



MagiCurrents

San Diego



Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XVI No 5 May 2002

Elections in June

Election of officers for Ring 76 will be held at our regularly scheduled meeting June 10th. In accordance with the newly adopted Constitution and By-Laws an election committee was appointed from the general membership at the April meeting. Marcus Day, J.P. Jackson and Loch David Crane volunteered to over see all election matters including the counting of ballots.

Part if the election committee's current job is to circulate among the members looking for nominations as President and Board of Directors. The current board has issued its slate of proposed officers for the coming year, it is as follows:

President Don Soul (2nd Term)
1st Vice President Bob Ingalls (1st Term)
2nd Vice President Diane Lane (2nd Term)
Treasurer Richard Ustick (1st Term)
Secretary Jack White (2nd Term)
Sgt at Arms Sherry Luft (1st Term)
Member at Large Bob Pozner (1st Term)

There is a change in the make up of the board for the coming year. Sumit Dua our current Treasurer will be attending Medical School out of the city and is forced to leave. Richard Ustick would like to assume that position which leaves open the job of 1st Vice President. Bob Ingalls has announced he will accept an invitation by the board to fill that position. Tom McCarthy says his work schedule will keep him busy and is leaving as Sgt at Arms, Sherry Luft a long time member of the ring and past President has accepted the board's invitation to fill McCarthy's position. Veteran member Roy Armstrong has announced he will not return as member at large so past ring President and longtime member Bob Pozner has accepted the boards request that he serve in that job.

It should be noted that the above slate is only endorsed by the Board of Directors and other nominations maybe

Story continued on page 4

Jr. Magic Program Off to Good Start:

Ring 76 member Fred Kaplan has infused new life and vitality into our Rings Junior Magician's program. Kaplan met with Don Soul, Jack White and Bob Ingalls in February and outlined his plans to build a series of young people's magic groups in San Diego County. Since that time he has enlisted the help and support of a number of adult volunteers and is actively recruiting young people for his classes.

In March Fred announced he has secured space at the Center for Spiritual Enrichment in Escondido for his Saturday morning magic classes. The sessions begin at 9:30 am and run til about 11:30. He has had a flyer printed up telling about his magic for young people and the advertising is being circulated throughout the county.

Kaplan has also visited Mary Ellen Brown's Junior Magic Club at Parker School and has taken part in one of the programs

there. Kaplan says he will continue to interact with that group and help Mary Ellen Brown in teaching her students the basics of magic.

The Ring 76 Junior Magic Program just received a nice chunk of money from our recent auction and swap meet. See the story elsewhere in this publication. Our ring stands behind these efforts to improve learning opportunities for young people interested in the art of magic.



Francis Parker School Ring 76 Work Shop. Fred Kaplan back row:

Story continued on page 9:

Ring 76 Takes Show On the Road to North County Ring 292

On Thursday April 4th Ring 76 took a show to The Bakers Square Restaurant where Ring 292 meets each month. A number of San Diego folks made the trip north and took part in the meeting. In the audience cheering on fellow ring members were J.P. Jackson, Marcus Day, Sumit Dua and Sherry Luft

Bob Ingalls was the master of ceremonies for the evening and had some interesting bits of business to introduce each act. He also did double duty by filling in for the closing act that at the last minute could not take part in the show.



Bob Ingalls

Bob had a running gag throughout the show of trying to find a card he had selected early in the evening. The idea was to have a deck of cards that had been tossed into the air and fallen to the floor to remain their throughout the evening. But one of the 292 members is very neat and he picked up all the cards.

But Bob made the best of things.



Singing Richard Ustick

Richard Ustick took the difficult spot of being first on the show and did one of his songs. He did "My Favorite Things" and incorporated some of his favorite magic tricks into the song. This was the first time that the North County group had seen Ustick do one of his songs and he brought them to their feet for a standing ovation. It was the perfect way to get our show off to a start.

