



MagiCurrents

San Diego



Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XVI No 3 March 2002

Two IBM Rings Help Replace Stolen Props:

Thursday October 15th 2001 is a day that magician and college freshman Joel Ward of Encinitas, will never forget. That was the day that someone stole the most important "tools" Joel needed to perform his award winning magic act.

He had just finished a good rehearsal at the Sunshine Brooks Theater on Hill Street in Oceanside where his magic act was being featured in a drama built around magic and magicians. Joel was loading out the stage door behind the theater. He left his props for 20-seconds to go back into the theater to get one last load. It was then that some thoughtless person picked up a green tackle box that contained Joel's, Hummingbird reels, 4 dove bags, his silks, flash paper and flash pot, and a dozen other little but costly gimmicks that make his stage act work.

After filing a police report Joel began calling friends in the North County for help. Jack Evans had a hummingbird reel Joel could use. Andy Amyx had a couple of dove bags; Josh Hall had two more dove bags. There were others who filled in with needed props.

He ended up doing an entirely different act for the show in Oceanside. The new act went over well and the audience never knew for a moment the stress this young magician had been put through by the loss of a little green box filled with magic equipment.

Joel says he is a sadder but wiser magician these days. He has learned you never leave your props unattended even for a minute. Second you have a back up for your act packed up at home and ready to go incase this sort of thing happens. He has also learned that magicians are the best friends you can have when you are in trouble.

When members of Ring 76 heard about Joel's bad luck they began putting an event together that would raise some funds to replace his stolen equipment. Ring 76'er Gary Salisbury met with Jim Pace, magician and magic shop owner from Oregon and asked him to come to San Diego in late January, and do a lecture free of charge and the money collected at the door would all go to Joel. Jack White donated the facility for the lecture.

The North County Ring 292 wanted to help out so their members formed car pools and came to San Diego and paid their money for the lecture. That ring also put a crisp \$100-dollar bill from their treasury in an envelope for Joel. All told we were able to give Joel Ward \$330 dollars toward replacing his missing props.

Joel, is putting himself through college doing magic. He and his girl friend Kristi are currently developing a full evening show. They have created several new and original stage illusions. They hope to present one of their new illusions in competition this summer at the IBM Convention at the Town & Country Hotel.



Joel Ward and Kristi and her grandfather, magician and magic dealer Jimmy Yoshida

The members of Rings 76 and 292 have proven that ours is truly a "Brotherhood" of Magicians and we do care about each other and we will help each other in times of crisis. Just ask Joel Ward!

Membership Ratifies Constitution:

After 8-months of work and rewriting the membership of Ring 76 ratified and adopted a new Constitution and By-Laws. The vote was 18 for ratification, 3 against ratification and two people returned their ballots but did not vote. This vote now means that Ring 76 is *legal* and has a set of rules to operate and live by in the years ahead. Those against ratification have the right to amend those portions to which they object.

February Close-up Contest:

The February 11th meeting was called to order a few minutes before 7 because of a huge schedule of events and a very large group attending. Guests included Walter Lorden, Martha & Jenny Lopez, Charlie Chang, Margo Ruly, Patti McCain, Lewis Barber, John Hughes, Fred Noce and Michael Oliver. A total of 52 people attended the meeting.

Announcements included upcoming lectures. Ron London on March 13th, Ice McDonald on April 10th and Paul Gertner has confirmed for April 20th a Sunday Afternoon.

Fred Kaplin a member of Ring 76 and the Society of American Magicians is forming up a Junior Magicians group with the sanctions of Ring 76 and the IBM. Fred talked briefly about what he wants to do and his request for help from the ring membership.

We had two auditions; Howard Harris began by producing a bird from an empty box. The large white bird flew around the room several times finally coming to rest on Jeff Marcus' arm



Charlie Gott & Howard Harris

where the bird stayed for the rest of the act. Howard then brought up an assistant for a card routine.

The second person to audition was Charlie Gott, who's table is made up to look more like an altar than a magicians table. Charlie does Gospel Magic. Charlie told his audience he works mostly church shows. He obviously knows the Christian Bible because his stories were from scripture and his tricks complemented his patter.

Both men were asked to leave the building while the membership voted to invite them into the ring as members.

