



MagiCurrents



San Diego

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XV No 11 November 2001

October Was Magic Month In San Diego and Ring 76!

October was an important month for Ring 76 and its members. This past month we learned that veteran magician Bev Bergeron has been added to the list of performers presenting a special hour-long stand-up program at the IBM Convention next summer here in San Diego.

Bev has been a longtime friend of Ring 76 going back to his days in San Diego during this cities 200th Anniversary and the series of shows he presented in Oldtown during the summer of 1969. He was a mentor to San Diego magician Bob Sheets and helped him get his start in show business.



Bev will arrive a few days before the 2002 Convention and present a lecture for Ring 76 on July 2nd. This is a rare treat because he will not be doing his lecture at this year's convention. It is exciting news to have this wonderful performer as a guest lecturer giving us a jumpstart on the convention itself.

Our October ring meeting was perhaps one of the best attended and one of our best in terms of talent in a longtime. There is a complete rundown with pictures of that evening on the next page. If you missed that meeting you missed a good one and we urge you to attend the November meeting.

We had many guests in October; one was David Sandy, the current IBM Vice President and the President elect in 2003. Mr. Sandy was in our city



putting the finishing touches on the early planning for next July's 74th IBM Convention.

David's outgoing personality and love of magic was a very welcome addition to our evening of fellowship and entertaining. We look forward to having him back in January for the convention committee meeting.

We were able to meet Maco Ruly a professional magician and puppeteer from Mexico who was attending our meeting to watch his friend Armando Torres do his act for our ring program. Both gentlemen were welcome guests and we look forward to having them back whenever they would like to join us.



October also brought us a very clever lecture by David Eldridge. It was a "free" lecture sanctioned by Ring 76.



We also had the pleasure of again meeting Jay Scott Berry who gave a lecture that every magician should see. His clever gimmicks truly give a fresh and different approach to magic. It was the one

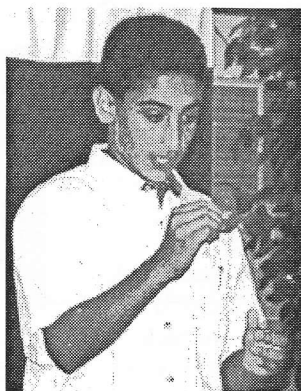
lecture you should not have missed. It was truly exciting for magic fans in San Diego and Ring 76. October is also a busy time for almost every magician in San Diego County. There are shows and events to utilize everyone's talents. It was in short "Magic Month".

October Meeting Features Guests, New Member, and Bazaar Halloween Magic and More:

The October 8th meeting at Jack's Magic Place started off with a social hour from 6 to 7 p.m., with a lot of laughs and magic at the bar. Paul Thomey, Jeff Smith and Andrew Sabat filled in until Jeff Marcus arrived and took over the action for the pre-meeting event.

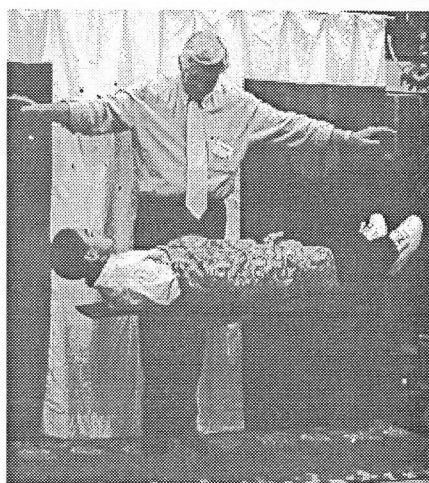
President Don Soul called the meeting to order shortly after 7 and briefly made announcements and introduced guests. A special guest at this meeting included David Sandy the Vice President of the IBM who was in San Diego taking care of final business on the site for the 2002 Convention. Dick Dale announced that the Jim Pace lecture has been postponed until next year.

13-year-old Andrew Sabat is a member of the IBM and has now made application to join Ring 76. He was introduced and auditioned for membership into the ring. Andrew did a very well executed three-coin routine and a clever card routine. After his performance he was asked to leave the meeting and the membership voted to accept him into the ring as a member with full rights a privileges.



