



MagiCurrents

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

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Mike Rogers to Lecture to Ring 76 April 9th

Mike Rogers has become one of the most prolific writers in magic today. For years he was a columnist in MUM (Society of American Magicians Magazine). Today he writes a regular online column in Joe Stevens Gemini electronic publication on the internet. His thoughts on his craft often times appear in magazines and journals devoted to magic.

He has criss crossed the country doing corporate magic and trade shows for 25-years. At one time or another he has appeared and lectured at nearly every national magic convention in the country.



Mike is one of those clever people who can put a very different spin on an old trick or take something you have had hidden away in your magic cabinet for years because you couldn't make it work and in Mike's hands turn it into a miracle.

Mike has a million stories about the famous and not so famous in the world of magic. He was a personal friend of the late Dai Vernon and is frequently mentioned in the new Don Allen book "In a Class by Himself."

See Mike Rogers, Page 6

(above: Michael E. Johnson on the left with another prominent professional magician Terry Lunceford at the March ring meeting.)

Michael received a front page write up in the San Diego Business Journal just over a year ago when he performed for the newspaper's annual meeting with their biggest advertisers.

After reading MagiCurrents and listening to reports presented at the past ring meeting Michael wants to help spearhead a program that will help get the ring out of the accountants red ink and on a solvent basis. He is currently working on a project that would involve all of the membership and become a revenue producing effort.

Still working on his plans for what he calls "The San Diego Magic Innovational" he hopes to present his concept to the board and the membership when he has all of his material properly researched and in print.

Board Raises Dues in Difficult Vote

Higher fee rejected in favor of modest increase

The meeting was called to order at 19:10. All board members were present.

The First order of business was once again the dues situation. Ring 76 Constitution requires that any dues increase must be passed by 3/4 of the Board present at the February Board meeting. This was not accomplished. A motion was brought to the floor that the issue be reopened for discussion at the March Board meeting. It was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Gary Dismukes reported that thanks to the March swap meet and auction, the treasury now stood at \$750. However the Board agreed that expenses will continue to rise, and that an increase in dues along with stricter financial responsibility would be necessary for the Rings financial health. Jeff Marcus reminded the Board that the dues for other local organizations were considerably smaller and expressed a fear that the dues increase would drive away marginal members. The costs of doing business would continue to rise however, and Board members injected their opinions on the issue. A call for a vote was made, and seconded, and on a vote of seven to one, with past President Gary Schwartzwald voting by proxy, the Board decided to raise Ring dues to \$25 as of this April. Other issues of Constitutional questions, budget reorganization, and newsletter expense caps will be decided by the next Board of Directors elected in June.

See Board Meeting, Page 5



Michael has had much success in combining his magic with money making efforts for non-profit organizations in San Diego County.

Michael lives in the San Marcos area of the North County with his wife and young son.

Magician Michael E. Johnson to Join Ring 76

Michael E. Johnson a San Diego County professional magician with a great deal of experience under his belt attended the Ring 76 swap meet and auction in March and after a ten year absence from membership in magic organizations has decided to join our ring.



March Meeting

March is the time that Ring members clean out their closets and search for bargains. It is the annual Ring 76 swap meet and auction. For a mere \$10 any member could set up a table and offer their collection of magic gadgets, books of mystery, used cards, and lecture notes.

This year seven members set their treasures before thirty-eight members and seven guests. **Mike Stilwell** offered a fine collection of colorful cummerbunds and matching bow-ties. The **Armstrongs**, and **Loch D. Crane**, had a fine sampling of magic tricks, instructional books, and collectibles, all at bargain prices, and of course **J.P. Jackson** had box after box of rare and out-of-print books and magazines. Hardback first editions of Hay, Scarne, Hoffmann, and Ganson were placed next to giant squared circles, salt shakers, bullet tubes, and large silks. A feast for the magic pallet, and a blessing for restricted pocketbooks.

After the swap meet, president **Julie Dale** held a brief business meeting. **Jeff Marcus** gave details of an upcoming magic lecture at Jack White's magic museum, **Mike Stilwell** talked of his collection of tuxedos, and how members of the Ring could benefit from them, and **Dick Dale**, as Territorial Vice President, gave a brief overview of the national IBM's monetary woes, and the lawsuit that has perpetuated it. **Bob Pozner** took the floor and discussed the Ring's financial situation, and once again objected to the plan to raise Ring dues. He called for stricter accountability, and more information for the membership. In the March MagiCurrents a detailed treasurer's report was published as well as a presidential message outlining the need for dues increase. The motion to raise the dues was voted on at the March board meeting, but failed to pass by the requires 3/4 majority. President Dale stated that the issue will be addressed at the next board meeting. **Donald E. Holcomb Jr.** became the latest member of Ring 76, receiving his membership certificate and pin. Finally, **Diane Lane** was pleased to announce that her cable access show will now be seen on Cox cable on alternate Friday nights. Local magicians have the opportunity to display their craft to a significant portion of San Diego county. With no further business, this part of the meeting was adjourned.

