



MagiCurrents

San Diego



Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

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Convention Up-date:

The 74th Annual International Brotherhood of Magicians Convention is now less than one month away at the Town & Country Convention Center in San Diego's Mission Valley, and the excitement is building.

Ron London is putting together a group of magicians to tour local hospitals and entertain on Tuesday July 2nd. The hospital shows begin at 10 a.m., and go until 1 p.m. Ron tells Ring 76 he needs about 5 or 6 more close-up workers to take part in these shows. If you can help out contact Jack White.

Later that day at about 4:30 Convention Chairperson Mindy Burden will meet with Jack and hand out assignments for volunteers for the convention itself.

At 8 p.m., on the evening of the 2nd a "Kick-Off Party" will be held in the Pacific Rooms 1,2, & 3. Again we are asking for volunteer close-up performers to circulate and do some close-up magic and help out with a brief program that will include our ring members and IBM Officials.

Following this event there will be a dealer's room preview. Here is your chance to see what's in the dealers room before anyone else. The Convention itself will open the following morning at 7 a.m. We will have the complete convention program printed in our next MagiCurrents newsletter that will be mailed on June 29th.

There was some discussion that buses would be used instead of the trolley to transport people to and from the Civic Theater for the evening shows. That information was incorrect; the San Diego Trolley will be the primary mode of transportation and we will need volunteers to direct people to the trolley station. The ring will supply special bright yellow tee shirts to all volunteers. The shirts are yours to keep.

If you would like to be a volunteer contact Jack White or Don Soul at our next meeting and sign up.

Important June Meeting Dues, Election and Show:

This month the annual ring dues of \$25.00 are due and payable. The club treasurer will be ready to accept your money at the next meeting. If you cannot attend you will receive a bill in the mail. You actually received two extra months this year because the board moved the payment date from April to June so that the newly elected ring President and board of directors will have a full treasury to work with.

The June meeting will also bring about the election of officers. The board of directors proposed slate of officers has been printed in last months MagiCurrents in case you missed it we offer it again. President Don Soul, 1st Vice President Bob Ingalls, 2nd Vice President Diane Lane, Secretary Jack White, Treasurer Richard Ustick, Sgt at Arms, Sherry Luft, Member at Large Bob Pozner. There is still the possibility of nominations from the floor the evening of June 10th prior to the actual voting. We will also be voting for member of the years at this months meeting.

This month offers our annual Stand-Up Magic program. All members are encouraged to take part. If you would like to perform please contact entertainment Vice President Richard Ustick and get your name on the show roster. The winner of our stand up contest will win a \$25-dollar prize. The stand-up and close-up performer of the year will be announced at the July Installation banquet.

Our Installation Banquet will be July 8th the day following the closing of the IBM Convention. The banquet will offer several special ceremonies and a show by "Ice" McDonald. This years banquet will be held at the Al Bahr Shrine Temple on Kearney Mesa, and will be a sit-down dinner of beef and chicken. The board wants to thank Art and Pat Hannum for making this venue available.

May Ring Meeting A Teach-In

The May 12th Ring 76 meeting drew 37-people for a teach in. Ring President Don Soul called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and announced that Terry Godfrey had donated a Jay Sankey book to the Ring Library. J.P. Jackson chairman of the elections committee gave a brief report. J.P., has talked with many members and at this point has found only one person who wants to put their name in nomination for member of the board. J.P. is suggesting we go with the current board slate and accept nominations from the floor at the next meeting prior to the actual election.

Andy Martinez who is a full time minister entertained with his magic. His strong voice and fast presentation made him a delight to watch. He presented two unique card effects and closed with a chain escape. Andy was voted into Ring 76 as a member.

Six tables were set up at Jack's Magic Place and our teachers/mentors for the evening went to work. The teachers would rotate to a new table every 8-minutes teaching one or two trick, or moves during there stay at each table.