There was a brief intermission where tickets for the evening raffle were sold. Raffle items included magic videotape and a poster of Lance Burton. The treasury took in 34-dollars on the raffle. Sumit Dua the Ring Treasurer reported that our treasury is at \$1800-dollars and all bills are paid.

The program began with a brief talk on "Spook or Ghost Shows" of the past. Jack White who has presented these shows in the 1960's talked a little bit about the history of the shows and how such a show was framed. Jack told some humorous tails of his trooping with the show called "Dr. Blood's Zombie Show" and presented two effects he performed in his spook show. One of which was suspended animation or causing a member of the audience to float in



mid air. In this case he used the rings newest member Andrew Sabat with Bob Ingalls helping with the effects.

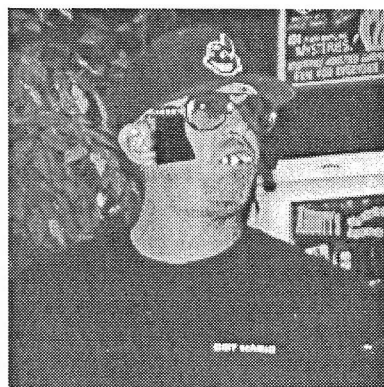
Following Jack's lecture 1st Vice President Richard Ustick who dressed in costume took over the program. Ustick

began with what can only be called a most original and musical presentation to get the evening started. Using his son and daughter to sing the chores of an original song the Ustick Family presented a musical interlude of magic and whimsy that brought a thundering round of applause. It was the kind of opening act that every magic show should be lucky enough to experience.



The Ustick Family opening was a hard act to follow but Byron McDaniel rose to the occasion.

Bringing a large knapsack on stage with him. He altered his clean cut U.S. Marine character to that of a buck toothed Elvis. Then reaching into his knapsack he produced a very large pumpkin and presented a sensational and again original routine with a surprise ending of the selected card



appearing to have been carved on the front of the pumpkin. Another round of loud applause.

Terry Lunceford one of Ring 76's very busy professionals and a longtime supporter of ring activities showed the audience a clever little bit of business called the jumping spider. It can be worked into a routine and add a startling effect to anyone's work. It is accomplished with a piece of invisible string. The stunt had a surprise effect on

volunteer Sherry Luft.



Next came Armando Torres, who lives in San Diego and is a member of the IBM and is from Mexico. Armando much to the delight and surprise of everyone presented a wonderful act set to music. He did some very nice card

manipulations, that moved to some clever silk magic that carried over to a three ring routine and ended with a cigarette routine that had smoke coming from Armando's thumb. Armando is applying for membership into the ring. He is also getting ready to do a lecture tour to Mexico. An exciting act that brought lots of applause.

Bob Pozner then took center stage with his Houdini Séance for Halloween. Bob puts a lot of funny stuff and excitement into this very original routine. Bob can get a lot of material out of a deck of cards and a frame with Harry Houdini's name on it.

Bob Ingalls was next with some Voodoo. Bob presented his torn and restored burned voodoo tissue paper. This is a close-up effect that Bob very cleverly turned into a stand up routine for our rather large audience of magicians. When Ingalls pulls a large voodoo needle out of his neck there was a loud gasp of disbelief. Another big round of applause from the audience.

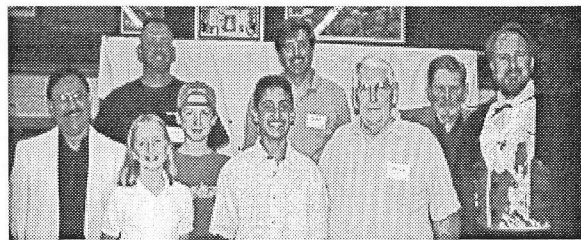
Phil Stoker a longtime professional magician brought several effects that he is selling in his garage sale to the meeting to perform. He opened the act with a very clever card stab where three cards were selected and stabbed with three different knives.



Then came a very different effect of removing his assistants' head. This is a small illusion that moved very quickly and is very visual. A borrowed \$100-dollar bill disappeared and found its way into an unopened box of macaroni. Then came the Afgan Bands with a lot of comedy by play.