The next order of business was the auction. **Richard Ustick** was this year's auctioneer and he had his job cut out for him. Several members had a wide variety of items that they hoped the club would bid on. **Jack White** donated several boxes of collectibles that covered magic from most of the last century. From David Copperfield's "record prediction," to copies of "The Sphinx," an magic magazine from the 1920s, to bags of old playing cards, to rare and out of print books, the items all flowed across the auctioneers lectern.

The meeting was profitable for all with members and guests raking in bargains galore, and the Ring, reaping table fees and auction donations, made \$445 for its treasury.

Read more about March's Auction on page 5

Message From the President

THANK YOU! to all who attended the last meeting. It was a very magical meeting where we all participated in one way or another in the MAGIC!

When Ring 76 was formed some 50 plus years ago, it was created with people from all walks of life who had a love for magic. Their magic was as varied as their occupations. Some were specialists, some weren't

really very good at anything but wanted to learn. Let's return the Ring to its roots. No matter what your vocation outside of the club, when you step through the doors into the meeting, we are all the same—a group of people who share the love of magic. And, each of us has a talent to share with the others. Each of us can teach something to somebody else.

OK, your interest doesn't coincide with the particular teach-in. So? Seek out a member whose interests do mesh and "session" with them. Everyone sees this happening, here and there. Jump in! Start a conversation. Ask for help. Share ideas. The whole point here is that magic friends help their magic friends. And the whole part of me is the sharing of a good thing—the art of magic!!!

Magic Notes from Jack White:



President,

**In the Month of April
nothing is certain but
Death, Taxes, and Ring
76 Dues**

That's right master magicians it is time to renew your membership to "Quality Ring" 76. Dues can be paid at the door, or sent to VP Membership Dick Dale. Dues are now \$25. A slight increase but still less than a tank of gas.

Come April 9th, pay your dues and see the lecture.



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Julie Dale

Magic Mike A San Diego Icon!

Drop by the Corvette Diner in the busy Hillcrest section of the city on any Tuesday or Wednesday evening and you will find an up beat crowded restaurant with loud rock and roll music blaring out at you. There are waitresses in 1950's poodle skirts and wild hair due's. Most of all you will be aware of fried onions and hamburgers on a grill.



(Mike in the U.S. Navy 1974. He was 23)

Then suddenly you hear someone at one of the table's scream from a corner of the restaurant. There is a tall man with a fedora hat, 1940's zoot suit, a beard and the wildest looking necktie you have ever seen.

He has just asked someone to find the card they earlier selected from a deck of cards. As the spectator goes through the deck he mysteriously can't locate the earlier chosen card. Everyone at the table is laughing.

Suddenly the person looks up and notices the strangely attired gentleman has the chosen card attached to his forehead.

That table has just been fooled and entertained by a San Diego prestidigitator supreme "Magic Mike Stilwell". Mike is beginning his 15th year of entertaining at the Corvette Diner, which has become a very popular destination for fun and good food in San Diego.

Stilwell began working at the Corvette Diner three weeks after the restaurant opened for business. Mike was booked for a 12-week engagement and has now turned that into record breaking run.

Of course getting a "gig" like the Corvette Diner and keeping it all these years doesn't just happen. Mike paid his dues with years of building his act and honing his slight

Magic Mike

Continued from page 3

Mike took Mike Rogers's advice to heart and once again re-worked the Bumper concept. The next thing Mike knew the act took off, he was getting more bookings than he could handle and more than that people had embraced the giant rabbit as a magician and performer. For the first time in his magic career he was making big money.

Bumper was in so much demand at restaurants and special events that Mike had a second costume made up and started booking a second Bumper into the engagements he could not play.

The Bumper character had many drawbacks. Mike had to wear a special microphone and speaker inside the costume. The rabbit head was very large and cut out all of Mike's peripheral vision. But the worst part was that Mike had to wear white gloves and that forced him to relearn his slight of hand all over again. Being a 6-foot Magic Rabbit was indeed a challenge but Mike met every crisis and over came the problems.

of hand and magic routines. He has also developed a performing personality that draws his audience in and keeps them coming back for more again and again.

When Mike was 8-years old his father took him to see a magician by the name of William Smith Junior, who was appearing at a shopping mall in Annapolis, Maryland. Mike was truly impressed with what he saw and was secretly bitten by the magic bug. A few weeks later Mike's dad booked William Smith the magician to perform at his son's 9th birthday party.

