard working "pro" from Ring 76, spent much of January booking shows for the next couple of months. During February he will be performing in neighboring Imperial County for several weeks. Working for large groups of children and teenagers can be a real challenge. But Terry is up to it!

Tuesday January 23rd was a full day for magician **Jack Evans**. He entertained seven fellow magicians at his magic room in Oceanside. The visiting group was from Riverside County. They, along with five North County magicians, joined Evans for a trip to San Diego and the **Ali Bongo** lecture. Some of the group then visited Jack White's Magic Museum after the lecture. Some of the visitors said it was like attending a mini-magic convention.

Ring 76er and computer whiz kid **Sumit Dua** says his web site cardmagician.com is doubling in readership every month. In January Sumit received nearly 7-thousand hits. Very soon he is going to be offering magic supplies for sale at discount prices on his site. If you haven't checked out his site do it. You will find some original magic routines and effects on this locally produced magic web page.

Seaport Village Magic Shop reports that since the California energy crisis hit their has been a run on **Atomic Light Bulbs**. **Jay Marshall** picked up the light bulb in Las Vegas and it lit in his hand. He then said; "My name is Jay Marshall one of the better cheaper acts, and I carry my own lights during this period of rolling blackouts." Think about it.

Active Ring 76 member **Loch David Crane** has been accepted as one of ten students at **Jeff McBride's** intensive three-day magic study group at Jeff's home in Las Vegas. The highly touted McBride Workshop series was recently written up in a feature story in *Magic Magazine*. Most of the students for this class are professional or semi-professional and are looking for pointers on making their act better.

a ShamanDon performance and cartoonists Mell Lazarus and Sergio Aragonés have also laughed at the antic's of ShamanDon.

Magic Newline

ShamanDon also won the first annual Ring 76 Stand-Up Performer of the year award.

Don is putting ShamanDon into retirement at least for a while as he moves on to other interests in magic.

Don Soul is now looking ahead to the future of the ring and he is eager to continue its growth and prominence as a local magic organization. He brings a lifetime of magic and appreciation of the art to Ring 76.

From Del Mar **Geno Munari** President of the Houdini Magic Shops of Las Vegas and Southern California announced he had purchased the rights to all of **Bro. John Hamman's** card effects. Bro. John died late last year and a story about him and a few of his card effects are featured in the February issue of *Genii Magazine*. John Hamman's card work is legendary and Munari is hoping to keep that legacy alive by re-issuing the classic work of Bro. John.

Ring 76 member **Len Cardoza** made his first trip to the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas in January and was blown away by the talent and dealers room. He came back to San Diego with many new ideas.

Dick Dale is working to schedule **Gregory Wilson** (*not* Greg Wilson son of magician Mark Wilson) to present a lecture for the ring in late March or early April. Gregory Wilson is from Orange County and his lecture is titled: **"Oh, you are a magician, do something."** He offers advice on how to cover yourself when you don't have your close up case, your coat on, or any other excuse for why you can't do a trick when someone asks. Wilson's lecture is being eagerly received by the magic community and offers something for every type of performer. Watch *MagiCurrents* for the exact date.

Mary Brown advisor to the junior magicians group from Francis Parker School took many notes during the Ali Bongo lecture. She is always looking for effects where her students can make their own props. If you have a pet effect let her know she is always looking for something new.

That very busy San Diego magician **Craig Stone** reports he did shows in Columbia, South Carolina, Raleigh, North Carolina, Charlotte, North Carolina and Jackson Mississippi in late January after returning from four weeks on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. He will be at the Gathering, in Mission Hills for the next few Saturday evenings doing close-up magic, which Craig says, is a nice change from all the stand-up gig's he has been doing around the country recently.

One of Ring 76's younger and more enterprising members **Syd Segal** booked magic legend **Harry Riser** to lecture at Jack White's Magic Museum on February 1st. Riser is famous for his column "The Riser Repertoire" in *MUM Magazine* (Society of American Magicians). The lecture was open to all magicians in the Greater San Diego area. Syd Segal who is a senior in High School is making arraignments to produce a number of other lectures in the near future.