Phil closed his act with a very beautiful effect called the Lion and Snake. He builds these off of the Osborn plans. They are nicely decorated props and make for a very clever routine. Phil is selling all of his magic and moving to Tennessee.

Our last performer of the evening was Jim Thayer who always tells a good story with his magic. Jim in a deep voice told about haunted gold and a very interesting card game in the old west. There were several twists and turns with an unexpected ending.



October performers included (L to R back row) Byron McDaniel, Jeff Thayer, Bob Pozner (front row) Armando Torres, Christina Ustick, Douglas Ustick, Andrew Sabat, Bob Ingalls, Richard Ustick.

The October meeting was filled with good magic, and the return of a long time past member Rono Freeman who went

Magical Moments TV Show Needs A Crew!

Diane Lane host and producer of the popular cable television magic show known as "Magical Moments" needs volunteer help in producing the program. Diane tapes several programs once a month at Cox Cable Studios. The taping takes place between 5 and 9 p.m., anyone interested in television production and magic will be welcome. Training is available for production assistant. For more information call Diane Lane as soon as possible at 858-278-1669.



Magic Pro-Tips

By Brad Burt

(Editor's note: MagiCurrents welcome's longtime Ring 76 member and past President Brad Burt to its pages as a columnist. In the months ahead Brad will be presenting some professional tips on improving your presentation as well as views on magic as a hobby. We think you will enjoy Brad's efforts and approach.)

OPENING YOUR SHOW:

When I first began performing magic I started with children's shows. As time went on I specialized in close-up performance both in restaurants and private parties. The latter mode became my favorite and I stopped the restaurant work.

During this period I worked often and the question most asked of me by fellow performers was how did I open my act? How did I begin my performance itself?

First, and most importantly, let me say whatever you do it must be magical. It has to be an effect with a lot of punch that establishes you as the magician. I can't stress this enough! Most of the problems that seem to plague beginners can be eliminated with a solid opening trick. Have this effect wired. Have it down so pat that no matter how nervous you may be at the beginning of the show you can get through this first effect without a flaw. Any "pro" will tell you that the first is the "worst". Get it done and then relax and knock 'em out with the rest of the show.

Second, you want to select a trick that you can perform in any situation. Something fairly easy to do and one that you know forward and backwards. Make sure it is visual and never use a spectator or volunteer during your opening trick it will slow down your opening and take away from you as the magician.

Here is a suggestion for an opener. "Two one dollar bills, too a Two". The effect is fast and simple, you open and display both back and front of two one-dollar bills. You place them on top of each other, fold them together and then unfold them as a two-dollar bill. It is instant magic, as the bills never leave the sight of the spectators. Show the front and back of the two dollar bill and then reverse the action to split the two back into two ones. It is the perfect opener. It is fast, easy, visual magic and it resets as your finish if so desired.

Why is this such a good opener? First, it is small, compact and fits into your pants pocket. It is always ready to perform and takes no thumb tips or palming. Secondly, although it does take a little practice to get it down smoothly, it does not take any special slight of hand. Thirdly, It plays big for such a small item and money has a special interest to audiences. Fourth and perhaps most important this is a strong effect that sets you up as a person of mystery. It's a quality piece of magic you can't really beat for effect.

Other great openers include the Six Card Repeat, any solid rope routine, or vanishing cane to silks and then produce a dove. All strong openers.

Look carefully at the magic you are doing and you will see routines that can make a perfect opener. But learn that trick so well you can do it in your sleep. Then you will have a solid opener to get your performance off to a good start.

(If you would like more information from Brad Burt he can be contacted at bburt@magicshop.com)

September 11th The Toughest Day I Ever Had To Work!

Mike Stilwell was at his desk in his office on Tuesday September 11th. He and his business partner in booking entertainment Bernie Kay had been glued to the television set watching the tragic events of the day unfold in front of them. Suddenly Mike remembered he had to go to work that evening at the Corvette Dinner as a magician. In case you are not acquainted with Mike Stilwell, he is an entertainment agent by day and one of San Diego's busiest magic entertainers during the evening.