Mike was so excited at having the magician at his party he almost completely ignored his guests and spent as much time as he could talking with the magician. Smith gave Mike a list of magic books he could find at the public library. The birthday magician said if Mike studied hard he could do the same things Smith the magician had performed. Mike still has an image of William Smith the magician in his mind's eye and for 40-years he has been trying to locate him to say thank you for taking the time to talk with a 9-year old boy and stimulate his interest in magic.

Mike's dad also talked with the magician and bought an old tuxedo coat from the performer. It was a set of "tails" a real magician's dress coat with a series of secret pockets sewn in the tails and elsewhere in the coat. Mike treasured the coat and wore it often. When he had it on he felt like a magician and because it once had belonged to a real magician Mike felt he had to expend that extra effort to become a good magician himself. Then one day while wearing the coat Mike discovered a pocket he had never noticed before. There was something tucked inside the pocket. As Mike removed the object he discovered it was one of William Smith's business cards and on the back of the card was a hand written note. It simply read: "Good Luck Mike!" It had been in that pocket for months and Mike had never noticed it. The note made the coat that much more personal.

It was the U.S. Navy that brought Mike Stilwell to San Diego. Having developed his talents as a magician he had no trouble getting part time work as a bartender magician at the then popular night spot in Coronado called "The Speak Easy Restaurant & Bar". Mike would visit another local night spot down the street called "Marco's" and that is where he met two other young local magicians, J.C. Wagner and Bob Sheets. Both of these men took Mike under their wing and helped him learn more about being a restaurant and bartender magician. It was an entertainment form that was just developing.

Enjoying his success at the Speak Easy in Coronado Mike decided he should join the local IBM Ring that was in 1976, Jack White was President of the Ring that year. Mike enjoyed ring meetings and was often times an outspoken member. Many ring members will remember the night in the 1980's that Mike wandered into a meeting that was dominated by ring politics. After listening to the bickering by the members for a while, Mike stood up and announced, "I came here to do a couple of card tricks and talk about a double lift. If anyone wants to see my card tricks I will be at the coffee shop next door." With that half of the membership followed Mike to the restaurant and spent the next two hours talking and doing magic.

Mike has always been a loyal member of Ring 76 and the IBM and in March Jack Greenberg President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians honored Stilwell with the "Order of Merlin" for 25-years of continuous service to the IBM.

It was about 1978, Mike was still serving in the Navy, when J.C. Wagner and Bill Oldfield told Mike about a new place that was opening in East San Diego. It was called the "Magic Lounge", J.C., would be the resident house magician and other magicians would also take part in the shows at the little magic watering hole on University Avenue. J.C. Wagner also told Mike they would need a good magician bartender. So Mike went to work at what would become one of the hottest nightspots in San Diego in the late 1970's.

Mike has always been quoted as saying his two years at the Magic Lounge were some of the happiest and most enjoyable of his life. He was making good money and doing what he liked best close-up bar magic. During that period he and J.C. Wagner were forced to learn a new card trick everyday because so much of their business was repeat. During this period Mike was working Sundays at the Black Angus Steak House as Bumper the Magic Rabbit. He worked the same venue on Thursday evening as Magic Mike, going from table to table doing magic. During the long run at the restaurant no one even the management of the restaurant ever knew that Bumper and Magic Mike were one in the same. That is truly a good trick to pull off.

Bumper had become so popular that Mike began featuring a line of magic and it was called "Bumper and Company Magic". Like the Bumper character the magic line took off and grew very quickly. Mike set up a somewhat large wholesale distributorship and was selling his magic in shops all over the country. When you are a polished magician like Magic Mike it is difficult to sit in an office on the telephone all day long selling magic to dealers around the country. Mike was working at Bumper & Company selling magic by day and performing in restaurants and private parties at night.

He decided he wanted to remain a performer so he sold Bumper & Company to his friend and longtime magician and radio personality Larry Frankel who operates the company today.

customers who wanted to see something new with each visit. It was during this period that Magic Mike learned the importance of studying his craft.

In the early 1980's when the Magic Lounge closed down Mike decided it was time to clean up his act. He was now out of the Navy and wanted to do magic full time. But after working bars for many years he decided he wanted to go in another direction with his magic he wanted to do kids shows.

So Mike created a completely new character for his kids show work. He designed a 6-foot tall rabbit and named the animal "Bumper." Mike had the suit specially designed so he could get into it and go around a restaurant doing magic.



(above: Magic Mike in his successful costume of Bumper the Magic Rabbit)

Like all of Mike's work in magic the Bumper character required a lot of experimentation and trial and error. Just about the time Mike thought he had perfected his act he ran into an old friend and magician from the Navy Mike Rogers who was doing corporate magic shows. After watching Stilwell perform in the rabbit suit, Rogers quickly and bluntly told his friend that the Bumper concept was the dumbest thing he had ever seen. Rogers said you look like an overgrown kid in a rabbit suit.