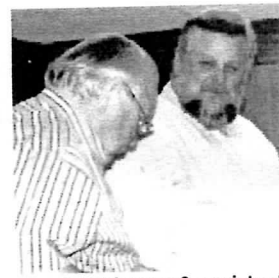
Jack White was on next wearing a derby hat and playing the part of a pitchman. He introduced the audience to the latest "High-Tech machine that sanitizes, simonizes and deodorizes" your shoes. He borrowed a shoe from a lady in the audience and burned it up in his fancy



Jack White

machine. There was some joking around and then he reproduced the original shoe from a shoebox. Alls well that ends well.

Next came Jeff Marcus who was prepared to do an evening show if he had too but stuck with a very clever cards across routine with envelopes and two spectators out of the audience. Jeff gave us a look at a trick you can carry in your pocket but on stage plays really big and with the kind of showmanship Jeff puts into this effect has a lot of entertainment value.



Jeff Marcus & assistant



David Lopez

David Lopez who is known for his work with cards, but this evening he presented a bit of a puzzle involving his belt. That was followed by his "Time Machine" effect. He amity's a can of Coke and then crushes the can the beverage came in. Then suddenly and very mysteriously the

crushed can begins to return to its original state. Even the tab that was once open is now closed and the can is new again. It is opened and another Coke is poured from the can. That trick brought a lot of applause.

David was followed by the old pro Bob Pozner who also wore his Derby Hat for the occasion and presented a very clever dollar bill count that always comes out in Bob's favor. Then he did a couple of funny little bits to warm the audience up and quickly presented a sensational coin trick. Not very many performers could entertain a large audience with a coin trick but Bob made it pay off.



Bob Pozner

Closing our show was Dazzling Diane Lane who opened with her very beautiful jumbo coin production as Dean Martin sings "Money, Burns A Hole In My Pocket". Diane has also put together a very nice routine featuring mental magic and her bending spoon. Then after the

Continued on Page 9.

April Meeting Swap Meet & Auction:

The April meeting brought a very large turn out of members and guests for the annual magic swap meet and auction. At one point in the evening Jack's Magic place looked like a dealers room at an IBM Convention with dealers and buyers exchanging money and tricks.

The first of the dealers began to arrive about 5:30 by 6:20 most of those selling had filled the ten banquet tables set up for the occasion and money and goods were changing hands. Several members took turns performing at the bar while others were making a second round of the dealer tables.



Tom LaChance

Those selling things included Tom LaChance who had some great books and video's, Marcus Day and J.P. Jackson who brought some great collectable props and boxes of books there was always a crowd at their table.



Marcus Day & J.P. Jackson

Bob Ingalls had very carefully packaged dozens of tricks in plastic bags he has purchased over the years and made sure they were in working condition with original instructions. His too operated a busy table.

Jim Thayer offered some interesting items for sale and was enjoying himself demonstrating some of his items. Antonio Torres had some large props and very unusual items to show the people who dropped by his table. Magic Mike Stilwell was next with some of the nicest tables in magic. They were originally designed for the close up performer that works restaurants. You can carry your entire act in this table and move it around a room with ease. These were the last of what he had.

Jeff Marcus was given a rather large collection of standard magic effects to sell and then donate the money made from the sale to help junior magicians in San Diego. If you visited Jeff's table you could spend a lot of time there because there was a lot to see.



Jeff Marcus

Across the room Terry Godfrey had a table full of great magic books for sale. Terry recently bought a very large collection of magic books and he brought a lot of them to the swap meet.

Next to Terry was who had a lot of large and smaller magic. There was a floating lady, a large red roll on table and lots and lots of smaller magic.



Alfonso Vazquez, Kenny Shelton and Josh London

New member Kenny Shelton and Josh London shared a table and if you were looking for clever coin effects Kenny had them and was willing to demonstrate a trick many times. Josh London was also doing brisk business selling surplus props, books and tapes. Many members came from the North County and Riverside County to take part in this event.