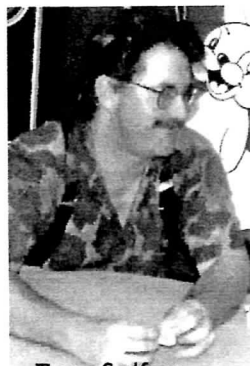


Jeff Marcus with Rubber bands

Jeff Marcus captivated his students with a series of rubber band effects. Jeff said he was teaching the effects of other rubber band workers namely Dan Harlan but added his own variations to many of the effects he

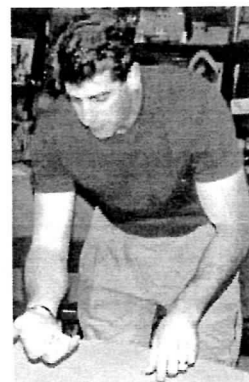
taught. We noted several people leaving the meeting Monday evening with rubber bands in hand practicing some of the moves they learned.

Terry Godfrey, who is entering his most busy time of the year doing fair shows took time out to teach ring members the "Retention Coin Pass" a beautiful sleight when performed correctly. The late Danny Dew taught Godfrey the move and he in turn passed the subtleties on to our



Terry Godfrey with coins

members. Terry also gave our members a little routine in how to better use this sleight. **Craig Stone** another very busy magician took time off from one of the many restaurants he works at with his magic to teach ring members a "Two Card Transposition". The routine that Craig presented actually consisted of four very involved and clever sleights. The most important were the card to pocket switch or the top change. Craig has performed this routine for so many years the moves become second nature to him. His work with this effect is a thing of beauty to watch. Our members received a real treat learning some of the working of this great effect from a master of close up magic.



Craig Stone with coins & cards



Terry Lunceford makes a coin vanish

Terry Lunceford is another hard working professional magician who spends a lot of time away from home working trade shows and special events. The week following our ring meeting Terry was at the Magic Castle in Hollywood.

Terry taught the *Himber Coin Pass* and variations of a *quick pass*. He also taught the *Jerry Cammero Coin Retention Vanish*. I have always been impressed with Lunceford's coin work and his moves at the table made me admire his work even more. He worked hard with each student to make sure they got the moves down pat.

Bob Pozner

introduced us to an old trick that you can do almost anywhere and it is a real stunner. *"The Burned and Restored Napkin"*.

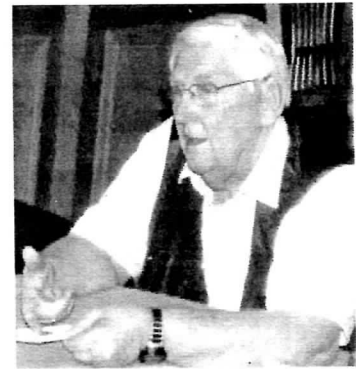
Bob first learned the trick 30-years ago from longtime ring member *George Edwards*. This is an effect that is very visual and once you get the moves down you find it is a trick you enjoy performing. Bob Pozner had a very good stage act and then devoted his magic to close up entertaining exclusively. He is a good magician and a good teacher.



Bob Pozner does burned & restored napkin

Ingalls ended his little demonstration with a very clever coin transposition. He had a great little story that makes the trick very appealing. It is easy to do and entertaining to the eye.

The meeting was like a three-ring circus with



The always clever and funny Bob Ingalls with a packet trick



Syd Segal and a deck of cards

*

Syd Segal is not yet 20-years of age has become a very respected and clever close-up worker. Much of what this young man does is original. He opens with a little performance and then begins to explain some of the things he does to accomplish his effects. Much of what Segal does is

highly technical and on the complicated side. But for this evening of teaching he kept things to the simple side of his card work. He did an effect where *the magician cuts the deck to the four Kings, and then the spectator cuts four to the Aces*. He also taught a trick called *"The Shadow Coin"* an effect where a coin travels from one corner to the other. He spent a great deal of time answering questions and teaching sleights that his students wanted to learn. His routine varied from table to table.

