



MagiCurrents

San Diego



July 4, 5, 6 & 7

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XVI No 2 February 2002

IBM Board Meets in San Diego with Ring 76 Members:

The Board of Directors of the International Brotherhood of Magicians held their annual Midyear Meeting at the Town ... Country Hotel on Saturday January 5th 2002.

The IBM Convention Committee held their meeting the Friday afternoon before the board meeting and went over plans and budgets for this summers convention in San Diego. The IBM Conventions have for the past three years all lost money. Part of the problem has been lower attendance and higher costs for staging a convention.

The IBM has not raised the price of a registration for a convention in seven years. They voted to raise the price from 110-dollars to 150-dollars beginning in 2003. Which means the San Diego registration is still a bargain price. The Society of American Magicians charges 195-dollars for a registration to their convention.

It has been decided the main form of transportation from the Town & Country Convention Center, sight of this summers convention to the Civic Theater in Downtown San Diego for the three evenings of public shows will be via the San Diego Trolley. Those registering for the convention will be given the choice of receiving a four day trip ticket on the trolley or driving their own car to the theater.



Ring 76 Board with IBM President Robert Escher, center and IBM Past Pres., Jack Greenberg, left.

Following the Saturday Board meeting 34-members of the IBM board and committees boarded a bus provided at no expense to the ring by Old Town Trolley Tours to

transport IBM Folks to Jack's Magic Museum on University Avenue, for a cocktail party, dinner and show by Ring 76 members.

This was an opportunity for the IBM people to get away from business and meet some of our members.

The board of directors of Ring 76 hosted this event with the help of many members. Paul Thomey, Tom McCarthy and Sumit Dua entertained our guests at the bar as they arrived. Michael E. Johnson worked the tables before and after dinner.

The show featured Richard Ustick and one of his magic songs that included his son Alex and daughter Cristina. Their performance brought a standing ovation from the IBM audience. Next Greg Wauson presented his "Pom Pom Stick" and received a big round of applause. Diane Lane did the Misers Dream with gloves on that created good reaction. David Lopez invited IBM President Robert Escher up on stage to help him with a card trick. Bob Ingalls presented some comedy magic as only Bob can do it. The show was closed by the sensational minapulation act of Armando Torres who also received a standing ovation and much praise for his act.

Visiting this event was Belinda Kaesler President of Ring 313 in Orange County. That ring is also offering to volunteer for this summers convention. Jim Swoger from

Story continued on page four:



**Linking Ring Editor Phil Willmarth ...
IBM President elect Michael Stratman**

January Meeting with Mini-Lecture & Card Magic

The January 2002, meeting was held one week earlier than usual because so many of our members go to the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas, which is scheduled for the second week of January.

Our guests for the January gathering included Ron Kittle, Ted Dunning and Tom West. Working behind the bar were members Tom McCarthy and Sumit Dua. Both performers kept the members and guests entertained with their close-up skills.

President Don Soul called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m., as announcements were being made 2nd Vice President Diane Lane was circulating through the membership selling raffle tickets. There were five raffle items and each one of them carried a minimum 10-dollar value with raffle tickets selling 6 for 3 dollars.

We were reminded of the Tim Ellis lecture January 17th. Dick Dale Territorial Vice President for Southern California encouraged members to attend the lecture and reported that the IBM Board of Directors had been pleased with the effort Ring 76 extended during their half yearly meeting in San Diego.

Ring Librarian Betty Armstrong announced the ring library has received two new books and encouraged members to check out books. She reminded everyone that books could be kept for a month at a time and should be returned when you are finished with them because others may be looking to check them out.

We said Farewell to Charlie Norris who is moving to Morgan, Utah to be closer to his two daughters. He has built a new home there and is looking forward to the move. At 76, Charlie says it is time to be closer to family.



Charlie Norris

We took a few minutes to audition two members who have both applied for membership into Ring 76. First to audition was Josh Karatkiewicz, who goes by the stage name of Josh London.

Josh presented a rope routine that was very professionally executed. It was a series of effects with knots, then two pieces of rope became one piece then the rope was cut and it became one solid loop and then returned to one long



Josh London & Ted Dunning

piece of rope. Josh is a teenager and is a very accomplished magician with both close-up and stage presentations.