Next David Lopez passed out playing cards and introduced his pregnant wife who is expecting a little girl in the next month. David was asking the membership to come up with a name for the baby and write the name on a playing card. Then the Lopez collected the cards and



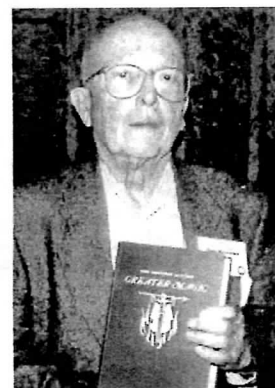
The Lopez Family

Mrs. Lopez selected one from the pack. But that name was not acceptable, so she continued to select cards. At this writing David and his wife Martha are considering a new stratigity to select

a name.

Diane Lane did a super job selling raffle tickets for the four new magic tricks we had to raffle off for this meeting. Each trick carried a retail value of 10 to 20-dollars. Raffle tickets are six for three dollars. It's a great way to support the ring.

We thanked Don Holcomb who has given the Ring 76 Library a vintage copy of one of the greatest magic books in print. "Greater Magic" by John Northern Hilliard. It is a very welcome addition to our library, which is being used on a regular basis by our membership.



Don Holcomb

Richard Ustick our Entertainment Vice President took over the meeting and presented one of his magic songs to get the evening started. Richards son Alex helped his father by running the tape recorder. The music was "Oklahoma" from the Broadway show of the same name. But Usticks words were "Okito Coin Box, where the magic waves and the trick brings raves." ÖÖÖ.. It was another winner from the musical and magical mind of Ustick who then became the Master of Ceremonies for the Ring's Annual Close-Up Contest.

Andrew Sabat was our first contestant doing the same act that he won 3rd place in the Junior Competition in Las Vegas in January at the World Magic Seminar. His routine includes fire, coins, and cards. This act brought a lot of "ah's" from the audience.

Next was Jim Thayer, who began by doing a commercial for product known as the "Polly Bonder" it sticks

anything together. In this case it stuck some pieces of rope together. But there were knots in the rope so Jim launches into his next commercial for a product called "Knots Away" and the knots fell off the rope. Then came a trick with money and cards. He closed his act with something called the "Black Hole" a very clever routine with Dean Dill's "Box".



Jim Thayer

Michael E. Johnson took center stage next with his brand of magic. Michael is a working pro and is in big demand and it was very clear by his stage presence and the commercial effects that he does that he works a lot. He began by introducing a 1-thousand dollar bill and does some clever work with the bill, coins and a couple of members of the audience. He also does some funny stuff with his wedding ring and ends his act with the production of a giant coin.

Another seasoned veteran is Tom McCarthy, who offers very clever card and coin magic. However this evening he kept his routines to cards exclusively. He did a series of different and unique 3 and 4 card Monte routines with each one being a little cleverer than the one before. Tom's work is a joy to watch and he had the audience on the edge of their seats with his magic.

Don Holcomb again proves that the simple things can have a great deal of entertainment value. He did Adams penny and dime trick with the little red block and closed by finding the dime in a nest of boxes. It's these little tricks that we many times pass by that continue to have great entertainment value.



Loch David Crane

Bafflin' Bill Cody who is really Loch David Crane has a truly original approach to his magic. Dressed and looking like the real Buffalo Cody his props are right out of the old west where the deer and the antelope play. Loch opened with a mental effect that involves the spirit of the plains Indians. That is followed by a truly clever card stab with an ancient Indian knife. Loch has been doing this act for several years and has learned how to sell it to his audience. There is some history and a lot of tongue and cheek material here.

Ted Dunning did a series of close-up coin manipulations. Ted is an excellent performer and we would all have liked to see his act go a little longer.

Josh London, one of our newer, younger members who has started a new column in this edition of MagiCurrents was next. He opened with Twisting the Aces but instead of Aces he used the four Queens. In the end the Queens turned to Aces. His next effect was a stunning torn and restored card that was signed by a member of the audience. Josh enjoys doing magic and that is very clear from his presentation. A nicely done set.

Armando Torres has shown us that he has a great stand-up magic act. This time he presented an equally exciting close-up act. He opened with a Giant 3-Card Monte that was a welcome routine for the folks in the back of the room. That was followed by a missing coin in a deck of cards. He closed with a very different Chop Cup routine that ended with a lime, a glass and a bottle as the final loads. Armando works with color and humor in his close-up presentation.