Then Mike Rogers sat down with Magic Mike and told him if he persisted in doing the rabbit character then he had to study up on rabbits and do things that rabbits did. Mike Rogers also said the costume had to be modified and that Stilwell had to wear black make-up around his eyes so that when people looked into the rabbit's eyes they would not see a man inside the costume but rather believed they were watching a real 6-foot tall rabbit.

See **Magic Mike**, page 4



(above: Magic Mike as he appeared at the Black Angus Restaurants in 1985)

For a time in the mid-1980's while still keeping his hand in magic Mike drifted into the restaurant business. He operated Rory's Drive-in Restaurant on Mission Gorge Road. David Cohen helped Mike learn the restaurant business. He did well for a time and then his neighboring restaurants McDonalds and Jack in the Box got into a price war. In a matter of weeks Mike had lost all of his business to the battling fast food chains and Rory's closed down.

It was about that time that David Cohen invited Mike to dust off his tuxedo and magic props and go to work as an entertainer at the newly opened Corvette Diner. In the past 14-years he has become an unqualified success at the Corvette Restaurant and in magic.

If you bring a deck of cards with you to the restaurant Magic Mike will teach you a trick. He has helped dozens of aspiring magicians who come to him for advice and training in the restaurant magic business. He loves people and that love comes through to his audience. The audience has kept on coming back to see him and people keep on booking and re-booking him for private parties. Recently one successful San Diego magician said; "Magic Mike turns down more offer's for shows than I receive."



(above: Magic Mike performing at private party 2001 with Ted Owen Publisher of the San Diego Business Journal newspaper)

Mike's advice to new magicians is to learn six to nine tricks so well that you can do them in your sleep under any performing conditions. Then tailor your patter so that you are not copying someone else's make those tricks your own with your personality. When you have done that you are ready to begin working in a close-up magic environment.

Mike will tell you to connect with your audience by never embarrassing them, never talk down to them and always give them a good show by entertaining them not necessarily just fooling them.

Mike learned long ago you have to stand out, to be identified as a performer. For many years he worked in evening dress (tuxedo) or a frontier gambler's outfit. Now he wears a zoot suit and that truly makes him stand out from everyone else in the room. It has become Magic Mike's signature. He will tell you that J.C. Wagner and Mike Rogers were two of the most important people in his life when it comes to learning magic and being a performer.

A year or so ago Mike bought a full page advertisement in Magic Magazine and instead of promoting himself in the copy he thanked dozens and dozens of San Diego magicians for making him a success. In retrospect it is the magicians of San Diego who should be thanking Magic Mike for what he has taught all of us.

Mike Stilwell has done it all in magic and continues to work as a performer and mentor to dozens of magicians in Southern, California. He is truly one of the "nice guys" of magic! Mike continues to perform magic at night and during the day books other magicians acting as their agent at his company called "Entertainment Solutions" here in San Diego.

His published material, in Guiding a number of instructional videos (Off-the-Cuff, Card Stunts, Double Take, and Ring Leader) has received critical acclaim from magicians all around the world. Taking third place at the 2000 FISM convention, has put him in high demand as a lecturer; he just returned from a 38-city lecture tour of Europe.

Off-the-Cuff his first impromptu video, had a wealth of useable commercial material. His latest video release called On the Spot is also based on impromptu magic. Gregory will teach you how to convert everyday objects into devastating weapons of deception. These are not just abbreviated quickies, but complete routines that are good enough to do at your next paid performance!

After his lecture you'll never be caught off guard again. You know the scene. . . They found out you're a magician—a crowd gathers. They all demand, "Show us a trick, show us a trick." You sheepishly pat your pockets as beads of sweat dive off your furrowed brow. The only thing you can muster is, "Sorry, I don't have anything on me."

If this scene is uncomfortably familiar, then worry no more. With Gregory Wilson's On the Spot lecture, the first thing to disappear will be that pile of sad excuses. Greg will teach you simple yet stunning effects with finger rings, cocktail napkins, pens, coins, bills, sugar packets, lipstick, rubber bands, matches, keys, watches and business cards. Plus, the emphasis is on the entertainment. So, instead of a dry and boring lecture, you'll experience a rip-roaring, fast-paced, high-energy, laugh-out-loud, audience-involving SHOW!!!