Our second audition was Ted Dunning, who specializes in close-up magic. He

began with a clever card location and then moved to coins. He presented a clever cards across. Ted has spend some time in magic and later in the evening stepped behind the bar to show our members a few of this moves with a deck of cards.

Following the audition the two performers were asked to leave the room while the membership unanimously voted to accept both of them as members of Ring 76.

At this point Diane Lane conducted our auction and five people walked away with some new magic.

Terry Godfrey one of the very busy working pros within the ring was introduced to present a mini-lecture on card magic. Terry had just returned to San Diego after a gig in Arizona.

He handed out decks of cards to any of our members that did not bring one. Then quickly went into a demonstration of the double lift. Terry gave the members two different versions of the double lift and commented on several good books that have



Terry Godfrey

additional material and several good tricks that involve the double lift.

Next came the "Pass" thought to be one of the most difficult sleights in magic. Terry teaches the Dai Vernon version of the Invisible Pass, then gave us a look at his own somewhat streamlined version of the pass.

Terry has an easygoing style and keeps going back over the moves in a slow and deliberate manner, which helps in learning. This was an excellent session that leads to our performance portion of the program.

Richard Ustick our 1st Vice President in charge of entertainment took over the program. He reminded all of us this evening was magic with playing cards.

The first performer was Jack White who presented a card stab with a jumbo deck of cards and a very large knife.

Next came Jeff Marcus who presented a trick that was very popular a few years ago and after witnessing Jeff's work we would guess it would become popular again. With a ticket type punch Jeff made a couple of holes in a playing card. Then we watched at the hole moved to different places on the card. Clever effect and well done.

Jim Thayer, another easy going performer stepped up on the stage and

Did a series of clever color changes with cards. Jim has come a long way since he first auditioned for the ring a year or so ago.

Don Holcomb, presented a comedy routine with that venerable "six card repeat" routine. By the time Don finished there was a bag full of playing cards and Don still had "one, two, three, four, five, six cards in his hand."

Ed Estrinf, did a four ace trick that was very different. Ed's polished style made it a nice change of pace trick to watch.

Byron McDaniel's always comes up with something a little different and a trick that has a little twist to the ending. He did not disappoint us with this effect that was a card transposition.



Michael E. Johnson

Michael E. Johnson was next; he had just finished a show and came to the meeting still in his tux. He did a trick that is part of his regular close-up act called "Synchronicity". The props for this trick include a thousand dollar bill, a hundred dollar bill, a meteorite, a diamond, a fossil and a crystal ball. Michael gets the award for showmanship because he really builds this card trick up and turns it into a mini-program by itself.

Sumit Dua became the next performer. Cards are Sumits life when he is not going to medical school. His first trick was a matching prediction effect. Then he did one of the tricks he is including in a new videotape on cards called the "Sherlock Holmes Card Trick". Both were very effective card tricks.

Gary Dismukes has been doing clever card tricks for Ring 76 members since he was 16-years old and that was many years ago. He choose an effect that had 5-people select a card. Then through dealing five poker hands he found the five selected cards. This was another trick that had great showmanship and excellent execution.

Bob Pozner was our final performer of the evening and he presented a John Scarne trick that was in a film that was shown last year at a ring meeting. Bob started with an unopened new deck of cards. Had a member of the audience open the cards, they were shuffled and after



All of our performers

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IBM Story Continued from page One.



**Ring 313 President Belinda Kaesler
And J.P. Jackson Rng 76**

Oceanside was also on hand and spent a good part of the evening talking with IBM board members who were customers of his House of Enchantment magic shop in Pennsylvania many years ago. Ice McDonald came to San

Diego from Los Angeles to be part of the event.

The table decorations were created by balloon artist Ken Stillman from Carlsbad who crafted a balloon rabbit coming out of a balloon hat. The decorations were a big hit for the evening.



**Ring 76 President Don Soul and
Donna Soul with table decoration
By Ken Stillman balloon artist.**

Driving the bus and keeping our guests entertained to and from was Ring 76 member Bob Matchinske who donated his services for the evening.

J.P. Jackson was on hand to discuss plans for a museum room for this summer's convention with convention chairperson Mindy Burden.