Diane Lane followed with a volunteer from the audience and began producing coins ala the miser's dream from the spectators hair. Then came a different bottle through the table, followed by a book test featuring a Harry Potter Book. She closed her act with the most visual bending fork I have ever seen. It was a dazzling routine from Dazzling Diane.



Roy & Betty Armstrong

Closing our close up performance out was Roy and Betty Armstrong doing a routine that has been part of their show for 51-years. A miniature Hippy Hop Rabbits. This couple enjoys magic and it shows when they work. The expression on their faces and their timing makes for a

Continued on page four:



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By Josh London

(Editors note: We are happy to welcome Ring 76 member Josh London to the pages of MagiCurrents with a new monthly column featuring magic tricks. Josh is 17-years old and says most of the tricks he will feature are close-

up but from time to time a standup routine will be included. For more information on this column Josh's e-mail address is jkaymagic@yahoo.com)

THE PARKED COIN:

Effect: You ask to borrow a spectator's coin, as they're getting it out, you have a card selected from a deck and signed. You may also have the coin signed if there is a full moon out and you want to get a little crazy! You take the card back and place it in the deck. You then proceed to make the coin vanish with some help of a sleight. You then cut the deck of cards and you find the spectator's signed coin in the middle of the deck and the coin is on top of the selected and signed card.

Method: Don't let the effect fool you; this is my routine that I perform regularly for laymen. It is very strong because it borrows objects that people will pay close attention to, their money! Take a deck, have a card selected and signed. Have yet, another person give you a coin and sign it if they wish. Take the card back, return it to the deck, and control it second from the top. Get the coin back from the spectator cause it to vanish with a simple "French drop" action. I usually do a finger palm vanish or a straight palm. What ever you decide on make sure the coin is in right finger palm position, and everyone believes the coin is in your left hand.

Pick up the top card up with your right hand and "wave" the coin away, slowly opening your left hand simultaneously. Slide the coin in your right hand under the card and replace the card on top of the deck, making sure not to expose the coin. Cut the cards; don't let the coin fall out the sides. Cut the cards once more, but this time cut to the coin. Reveal the coin as their signed coin and the card under the coin is theirs too.

After thoughts: This effect is a great one for the strolling magician. I put it together in my mind as I was listening

to one of my favorite bands "Linkin Park", thus the title "Parked Coin". Hope you enjoy it and will give it a try.

Close-up Continued from page 3



Our Contestants: Josh London, Loch Crane, Michael E. Johnson, Ted Dunning, Jim Thayer, Armando Tores, Tom McCarthy, Roy Anderson, Second row: Andrew Sabat, Betty Armstrong, Diane Lane and Don Holcomb

truly funny and exciting act. They were the perfect way to close this our annual Ring 76 Close-up Competition.

The winners will not be announced until next summer and the installation and awards banquet. Tom McCarthy has asked the board of directors that next years competition be done at tables with six of eight people watching and the performers move from table to table so that everyone can see the act close up. It is a good suggestion that is being taken under consideration.

It was a long meeting with adjournment not coming until 9:40 p.m. For the stand-up competition in June a time limit of 8-minutes per-performer will be put on each act.

Exchange Program with North County Ring March 11th.
Don't miss this program featuring Ten Magic Acts from Ring 292
Show starts at 7 P.M.

20% Commission

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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

I have been receiving some good feedback on the articles that I have been submitting to MagiCurrents. The purpose I hope is transparent: To give a framework from which to advance your work magically.

Try and come up with a solid plan for yourself that will allow the acquisition of new material. The learning and practice thereof along with the final testing phase that will allow you to step outside of the ego that might actually inhibit your perfecting the material.

It is the testing phase just before the implementation of the new material that allows you the best opportunity to evaluate whether it will work for you in the manner anticipated. This continual work on your act and the component routines are what raise your value as a performer and allows you to ratchet up your fee scale as each performing year passes. If you are working smart, you will be doing the same amount of shows or more each year up to your capacity to fulfill all dates, but make more money for each show performed.

How do you get more and more for each show and do it in a manner that allows for little or no resistance from your clients? Easy, it is all supply and demand. You must become the type of performer that gets so many shows that you are placed in the position of having to turn down dates! There is only so much of you. Your time and availability become the product that clients bid for. They like you so much (hopefully!) they have you and no one else. If you charged \$300 for a half hour show in 1999, you should have gotten to the point of being able to charge \$600 in 2001. Are you worth it? Yes? Then go for it.