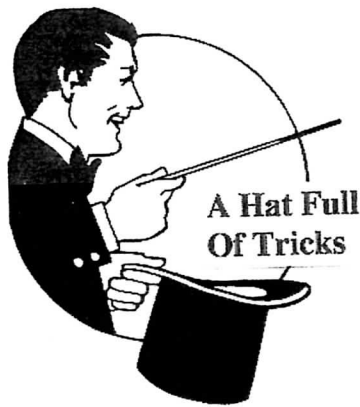
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By Josh London

Two Card Transposition

Effect: You have two spectators select two cards. You replace the two cards into the deck. After

some extensive shuffling and by play, you show one of the spectator's cards on top of the deck. You table this card, and then you show the next top card, hoping that it is the selected card. It is not, so you magically change it into the card you just put on the table. The tabled card is the other selected card.

Performance: Grab your favorite deck of playing cards, gather around the campfire and have two spectators snag two cards. Get the cards back, and control those two cards to the top of the deck using your favorite method. Do some false shuffles and cuts to get the audience's mind of the fact that you controlled their cards to the top of the deck.

Next, perform your best double lift to show a selected card, ask whose it is, then table it. Do another double to show an indifferent card. Act as if this is one of the selected cards.

It is not of course.

You will now perform a Paintbrush Change. Briefly, you will take the double in the right hand face up and close the book as in 2 x 2 Ace Production, but instead of letting the whole deck fall on top of the double card you will brush the double against the back of the deck three times. On the third time you will leave the indifferent card on top of the deck face down, by pushing the indifferent card on top of the deck face down with your thumbs, now showing the first selected card you tabled. Do this, and show the tabled card as the other selection.

Afterthoughts: This is a Jay Sankey effect, "The Amateur vs. The Professional," in his excellent video "*Sankey Very Much*". I won't give away the presentation of that trick, but I will tell you

that it is very nice. It gives you a reason for doing this trick. Other than that, this is a very strong trick, when performed correctly. It is totally impromptu, so you can perform it in a restaurant or at a corporate banquet.

As for the Paintbrush Change, I have never seen this done before. I saw a version of this on J.C. Wagner's video "*Queens Debate*," put out by **Brad Burt's Magic Shop**.

Elections Story Continued from page 1:

forthcoming from the membership to the elections committee.

If you would like to serve as a member of the board of directors contact Marcus Day, 619-296-7196 J.P. Jackson 858-569-0096 or Loch David Crane 619-222-2849 before the May 13th meeting so that your name can be placed in nomination and included on the official ballot at the June meeting. Installation will be July 8th. The Installation Banquet will be held at the Al Bahr Shrine Temple on Kearney Mesa. A sit down dinner (not a buffet) of both chicken and beef with potato, vegetable, salad and desert will be served. Following the Installation ceremonies and several other special surprise presentations Ice McDonald will present his full evening show.

Ring Gets Big Screen TV for Lecturer's

If you attended the Paul Gertner lecture in April you not only witnessed some excellent magic but you were treated to a new dimension in Ring 76 presentations. Member Gary Salisbury set up a big screen video projector and operated the camera that allowed the audience to see close up the moves Gertner was trying to teach his audience.

Salisbury works for National Cash Register Company and has been able to acquire some of their surplus and out dated video equipment. We are all indebted to Gary for allowing us to use his projector for lectures so that we may more clearly see first hand what our guest lecturers are doing in a close-up big screen picture. This new tool means you can be in the back of the room and still see the smallest of sleights.

We all thank Gary Salisbury for going to a lot of work to make this happen for Ring 76 members. We look forward to using this video projector at future lectures.



Magic Pro-Tips

By Brad Burt

Many years ago now I had the pleasure of watching one of the truly great close-up performers work and lecture. Not only a wonderful performer, but he is also my favorite magic writer and a thoughtful and generous lecturer. His name is Harry Lorayne and his classic Close-up Card Magic is still one of the finest books of commercial and usable magic in print.

But, beyond the magic that I saw Harry perform and explain that night, I learned an even better and more cogent lesson and I would like to pass it along.

The lesson is an odd one and has to do with HOW we as performers treat our audience. I have always attempted to treat an audience with respect, but after 30 years of watching hundreds of performers I can tell you that that is not always that way an audience gets treated. I have seen performers of even high caliber do things that caused my teeth to clench and a slightly sick feeling horror envelope me. Really. I have explanation for this, but it doesn't really matter at the genesis of such behavior. What matters is that treating people with kindness is just a better way to act if not be as a performer.