We proved to the IBM that Ring 76 is one of the top rings in the nation and that we are ready to do our part to make this summer's convention a success and put IBM Conventions back in the black.



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New Ring Constitution & By-Laws Ready for a vote:

At the February 11th Meeting all members of Ring 76 will receive a copy of the new revised Constitution and By-Laws. Those not attending the meeting will receive their copy by U.S. Mail. This new work was revised from the 1995 Constitution and By-Laws that was never ratified by the membership.

President Don Soul appointed a committee soon after his election last June, to rework this document so the ring could operate with a ratified constitution. The committee included Don Soul, Richard Ustick, Dr. Joel Moskowitz and Jack White. These four with impute from Attorney Marcus Day have been going over all sections, every sentence and each word. After many months of work the final copy of the Constitution and By-Laws have been agreed upon by the committee.

In presenting this document to the general membership it is asked that everyone read over the material and then on a post card that will accompany the Constitution and By-Laws vote to accept or reject the document. The Ring Secretary must receive all ballots no later than March 1st. You are asked to keep your copy of the Constitution for future reference.

Ring President Don Soul reminds us that a Constution and By-Laws are necessary in conducting day-to-day ring business in an orderly fashion. Richard Ustick says he believes that many of the ambiguities of the former document have been removed or redefined to make the meaning of the document clearer to all concerned.

Ratification or acceptance of the Constitution and By-Laws will only require one vote over half of the ballots received by the secretary. Please take the time to read the document and send in your ballot. Every vote is important.

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1. 10% finder's fee, payable directly to you
2. 10% donated directly to Ring 76 IBM

**Contact Magician Michael E. Johnson
(760) 747-4627 or (858) 483-8632**



Magic Pro-Tips

By Brad Burt

There is a great old proverb: "Faithful are the wounds of a friend."

That's cool, but what does it have to do with magic? You've done it all. You have the beginning of your act. You have the finale and you have stuffed the middle of your act with wonders sublime like a squirrel stuffing his cheeks with acorn meat. You've practiced all the 'pieces' and 'part' of your act: The moves, the feints, and the patter. You have ferreted out every possible manner in which you could encounter the slippery slope of failure and come up with clever 'outs' and recoveries. You pretty much have your act as perfect as you can get it. You think.....

Now, you prepare for a full dress production in front of the video camera. You perform. You perform as if you are in front of a full house. You pause when you are supposed to pause. You laugh when you should laugh. You stare out at the audience and pretend to see the response that you desire and react to it in kind. You relax and attempt to get the pacing correct. You are going for the gold as you pretend to do the finest act of your life while actually performing for the blank staring, uncaring eye of the video camera and the blank walls of your practice room. You attempt to do everything exactly the way that you believe it will happen in real life right down to "feeling" what you hope to feel during a performance high.

Then....you watch the tape and rip your act apart. You sit by yourself and make copious notes on where you stuttered because you really didn't get the patter down on that one routine. You curse your failure to show enough emotion as you perform the final movement of an effect that should have the audience gasping in their seats, eyes wide with horror as they realize that you are totally psychotic and have actually killed your assistant. (O.K., you can ignore that last statement. I am reading a new Stephen King novel as I write this.) You do your best to be as honest with yourself about what you see in that

videotape. And, then, you fix what you can and do it all over again. You do it again and again until you simply can't figure out anyplace that it can get any better.

And, then? You ask a friend to watch the finished product and rip it apart. Here you are: Faithful are the wounds of a friend. If you don't get an honest appraisal it is worthless to you. Will it hurt? Maybe, maybe not. It does, thank your friend even more for his or her help.

Audio tape what your friend has to say. See if you agree or disagree. Where you agree....Fix it! Follow the process. Work the process and you will end up with an act that can take you to Vegas or anywhere else you want to go as magic professional.

Lecture Schedule:

Ron London brings his lecture to Jack's Magic Place on March 13th 7 p.m., start time. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$10-dollars per-person bring a guest.

For many years Ron has organized hospital visits by magicians in cities hosting IBM Conventions. San Diego is no exception. He is planning on visiting several hospitals in this area and will have details on that project when he lectures here in San Diego.