My friend Adam Christing whose marketing course for performers called "Getting the Gig's" forms the basis for his entire business in L.A., and is one of the most successful booking agents and performers in magic. Adam's company loses a very small number of clients because he and his performers deliver a consistent quality show. Corporate clients know that any clean comedian

performer will not embarrass them. That's one of the reasons that Adam himself gets gigs in the \$3-thousand for 30 minutes range. I would like to see you too getting those high paying jobs.

Your Advertising can appear in the IBM Convention Program:

The IBM Convention Committee is currently putting together the advertising for this summer's conclave at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley. The program will be part of the convention package for 14-hundred people attending. Hundreds of additional programs will be sent out as part of the advertising and public relations program for the convention. Still others will become part of the historical archives of IBM Conventions past.

A business card size ad will cost 20-dollars. Part of that money will come back to Ring 76 in the form of a commission for selling the ad. For you it is an opportunity to show off your business card and let everyone know you are part of the San Diego Magic Scene. The other half of the equation is helping our own treasury. If you don't currently have a magic business card we can use your regular business card or create an ad for you.

If you would like to purchase an ad and the ring is hoping to have two full pages of the program filled with business card size ads contact Jack White or Don Soul as soon as possible. The deadline for purchasing ads will be April 15th. There can be no exceptions. Don't be left out join in today and avoid the last minute rush. Contact Jack White at 619-299-9037 or Don Soul at 858-484-3492 to reserve your advertising space. Deadline is April 15th.



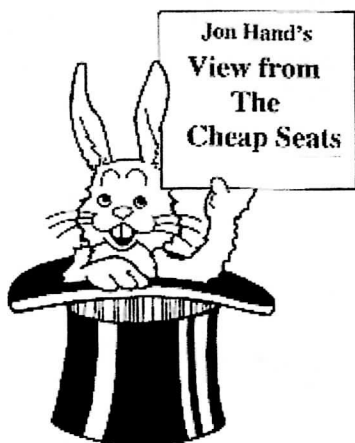
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**REVIEW by Jon A. Hand:
Mark Wilson on Illusions: Vols. 1 and 2,
Inexpensive Illusions (videos)**

These two volumes are more than merely a moving picture version of the Illusions chapter of the Mark Wilson Complete Course in Magic. While some of the video segments were lifted from the video version of that book and reused here, there is much new footage as well. Quite frankly, I bought these tapes out of sheer fondness for Mark Wilson. I was seven years old when his Magic Land of Allakazam went onto network television, and I watched it avidly every week for 5 years. I was hopeful that some clips from that show would be included, and I was not disappointed. The surprising thing about these videos is that there is much to be learned here, after all these years.

A good many of the illusions taught here are indeed illustrated by 40-yr-old clips from the Magic Land of Allakazam, where a young Wilson was faced with the need to do an illusion every week for the hungry television audience. As Wilson quite rightly points out, most pros do a single show for months or years on end, changing the audience daily; for TV, a weekly magic show requires new magic for the same audience, a rigorous setting, to say the least. Other clips come from Magic Circus, a late 1970s series of Wilson's, and some other television specials featuring Wilson. Some new footage of Wilson was shot in 2000 and 2001, doing the explanation segments.

Present on the tape are both Wilson and his wife/co-star/resident box jumper, Nani Darnell (Wilson). Volume two opens with a fine video tribute to Mrs. Wilson in the form of a montage of illusion climaxes over the years.

Regarding instruction, in many cases, Mrs. Wilson assists in the explanations of the illusions. In light of his age, I was surprised to see Mark Wilson film a new backstage view of himself doing the Ghost version of the Doll House, executing a spiritedly (and quiet) scramble into the illusion as if he were still 25 years old.

One cannot fail to be struck by the professionalism of the duo in the old clips. The Play Fish Pond segment is a wonderful rip-off of the square circle that ought to set many developing magicians rethinking how they can exploit other standard magical principles to make illusions. In that performance, Mrs. Wilson is quite obviously hauled out of the illusion by the stage crew too soon, yet Mark is so cool about the error that his count to three is unrattled by his wife's early appearance.