Bob Ingalls was our final teacher in the line-up and Bob always has a new trick to show people when he meets them for the first time. He made up about 50-sets of a packet trick with cards. Bob calls it *"The Ghost Card Monte"* it is a self-working effect that is very clever. Bob also added a little twist to this effect so that you can personalize it and hand out your business card instead of the chosen card.



Cartoonist Greg Evans watches as magicians teach their secrets:

something going on all the time. Guests this month included nationally syndicated cartoonist Greg Evans who does the comic strip *"LuAnn"*. Greg has been interested in magic since he was a teenager.

All of our instructors were working professionals who

are excellent performers and we thank them for taking the time to share some pet secrets with us. Many members stayed around after the meeting to practice some of the new moves, sleights and tricks they learned.

Again we thank all of our instructors for the special effort they put into this special meeting and we look forward to another magic teach-in in the months ahead.



Brad Burt
Owner

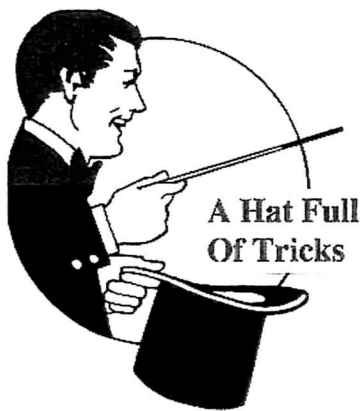
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By Josh London

Plastic Surgery

Effect: The performer shows a straw and borrows a quarter from a spectator. The quarter is then pushed into the straw, and down the length of the straw. The coin and the straw can be examined.

Preparation: To prepare you need some white out (which can be obtained at any stationary store), a quarter, and a solid white straw. Take the white out and coat one side of the quarter with the white out. Let the coin dry and place it in your right pants pocket. The straw is placed into your left pants pocket.

Performance: You can do this anywhere and anytime in your close-up set. You ask for a quarter from a spectator. As they're getting the coin out both of your hands dive into both of your pockets and retrieve 1) the straw in your left pocket and 2) the quarter in your right pocket. You hold the quarter in right finger palm position with the white out side touching your fingers. Do not let the audience see the coin at this point. You give the straw out for examination and get the spectator's quarter and hold it in the left palm. You do a Shuttle Pass which is as follows: With the coin in your left hand you simply place your left thumb on top of the coin as your left hand turns palm down, while this is happening your right hand turns palm up and displays the white out coin in your right hand. Maneuver the white out coin in your right hand into your fingertips. Make sure not to flash the white out side of the coin to the audience. Now get your straw back from the spectators and hold it vertically in your left fingertips. Your right hand comes over to the straw, as this happens your right fingertips flip the coin over with your thumb so that the white out side is showing. You DO NOT show the coin to the audience. You then apparently shove the coin down

the length of the straw. To do this your right hand comes over the top of the straw and puts the white out side of the coin nearest to the audience. In other words, the straw is behind the gaffed quarter. Your right thumb holds the straw in place and your right index finger is at the top of the coin, and your right middle finger is at the bottom. Now just pull the coin down the straw. The illusion is that you just put a borrowed coin in the top of a straw, now the coin is traveling down the straw. We are not done yet, once you get the coin to the bottom, to apparently remove it from the straw, your right hand pulls the coin from the straw quite aggressively, and as it does this your right hand turns palm up now displaying the gaffed quarter with the normal (non-white out side) of the coin to the audience. Give the straw out for examination, then do a Shuttle Pass and you are left clean.

Afterthoughts: This is a trick that Jay Sankey let me put in this column. If you are looking for a truly great and unusual magic trick, this is it. It first appeared (as far as I know) on his video *Sankey Very Much*, but most recently on *The Revolutionary Coin Magic of Jay Sankey*.