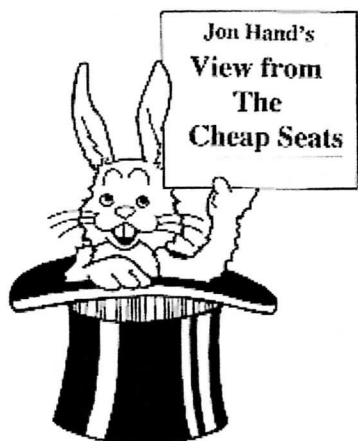
Ron is the man they brought in as a consultant on David Copperfield's Alcatraz Television Special several years ago. London's act has opened for Bob Hope, Louise Mandrell, Pat Paulsen and the Smothers Brothers. He will be offering some new Material for San Diego Magi.

Ice McDonald is working out dates in April to come to San Diego and present a lecture on creating your show. Ice began his magic career here in San Diego and has worked all around the country with his unique act. He will share tips on creating original material, framing your act and then getting it booked. This lecture will contain useful information for both close-up and stage magicians. The date of this lecture to be announced soon.

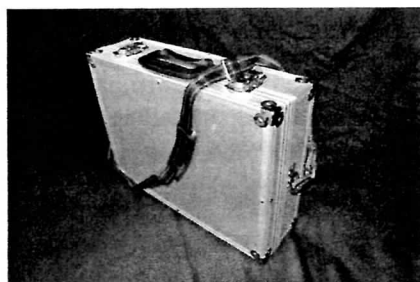
Ring 76 Close-Up Contest

Monday Feb 11th

Plan to be part of this contest:



Always on the lookout for anything that can be pressed into service for magic purposes, I discovered some aluminum briefcase-style tool boxes with movable dividers. These can be found in many places: I have seen them at Home Depot and Lowe's Home Improvement stores in the \$25 to \$30 range, for example. Some models



have soft sculptable foam interiors, some have precut foam that can be broken out and rearranged as needed,

and one model has stiff foam over wood dividers (which in the one that I liked). Recently, however, I found a similar one, the same size (in inches, lying on its side, roughly 12d by 16w by 4.5h), for only \$15 at the local Wal-Mart. My wife saw me eyeing it and got it for my birthday. I think mine was called GREAT NECK.

These cases are shiny aluminum in a small diamond pattern, with lockable latches and keys included. Corners and all outside edges are protected with sturdily-riveted metal covers. One could easily mask off the corners and hardware, rough sand the flat areas, prime them, and paint them if he really hates the shiny look. The cases also have two sets of four feet to protect table tops from marring, and reinforced lid stands on the back, so that the lid will not break the case's hinge backbone.

A handy addition to the Great Neck version is a shoulder strap. The strap is one-inch nylon webbing, adjustable in length, with a two-inch rubber fatigue pad featuring tiny no-slip bumpers on the shoulder side. This strap hooks its hefty nylon spring clips onto a ring mounted on each side of the case by strong brackets and rivets.

The interior movable dividers, stiff foam over

wood, fit into slots every quarter to half inch. The case is easy to configure, and holds cards beautifully. One can lay the cards flat (face down), and three or four decks will fit into a space with exactly enough slack to pick them up from one end. Alternatively, stand the decks on their long sides, and four decks will fit exactly the same footprint as they did lying down, only they will be a tiny bit taller. Change the divider spacing to stand as many decks as needed on their sides.

The case has a lid tool holder of sixteen pockets, into which I put scissors, ink pens, pencils, Sharpie(tm)



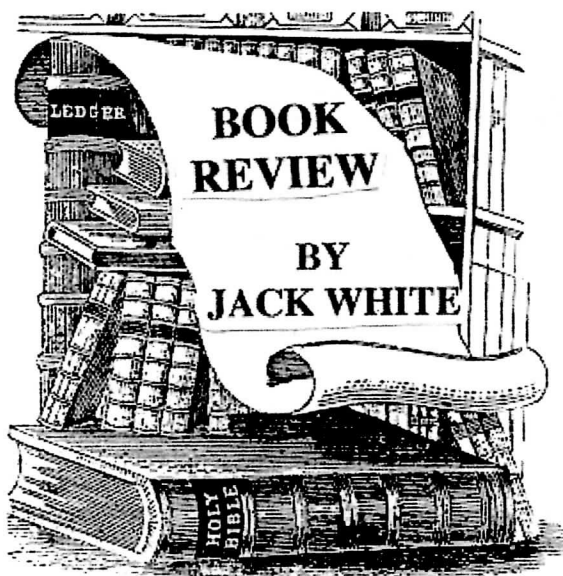
marker, paring knife, and more (a set of color-changing knives would fit here beautifully).

