



MagiCurrents

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76
San

Diego

Volume XV No. 8 August
2001

Convention Year Kicks Off

Bev Bergeron is a member of the Board of Directors and a Past President of the IBM. For many years following an IBM Convention he would write his comments in the form of a review to the late Frank Herman. Bev continues his writing habits and shares his comments with the readers of MagiCurrents.

See, **Convention Report** page 4

Dear Frank:

Here is my report on the IBM convention here in Orlando - 2001. It was a good one, one of the best. The main reason it was good was that everything seemed to run smoothly. Except for a little confusion for people registering and picking up their packages on the first day, most of the events started on time and finished when they were supposed too.

The problems with lawyers and the Ethics Committee over the conduct of certain members dampened the fun for many on the board and it's advisors. That means I did not get to see all the events that I wanted to because I had to spent about three hours a day in meetings.

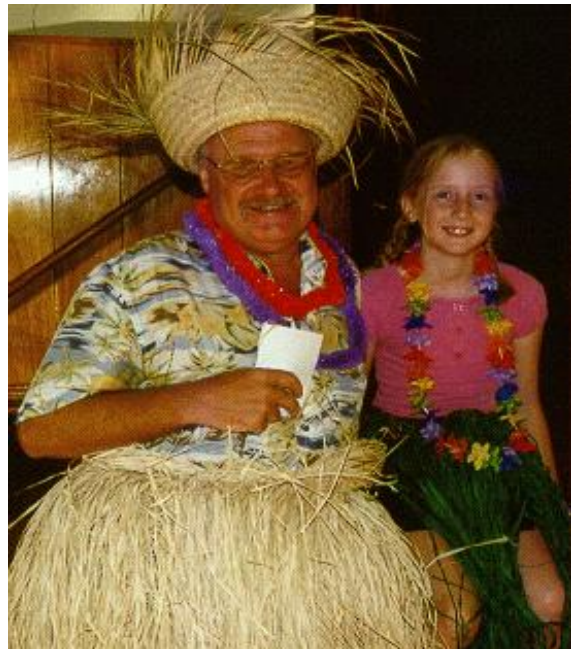
Our local Ring, The Bev Bergeron Ring #170, (notice how I got that plug in) set-up all the curtain, lights, sound and ran the tech for all the events except the night time shows. My son-in-law who has never done anything for me, set-up and ran his video projector. Without that video most of the attendees would never have seen most of the lectures. I would say that no convention could run a happy lecture without a video projector unless the attending numbers drop to around 30. All of the tech people did a good job and helped make the convention better for everyone. I just hope that they get some respect from the rest of the IBM.

Tuesday, July 3: Opening night before: The registration had a little trouble finding some people's paper work, but things got better by the next day. Only the dealers opened that night. I was too busy to get into their room that night.

Wednesday, July 4: The stage contest started at 8:30 A.M. and ran until almost 1:00 P.M. causing the Pendragons' Lecture to be delayed a few minutes. Earlier that morning Anne White and Boris Wild lectured. White was on publicity photos and Boris told of his method of marking a deck of playing cards so that they were easy to read and use in magic.

Ring 76 Installation Banquet and Show draws large crowd.

It is being called the best installation banquet and show in recent Ring 76 memory. The evening began at six for those who arrived early to socialize. Billed as an Hawaiian Luau, some members arrived in Hawaiian shirts and dresses. Prominent among the guests was the Magic Chef Josef Rennleitner, who wore a grass skirt and large straw hat. He was joined by 11-year old Cristina Ustick also in a grass skirt.



In rare form Josef Rennleitner takes time out from doing his Hawaiian magic to pose with 11-year old Cristina Ustick.

The evening was one of fellowship and lots of laughs and good food. The Dinner was in the spirit of a Luau and included ham and chicken with salad, vegetables, and large chocolate chip cookies and brownies for desert.

Banquet

Continued from page 1

Pat was joined by another past President and longtime member Jim Riley, who joined Ring 76 when he was 16-years old.



Left to right: Outgoing President Julie Dale, Jim Riley, Pat Hannum a charter member of Ring 76 and past President.

President Julie Dale called the meeting to order following dinner and proclaimed the first order of business to be the official decommissioning of the out going board of directors. President Dale began by introducing each member of the board and then praised each one of them for all of their efforts in making the past year a very successful one. Outgoing ring Secretary Richard Ustick stepped to the microphone and thanked President Dale and presented her with an award for leading Ring 76 for the past two years. The outgoing board then posed for pictures and applause.



Left to right: Dick Dale, Don Soul, Richard Ustick, Gary Dismukes, Gary Schwartzwald, Ralph Mauzy and Julie Dale, board member Tom LaChance is not pictured.

It was then time to hand out awards for the various contest held during the past year. As the new VP of Entertainment, Richard Ustick presented certificates to every member that took part in the Close-Up Contest held in February. The top honor went to contestant Robert Pozner, who presented some clever coin and card magic as well as a fantastic linking finger ring routine.