**Josh London presents
his new lecture "Free" to
Ring 76 members and
their guests:
June 13th (Thursday) at
7 P.M. at Jack's Magic Place
4275 University Ave.**

20% Commission

Paid for all Magic Show referrals

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

Jack White has told me that many of you appreciated the Magic First Aid Kit article. That's super. I struggle for subjects that are of more than general interest and that have some 'real life' application to what folks are doing as performers.

Here is another application of the 'First Aid' concept that helps to overcome those 'slip ups' that happen in shows. I talked a little bit about practice, rehearsal, etc. in an earlier article. Here is something a little bit more specific that I hope you find useful.

To start: One a pad of paper write down the name of an effect or routine that you use in your act. Next, list ALL the items needed to perform the routine.

Next....look at each and every item and examine it for problems. For instance, let's say the you need a deck of cards with a minor, but special stack. O.k., you need to note on your packing list that you need to check the deck for the stack, etc. if it needs be done in advance of the show. You need a gaffed card in you wallet turned face inward or whatever. Sponge balls need to be in specific places. Analyze: Is there now too much stuff in that pocket? If you steal the sponge ball will you upset anything else? I know this seems basic and it is. Nevertheless it is great discipline to sit down and go through the process.



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Look hard for anything that could happen in the show that you need a backup or an out for. What happens is you drop a deck at a specific time? What do you do? The card was selected and signed, but you dropped the deck during the control!!! Where is the card and how will you 'discover' it now?

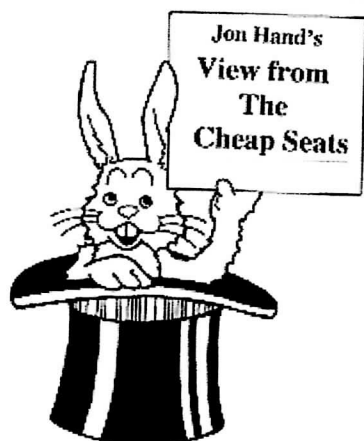
Here is what I would do: #1- Always force the card whether you need to or not. At the least it will be great practice in doing the Classic Force. Miss the force, then do a glimpse after the card is put back. Start to cover your bottom as soon as possible. O.k., you at least know the card and the card is signed. Someone, accidentally nudges you, grabs for the deck or whatever.....the deck drops. LISTEN....you don't miss a beat, but act as IF that is what you wanted to happen! Milk the comic potential here, it's good. Look at the nudger and thank them. Bend over and mix the cards more. Again, without missing a beat reach into your pocket and remove a deck sealed in an envelope. Have a spectator tear it open and remove the deck. Have them give it to you. Look at the spectator who selected the card and ask them if it would be a miracle if a duplicate of the card they selected was reversed in this deck of cards? O.k., you use an Invisible Deck and finish.

My point is.....HAVE a selection of outs already thought out for each effect that you do....IF possible. Man, I am telling you a little bit of work in advance can give you a feeling a confidence in your show that you won't believe. And, it will make you look like a pro. There is nothing so funny in that sad kinda way than a magician that makes a mistake and let's his audience know about it. Shouldn't happen.

**Terry
Lunceford**

Supports

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(Editor's note: Jon Hand always writes an informative column, but we think you will find this to be especially helpful on an important issue:)

There is an ongoing debate in magic circles about the superiority of books or videos/DVDs for learning magic. Although I am a long-time aficionado of books (half of my magic book collection was published before consumer videotape appeared in the mid-1970's, and magic instruction on video was much more recent than that), I have recently purchased a few videos to examine for myself. For this column, I decided to examine both sides of the issue using the Michael Ammar book and videos on Cups & Balls Magic. I have collected many resources on Cups & Balls over the years, and the Ammar publications are the best single source of information that I have ever seen. This is not meant to say that everything that one would ever want to know about Cups and Balls is there; however, everything you need to know to learn how to do this classic magic and create a signature routine of your own is here. There are many other sources which have great routines: Aldo Colombini, Tommy Wonder, Laurie Ireland, and myriad others come to mind immediately. However, these routines assume you know basics, and this is where Ammar shines: his teaching of the basics is the best I have ever seen in print or video.