A View from the

Cheap Seats

The Jonah Deck

Trick decks have generally lost their luster among experienced magicians. Undoubtedly, this lack of enthusiasm is caused by too many beginners getting their hands on such decks and murdering the effects, or outright exposing

the methods due to poor handling. What a shame! With the presentation skills of an experienced magician, you should be able to dazzle a crowd with a trick deck and forestall any problems from the spectators by your handling.

With this in mind, I present: THE JONAH DECK! All of you will recognize the Svengali principal at once, of course. The more experienced among you might recognize elements of Ralph Hull's "Pop-Eyed Eye-Popper" and Vernon's "Brainwave Deck." I think that I have a new wrinkle here, combining elements of these three. Get a magic friend to help you (saves money), and make up one of these decks for each of you.

1. Buy two Svengali decks of the same brand but different back colors (i.e., red and blue Bicycle Poker 808s). The red-backed force card should be a black-suited card, and the blue-backed force card should be a red-suited card. The force card will be a Jonah card, or bad luck card, in



the patter, so you might like the Queen of Spades (bad card in game of Hearts), but any card will do.

2. Swap your red force cards with your friend's blue force cards, and swap deck cases. Now each of you has a deck in which the short force cards are one color and the long indifferent cards are the other color. From this point on, I will assume that I am working with the red/force, blue/indifferent deck; if you have the reverse setup from this friendly exchange, just invert the colors in my descriptions below.

3. Apply roughing fluid to the faces of the force cards, and to the backs of the indifferent cards; let dry thoroughly. Apply fanning powder (use

one of the systems that treats each card individually) to the backs of the force cards, and to the faces of the indifferent cards. Using my red force back example, you now have a deck that will appear red-backed when ribbon-spread face-down, and that will show all indifferent cards when ribbon-spread face up. The roughing fluid hides the blue backs and the force cards (thanks to Ralph Hull here, for hiding the force cards in "PEEP"). You are now ready to learn the routine.

Remove your "red" cards from your red case. Ribbon spread the cards backs up, showing the red cards as you begin patterring about the simplest way to choose a card at random. Close up the cards, flip over, and ribbon spread face up: continue patterring about complete random choice of a card, whether the card is chosen face down, face up, or with a simple cut. Close up the cards, and hold them face UP by the sides in your left hand. Have the spectator cut the deck, which he will do by the ends, ensuring that the force card is left lying on the lower half of the cut.

Acting required here! Bemoan the exposed QS (substitute your force card here). "Oh, no! Not the Queen of Spades! Did you have to pick that one? That's my bad luck card! Strange things happen anytime the QS is chosen! I have even considered taking it out of the deck permanently! Here, try again..."

Take the cut from the spectator and replace it on the QS. Flip over the deck face down, and make a few complete cuts by the ends. Flip over the deck face up, and have the spectator cut to a new card. QS again! "I knew it, I knew, I knew it..."

Angrily take the cut portion from the spectator and replace it. Carefully square the cards, as if taking care that the QS does not show up again, and lay them face up on the table. You then cut the deck yourself by the ends: QS again! "ARGGH! Stop that!" Complete the cut so that the QS is on the face of the deck looking up at you.

Remove the QS from the face of the deck and slap it on the table, face down so that the red back shows. Shout to the QS, "Quit looking at me that way!" Flip the cards face down as if preparing to deal, and the blue-backed deck shows! Look wildly back and forth at the red and blue backs. "What happened?" Flip the deck back face up, and replace the QS on its face. Cut again: two QS showing! Complete the cut, and cut again: two more QS showing! Complete the cut, leaving the QS looking up at you from the face of the deck.

Wipe your forehead or rub your eyes with your free hand. Hold the deck in the customary Svengali manner for riffling to show all of the force cards at once, but higher so the blue backs show. Riffle, and nothing but blue backs and QS show! "This can't be happening!" Look wildly around at the spectators, as if seeking help. Flip the deck over face down, and cut, completing the cut. "Finally, some sanity!" you say, as the red-backed card appears. Slap the deck down on the table, and hurriedly ribbon-spread, breathing a sigh of relief as the cards show all red! Close up, flip the deck face up, and ribbon spread to show no QS/all indifferent cards. "Whew! That was a close one! That's all the bad luck I want for today!"

Case the deck, and toss it into your closeup case or jacket pocket, and go into a non-card trick. Or, do a deck switch as spectators freak out and ask to see the deck (I'll discuss deck switches next month!)