As an aside, another performer that I hold in the highest esteem was Mike Rogers. I am convinced that grouchy psychopaths would walk away from a Rogers

performance with a smile on their face.

What did Harry do that so impressed me that even 20 plus years later I can still remember the affect that it had on me? It was a really simple, even a little thing. During the performance of an effect Harry asked for the loan of a handkerchief. After a pause an older gentleman handed Harry one. It was crumpled, dirty and obviously used. I was frankly horrified. Harry, to his great credit, did not miss a beat. He used the proffered hanky, completed the effect and handed the hanky back with a polite and sincere thank you. Why was this so startling to me?

I had watched not long before a young (hot) performer at the Magic Castle ask for and receive a hanky from a spectator in the audience. The hanky was clean, pressed, almost sterile looking. And? The performer made a joke handling the hanky as if covered with, well, snot. Completed his trick and handed the hanky back crumpled and with nary a thanks for the loan. I remembered being distinctly embarrassed by the whole episode and it pretty much ruined the rest of the performance for me. O.k., I 'might' be over sensitive, but I don't think so. It was just a shoddy and thoughtless interlude that received a sad little laugh at the expense of a spectator's kindness. It reflected badly upon magic and magicians in general and was not necessary.

Harry Lorayne whatever else one may think of any foibles real or imagined is a gentleman and a pro. He handled what could have been a terrible situation with elan, precision and kindness. Many performers when faced with a situation that is embarrassing for 'them' will instinctually fall back on a joke at the expense of someone else. It only reflects back with more force and makes the performer look that much worse. We ALL need to think through what we are going to DO when faced with the unexpected and embarrassing situation. Why? So that not only do we come out looking good, but so does the audience and thus magic is enhanced as well.

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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
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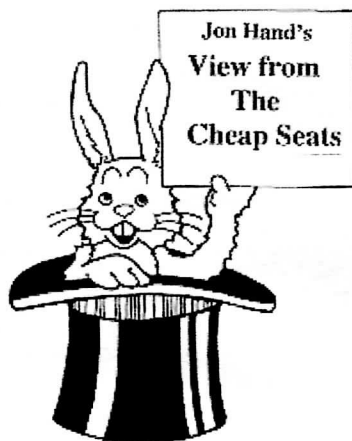
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In the March edition of *Cheap Seats*, I reviewed Volumes 1 and 2 of Mark Wilson's ongoing video series on performing illusions. Now Volume 3 has just arrived in stores, and I will share my thoughts on it while it is still hot off the publisher's duplicator.

The new volume is dedicated to Suspension illusions. According to the official Wilson website (which is <http://www.markwilsonmagic.com>), there are two more volumes yet to come on other types of levitation. The instructional tape has some fine moments, but also has areas in which it is lacking.

The first type of suspension, the "Super X" style, is presented and explained quite thoroughly. Although no attempt is made to explain how to build such an illusion, the abundance of front and rear views would make it fairly easy to determine how to construct the unit from steel or aluminum tubing with the aid of a local welding shop. Exact dimensions are readily available from such standards as the Mickey Hades *Encyclopedia of Suspensions and Levitations* or Tanner's & Grant's *Six Modern Levitations*. Tips on hiding the gimmick from balcony audiences are included, and hoop technique is clearly shown from several angles, perhaps to the point of redundancy. Clever thematic suggestions and two possibilities for performing the illusion surrounded are explored also.

Next is a brief look at the "Flying Carpet." Hoping to avoid redundancy with the "Super X" here, Wilson sadly skimps on this affordable and easily transported illusion. His version, shown in clips from his 1960's television series

Magic Land of Allakazam, is essentially a cosmetic alteration of the "Super X" suspension. The traditional "Flying Carpet", however, is lower to the floor and does not require the magician's strategic body placement that "Super X" does. I would like to have seen Wilson do the more commonly available version of the "Flying Carpet" which uses a false book to screen the gimmick (or even two books, like

Jack Gwynne's original version). Interested readers can find more info in the Hades *Encyclopedia* mentioned earlier, and some interesting variations allowing surrounded use of the suspension in Jim Sommer's *Illusion* book published by Magic Inc. in Chicago.