This tool holder snaps out via a rotating catch,

revealing ample room for larger flat effects behind it in the lid of the case (Jumbo cards, Presto Clock, Insurance Policy, etc.). A bit of open space between the top of the dividers and the case lid's tool holder allows you to put other larger items flat on top of everything else, such as a decent-sized close-up pad. I put four linking rings in a cloth bag into that space, for example. For close-up work, you could attach four pieces of velcro to the outside of the lid of the case near the corners, and attach the matching velcro to the underside of a close-up pad (or a large mouse pad; check Office Depot, Office Max, or Staples for oversize mouse pads).

Although the outfit functions most often as my practice case, most of the items present are ready to be performed. As a sample, here are the current contents of my case: a chop cup in cloth bag, a set of three aluminum Charlie Miller-style cups, a Corelware(tm) fluted coffee cup, a yellow tennis ball, a blue racquet ball, four 1-inch red sponge balls, four 1.5-inch red sponge balls, two yellow 2-inch sponge balls, a set of five multiplying! golf balls (no shell), twelve thimbles, a coin purse holding five U.S. halves and five English pennies, a Scotch and Soda (Eng. Penny version), a double-height shot glass, Mirage wallet, large playing card-motif bandanna, 18-inch opaque nylon handkerchief, 60-inch rope for Cut and Restored, 18-inch rope for Finger Ring on Rope, eight decks of cards (some clean, some gaffed, and some stacked), three cardboard matchboxes for various effects, three spools of thread (black, off-white, and "invisible"), four ten-inch linking rings in cloth bag, eight five-inch miniature linking rings in cloth bag, and five small commercially-

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"Jay's Journal of Anomalies"

Ricky Jay the multit talented sleight of hand artist, actor, author and scholar of the unusual, from 1994 to 1997, published a quarterly newsletter titled; *Jay's Journal of Anomalies*. Those journals have already become highly collectable. A subscription for all the issues cost \$90. There were only sixteen different issues and they have been gathered together and now appear in book form.

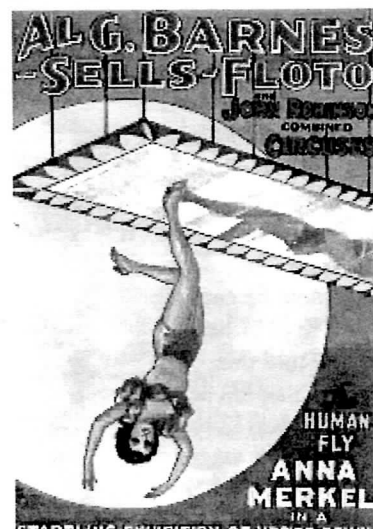
In San Diego, book stores have been reluctant to stock this title so you probably will not find it on most store shelves and it may have to be special ordered. The online book store Amazon.com can fill your order almost immediately however.

This is not a magic book, you will not learn any tricks here. At least not any you will go out and immediately perform for your friends. But you will learn to admire showman who used deceptive means to sell their attraction. Like Monetto, the time-telling, tail wagging dog who could pick out a person's selected card from a complete deck spread on the floor.

For magicians there is a wonderful section on Automations and another section on levitations. Most of these performers lived in the 1800's and their modus operandi is crude by today's high tech magic. But the graphics and research that has gone into each article makes this a wonderful book to read.

Ricky Jay is an excellent writer but often times challenges his reader buy using Victorian phrases and vocabulary that sends you to the dictionary from time to time to check the meaning of words.

As a child at the circus I remember watching in amazement as a woman high above the circus ring walked upside down on a suspended steel plate. In his Journal Ricky Jay takes us through the history of what he calls "Dancing on the Ceiling". After reading this chapter, I now have even more regard for this unique act.



If you like reading about jokesters, hoaxsters, pranksters, sideshow anomalies, mechanical marvels, hustlers and conjurers this will be a delightful read. But remember you are reading history not the present.