A partial list of Gregory's accomplishments include:

- ¶ Largest contributor to Magic for Dummies book.
- ¶ Largest contributor to the best-selling (in mainstream book stores) Comedy Comes Clean
- ¶ Solo Chapter (7 tricks and an essay) in Paul Harris' recent Trilogy, The Art of Astonishment
- ¶ One-man issues: Labyrinth, The Magic Menu, and a soon to be released Linking Ring Parade,
- ¶ Regular contributor to Magic Magazine; also entries in Genie, MUM, and Arcane (France)

The cost for this lecture is only \$15. Contact Dick Dale at (619)562-7379. The lecture is at the American Legion hall in La Mesa (corner of Spring and University) and will be at 7:00 pm on May 1, 2001.

asdfjkl;

Gregory Wilson's

"On the Spot"

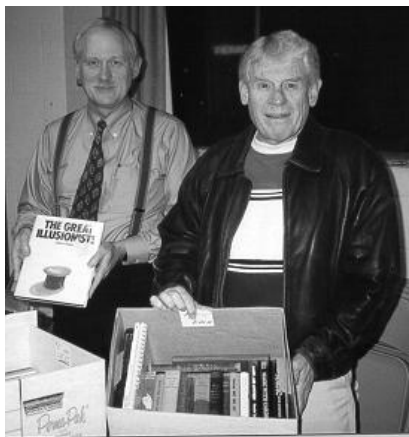
New 2001 Lecture to Come to La Mesa

Gregory is a professional magician from Los Angeles who has been performing for Corporate America for more than fifteen years. He has a client base that reads like a Fortune 500 list.

March Swap Meet & Auction Huge Success For Ring Treasury:

The Annual Ring 76 Swap Meet and Auction on March 9th drew a large crowd of nearly 50 members and guests with money in their pockets to purchase new and used magic.

San Diego's biggest collector of magic J.P. Jackson and his business partner Marcus Day, a magic book collector had a great selection of used books and used apparatus.



(above: Marcus Day and J.P. Jackson showing just a few of the many magic books they brought to the March swap meet.)

Another prominent seller was Roy Armstrong and his wife Betty, longtime ring members and lovers of magic. They offered a nice collection of used Linking Ring Magazines for those wanting to fill in missing editions in their collection, many package tricks and some very unique automated tricks that have become popular with the younger set but offer a great deal of interest to adult magic enthusiasts. These effects are becoming quite collectable.



(above Roy and Betty Armstrong just two of the ten people selling at the swap meet.)

Doc Blaylock who usually works on Monday evenings was able to get away and join in

the swap meet action. Below giving a personal demonstration of the Linking Rings.



(above Doc Blaylock table filled with neatly packaged effects for sale.)

Most members arrived a little early for this meeting to get a jump on the early bird sales. Others gave advice on certain items for sale.



(above Bob Ponner center, gives advice on books for sale to Kim Long as Tom McCarthy looks on with much interest.)

Finally after an hour and fifteen minutes of brisk sales the swap meet tables were closed and chairs were set up in the middle of the room for the auction. About forty items were donated by a number of members of Rings 76 with all of the proceeds going to the ring.

This year Richard Ustick was the auctioneer and he ran a fast paced no nonsense auction and kept the bidding moving.



(above Ring 76 Secretary and newsletter editor Richard Ustick auctioning off a "card in balloons" effect.)

There were a wide variety of items up for auction. Two sets of very nice Linking Rings, a brand new card in wallet, many packet effects and a lot of print items that included a 1927 Sphinx Magazine.

During the auction several magicians gathered together as Magic Mike showed them a different cut audience is everything! Hospital magic is a good training ground for sharpening your skills in front of an audience; note that I did not say "practicing in front of an audience." Do not try any trick in which your handling is not perfected! By using tricks you know well, you can focus on presentation/patter and interaction with the spectators.

For individual hospital rooms, walk around magic is best; get a short routine of three or four tricks that can be repeated easily from one room to the next without much resetting. Sponge balls, cards, silks, coins, and ropes are all easy things to carry around, and you could put together a small show quickly if you know one trick of each type. Colorful props are what you need: red sponge balls, red cards, yellow and blue silks, colored rope (discount store, or buy a \$1 basketball net in red/white/blue and unravel the net to form three 15' ropes). Three tricks are really enough,

and restored rope routine.



(above Magic Mike Stilwell showing Jeff Marcus and Jeff Smith a rope routine as others look on.)

When the last item had been auctioned off and the fees for the tables to sell items had been totaled up the Ring had \$350-dollars for the clubs treasury.



The real work was the bookkeeping and handled very smoothly by Don Soul, Ring Treasurer Gary Dismukes and Richard Ustick the auctioneer. There seemed to be a general consensus that every one enjoyed a fun filled, light hearted evening to swapping magic, stories and bidding on some different items that were on the auction block.

Hopefully everyone went home with a new magic treasure.

Board Meeting

Continued from Page 1

The next meeting will be April 9th, and feature a lecture by Mike Rogers. This is a free lecture for Ring 76 members, \$10 for other IBM members and \$15 for guests.