Robert Pozner accepting his award as top close-up performer

While the installation banquet is a time for a new beginning it is also a time when many past members turn out to will the new President and the incoming board of directors best wishes in the coming year. This year was no different, one of Ring 76's Charter members, and founders of the reactivated ring in 1958, and first woman President of the ring, Pat Hannum was on hand to make it a special evening.

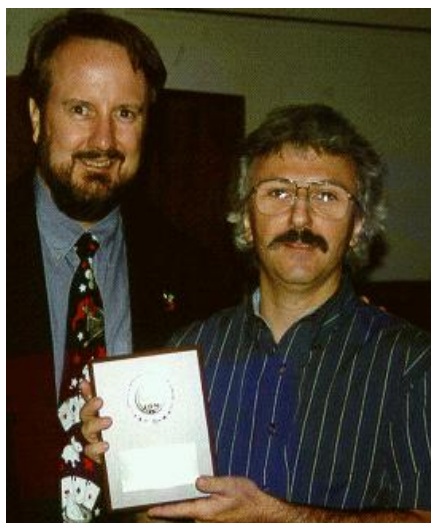
See **Banquet**, page 2

The next presentations were certificates for the Stand-Up Contest that was held in June. The over all winner in that contest was Diane Lane who developed a new act for the contest and did her version of the Misers Dream with long evening gloves and also presented a delightful floating rose routine.



Diane Lane accepting her Stand up award from Richard Ustick.

Another special award that has become a tradition in Ring 76 is Performer of the Year. The award is presented to that one person who is the best over all performer. This honoree is voted on by the entire membership. The award went to Gary Schwartzwald.



Gary Schwartzwald receives the Performer of the year award from Richard Ustick.

The special awards recipients are selected by the membership at large. Slips of paper are handed out to the members and they are asked to write the name or names of people they believe should be recognized for various accomplishments during the years just past.

See **Banquet**, page 4

Banquet. Continued from page 3

The member of the year award went to a very surprised Jack White, for his work in several area's of ring activities including writing for the MagiCurrents newsletter. The award was presented to Jack by Richard Ustick who was last year recipient of this honor.



Jack White receives member of the year award from Richard Ustick.

With the awards out of the way, Territorial Vice President for Southern California, Dick Dale then asked all of the incoming board members to gather next to the front of the stage. Dale then quickly outlined the duties of each office and asked each member to promise to carry out the duties of their office. All signifying they would they were duly sworn in as the new President and Board of Directors of Ring 76 for the year 2001-2002.

With the business of installing the new officers and the awards out of the way it was time for the 80-plus members and their guests and families to settle back and enjoy the entertainment for the evening.



Left to right: Dick Dale, Don Soul, Richard Ustick, Diane Lane, Sumit Dua, Jack White, Tom McCarthy, Roy Armstrong. Incoming President and Board of Directors 2001 to 2002.

Ring member Gary Schwartzwald after seeing Falkenstein and Willard present their show in Los Angeles last year immediately began efforts to book them for our installation banquet. It was an excellent choice of entertainment.

Falkenstein did his famous reading with his finger tips divining previously written messages by members of the audience. While blindfolded Glenn Falkenstein would wad up a piece of paper with a message written on it and then begin to tell the audience what was there, names, license numbers, even a persons favorite movie. All of this with two large coins, surgical tape and a steel blindfold covering his eyes.

Later in the program Frances his wife would be blindfolded and Falkenstein wondered about the audience borrowing items from members of the audience and Frances would call out what they were from the stage. At one point she read the serial numbers from a borrowed five dollar bill. It was all good entertainment. The highlight of the evening was the famous Willard Spirit Cabinet. Frances' father was Willard the Wizard, who's tent show had toured throughout the southern part of the United States for decades. When Frances's mother died, Frances became the medium in the spirit cabinet act. The illusion of the spirit cabinet is still very solid entertainment today. Glenn and Frances have added a new touch by causing the medium to float above the spirit cabinet at the closing of the routine. The spirit cabinet act brought a standing ovation from the audience of magicians and magic enthusiasts.

Though we were mandated to be out of the building by 9 P.M., we were able to extend the entertainment a few minutes so that our entertainers could do an encore illusion. Frances was tied up very securely and then standing behind a guest from the audience, in this case Dick Dale, who was dressed in a very nice dark suit was covered by a velvet babinet for a brief 30-seconds. When the cabinet was dropped Frances was wearing Dick Dale's coat and was still tied securely. It was a clever and very fast exchange that was most entertaining.

There were many highlights to the evening but perhaps the most impressive was the fact that 13-former Ring 76 Presidents were in attendance most are still active members of the ring. The group included all three women presidents.



Left to right back row: Jack White, J.P. Jackson, Greg Wasson, Dick Dale, Rick Bruce, Rich Robertson, current President Don Soul, Gary Schwartzwald, Jim Riley, Bob Pozner, Jeff Marcus, seated Pat Hannum, Julie Dale and Sherry Luft.

Brad Burt
Owner

4204 Convoy Street
San Diego, CA 92111

Information (858) 571-4749
FAX (858) 571-7943
Web Site: www.magicshop.com
E-mail: bburt@magicshop.com