Mike prides himself on never having missed a performance. Once he cut his hand open and used super glue to close up the wound so he could do close up magic for a party he had booked that night. Another time he had a fever of 102 but was star attraction for an event and refused to stay in bed. He did the show. There were many times he had legitimate reasons why he shouldn't perform, but always met his

performing obligation. However, on this day he was having trouble getting it together to go to work.

Bernie Kay told Mike that people needed entertainment more than ever. There were several small parties booked at the Corvette Dinner and they expected to be entertained by Mike Stilwell. Bernie reminded his partner of the saying "the show must go on!" For Mike Stilwell that had always been important but for the first time in his career he suddenly knew what the real meaning of that often quoted phrase meant to a performer.

Mike got into his uniform, a zoot suit, packed his pockets with props. When he came to the flaming wallet he pushed it aside. He has not included that effect in his show since the events at the World Trade Towers. His pockets filled with decks of cards, coins, dice, sponge rabbits and a few other favorite bits of business he headed for his car.

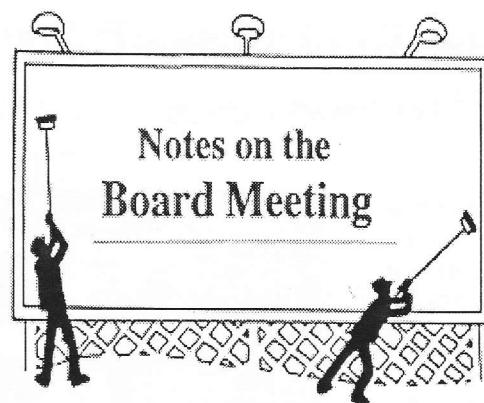
He drove to Hillcrest and when he drove into the Corvette Dinner parking lot it was empty. Mike thought to himself, good they are closed. When he reached the front door he discovered they were open for business. There were only a few people in the restaurant and everyone was talking about the events of the day.

All Mike could think of was how do I approach a table and ask people if they want to see some magic? Suddenly the work that Mike Stilwell has loved to do for more than a quarter of a century, entertain with magic was gone. It had taken an act of terrorism to destroy a mans desire to perform.

Somehow throughout the evening Mike worked through his "funky depressed feelings" and did his best. September 11, 2001 was the worst night of his professional life as a performer. It was a night he never thought would end.

If it is any consolation Mike, thousands of fellow performers all across the nation faced the same challenge and went through the same emotions. But like Mike, they have continued to work, because "The show must go on" and there is always a need for good entertainment especially in tough times.

It is important then that we face these new challenges as Mike did and continue our efforts to do what we do best entertain with our magic and build moral among those who believe in a life without terrorism.



The Ring 76 Board of Directors meeting was held on Tuesday Evening October 25th at Jack's Magic Place.

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM sharp by President Don Soul. The November meeting was discussed and various elements of the program were worked out.

There was some concern about the December potluck and dinner show. The question of whether Jack's Magic Place was big enough to handle that meeting. It was decided it was big enough and we will not change the venue. It is important we know how many will attend that meeting and who will be performing. See the Presidents comments for more on this issue.

Ring 76 received a nice letter from IBM Vice President David Sandy who attended our October meeting. He was complimentary of our meeting.

Richard Ustick and Dr. Joel Moskowitz have been working on a new Constitution and Bylaws for the ring. A first draft of their efforts was presented. Another Bylaws meeting will be held in November. It is hoped that a final draft can be presented to the membership in December.

Betty Armstrong will handle the checking out of books from the ring library at all future meetings. So please let Betty know when you check out a book so she can make a note of it. We have had requests for several books that are on loan out. If readers have finished with them please return them to the ring library.

Tim Ellis and his wife will present a lecture on January 17th at Jack's Magic Place. Tim will present his razor blade eating act. That's for those who want to go on a diet after the holidays. It will trim off pounds!

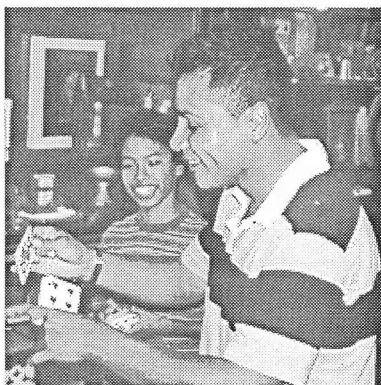
Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

Next board meeting is Monday November 26th and is open to all members to attend.