It's a 40-dollar book and is well illustrated with both black and white graphics and excellent color drawings as well. Highly recommended for those who want to know what has gone before.

Continued from page 3

some by play he dealt four hands of cards, of course dealing himself the winning hand.

It was an evening of learning and an evening of sharing your own brand of card magic.

Richard Ustick reminded the membership that the February meeting would include our annual close-up contest and this years winner will in addition to receiving a plaque will get a gift certificate. Our next meeting is February 11th. Meeting was adjourned.

**Writer
Collector
Magician**

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Magic Notes From Jack White:**Andrew Sabat of Ring 76 Wins Top Honors**

For 13-year old Andrew Sabat the week of January 13th 2002, will be one he will never forget! It was the week he attended his first magic convention, the World Magic Seminar, in Las Vegas. It was also the week he took part in his first close-up magic competition, and to his own amazement he came in 3rd in a field of twelve.

Andrew told this reporter, that his heart stopped when Lance Burton on the stage of the Riviera Hotel & Casino Showroom announced; "our third place award with 100-dollars in prize money goes to Andrew Sabat."

**Lance Burton**

Andrew thanked his mother for having faith in his ability and Ring 76 member Bob Ingalls for helping him hone his skills and create a tight and clever close-up routine and patter.

Without young Andrew's knowledge his mother sent a tape of her son performing to Rich Block and the World Seminar Junior Magicians competition committee. They looked at the tape and accepted Andrew as a contestant. His mom then booked reservations for the convention and the trip to Las Vegas.

**A hug for mom!**

She wrapped up the package and Andrew received it as a Christmas present. Andrew says it was a dream come true.

"The convention trip alone would have been enough," said Andrew. But being able to compete with youngsters his own age and slightly older made the experience even more exciting.

When asked what he thought of the convention itself he said; "Its much bigger than I expected it to be, and the people are more friendly than I expected." He said his

only concern was "goofing up" during the competition. He didn't, his act went flawlessly.

Because Andrew used three tiny pieces of flash cotton in the opening portion of his act he had to appear before the Las Vegas Fire Marshall and show him what he was going to do. It is against the law in Las Vegas to use fire of any kind in your act with out the express permission of the Fire Marshall.

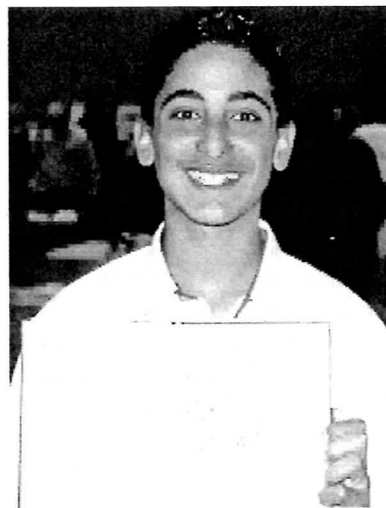
His act consisted of coins and cards. He produced three coins from three balls of fire. The coins then jumped from hand to hand.

**Andrew & Bob Ingalls**

Then four aces were produced and covered the coins for a matrix. Then he ended the act with a sensational four ace routine with help from a lady in the audience. The judges called it a "classy act that showed much skill." His act ran a tight 6-

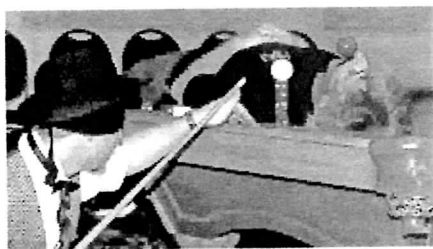
minutes.

Andrew took his autograph book with him to the magic convention and it is now nearly filled with famous names in magic. His favorite autograph is that of Fantasio, who manufactures all those appearing and disappearing canes and candles, among other things. He says he has always admired Fantasio's creativity and showmanship.

**Autographs**

Ring 76 is proud of Andrew Sabat and we encourage him to do his act at February's Close-up competition and also do his brand of magic at next summers IBM Convention at the Town & Country Hotel.

Never Volunteer!