Have fun with this, and email me to share any additional thoughts or bits you add to it (jon.hand@n2music.com). Just in case I have actually come up with something new-ish, you have the right to make these up for yourself and a friend, but not to sell them commercially or make them up in bulk. The Jonah deck and this handling are copyright 2001, Jon A. Hand.

Magic Notes from Jack White:

Ring 76 well Represented at World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas



At least fourteen Ring 76 members and San Diego Magicians attended the World Magic Seminar held at the Rio Hotel and Resort in Las Vegas, January 14th to the 17th. This year's event was two months earlier than previous years and held at a new hotel.

There were ten lectures during the four day magic event and three major magic shows in the large Simba Show Room that is currently featuring Penn & Teller in performance. The showroom had assigned theater style seating that is vastly superior to showrooms of the past with dinner tables and hard seats.

Jeff Marcus has attended this event for years and this year decided he would dress in the motif of the opening night party. It was a Mardi Gras theme and Jeff had the party hat the beads and the carnival mask. It turns out Jeff was the only person out of 1300-magicians attending that was in costume.

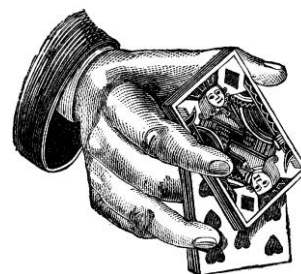
Don Halbach who for many years was a member of Ring 76 before moving to Texas.

There are dozens of top professional magicians attending this event every year. Ralph Mauzy had a sheet of uncut playing cards. He had all the big names at the convention autograph it. Ralph intends to auction the cards and the autographs off at a future Ring 76 event with the proceeds going to the ring. This is will be a golden opportunity to get a truly rare and one of a kind piece of magic memorabilia. Thank you Ralph for putting the rings treasury ahead of personal gain.

Left: former ring 76 member Don Halbach from Texas, Joe Stevens one of the creators of the seminar and Bob Ingalls.

Jeff Marcus dressed in the theme of the first evening party, Mardi Gras.

Bob Ingalls is one of the longtime attendees at this event and was warmly greeted by Joe Stevens, magic dealer and creator of this event. The best part about attending a convention or seminar is meeting old friends like



Ralph Mauzy and Donna Soul holding the sheet of uncut playing cards that have been autographed by some of the greats in magic.

Ralph has names like Penn & Teller, Mark Wilson, Carl Ballentine, Jay Marshall, Lance Burton, Max Mavin the list goes on and on. Joe Stevens told Ralph the autograph's he had obtained were priceless.

One of the highlights of the event is a breakfast with the San Diego group and special invited guests. This year Jack Greenberg and his wife joined our group. Jack is the President of the IBM.

Upper left, Gary Salisbury, Carol Greenberg, Jack Greenberg and Julie Dale.

Jack Greenberg told those gathered around him that only a few minor contracts had to be signed and he could officially announce that San Diego would be the site of the 2002 IBM National Convention. Also joining the San Diego group was Jay Marshall, Dean of American Magicians.



World Magic Seminar

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Another former San Diego magician Steve Bryant who now hails from Bloomington, Indiana and often appears at a popular bar known as "Little Egypt" in Cairo, Illinois joined our group and presented a beautiful version of Robert Neale's "Probability Pack". When he finished the effect he left people shaking their heads in disbelief.

One afternoon Steve invited a group of San Diego magicians up to his room at the Rio to see a special trick involving a bucket of muddy Indiana river water and the selection of three cards. As Steve reached into the bucket of muddy water to find the third card that had been chosen he asked Julie Dale to hold his wrist. Suddenly Steve came up out of the water with a four-foot long snake. Julie Dale is scared to death of snakes.

Left, Julie Dale, right Steve Bryant and a four-foot long snake that just came out of a bucket of muddy water.

Julie truly believes her heart stopped when she saw the snake coming up out of the bucket of muddy water. Dick Dale who knew what was going to happen is lucky he didn't get the bucket of muddy water all over him.

This year there was no one single new trick that swept the convention. That one effect that everyone had to have. Instead there were a variety of smaller tricks and gimmicks that were clever and created moderate interest among local magi.