"Impromptu Rising Card"

By David Lopez

David Lopez does not claim this as his own, rather it was something that just evolved in his hands as he was practicing card tricks one evening. If you had a chance to see him do the trick at the last Ring 76 meeting you know it is a stunner.



Routine:

Have a card selected and signed and returned to the deck. With no funny business or fancy handling the selected card slowly rises out of the deck. The deck is then immediately shown as an ungimmicked deck of cards and you may then move into your next set of card tricks with the same deck.

Secret:

To make this effect work take the Joker and tear the card from the top right hand corner about an inch from the edge. The tear should run from the top to about the middle of the Joker. This is now the gimmick for the rising card effect. David keeps the torn card on the

bottom of the pack.

Fan the cards and have a spectator pick a card and sign it. While the spectator is busy signing the card casually cut the top portion of the deck to the bottom putting the unnoticed torn joker into the middle of the deck.

This next part is very important, the magician takes the selected card from the spectator. Do not let the spectator put the card back into the deck. Instead you take the card in your hand and point out the signature and blow on it to make sure the ink is dry.

Then the magician slips the selected card into the middle of the deck and in doing so drops it right between the tear in the joker. The tear will be very easy for the you the magician to spot but it is something the audience will never see. Once the card is put between the tear of the card it is left about half way out of the deck.

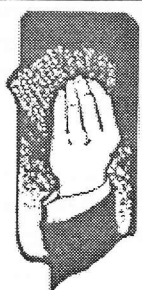
There are really no angles to worry about with this trick. Just be natural in your handling of the cards. With your left hand cover the lower portion of the deck. (look at the picture of David handling the cards.) Right hand straddles the sides of the deck with thumb, middle and third finger guiding the card into the deck. With your right index finger tap the selected card into the deck.

Keeping your left hand in position your right hand fingers and thumb on the sides of the deck slip your right hand little finger under the joker that is holding the selected card. The joker that is now extending under the deck is covered by your left hand.

With a little pressure from your right "pinky" finger the card will mysteriously rise out of the deck. As a close up routine this is very startling and you can immediately show the deck.

They you can quickly cut the torn joker to the bottom of the deck and ditch it or just say we don't need a joker for this next trick and put it in the card box and no one will notice it was torn.

Editors Note: We thank David Lopez for taking the time to put this effect together for MagiCurrents and share it with Ring 76 members.



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3-Week Class in Sleight of Hand A Success

Rodney Reyes has spent much of his young life reading magic books and watching magic videos. The main emphasis of his study has been on sleight of hand with cards. Rodney has fine-tuned his skills with an ungimmicked deck of cards and can present a trick or a full evening of entertainment with just cards.



He has given private lessons in sleight of hand for several years. Recently Reyes decided to offer a special course in close up magic, acting and theory all rolled into an intensive 12-day schedule over a period of three weeks.

The classes were held from 7 to 9:30 p.m., at Jack White's magic museum. About 12 people attended the sessions; some

student's could not attend every evening but most tried to be there as often as they could. There was homework and a need to devote some time to practicing every day.

There was a charge for the classes and all of the students MagiCurrents talked with said they got their moneys worth. Rodney said he did not go into this enterprise with the idea of making money. He did it because he likes to see good magic performed and he knew this kind of a class could help build better performers.

The class was made up mostly of males however one woman took part in almost every session and said she found it very beneficial in building her confidence in performing. Some of the students were younger others were adults who had been in magic for years and wanted to learn the art of good sleight of hand work.

Rodney Reyes will be leaving San Diego in November and moving to Florida to attend film-making school. His family still lives locally and his roots are here so he will be returning from time to time and he says "who knows he may even present another class in sleight of hand in the future."

Penn & Teller Bring Their Magic Show to Escondido Nov 17th.

The comedy magic of Penn & Teller moves into the beautiful California Center for the Performing Arts in Escondido November 17th for one evening only. Show time is 8 p.m., with tickets ranging in price from \$19 to \$49-dollars a seat.