A good overview of the Chair Suspension follows the Flying Carpet. Wilson wisely chose the Harbin/Klamm/Sommers version in which the board upon which the volunteer rests can be taken away, leaving the volunteer suspended in the air from the top of a folding chair. I would like to have seen a real person suspended rather than a teddy bear, as the suspension needs careful placement of the volunteer to avoid balance problems (i.e., the volunteer's shoulders must be over the chair back). Also, the volunteer must hold up his own head/neck and lower legs/feet, so the magician must whisper this info to the volunteer as he helps her recline upon the board. These are important points that should not have been omitted in the discussion, and having a live subject would have undoubtedly led Wilson's commentary that way. This version of the Chair Suspension can be done surrounded, and is probably the best suspension available for the active amateur or semi-pro magician; it is lightweight, easy to transport, and cost effective.

A brief overview of the Broom Suspension is included, again from the *Magic Land of Allakazam*. The harness is not shown, nor is the ratchet mechanism. These omissions hurt the student, as such missing details keep the prospective purchaser from making an informed decision about the suitability of the illusion for his purposes.

A long section covering the Three Sword Suspension from Wilson's 1970's *Magic Circus* series wraps up the topics on this suspension video. The harness is shown here, but its application to the assistants body is not shown. The explanation segment veers into redundancy a bit at this point.

Future volumes propose to examine AGA and ASRAH levitations. It will be interesting to see what these volumes teach. In the meantime, despite the short comings mentioned above, this Volume 3 is a splendid overview of basic suspension techniques, and so belongs in the library of anyone seriously considering adding a suspension to his or her platform or stage work. However, knowledgeable magicians with levitation/suspension experience will find little new information.

Jon A. Hand welcomes your feedback; email him at jonahand@hotmail.com.

April Meeting from Page 3



J.C. Wagner performing at the bar. Like old times.

One of the highlights of the evening was having J.C. Wagner attend and for a time get behind the bar and entertain some of the guests with his magic.

At 7:45 President Don Soul called the meeting to order and folding chairs were quickly set up and the dealers

stopped their selling for the meeting and auction.

Don had some announcements about coming lecturers, welcomed guests and new members. He then introduced the Board of Directors slate of officers for the coming year. There is a story on the coming elections elsewhere in this newsletter. Marcus Day, J.P. Jackson and Loch David Crane were appointed as the election committee to seek additional nominees for board jobs and to over see the election and vote counting process.

With no further business President Soul turned the meeting over to Jack White who began the auction. Richard Ustick kept track of each item as it was sold and collected the money at the end of the auction. Dealers were not allowed to sell until the auction ended.

All of the proceeds from the auction went to the Ring 76 treasury. White said he wanted to start the bidding on each item as low as possible to give everyone an opportunity to go home with a bargain.

There was a lot of very nice magic to be auctioned off some of it quite collectable. There was a package of Frank Herman tricks and advertising memorabilia, ring member Don Holcomb brought a nice collection of books, two very nice sets of cups and balls and a beautiful set of wooden billiard balls. Mike Stilwell donated one of his roll on tables.

There was a very unique prop that would release twelve spring snakes, Jeff Marcus donated many items from his table that included a die box, mental epic and a variety of other magic items. Bob Ingalls donated a lot of items that brought \$51-dollars. Brad Burt sent over a vanishing

birdcage and a vanishing clock. J.P. Jackson donated several lots of magazines and books. Bob Pozner auctioned off a ticket to the IBM Banquet Dinner at this summer's convention.

When the auction was over \$487 dollars had been raised in sales, another 80 dollars for tables. Jeff Marcus donated 117-dollars from the sales of items on his table for Ring 76 Junior Magicians activities. A total of 684-dollars for the ring treasury. The best part many members went home with a lot of new magic purchased at bargain prices.

New Houdini Stamp

I think everyone knows by now that on July 3rd the Post Office will issue the new Houdini postage stamp in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Society of American Magicians who will be holding their convention in New York City. Houdini was one of the founders of the SAM and carried card number 1.