Ring 76 member Gary Schwartzwald volunteered to lay on a pool table and to

hold a billiard ball on his lips while World Trick Shot Champion Chef Anton, blindfolded, hit a cue ball and knocked the ball in Gary's mouth into the corner pocket. All of this happened at the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas during one of the late evening shows. It was totally silent in the room as Chef Anton made the shot. It was followed by thunderous applause and a much relieved Gary Schwartzwald.

January Board Meeting:

The regular Ring 76 Board Meeting was held January 28th at Jack's Magic Place. The treasurer's report reveals there is just over a thousand dollars in the ring checking account and all outstanding bills are paid.

There was much discussion about our part as a ring in the coming IBM Convention in July. Tom McCarthy is making an effort to have the ring featured in a story on Cox Cable program "San Diego Insider".

The February close-up contest was discussed. There will be a gift certificate for the winner of that contest in addition to a plaque.

Richard Ustick showed us the finished copy of the revised Constitution and By-Laws that will be distributed at the next meeting. The Sgt of Arms will keep a list of those members given a copy of the constitution. Those not

present will receive their copy and ballot to ratify by U.S. Mail.

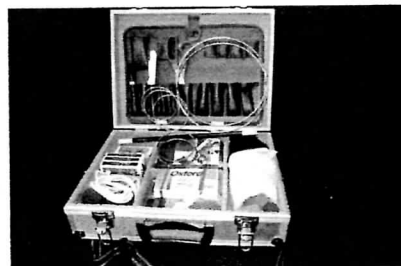
Don Soul and Diane Lane are working on a flyer that tells about the ring and can be handed out to guests or at local magic shops so that people will know more about Ring 76 and the IBM.

A committee will be formed at the next regular ring meeting to sell advertising for the IBM Program. Don Soul will have more information in February.

It was pointed out that we need better stickers for the mailing of the newsletter. Jack White is looking into that issue.

Next Ring Board meeting will be **February 25th** Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. Board meetings are open to all members.

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marketed effects which have been in my repertoire for years, plus the stuff mentioned above in the lid storage (scissors, markers, large flat effects, etc.).

I did a show in December for a local Hospital Christmas Banquet, and I decided to do the whole show out of that case. I simply emptied it, placing into it only what I needed for that show, and in three minutes I was ready to go. I unpacked before the show on a table in my performance area, laid out my effects, and then packed up each one into the case after it was performed, while grabbing the next one. I was ready to depart immediately after my last effect, and when the audience turned its attention elsewhere, I walked out with my table in one hand and the case in the other.

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Message from the President

It was a whirlwind four days in Las Vegas for the World Magic Seminar but what a treat. I think you'll find a feature story elsewhere in MagiCurrents regarding one of our talented members and he receives my hearty congratulations for placing in the youth competition. Attendance was down at the Riviera but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The afternoon of the final day saw all lined up for autographs from the Great Tomsoni, Sigfried & Roy, Lance Burton, Channing Pollack, Mark Wilson and others.

And speaking of conventions, with the IBM shindig to hit town in early July, I'd advise you all to get registered right away as the cost of registering goes from \$110 to \$120 on March 1st. We urge all of our members to register for the convention. In March, we will be posting a list of volunteer jobs for Ring members, and there are many.

Terry Lunceford

Magician

**Supports Ring 76 and
The International
Brotherhood of Magicians**

We have a huge amount of work ahead of us.

I hope you got to attend a marvelous lecture from Jim Pace, what with the last minute phone blitz. The proceeds of Jim's lecture went to fellow magician Joel Ward whose equipment was stolen just prior to a show in Oceanside. It is my understanding that wardrobe, birds and all props mysteriously vanished. Anyway, we hope what the Ring had to offer help's ease some of Joel's loss.

And speaking of contests (man, my segues are right on this month) I urge you to take part in the February Close-up contest. You have nothing to lose and a \$25 gift certificate to gain should you win. Give it a shot.

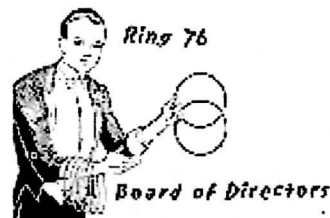
Don Soul President Ring 76

Rich Marotta Cancels Lecture

We are sorry to report that Rich Marotta who was scheduled to deliver a magic lecturer to Ring 76-members February 12th has been forced to cancel his trip to San Diego and the lecture.