The next order of business was the next election. No member may hold office for more than two consecutive years, and elections must be held in June. A nominating committee will be formed to present a slate of candidates to the membership for that election. All members in good standing may run for any office and the Board of Directors. It was also suggested that a Constitutional committee be formed to study the Rings current Constitution and perhaps amend it. This committee will be formed from the membership and any member in good standing may submit their ideas.

The May 14th meeting will feature Rope magic with the pre-meeting being a magic video. Gary Schwartzwald will be getting catering prices for the July installation banquet. June will feature the Stand-Up competition and election of officers.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be April 23rd at the home of Don Soul. All members are welcome.

A View From the Cheap Seats

Getting Experience on the Hospital Circuit

In any magic club, there are usually members who have not had as much performing time as the "old guard" members. Often these are younger members, or even teens being mentored by those willing to give of themselves (have you mentored anyone lately?). There are not as many places as there used to be, as Frances Marshall once said, "for a developing magician to be bad." She meant, of course, that knowing the tricks is not enough; presentation and making yourself likeable to an

because most patients are either sick, in pain, or need their rest. A short show could brighten their day, but anything longer can get tedious for them.

If you work up from two to five such shows, you could do a different one each time you come to the hospital during a week.

I suggest that you work up a three-trick routine to perfection, and then go show it to the hospital's supervisor of volunteers. Then that supervisor needs to give you a letter of introduction to show the head nurse on each floor before you will be allowed to enter any rooms. Do not enter any room for which the door is closed, as nurses may be attending the patient, or the patient may be sleeping. Making friends with the head nurse on each floor (for the shift you want to work) is really helpful, as she/he can steer you toward patients who need your show, as well as away from those who are not up to seeing it. Remember that you will generally have a twin room in most hospitals; since both patients need to be able to see the show,

you will have to show props carefully to both. From lying in a hospital bed, a patient's viewing angles are severely restricted, so you might even have to stand on a chair for some patients to see you!

The following are suggestions for walk around hospital magic.

1. Sponge ball routine: work out both an "in spectator's hand" version and an alternate version that does not need the spectator's help, as some hospital patients will not have the energy or strength to hold the balls, or may be unable to do so due to injuries (traction, etc).
2. Card effect: could be a chosen card trick or not; have one of each ready for the same reasons as 1. above. Samples: Slop-Shuffle Triumph or Card Through Hank for a chosen card effect, or Four Aces (for patients who can sit up) or Card Warp for a non-chosen card effect.
3. Ropes: Professor's Nightmare, Ropes Through Your Neck (not in the same show as Card Through Hank, as both are penetrations), or Cut and Restored Rope. Those first two do not require you to carry scissors, which could be a plus in walkaround.
4. Silks: Silk from nowhere, Dissolving Knots, Color-Changing Silk, Close-up Dye Tube.
5. Coins: Coins Across, or Coins to Glass; both work well, because the noise of the coins arriving is part of the trick and helps those with poor viewing angles.

Children get restless in the hospital, and would really enjoy seeing your small show(s). Don't be tempted to start a second set for a child who has really enjoyed your current set; three tricks is enough, and you want to leave them wanting more. Cultivate a fun atmosphere for them, asking them to say the magic word, not having tricks work until they say the word, etc. Really small children are not familiar with card values, and so you could do your tricks with an OLD MAID or GO FISH deck, or make up a deck from larger unlined index cards using the alphabet and/or numbers and two colors of ink (red and blue) for "suits".

Thus far, I have been assuming that you would be working individual hospital rooms. However, if you are asked to do a Ward show, then you can go to bigger (not necessarily better, but showier) things. In a ward, you need to be brighter, bolder, even a bit noisier, but you still want to hold the show to about 25 minutes, or five tricks. Remember the viewing angles as mentioned above, and replace close-up stuff with platform standards: Coin in Ball of Wool, Afghan Bands, Large Dye Tube, Card Through Hank (this is visible enough to see, even if you have to stand on a chair; just have the chooser announce his card to everyone before you start its penetration), Coins to Glass (big clinks!), Cut and Restored Rope or Professor's Nightmare, Chinese Sticks and Cords, Linking Rings, and even a small Square Circle or Phantom Tube (don't hand out candy, as some patients may have restricted diets), are good samples of a ward show. Close with something really impressive, such as your Sq. Cir. production.

Finally, you can find more tricks and helpful suggestions in these books, which have whole sections on hospital shows: Henry Hay's AMATEUR MAGICIAN's HANDBOOK Marvin Kaye's STEIN AND DAY HANDBOOK OF MAGIC

If you have not done anything "pro bono" for your local community lately, why not put together several small walkaround routines and a ward show? The joy on the faces of those patients is food for your soul! You will see some heartbreaking things, but you will also touch the lives of people in need of an emotional "lift." There is no better magic than that!