A good many of these illusions are much older than the Wilson Complete Course In Magic, coming instead from U.F. Grant's Victory Carton Illusions, a WW II booklet that taught magicians how to make illusions from cardboard boxes at a time when raw materials of wood and metal were rather scarce.

Few of the developing magicians I have met have ever constructed or performed anything from Grant's book, which is a tribute to their shortsightedness. One comes away from these Wilson videos with a new respect for these illusions, as Wilson used creative variations of them on a weekly basis for five years! Over those five years, 98 different shows were filmed (and they are now available in sets of four shows per tape at (www.markwilsonmagic.com)), so one can see how many illusions Wilson had to create! It is amazing to see how impressive these cardboard box illusions appear on television with only simple line drawings upon them to change their plot contexts for the viewer. The Wilsons' sheer enthusiasm in front of a live audience helps carry these illusions; the results are often spectacular.

There are some fine moments on the video, such as a Seigfried-and-Roy-style vanish of Rebo the Clown (the marvelous Bev Bergeron) seated in his gasoline-powered mini car, but this illusion is not inexpensive (nor is it explained). The purpose of the segment is a lead-in to a Tipover Box disguised to look like a mini-garage (again made of cardboard) to make Rebo and the car reappear, a wonderful use of an old concept. Wilson notes the clever use of "driveway paving" to the edges of the

illusion to strengthen the angle problem of the tipover box.

There is a fine discussion of angle problems of illusions, and Wilson uses a miniature proscenium arch with curtains to show ways to improve angles so that the audience lines-of-sight do not reveal an illusion's workings. Also, the perceptive viewer learns from watching the Wilson's performances of these budget illusions that smoothness of execution is the hallmark of a fine illusion. Seeing these clips of young pros making the simplest of materials into real magic by thorough rehearsal and attention to detail is the real lesson to be learned.



Everything is not wonderful, of course. There is a rather lengthy segment on using the commercially-built Doll House (a different illusion from the cardboard version on the tape), and its cousin the Temple of Benares (a doll house converted into a sword box). Neither of these could be built inexpensively, but the concepts could be adapted by the thinking conjuror.

Since Wilson was already using U.F. Grant concepts in this tape (and he gratefully acknowledges on camera the contributions of this magical inventor), why did he not use the Victory Carton Illusions version of the Sword Box? The tape is also lacking a levitation; why did Wilson not use one of Grant's levitations or suspensions from Bodies in Orbit or Six Modern Levitations? The answers are that this is an ongoing series of tapes.

Volume 3, now in preparation, will be levitations and suspensions. Conspicuously absent from the tape is one of my favorite Magic Land of Allakazam illusions, a larger cardboard Haunted House through which Rebo, Mark, and Nani chased each other as ghosts, ending in a substitution. Since Mark's library of shows would have undoubtedly included this illusion; it is a shame that it was omitted.

Nevertheless, one walks away from these tapes with a new appreciation for illusionists, their split-second timing, their stage flair, and their clever re-dressing of illusions to achieve new ends. Study the performance segments, and see just how well a

budget illusion can be done. Take the creative spark that the Wilson's' used to re-dress these basic illusions again and again, and create your own new versions.

Oh, yes; be sure to go to your local sign painter's shop to order the new plastic corrugated board in a wide array of colors. It is waterproof, and looks great. However, don't fail to exploit the opportunity to use the "cardboard box = ordinary" concept to make a fantastic illusion out of mere cardboard!

Recommended; \$30 list price; \$24 each from Charlie's Electronic Magic Store

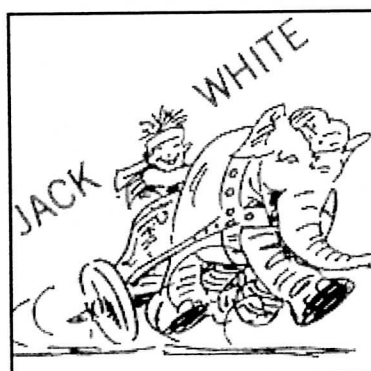
(Editors Note: Jon Hand had prepared an additional column this month that continues the material he began in January about carrying your shows in small cases. That column had to be moved to March because of constraints on space.)