Here is something you may not know. Beginning with a series of stamps featuring the Universal Pictures Movie Monsters in 1997, the Post Office Printing Department has been experimenting with something called "Scrambled Indicia" its main purpose is to prevent counterfeiting. But in using it on stamps it gives a second picture under the image visible to the naked eye.

In the case of the Houdini stamp if you use a little decoding viewer that you can buy for under twenty bucks at stationary stores or the philatelic counter at the Post Office you will see Houdini bound in chains instead of the portrait of the famous escape artist and magician that is visible at normal viewing.



Houdini would have loved this little encrypted image. As you will remember from the many biographies written about him he enjoyed coded messages and would spend hours trying to decipher their contents. Often times breaking down highly sophisticated coded systems.

If you want a first day issue of the Houdini stamp here is a toll free phone number you can call to have it mailed to you 800-782-6724. They will take your credit card for payment or you can contact them via the internet. USPS.com

Magic Notes From Jack White:**A Magical Evening I Can't Forget:**

One night in late March three San Diego legends in magic all got together for a little dinner at a favorite watering hole the Gathering Restaurant in Mission Hills.

The participants were Bob Sheets, J.C. Wagner and Terry Lunceford. I was invited

along as a referee and make sure each person had an opportunity to speak or perform or both.



Terry Lunceford, Bob Sheets
J.C. Wagner at the Gathering

Bob Sheets lives in Baltimore, Maryland with his wife these days. He lives there when he is not on the road performing and that is most of the time. But he grew up here in San Diego and I remember him as a very talented young man doing magic at Ring 76 meetings in the late 1960's. His sister and father still live here so he was home for Easter and will be back for Thanksgiving.

After we all caught up on what everyone was doing these days, we began talking about the past. I remembered a time in 1969, when Harold Ellis a Ring 76 member called me up on the phone and asked if I wanted to go to the circus and see Bob Sheets perform?

Bob had joined the Big John Strong Circus that was appearing for a month on a lot in Oldtown for San Diego's 200th Anniversary. It was a beautiful little tented show that was made to look like a circus from one hundred years earlier, 1869.

Sheets got the job with the circus when another former Ring 76 member Ken Bengé a sensational juggler and fire-eater called Bob and asked if he wanted to join the show? Bob met with John Strong owner of the circus who was billed as the man who had more friends than Santa Claus. Strong asked Bob if he could juggle, Ken Bengé said yes, Bob could juggle. Then Big John asked if Bob was a fire-eater? Again Bengé said yes, Bob could do that too. Bob got the job in the circus that day. The trouble was Bob could not do any of those things. So that afternoon with the help of magician Bev Bergeron who was also appearing in Oldtown during that period with his magic show and Kenny Bengé they taught Bob

Sheets how to juggle, eat fire and framed a small magic act he could do in the circus ring.

A month later when the Big John Strong Circus left town Bob Sheets packed his trunk and ran away with the circus. He has been a professional entertainer and on the road ever since. His life under the big top lasted only during the summer months and for only a few seasons.

When the circus returned to winter quarters Bob returned to San Diego and with J.C. Wagner worked such hot spots at Marco's Bar in Coronado. J.C. Wagner taught Bob how to be a good bartender and they were both beginning to make big names for themselves as close-up magicians.



Bob Sheets 1967

Close-up magic was just coming into its own as a popular art form during this period of the early 1970's.

Recently in *Magic Magazine* Stan Allen wrote about how he often drove from Orange County on Saturday nights to Coronado just to watch Bob Sheets and J.C. Wagner work the bar at Marco's. Stan talked about magicians from all over Southern California dropping by this little bar to study the technique and the effects these two magical bartenders had worked out and were presenting nightly.

Later Bob would take his talents as a bartender and performer to a place called the Tower Bar in Snowmass, which is near Aspen Colorado. There his work as a magician and would be written up in magic journals and non-magic publications as well. He had become famous as a close-up performer.

During the winter months he was in Colorado, during the summer at private parties, trade shows, theme parks and magic conventions. For the past 33-years Bob Sheets has been presenting his magic close-up and on stage for audiences all across the country.