So: book, or videotapes? Here are the pros and cons:

First, the book.

Pros:

- Clear photographs, close-up of the hands mostly, but also showing body when necessary.
- Highlighted text with arrows pointing to the appropriate photos for the utmost clarity.
- Graded teaching, taking you step by step through moves and then sample routines.
- Wonderful interviews in the rear of the book with magicians for whom cups & balls is a signature piece; very enlightening.
- No shuttling back and forth on tape to see something again or hear it again and again; the book calmly awaits your needs.
- The time needed to absorb a sleight from reading to begin learning gets it clearly into your mind; this "skull practice" makes it easier to learn the sleight when you begin handling the props, compared to watching and then trying to merely emulate the video actions. When your mind knows exactly what it wants the hands to do, they learn it faster.

Cons:

- It is difficult to get the sense of timing of steals and loads from a book. Much experimentation is necessary to arrive at proper timing and misdirection.
- It is also difficult to get a sense of flow of a routine while you learn it in tiny chunks and begin to string them together. This, too, takes much experimentation.
- For beginners, it is difficult to believe that some of the steals and loads can really be made without being detected, and the book cannot give you that confidence.
- Learning is slower when translating text and photos to action (which may or may not be a "con" if you agree with my "skull practice" comment above).

Now, the tapes.

Pros:

- Excellent performances by Ammar show the learner that the steals and loads in the book can indeed be executed; you may find yourself being fooled even after knowing what is happening.

—Your sense of timing, misdirection, and flow comes much more quickly, as you have a live model to study.

Cons:

—Two tapes cost more than the book, and all of the content of the book cannot possibly be present.

—Constant shuttling of the tape back and forth to learn in small segments is irritating; some tape recorders may “eat” the tape with the kind of repeated shuttling that is necessary.

—With the immediacy of videotape, you may tackle more than you can handle too soon, and get frustrated easily. The tapes make it look too easy in the hands of an expert, and you may not put in the necessary “skull practice” to understand exactly what you are to do.

—Tapes wear out, stretch, or break, but a well-treated book is a lifetime reference. I have books in my collection from the 1940’s in near perfect condition, and I *use* my books.

—You will likely emulate your favorite routine on the tape, patter and all, rather than create a signature piece all of your own. When reading the book, ideas will come to you that you can jot down and string together later to make your own creation.

So, book or videos?

The ideal situation would be to own the book and both videos (around \$100, I think). Then, one would study a segment in the book for the skull practice, watch the video to see how Ammar does it live, and begin practice of that small move or segment of routine. Rather than shuttling the tape constantly, one can retreat to the book when needing more help, refresh your skull practice, and then watch the appropriate spot on the tape to see in the flesh exactly what your mind has already learned that it needs to do. Is it expensive to get both versions? Yes. Is it the best training available short of a private instructor? Absolutely!

There is no doubt that DVD will counter some of my arguments. Having the book to study and the

DVD for instant access to any subsection of the instruction would be the ultimate. Now that DVDs are becoming more prominent in magic instruction, the book vs. video debate will rage more heatedly than ever. However, if I must choose, give me a book any day...

Always Time for A Magic Trick:

Ring 76 member Jim Whiting was one of more than 40-cartoonists taking part in the San Diego Blood Banks Cartoonist Day May 4th at the North County Community Blood Center in Escondido.

Between doing caricatures of those who came to the center to roll up their sleeve and give the “Gift of Life” Jim did a little magic for the children of the donors.



Cartoonist & magician Jim Whiting takes time to do a magic trick for the daughter of a blood donor.