Penn & Teller have been kept busy this past summer taping their Sin City Spectacular series at a theater behind the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. The variety show airs on cable television around the country and in Canada.




While television has occupied much of their time this summer the popular team of magicians will tell you they intend to continue to do live shows until

they are both no longer able to move. They are spending more and more time working in showrooms in Las Vegas and Atlantic City New Jersey. But they are quick to tell friends and reporters they love to be on tour. This year they are doing a series on one-nighters throughout the country. In the past they would bring their show to a large theater and play for a week. Now they are in and out of a community in one day.

Next Months Newsletter Features Xmas Greetings

The editors of MagiCurrents are creating a special section of our newsletter for Holiday Greetings by our members. Include a picture of you and your family or a holiday message. The cost is \$10-dollars. Deadline is November 15th. Contact Jack White for details.



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Magic Notes from Jack White:

Jeff Smith Learned Magic From His Grandfather:



When Jeff Smith was about 7-years old he remembers his grandfather showing him some magic tricks. They were just simple little tricks like the ball & vase, color vision an imp bottle and a few others. Grandfather was a funeral director in Souderton, Pennsylvania, but to Jeff he was the most amazing man in the world because he could do magic tricks. One day a few years later, Jeff received a big box and it was filled with all of this grandfathers magic tricks and a book about Houdini and his escapes. There was a problem however, all the props were there but no instructions. It took a little work but Jeff figured out how they all worked and remembered his grandfather's routines. It was just about the best gift a boy could receive and it launched a hobby and avocation that is sometimes a vocation for Jeff,



If you drop by the Gathering restaurant in Mission Hills on just about any Sunday evening you will find Jeff working the tables with his close-up magic. Recently Dan Thomas the owner of the Gathering walked up to

Jeff and thanked him for the work he does at the restaurant. That was a true compliment because Dan Thomas is a very good entertainer himself. Jeff has come a long way since receiving that box of simple magic tricks from his grandfather. The road to being a performer has been a winding road with some unusual twists along the way.

By the time Jeff was 11-years old he was living in Ohio and had discovered the Johnson & Smith Catalog with its pages filled with gags, jokes, novelties and magic tricks. Ever since reading that book about Houdini's escapes young Jeff was fascinated with handcuffs. He sent his money off to Johnson & Smith and received a regulation

set of handcuffs and promptly learned how to escape from them. One day he had his friends handcuff him, lock him in a large dog carrier and then tie the carrier up with rope. The friends then went into the next room and watched cartoons on television while Jeff escaped from the cuffs, and the dog carrier. His amazed friends spurred Jeff on in his quest to learn and perform more magic.

When he was 13-Jeff found music, he sang in a choir, he also discovered girls and sports. There really wasn't much time for magic during his teen years. He still enjoyed watching magic but he did not perform. While at Michigan State in his freshman year in college a fellow in the dormitory where Jeff, lived was a magician. Jeff, watched the magician perform two rather risqué effects for his fellow students and they went over with great success. The "sponge balls and ding dong" trick and the "20th Century Bra" trick. The reaction of the audience and uniqueness of the effects rekindled Jeff's interest in magic. He purchased the book "Now You See It, Now You Don't" and began learning coin and card magic. It wasn't very long with the help of the magician in the dorm and the magic book, before Jeff was doing close-up at a campus coffee house.

After college Jeff went to work for Scott Paper Company and in 1983 moved to San Diego. Trying to better himself he enrolled in Toastmasters. One morning Jeff watched as a fellow member in Toastmasters who got up to speak and opened a wallet and flames jumped out.



It was a true attention getter and Jeff had to find out where he got such an prop. The speaker told Jeff about a Brad Burts Magic Shop.

Once again he was bitten by the magic bug and was enrolled in one of Brad's classes. Jeff purchased a book titled "The Commercial Magic of J.C. Wagner". After putting a routine together he was hired to work the crowd at a benefit for stray animals called the "Fur Ball". When he arrived to go to work he found there was another magician on the bill by the name of Loren Stewart. Though they later became

friends, on this evening Jeff was very intimidated by this smooth performer and he kept at the opposite end of the room from Stewart.