Mike's first encounter with magic was at an arcade that set up for business in the small Montana community where he was raised. One summer evening Mike witnessed what he would later write about as the "most amazing thing he had ever seen." He watched wide eyed as a true pitchman worked the Svngali deck.

Mike lives with his wife in Valley Center just north of San Diego. We seldom get to see him because of his extensive travel schedule and when he is at home he is busy manufacturing and selling his own line of magic products.

Ring 76 members will be treated to an exciting evening of commercial and practical magic by the man who has written the book on close-up entertaining.

This is a "free" Ring 76 sponsored lecture. Come early and get a good seat.

Magicians Wanted for Promotional Show

Michael E. Johnson and Jack White are looking for a few good magicians for a promotional show.

The idea is to put on a professional magic show at Jack White's Magic Museum, or other venue, to raise money for Ring 76.

The show will be video taped for sale at the upcoming I.B.M. Convention to be held here in San Diego.

Magicians Wanted for Earth day Celebration!

Arlene Fink, of Balboa Park's Children's Stage, is looking for a few good magicians to donate their time and talents at this year's Earth Day activities. She is looking to fill 20-30 minutes of showtime for children on the Children's Stage April 22nd. The exact times of your show are open.

If you are interested in aiding this worthy cause, contact Ms. Fink at 619-222-0936.

And tell her you read about it in MagiCurrents.

Jon A. Hand

Mike Rogers

Continued from page 1

If you are a working magician and would be interested in being a part of this venture, contact Michael Johnson at 1-760-747-4627.

And tell him you read about it in MagiCurrents

Magic Newslne

The annual "Forbes Celebrity 100" of money earners for the year 2000 was just published and three powerful celebrity magicians were on the list. **David Copperfield** was number 5 having earned \$60 million, **Siegfried & Roy** at number 9 with \$50 million and new on the list this year **David Blaine** at number 88 with \$5 million.

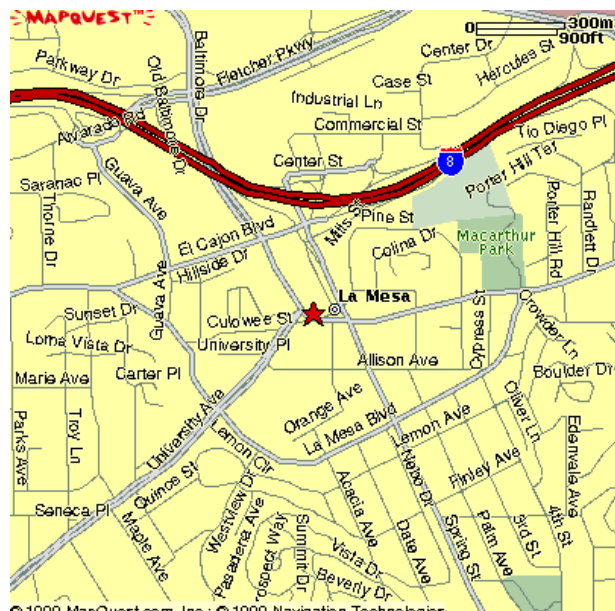
Have an old tuxedo you can't fit into any longer or do you need a tux? **Mike Stowell** was given a tux when he was starting out in magic. He wore it for years then passed it along to another aspiring young magician. Now Mike wants to recycle old tuxedos and see that they get into the hands of someone in need of a set of dress up cloths. This is a "free" program. If you have a tux to donate or are looking for one e-mail Magic Mike at MAGICMIKEOFSD@aol.com It's a great effort to improve the image of magic.

Diane Lane is moving her cable television magic show to Cox Cable. It can be seen in San Diego on cable channel 24. The show is set to begin in the next couple of months. Diane already has several shows produced for the new venue and on the shelf ready to "air" Watch for it!

Jack White who suffered a heart attack two years ago has cut his work load at Channel 10 News and is spending more time with his avocation of magic these days. He is asking the nominating committee for Ring 76 to consider his name as a candidate for board member in the coming year. Jack is a longtime member and past President of Ring 76.

Want to be a better magician? **Don Soul** who is an active candidate for Ring 76 President in the coming year is an advocate of a strong mentoring program for ring members. He is hoping to improve the over all quality of magic performance for local ring members with an increased number of teach in sessions for any member who wants to take part.

Magician Jeff Smith worked the tables at the Gathering Restaurant in early March. His pain was so bad at the March ring meeting that he had to leave early.



© 1999 MapQuest.com, Inc.; © 1999 Navigation Technologies. One Saturday evening when he came to work he found a table full of magicians and their wives waiting to be entertained. **Bob Ingalls, Gary Schwartzwald, Don Soul, Rob Soul and Jack White** along with their wives loudly applauded Jeff's work then they proceeded to show him a few of their tricks. To add to the marathon of close-up magic restaurant owner and magician **Dan Thomas** came to the table and did several effects including his very beautiful "linking card" routine.