Jim was recently written up in the Linking Ring magazine and singled out for his talent as both a cartoonist and magician. But it is not often that a person can combine their hobby and vocation to help others. Jim Whiting has made a science of it and we are all better off for his efforts.

Magic Notes from Jack White**Watching the accomplishments of Josh London an accomplished magician:**

Recently a drunk driver hit Ring 76 member and magician Josh London while driving his car the other evening. Josh was not hurt but his car was totaled and that was aggravation this Granite Hills High School Senior does not need as he plans to graduate from high school and embark on a magic lecture tour.

Josh has been doing magic since he was 5-years old. His mother gave him a Marshal Brodein Magic set for his 5th Birthday. The aspiring young magician could not read yet but with the help of his family he learned every trick in the magic set and performed them all at every opportunity. He was most intrigued by the close-up magic that took a little practice to learn.

He continued with his magic as he was growing up. Then as a teenager he discovered Rick Bruce's group called the ACES. An acronym for Artists Circle of Enchanting Sorcery.

It was during this period that Josh began to make friends with other young magicians his own age and they began learning from each other.

During this period he developed a strong background in all forms of magic but his work with cards, coins and close-up theater became his favorite venue.

A very hobby and leisure time oriented kind of guy; magic has always seemed to take precedence over surfing, water polo and watching movies. After high school Josh is going to Grossmont College then wants to transfer to UCSD or SDSU majoring in Criminology and Forensics.

But while attending college Josh would like to practice his skills as a magician. He is booking a series of lectures for himself specializing in his brand of close-up magic for the summer months ahead. So far he has prospects for his lecture in Washington State, Arizona, Oregon and California. In fact Ring 76 members are going to be the



Josh London and the ever present deck of cards

first to see Josh London in action as a magic lecturer. He presents his new lecture for us at Jack Magic Place June 13th. This is a free lecture for all Ring members and their guests.

Don't think that doing a lecture is something new for this young man. He has been developing his lecturing skills for more than a year in fact his most exciting moment in magic was the evening he sold his first set of lecture notes. If you have followed his column in MagiCurrents each month then you know this young man has a vast arsenal magic and does no do just card tricks.

Though he is only 17 years old he has paid his dues. He is not afraid to tell you about his most embarrassing moment in magic either.

He was practicing a rope trick he watched Tabary perform on one of the "Worlds Greatest Magicians" shows on television. As Josh made the move to make it look like he was going to cut the rope he cut into his finger. He cut so deeply he could see the blood spurting from the severed vein. Yes, he still does the trick but he has learned about being careful with sharp objects. He says misdirection is good but he now knows not to make it so good he hurts himself.



Josh London & the floating dollar

When it comes to learning sleight of hand he seems to prefer a good book to videotapes. However, he does watch the tapes of various performers to get their timing and presentation of a trick.

Right now Josh is very high on Chris Kenner and his book "Totally Out of Control." He recommends that publication to anyone wanting to be a better close-up magician.

His list of favorite magicians is long and he gives us the names in no particular order. The list begins with Jay

Sankey who Josh was instrumental in bringing to San Diego recently. He continues his list of favorites with Guy Hollingsworth, Greg Wilson, Lee Asher, Brian Tudor, Aldo Colombini, Jeff McBride and David Copperfield. There are of course many others but these names top his list of favorites to study.

Speaking of Copperfield, last October when David brought his show to San Diego, Josh was selected out of the audience to join Copperfield on stage as an assistant. To find an assistant Copperfield threw a frisby into the audience, as Josh jumped up to grab it he accidentally knocked his mother who was sitting next to him and also trying to catch the frisby, down and back into her seat. His mother was shaking herself out of the shock of being knocked down as she looked up and watched her son heading to the stage frisby in hand to assist Master Magician David Copperfield.