In 1992 Jeff went to work for Hypnotist Marshall Sylver. Marshall incorporated magic into his hypnotic routines and Jeff was learning from this experienced performer. In 1993, Jeff found the IBM and Ring 76 and began learning from Dick Dale, Rick Bruce, Terry Lunceford, Terry Godfrey, Craig Stone, Mike Stilwell and Jeff Marcus. He not only learned new tricks he learned routining and showmanship and he learned about the business side of magic. It was during this period that Jeff began a three year stint working the tables at Carlos Murphy's restaurants at UTC and Carlsbad.



It's been a longtime since he inherited that box of magic tricks from his grandfather that became the springboard to a wonderful hobby. Jeff is leaning more and more toward making his avocation a fulltime vocation. He truly knew that magic had a calling for him when shortly after the tragic events of September 11th a woman said to him

after he had presented his show that it was great to hear people laugh again. The woman said "it might not be a good time for entertainers, but now is a good time to be entertained."

Those words inspired Jeff to look to new horizons with his magic. If you would like to see Jeff's magic he is at the Gathering Sunday evenings.

Two Important Lecturers Coming to Ring 76 In November!

On November 13th Dennis Marks a well known Hollywood writer, television producer, lover and creator of magic will open his bag of tricks for local magicians. This a Ring 76 function and is **free** to members. Marks is a native New Yorker who moved to Los Angeles in 1980.



In New York he produced "Wonderama" for 4-years, it was the children's program that booked more magicians than any other show on television. Marks also created the Sherlock Holmes Broadway Musical, "Baker Street". He is also one of the founding

members of New York's secret mentalist group, "The Legendary Thirteen". Here is your chance to meet and learn from this outstanding performer.

On November 16th Chad Long will bring a different kind of magic lecture to Jack's Magic Place. Chad Long is one of the most popular sleight of hand workers in the country today. He was recently one of the star's of the Magic Live Close-up program in Las Vegas.



Chad Long is known for his dazzling work at private parties, trade shows and sales meetings. He has toured the U.S., Canada, Europe Bahamas and Japan. The fee for this lecture is \$15.dollars.

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Message from the President

It's not too early to start thinking about the holiday season. MagiCurrents is offering space in the December issue for a holiday message from you. It's \$10 and helps soften the expenses of putting out a quality newsletter. Please contact Jack White for details about getting your message published. The deadline is November 15th.

Also December will be our annual holiday potluck party, this year to be held at Jack's Magic Museum. Since space and electrical outlets are minimal, we request no heated foods, please. In order to make sure a variety of food is available, the board will be calling you before the December meeting with suggestions for items to be brought. The entertainment for the party will actually be a membership audition as we prepare to host the visiting headquarters convention board which meets in January. So, it's time to polish your act and give it a shot.

Incidentally, the January meeting will be one week earlier than usual so that those attending World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas won't miss a Ring meeting.

Oh, and one last item. It has been pointed out that cups and other trash is being left stashed under seats at the end of our evening meeting. I hope it's not asking too much to clean up after yourselves when the meeting is over. Please.

Don Soul Ring 76 President

Dean of American Magicians has eye removed:

We learned that Jay Marshall the Dean of American Magicians had surgery to remove a cancerous eye. The operation took place in Chicago in late October.

With his friend "Lefty" Jay created an act that has endeared him to all of us and we wish him well and a speedy return to performing. Jay is a friend to all magicians and if you would like to send him a get well card his address is:

Jay Marshall
5082 N. Lincoln
Chicago, Ill. 60625

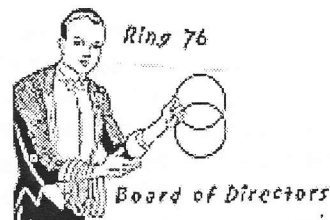
Terry Lunceford

Magician

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An original straightjacket used by **Harry Houdini** has been stolen from the Houdini Museum at the Venetian Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. **Geno Munari** who purchased the jacket from Houdini authority and collector **Sid Radner** had the famous restraint on exhibit in the museum. Munari says the straightjacket was stolen in broad daylight while one of his employees in the museum was kept busy in conversation others stole the jacket. It is difficult to put a value on this one of a kind item but it was a centerpiece in the museums collection of Houdini memorabilia.