As we finished our dinner Bob reached down into a bag and pulled out two new videotapes he had just released. One was produced at Terry Lunceford's studio in La Mesa. Bob then said have you seen my new dice routine?

I said no and he went to work impressing everyone at the table and in the restaurant with a funny and very clever routine with a regular set of dice and some very clever handling and patter.

I have always enjoyed a good "Three Shell and Pea" routine and Bob Sheets has included that effect in his reparator for years. I asked to see his handling of it and he announced he had just produced another new videotape for his three shell routine.



Bob Sheets Dice Routine

Bob has become the master of the "shell game" and quietly but honestly divulged his secret. It like all magic is simple and direct but sets him apart from other performers who include this effect in their act. His tape will open a new door on the old three shell game and give you new insight in how to really make this gambling stunt into good entertainment and a fantastic magic trick.

My comment was, "you should teach this to Ring 76 members!" Bob's answer was, "I would love too." So when he returns to San Diego in November he has agreed to do a lecture for Ring 76.

We are still working out the dates but it will be a sensational evening for both close-up and stand-up magicians and a great learning experience from a guy who has faced all kinds of audiences. So stay tuned to MagiCurrents because we will have more in future issues about Bob Sheets lecture.

It was one of those special evenings at the round table at the Gathering with three magicians talking about the past in San Diego and elsewhere.

We told stories about friends now departed and others still with us but scattered around the country. We talked about magic past, present and what trends the future will bring. It felt good to have been able to share some conversation with Bob Sheets, J.C. Wagner and Terry Lunceford even though it was just for few hour's. It was one of those magical evenings you won't forget.

On the Road with Ring 76 Continued from page 2:



Diane Lane

bending spoon she does a sensational bending fork that leaves the audience sitting there with their mouths open.

Bob Ingalls returned to close the show with his "Tray of Doom", followed by a new burned and restored threat effect he has been working on with music. Our little show ran just over an hour. There was time for socializing with the


North County Ring. It was a fun evening and all Ring 76 members are encouraged to take part in future ring exchange shows.

Jr., Magicians Continued from Page 1:

If you would like to volunteer some time for this program please contact Fred Kaplan at 858-451-9012 or if you know of a young person interested in learning more about magic get the child into one of Fred's classes.

Plan to attend the Ring 76 Magic Teach-In May 13th 7 P.M. Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. Come and learn a new trick or two from our expert teachers. This has become a popular session.

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MagiCurrents



Message from the President

Sometimes picking a **Member Of The Year** for meritous recognition is difficult for some of us to consider, so I'm offering the following as a guide for your review:

Richard Ustick for chairing the Constitution and By-Laws committee and his unending efforts in rewriting that document.

Tom McCarthy for his untiring efforts as Sgt-At-Arms and his donating of the Ring 76 banner,

Bob Ingalls for his overwhelming generosity of time and materials, **Howard Harris** for creating the San Diego Blood Bank Ring 76 account.

Fred Kaplan for pursuing means of forming a new Ring youth group,

Don Holcomb for numerous contributions to the Ring 76 library, and **Gary Salisbury** for his interest in wanting to donate and help out wherever possible. See the story in this issue of MagiCurrents about his big screen TV efforts.

I know I left out others in the group. Forgive me and please feel free to make up your own mind in June when we select our new **Member Of The Year**.

Lest we forget, the Ring web site is up and active. If you'd like to contribute, feel free to notify **Sumit Dua**, our webmaster, at sumit@cardmagician.com. The Ring 76 web site address is WWW.RING76.COM so check it out.

I want to thank **Paul Gertner** for keeping a personal promise to me of coming to San Diego and

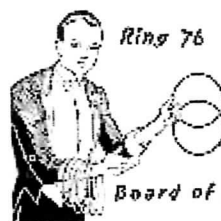
presenting his lecture. It was sensational.