IBM Convention News:

If you have sent your registration for this summer's IBM Convention in and have not received your confirmation letter, be patient. We are told that the registration committee, headed up by Steve Burton is just now catching up with the huge task of getting everyone properly logged in and registration tags made out. You should be notified some time this month. (March)

You will also notice that if you have not registered by March first, the price goes from \$110 to \$120-dollars that is still the least expensive of all magic convention fee's. The board of directors of Ring 76 urges all member's that can to purchase a registration and join in the fun of a national magic convention.

Jim Whiting and Don Soul are working on a design for a poster that will advertise the convention and the all star magic shows that will be presented nightly. That poster is sure to become a collector's item. The Convention Opens July 3rd and runs through July 6th at the Town & Country Convention Center.



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Magic Notes From Jack White:**Remembering Jim "Diamond Jack" Beamon:**

We learned this month that former Ring 76 member Jim "Diamond Jack" Beamon died after a long battle with bone cancer at his home in Mountain Home, Arkansas, Jim was 91.

In a recent letter, Beamon told me how he was planning on driving from his Ozark home to San Diego for this summer's IBM Convention. He was hiring a young man to do the driving and help him with the more argous parts of the trip. He told me he knew it would be his last magic convention.



Jim Beamon Active Ring Member:

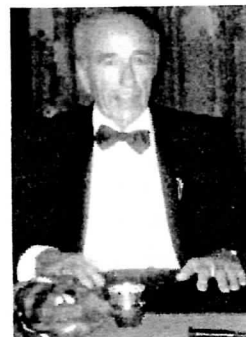
Jim Beamon was first introduced to Ring 76 by Bob Pozner in the 1970's. Bob's father was in the produce business and was a friend of Beamon's who was known as Diamond Jack. The Diamond Jack name came about when Jim created something called salad in a bag. The product became an instant hit and made the Diamond Jack name famous and wealthy.

Jim Beamon did not find a real interest in magic until he was in his 40's. Bob Pozner taught him a few sleights and then brought him to a meeting of the Ring. With George Edwards and J.C. Wagner, Beamon was in heaven and on his way to becoming an active magician.

Jim did both stand-up and close-up magic and as the years marched by he began to devote more and more of his energy to close-up magic and working restaurants and bars. Always a snappy dresser he looked the part of a magician. People were drawn to his appearance and outgoing personality.

He sold his "instant salad" business and began building homes. He built a number of beautiful homes in the

North City and Escondido areas. Then he decided there was new opportunity in Bullhead City, Arizona, which was just across the river from Laughlin, Nevada an emerging gambling, and vacation mecca. He went to work at the Laughlin Ramada Express, a hotel and casino, as the house magician. Under the name of Diamond Jack he continued to build his reputation as a close-up magician. During this period Jim would also appear for several days at a time at the Magic Castle in Hollywood and he would be at every magicians convention or magic event he could get booked into.



Jim Beamon at the Magic Castle 1985

After nearly a dozen years working in Laughlin, Nevada he moved to Mountain Home, Arkansas where he bought 90-acres of beautiful wooded land and began again building customhomes. He called his new development "Diamond Gem Estates".

Of course he could not stay away from magic, he still managed to perform at a place called "Fred's Fish Shack" a popular restaurant in Mountain Home. Every Friday and Saturday night Jim would be at the restaurant doing his magic. He created a sensational coin routine and would end his act with his own card in wallet routine. He had thought about marketing the wallet routine but said his energy was limited and never got it altogether.

While in Mountain Home, Jim was diagnosed with bone cancer. A slow moving cancer that becomes more debilitating with each year, Jim was determined to beat it. His wife Jackie took excellent care of him over the years and was always there to watch one more trick or pick a card. They entertained visiting magicians and always made sure everyone had a good time. Jim never retired he always had a new project going and most of the time it included a magic show or magicians.

For those of us who knew Jim Beamon, magic events and conventions will not be the same without him. He played an important part in Ring 76's past, where he opened his heart and his wallet to help us all.

Lecturers for March & April

Ron London, March 13th Jack's Magic Place 4275

University Avenue, 7 P.M.

Would you like some insight in putting together a banquet or stage show? Ron London will tell you how to make some unique props and how to better use some of the equipment already in your arsenal of magic.

Ron lives in Lafayette, Indiana but works all over the country all the time. His lecture has been presented to more than 500-magic groups and is constantly expanding. Here is one you won't want to miss whether you are close-up or a stand up performer. \$10-dollars at the door.