High points of the seminar were lectures by Johnny Thompson, who is considered the best all around magician in the country. A lecture by Jay



At the other end of the table John Moehring the Associate Editor of Magic Magazine told us that magician and writer John Racherbaumer would be leaving Magic Magazine and would be replaced by several new writers including Joshua Jay the 19-year old magic whiz kid who lectured to Ring 76 last fall.

Lower left, Ralph Mauzy, Don Halbach, Jack White. Lower right Dexter Cleveland, John Moehring, Bob Ingalls.

Moehring also told us the word on the street in Las Vegas was that Siegfried & Roy could stay at the Mirage as long as they wanted to. Their contract expires in two years. They will finish the contract with 8 Sankey who showed us some clever little effects and routines that all of us could perform. Simo Aalto from Finland presented the act he used to win the top close-up prize at FISM. Then he told us how he did everything and what he went through to create this very original magic act.



There was an excellent competition with the top prize being the Siegfried & Roy Lion's Head Award and \$5-thousand dollars in prize money.

shows a week. Then probably make appearances at the Mirage for a month at a time two or three times a year.

Dexter Cleveland is a former San Diegan having grown up in Mission Hills. He now lives in South Carolina and is a successful real estate broker. He has written a dozen books on magic. His latest is the



book on magic money making machines. Most of us are familiar with the little moneymaker that Adams Novelty Company manufactured. But Dexter has found that more than 100-different kinds of money machines have been manufactured since 1899. His latest book talks about the greenback history of moneymakers.

Diane Lane had her video camera with her at all times and managed to round up some famous and some not so famous magicians to interview for her cable TV show.

The two above are former San Diegan's. Tom and Mary Allen, Tom was known as Al Stanko when he was growing up in San Diego and a member of Ring 76. Today he is a working magician and inventor or several new tricks. Tom has been working as a restaurant magician for the past 17-years at Fox & Goose Public House in Sacramento.

Right, Diane Lane, Tom & Mary Allen

See **World Magic Seminar**, page 7

On the junior magicians roster of performers was San Diego's 17-year-old Joel Ward.

They are all winners in the Junior Magicians contest because they get to work on a full stage with lighting and sound in a Vegas casino. Congratulations to Joel for presenting a good act with great magic and excellent showmanship. You made San Diego magicians proud, Joel.

This was one of the better World Magic Seminars and it allows magicians from throughout the world to come together and enjoy each other's talents in a party like atmosphere. Plan to join the fun next year. The event starts on January 13 to the 16th again at the Rio Hotel, Las Vegas.



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Dick Dale-Membership VP

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Richard Ustick- Secretary

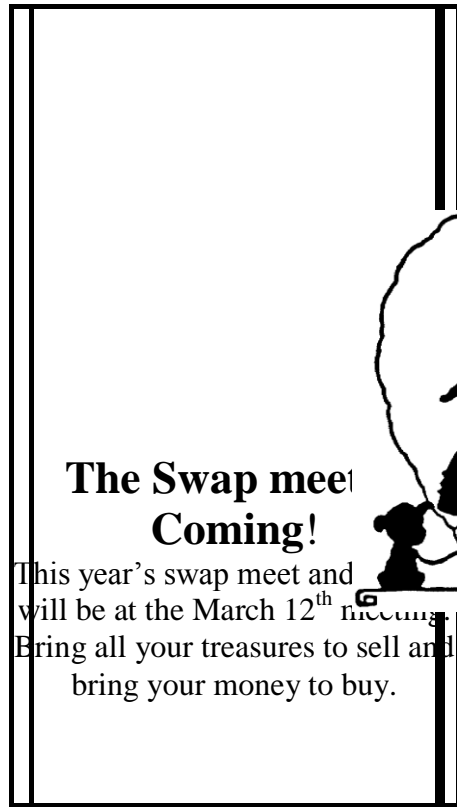
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Board of Directors

Gary Schwartzwald- Past Pres.

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gschwart@Grossmont.k12.ca.us

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 12 | Annual Close-up Competition
Doors open at 6:30 Show starts at 7:00
All members are encouraged to participate
Winner decided by attending members |
| March 12 | Ring 76 Swap meet and Auction
Tables only \$10. Auction fee, donation to Ring
Come to sell or come for the bargains |
| April 9 | Guest Lecture TBA
Ring membership due |
| May 14 | Pre-Meeting Video
Meeting Theme, Paper Magic |



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