Paul Gertner & Don Soul

The June meeting will mark the 5th annual **Stand-Up** competition and, with a prize of \$25 for the winner, I hope you'll polish up a good 8-minute routine and enter. Let **Richard Ustick** know ASAP: rustick@flash.net

MagiCurrents is published Monthly by Ring 76, Jack White
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News

In case you have been wondering what happened to ring member **Bryan McDaniel** he has been very busy providing the **U.S. Marine Corps** with a magic and hypnosis program he designed to demonstrate to his fellow Marines. His presentation vividly shows the consequences resulting from driving while under the influence of alcohol. The program has become very popular and is getting rave reviews from audience's and the **Marine Corps Safety Staff at Marine Headquarters in Quantico, Virginia**. In May, Bryan will be on the road with his show at Marine bases in North Carolina, Arizona, South Carolina and Hawaii. Congratulations Bryan on some great work.

Diane Lane is back working her magic at "Joes Crab Shack" at the Hazard Square Shopping Center in Mission Valley on Saturday evenings. Most of us think of Diane as a stage and television magician but let us assure you her close-up table hopping at restaurants is also very good. Next time you are looking for entertainment with dinner stop by Joe's Crab Shack.

Convention News: **Johnny ... Pam Thompson** have had to drop out of the IBM Convention line-up of performers because of other commitments. However joining the huge cast of magicians as replacements this summer is **Jay Scott Berry** and Las Vegas Superstar of Magic **Rick Thomas**. Who knows Rick may bring a white tiger or two for his appearance in San Diego.

Longtime San Diegan **Kendrick "Ice" McDonald** was in town long enough to do a lecture April 12th for his friends at Ring 76. **Terry Lunceford** came early to say hello to "Ice" and had intended to leave. But



once Terry started listening to what McDonald had to say about being a better performer he decided to forget about his next appointment and stayed for the entire lecture. Terry and Ice both work the showrooms of the Magic Castle often and have become good friends. When these two are at the Magic Castle you will usually find **Bob Ingalls** in the front row cheering both performers on.



(Above Terry Lunceford & Ice McDonald during his lecture in April in San Diego.)

Two important lectures for Ring 76 members before the next meeting. Tuesday May 7th Petrick & Mia return with a new lecture at 7 P.M. at Jacks Magic Place. The cost is 15-dollars at the door. This features a lot of good material for close-up and stand-up workers. Then on Sunday May 12th Jay Sankey will bring his lecture tour to San Diego and Jack's Magic Place. This will be a Sunday

Briefs

afternoon lecture beginning at 2: P.M. and will feature some exciting new material from the mind of Jay Sankey. This will also be 15-dollars at the door. Two excellent lecturers for the magician who wants to keep up on what is going on.

On Sunday April 7th Magic **Mike Stilwell** was a guest on **Jack White's** radio show "Brunch With Jack" on KCBQ. Mike was being saluted for his 15-years as a performer at the Corvette Diner in Hillcrest. During the interview Mike did a magic trick on radio. It worked and Jack's audience was impressed and mystified.

In case you haven't noticed the Ring 76 web site is up and operating. Your impute is welcome. To find the web page go to: **ring76.com** Between attending college and trying to learn about practicing medicine **Sumit Dua** put the site together for us. Sumit is also putting the finishing touches on his new magic video tape that he hopes to have ready for release by convention time this summer.

Marcus Day and J.P. Jackson had a dealer's table at the Magic Castle Swap Meet in April and both report business was brisk and that the April event was one of the best Castle Swap Meets in recent memory. Also seen browsing the tables at the Hollywood event were Ring 76 members **Bob Ingalls, Ralph Mauzy, Jeff Marcus, and Freddie Sanchez**.

All Ring 76 members send their deepest sympathy to Dick & Julie Dale on the recent death of Dick's mother.

Monday May 13th Meeting of Ring 76

Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue

May is our Magic-Teach-In. You will leave this meeting having learned a new trick or sleight. Maybe several new tricks. Our teachers include: Terry Godfrey, Syd Segal, Terry Lunceford, Bob Ingalls, Craig Stone, Bob Pozner and Jeff Marcus All great working magicians.

Come and join in this evening of learning from experienced magicians.

Ring 76 Library is open and all members may check out books:

June Meeting Stand-Up Contest all members welcome to become contestants. Also Election for Ring Officers: Dues are Due in June:

**Have you Registered for this Summer's IBM Convention?
Don't wait too long.**

**Return Address:
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