Kenrick "Ice" McDonald, April 10th

Jack's Magic Place, 7 P.M.

Considered one of the best all around magic lectures being presented today. How to develop an act, practice habits, showmanship, stage presence, magic ethics and dove magic.



Ice McDonald

Ice grew up in San Diego and has gone on to become a top magician having appeared at conventions and in shows across the nation. Don't miss this one if you want to improve your style and show. \$15-dollars at the door.

Paul Gertner, April 14th a Sunday afternoon lecture that begins at 2 P.M. at Jack's Magic Place. All seats are



reserved and the first two rows are already sold out. Gertner will present his new 2 and a half hour lecture "Amalgamations" along with features from his regular show and his appearances on the *Tonight Show*. All seats \$20-dollars call 858-484-3492 for tickets. Don't wait!

Notes on the February 25th Ring 76 Board Meeting:

There was a brief discussion about lifetime ring members. The big problem being there are no provisions for lifetime members in our Constitution and By-Laws. There was some discussion about amending that section.

Because there was no time limit on performers at the Close-up Contest it ran very long. It was decided there will be a time limit to be announced for the Stand-up Contest in June.

There was a brief discussion about the ratification of the Constitution and By-Laws. Dick Dale pointed out what he believed to be poor choice of words in the document. It was agreed that those words would be changed when the constitution is re-published. The words would be changed but not the meaning.

Bob Pozner is working closely with the committee to have programs for the spouses of those attending this summer's IBM Convention. They have no budget and that makes planning difficult but Bob is doing what he can to make things work. Don Soul will have a sign up sheet for volunteers for this summer's convention and will present it at the March Meeting. March will bring an exchange program with Ring 292, April will be our swap meet and auction.

In our library archives we have a small collection of newsletters from the Houdini Club of Wisconsin circa 1943. Jack White is contacting the club to see if they would like them for their collection? If not they will be sold and the money given to the treasury.

Don Soul is approaching Dale Salwalk to be the installing officer for the installation banquet in July. Don will report back.

It was decided that video camera's and tripods will not be set up in the middle of the audience during ring shows. Last month there were so many camera's people could not see the stage or show.

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Message from the President

First, I want to thank all those who came to the support of Joel Ward. Between the Lake Ellsinore group, the North County Guild and Ring 76, we raised \$330 to assist Joel in the replacement of his stolen magic props.

Speaking of the North County/ Lake Ellsinore bunch, they have put together an outstanding talent show for the enjoyment of Ring 76 at this month's meeting. It is an evening not to be missed. To reciprocate, we'll be entertaining them at their April meeting, which is the first Thursday of each month. Anyone who'd care to do ten minutes or so of parlor-type magic (sans stage and booming sound system), please let Richard Ustick know you're available for the Guild's April 4th meeting at Baker's Square restaurant in San Marcos.

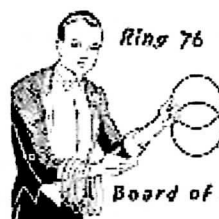
Next on the list is the formation of an IBM 2002 convention volunteer sign-up list. It will be presented prior to the Guild's magic show and I urge anyone who can become part of our volunteer force to please commit. All we'll need to know, for now, is your availability - days and time-of-day. The convention starts July 2nd with a Ring 76 welcoming reception then ends on Saturday, July 6th. Once we know who's available and when, we can start arranging chore assignments. Also, I want to mention that advertising is so inexpensive in the convention program, you all should consider taking out ad space. Speak to Jack White for details.

Please notice in this issue of MagiCurrents a new feature by a new (and valuable) member, Josh London. Those who think newsletters should include a magic trick to learn will enjoy this outstanding column. And a tip of the hat goes to Fred Kaplan for taking the bull by the horns and, working with another Ring 76er, Mary Ellen Brown, is starting to see his new youth group blossom.

And, in closing, I express my warmest appreciation for Richard Ustick's tireless efforts in revamping the Ring constitution and by-laws which were overwhelmingly ratified by the members of Ring 76. Thanks, also, to the other members of the committee: Dr. Joel Moskowitz, Jack White and one other guy. Oh, and don't forget, Ron London lectures two nights after our March meeting. \$10. Don't miss it.