The fall Swap Meet at the **Magic Castle** in Hollywood brought out a lot of San Diego County magi October 6th. **J.P. Jackson** and **Marcus Day** had a table selling props and books. **Jack Evans**, **Bob Bell**, **Stu McKinley**, **Jeff Marcus**, **Ralph Mauzy**, **Bob Ingalls** and making his first trip to this exchange of magic was 14-year-old **Andrew Sabat** who was a guest of Bob Ingalls. **Max Mavin** was asking Castle members to sign a petition that would allow him to become a candidate for the Castle board of directors. Also attending was magic legend **Mark Wilson**.

Loch David Crane has just issued a new promotional piece featuring his recent tour of Germany. A picture of Loch in his Bafflin Bill Cody outfit next to an Airforce Fighter Jet at the Spangdahlem Air Force Base in Germany appears on the front page of the mailer. Loch is now busy promoting his show "The Magic of Santa Claus" for the coming holiday season. The promotional mailer also includes a nice picture and story from the San Diego City Schools employee's bulletin telling of



Loch's comedy magic show for students. Good promotion pays off in getting shows as Loch David Crane knows well.

Terry Godfrey presented magic shows at the Harvest Festival Craft Show at the Community Concourse in early October and then moved into two weeks of school shows in Arizona during the last two weeks of October. Terry is also busy booking fair dates for summer 2002.

Ring 76 President **Don Soul** spent several days with close-up legend **Paul Gertner** in San Francisco in October. Don is trying to get Gertner to work San Diego and Ring 76 into his lecture tour of early 2002. The latest report is that Paul is looking at open dates. Gertner was the entertainment at one of the trade shows for Pediatricians. Don was at the convention with his wife Donna.

IBM Vice President **David Sandy** much impressed with **Richard Ustick** and his magical song routine that featured Ustick's two children at the October ring meeting. Sandy asked that Ustick and children be included in the IBM Convention Committee meeting program to be held here in San Diego on January 5, 2002. Looks like the Ustick's have to do their act one more time. But this time it is a command performance.

David Lopez is finding much success with his new "Pact with the Devil" contract. The item is being marketed through Brad Burt's Magic Shop, you get 10 sheets for 10-dollars. It's a clever sheet of paper printed in old English script stating that if the magician tells you how he does a trick you have to sign a pact with the devil and will go to He....if you tell anyone how the trick is done. It's a clever bit of business that is gaining a lot of popularity. David prints the pact up in his own print shop.

Josef Rennleitner the Magic Chef has been in the hospital and has lost 20-pounds. He has been suffering with Pancreatitis this is Josef's second bout with this health problem and this time it was a very serious illness. Josef made it out to the David Eldridge and Jay Scott Berry lecture's October 15th, and 17th he is looking good and making a comeback. We are all glad to are feeling better Josef!

Michael E. Johnson will headline a free event in LaJolla on Sunday, November 11th, for the Neighborhood Holiday Open House. All Ring 76 members are invited to attend the festival on Girard Avenue for fun, contests, food, shopping music and magic entertainment. Michael will perform close-up from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. For more information on this event call 760-747-4527.

Hypnotist and longtime Ring 76 member **Frederick Rohrer** is donating a large collection of Linking Ring Magazines to the ring library. His collection dates back to 1967. We now hope to fill in a lot of the holes in our magazine collection. By the way Fred Rohrer is using his hypnosis these days to help people with chronic headache. He tells MagiCurrents that as many as 20-people a day see him with a painful headache and after one treatment they leave headache free. That's real magic.

*Our Next Meeting: November 12th,
Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave.
Social Hour 6 to 7 Meeting at 7 P.M.*

*Dealer Night Featuring Magic from the Seaport Village
Magic Shop. Plus some rare movie clips of famous magic
acts and magicians of the past. On the big screen with
fresh, hot, popcorn!*

*Jeff Smith will be the featured magician at the bar for the
pre-meeting entertainment from 6 to 7 pm.*

Happy Thanksgiving!

**Return Address: 6040 Bob Street
LaMesa, Ca 91942**

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*Take the time to read this issue of MagiCurrents there
are important stories about your ring and its members.*