Magic enthusiast and collector **Gary Salisbury** says he now only needs 14 back issues of Genii Magazine to have a complete 65-year set of the publication. He needs October 1972, a number of issues from the 40's and several back issues from the 30's. If you have been hoarding Genii magazines and you want to swap or sell them call Gary Salisbury and see if you might have what he needs to complete his library. Gary's number is 858-586-0804.

Bob Ingalls is driving around town in his new sporty 2001 P.T. Cruiser. Recently Bob had the car pinstriped complete with a floppy eared rabbit coming out of a hat on the trunk of the classic automobile. You will know Bob's P.T. Cruiser it is silver with personalized license plates that read; "Magic P.T." Check it out at the next ring meeting.

Active Ring 76 member **Charlie Norris** has been out of commission for several weeks with severe back pain. Charlie's doctor says he is suffering with "muscle spasms" they have given him medicine for the pain. Doctor's say it takes four to six weeks of

He says his condition is improving slowly but he is not out of pain as of this writing.

Web page designer and creator of the popular magic web site Cardmagician.com **Sumit Das** is now preparing to put together a video tape featuring local talent. The tape will be sold through Sumits popular web site along with a variety of other magic tricks, books and tapes at discount prices. There will be some exciting announcements in the near future concerning this expanding online site.

Ring 76 member **Tom Kasner** writes from his new home in Altoona, Pennsylvania that the price of gasoline when he left San Diego was \$1.79 a gallon . . . in Altoona it is \$1.23 a gallon. His electric bill for his home in San Diego was \$207 dollars a month . . . in Altoona it is \$37 dollars a month. Now we know why Pennsylvania looks so good to the Kasner family.

If you have children in elementary school and hear them talking about a science and magic show they have probably seen **Kevin Barnes** and his **Dr. Wilderness Show** now playing San Diego County elementary schools. The San Diego County Water Authority sponsors the show. We will have a full review of America's number one touring school show and an interview with magician Kevin Barnes in next month's issue of MagiCurrents.

For Ring 76ers looking for a spring fling in Las Vegas there is some good news. The Las Vegas Review Journal is reporting that **Caesars Magical Empire** will now stay open at least through June. It was earlier reported the subterranean magical paradise would close in April. Meanwhile Gary Ouellet who is producing **"Lumiere"** at the new Aladdin Casino is bogged down in corporate red tape. The show heavy with magic was set to open in January but will not open now until summer.

Upcoming Events

April 9 th	Ring Membership Dues are Due Guest Lecture by Mike Rogers (see story on page 1)
May 14 th	Pre-Meeting Magic Video Meeting Theme, Paper Magic Nominating Committee presents slate of candidates
June 11 th	Annual Stand-Up Competition, all members welcome Election of new officers Vote on Member of the Year

Bev Bergeron forwarded a March 25th review of **"Pritikin's Squished Eyeball Theater"** in San Francisco at the Union Square Playhouse, on to us. The reviewer a theater critic said: "the only thing amazing about this magic show is that the word-of-mouth hasn't killed it yet." (It's been running for 10-months) Bob Pritikin is the producer and magical star of the show. It also features Madame Lazonga a medium and singer who is really a man by the name of Brian Kieth (not the movie actor.) Robert Hurwitt of the San Francisco Chronicle goes on to say "Pritikin has neither the stage presence nor dexterity to execute his beginner's bag of magic tricks." It's this kind of review that give's a bad name to all of magic everywhere.

The Boys & Girl's Clubs are sponsoring a program called **"Light Skills Magic"** an enrichment program for students 11, 12 and 13 years of age. **Magician Michael E. Johnson** is teaching the course in Escondido of Wednesday's from 3 to 4 PM. The ten week program teaches young people to replace negative attitudes and violence in their lives with magic as a hobby. This is Michael's second year with the program and administrators at the Boys and Girls clubs are very excited about the work he is doing.

I.B.M. Ring 76 meets the second Monday of every month at the American Legion Hall,
8118 University Ave.,
La Mesa CA 91941

Take the Spring street exit of
8 east.

Pre-Meetings start at 6:30

All I.B.M. members and guests welcome

I.B.M. Ring 76

Mike Rogers to Lecture	.....	1
Board raises Ring Dues	.....	1
Michael E. Johnson Joins Ring 76	.....	1
March Meeting, what you missed	.....	2
Message from the President	.....	2
Magic Mike, A San Diego Icon	.....	3
Gregory Wilson "On the Spot"		
here in La Mesa	.....
	4	
Swap meet and Auction,		
the whole story	.....
	5	
A View from the Cheap Seats	6
Magicians Wanted!	6
What's News in San Diego	7

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