Marotta will be appearing at the Magic Castle in Hollywood the first week of February. He hopes to work San Diego into his schedule on a future lecture tour.

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News

Ring 76 member **Michael E. Johnson**, is appearing on Tuesday Nights from 6 to 8 p.m., at Killer Pizza From Mars in Escondido. The outer space pizza parlor is located at 1040 W. El Norte Parkway. Its worth your time to drop by and see Michael work with a 1-thousand dollar bill, a 350-year old Pirate's Piece of Eight and a 100-million year old fossilized dinosaur fang. Michael does a great show.

Magic Collector **J.P. Jackson** recently acquired one of the very rare sets of Thayer Billiard Balls. The "Clingo" one and a quarter inch wooden balls and the matching hollow hank ball that goes with the set. Manufactured on a highly limited basis in the late 1940's they are now residing in the Jackson Collection. Congratulations on a great find J.P.!

Jon A. Hand, our "View from the Cheap Seats" contributor, performed a half-hour show for an audience of 125 at his local hospital's Employee Christmas Banquet. Intrigued by the possibilities, Jon put together five such shows, any one of which can be performed out of his 12" x 16" x 5" briefcase. For more information on this unique and very inexpensive case see Jon's column in this issue of MagiCurrents.

Dazzling Diane Lane can now be called **DAZZLING GRANDMA!** After what seemed like an eternity of waiting Diane's daughter Jaimey gave birth on January 9th to a beautiful baby girl AKA Smantha Nicole Osborne, who tipped the scales at 7 pounds 4 ounces. Mom and baby are doing fine, grandma is thrilled and already planning to use the baby in her magic act.

Fred Kaplin a volunteer probation officer from Rancho Bernardo is in the beginning stages of forming a



Society of American Magicians Assembly for San Diego. At an organizing meeting in early January, Kaplin attracted a group who are mostly beginners. Fred wants to teach children who are at risk the basics of magic to give them other interests to stimulate their minds. Also attending the organizing meeting were a number of San Diego Clowns who want to add magic to their entertaining skills. Fred Kaplin can be contacted at 858-451-9012.

Congratulations to **David and Kristi Aldridge** on the arrival of their new daughter **Gabrielle**, who made her appearance on January 15th, weighing in at 7 pounds 7 ounces. Mother and baby are doing fine. Aldridge manages Brad's Magic Shop in Kearney Mesa. David has been busy at work writing a new serious volume on mental magic. This will not be a small paper back book but a hardback filled with lots of mental magic he has created and the work of many other contributors as well. The book is still in the writing stages with a publication date unknown.

Denny & Lee have opened a new Super Magic Studio in Las Vegas, Nevada. Several members of Ring 76 who were attending the World Magic Seminar in mid January stopped by the shop and were give a tour. In addition to the regular magic shop there is a library room and the coffee pot is always going for magicians. A nice sitting room for chatting with other magicians or

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doing close-up magic. There is also a large area in the back for building illusions. The shop is on Industrial Road just a few doors from **Earl Chaney's** famous **World of Mirth ... Magic** which is now closed. Denny told MagiCurrents he will continue to operate the Baltimore, Maryland, shop as well as the new Las Vegas location. It will be a fun place for local Magi to visit during your next trip to glitter gulch.

Magician **Syd Segal** has returned to San Diego after an extended trip to Dunedin, New Zealand, November 28th to January 10th. Syd spent the holidays with his girlfriend, Christina. He managed to work in a few magic shows on this trip and quickly became somewhat of a celebrity because of his talent. He says not many magicians are seen up close and personal in Dunedin, New Zealand, the locals thought Syd was really special.

Ring 76 member **Bob Ingalls** is known for the many magic shows he does throughout the year for the various **Optimist Clubs in San Diego County**. The Optimist Clubs in turn fund Ingalls basketball league for highschool students. This year because of Bob's untiring work and generous support the boys all received new uniforms. Bob Ingalls works his magic in many ways to make San Diego a better place to live.

Andrew Sabat taped a segment on Diane Lane's Magical Moments television program in late January. The program is scheduled to air in March. Andrew did the act he won prize money for in Las Vegas on the program.