Don Soul President Ring 76

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News

Ring 76 Members have known for a longtime how talented **Richard Ustick** is with his musical magical specialties presented at various past meetings. After the IBM Board members saw his routine in January, they asked him to perform at this summer's convention. The official request came in late February and Richard and his children will be listed in the program as official entertainers. We say congratulations to the Usticks!

Michael E. Johnson of San Marcos is one magician who knows how to make publicity work for him. He has just put out a new four-page brochure to sell his magic act. His pictures are all in color and the print in large readable type. The copy reads "Making Magic Work" and then proceeds to tell his potential clients what he can do for them and their fund raising efforts. He is targeting non-profit fundraisers with this new piece of advertising. It is well done and sure to bring Michael some new work.

Another Ring 76 Magician who knows how to take advantage of an opportunity to sell his skills is **Paul Thomey**. Paul recently signed up to have a booth at the San Diego Bridal Bazaar. Hundreds of Bride and Grooms to be, looking for entertainment for their wedding reception attend this event and book talent. Paul is attempting to get bookings from a new audience. We wish Paul much success because he is already one of San Diego's very busy close-up magicians.

T.C. and Mary Cooley who operate the magic shop in Seaport Village and do much to promote magic within Ring 76 have volunteered to sell tickets to the public magic shows at this summer's IBM Convention. The



public shows will be staged at the Civic Theater downtown. As we get closer to convention time we will put a poster up announcing the talent on the various shows and the ticket availability. The Cooleys will accept cash, checks and credit cards for the tickets which will sell for \$12-dollars per seat. Some of the top names in magic will be appearing on the three evening shows.

For the better part of a year the **Magic Castle** in Hollywood a private club for magicians has been embroiled in a bitter legal battle. Longtime member and former member of the board of directors of the Castle **Tony Giorgio** brought a lawsuit alleging wrong doing on the part of the current board of directors. In February the case was heard in Los Angeles Superior Court and as a result the Academy of Magical Arts Inc., (The Magic Castle) was totally exonerated in the lawsuit against them. **Dale Hindman** President of the Magic Castle says business will continue as usual. Tony Giorgio says he will appeal the judges decision.

Ring 76's honorary member **Imoto Hidetake** quietly told President Don Soul as our February meeting ended that he would be going back to Japan and that would be his last meeting in San Diego. Hidetake has been a visiting professor here in San Diego for just over a year and has finished his studies with American educators. We wish him well and hope when he is in the United States in the future he

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will come and visit us. He is a clever magician and he is always welcome at Ring 76.

An appeal for help to Ring 76 members. The "**Celebration of Champions**" a run for children that are in remission from various forms of cancer will be held on May 18th between 10 am and noon. The sponsors of this very worthwhile event are asking for strolling magicians to volunteer to entertain both the children and their families. If you can spare a couple of hours please contact **Joan Stoddard** at 619-223-3173. If you want to help don't put off making the call they need to line up talent now?

Proud Grandmother **Diane Lane** was awarded the volunteer of the year award from the "**American Liver Foundation**" this month. Diane has entertained, given speeches, headed up education programs and worked to raise money for the organization. The Liver Foundation is only one of many groups that Diane works her magic for throughout the year.

Tom McCarthy and David Eldridge are getting ready to open a new education center for Magicians. These two talented sleight of hand performers will teach beginning and advanced courses in magic. The location, time and length of class is yet to be determined but both men are committed and excited about the concept.

In the March issue of Magic Magazine **Rich Block** expresses concern about the attendance at his World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas. Block says the event should be moved to April to attract more people. The problem is Vegas hotels are booked during that period.

Monday March 11th Meeting of Ring 76

Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue

North County Ring 292 presents a show for Ring 76.

Ten Magic Guild of Southern California, performers present their magic in a special show, An exciting evening of magic. Cake and coffee to follow the show. Meet and get to know fellow magicians from the North County.

Pre-meeting with magicians at the bar performing 6:00 P.M. Special pre-meeting video tape presented by Ted Dunning at 6:30 P.M. Regular meeting and show start at 7:00 PM Guests Welcome!

Ring 76 Library is open and all members may check out books: (Don't forget to return library books when you are finished reading them.)

Our April 8th Meeting features a Magic Swap Meet & Auction. New and Used Magic and Collectable Props and Books. Mark your calender's for these upcoming events:

Return Address:

**4275 University Ave
San Diego, CA 92105**

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