One thing for sure life around Josh London's house is anything but boring. He is always working on some new trick or sleight that will create "cool magic". If that is what you are looking for then I urge you to attend Josh's lecture June 13th at 7 P.M. at Jack's Magic Place. The admission is **free**. You are bound to learn something new and have a better appreciation for an energetic young man named Josh London who is also a talented and a darn clever magician.

A Review of the New Darren Romeo Magic Show

By Jack White

For months now we have been hearing about Siegfried & Roy's new discovery a magic and singing sensation named Darren Romeo. On Tuesday May 28th at the S&R Theater at the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas, Romeo unveiled his new magic and music combination show.

Siegfried himself stepped out onto the stage at 3 PM and told the full house mostly members of the media, he was proud to present this new rising star.

The show began with the 26-year old Romeo descending a set of stairs flooded in light and laser beams singing a

love song. His voice is strong and clear the effects surrounding the number were exciting. He then with out any dialog goes into his first illusion a "Dekolta Chair" he disappears and very quickly reappears in the middle of the audience.

It is a colorful and exciting opening that tells you immediately that this is going to be a musical show filled with magic.

Romeo has a great personality and adlibs with his audience very well. His diction is clear and you can understand every word he utters. Several of Siegfried & Roy's old illusions from previous shows have been revived for this show, which is fast moving music and magic. Total running time is about an hour and 20 minutes.

There are about 10-people in the company of performers and Darren Romeo is definitely the star and on stage virtually every minute of the show. The highlights include a tribute to Harry Blackstone Jr., and the presentation of Blackstone's floating lightbulb. This is very well done.

The closing number with music from Phantom of the Opera and a series of levitations is also very well staged and choreographed. This segment is just good theater.

In the needs work department is the Hindu Rope Trick. If you are seated in the inter-circle down front the illusion is badly exposed. In fact I suggest if you see the show you ask not to be seated in the inter-circle part of the theater. Further back offers better sight lines for the show.

One show daily Tuesday through Saturday 3 P.M., This is really not a kids matinee magic show it is for grown ups who can enjoy music and illusion.

Reserved seat admission is \$35.00 per person.




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Message from the President

I was just reviewing my campaign flyer from last year. Wow! So many things I had hoped for actually became reality. The amendment of the constitution, moving Ring meetings to Jack White's amiable facility, providing access to the library instead of it being stored in someone's garage, lectures galore...well, I consider myself lucky to have a harmonious board coupled with so much enthusiasm from the Ring members.

With just one or two changes, the board that did so much to provide its members with such sincere effort will remain essentially the same if you decide to choose the board-proposed slate. We're on a roll, so as to speak, and while we had dynamic change this past year, I can only strive to keep that intensity up.

With the pending I.B.M. convention, our board and membership must now turn to focus exclusively on providing the best service we can as host Ring. Once it's over we can breathe a sigh of relief and enjoy the installation banquet. Who will be on the incoming board? That's for YOU to determine. It is imperative that everyone be present at this June meeting, not only to take in the stand-up contest and pay Ring dues, but to vote for the next board, the member of the year and a special honorarium we, as a board, would like to propose. If you attend any one meeting this year, make it our June meeting.

Don Soul President Ring 76

Ring Member Jane Clements, Lum Dies

It is with great sadness we report that Jane Staar, Clements, Lum died on April 15th. Jane was the former wife of Rancho Bernardo magician Will Staar who died in 1988. Jane would often assist her husband in his magic act but she was more than



Will & Jane Staar
Clements 1969

a magician's assistant, Jane did a very beautiful act with silks. Often she was the

opening act for Will's evening show.

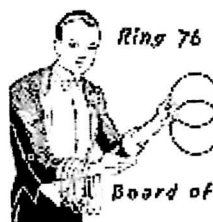
The Staar's came to San Diego and Rancho Bernardo in 1963, to retire after years in the Chicago School District as teachers, but for the next 24-years they were anything but retired.

Both Will and Jane were active in IBM and Ring 76; Will was a Past President of the ring and Territorial Vice President. Jane was at his side in whatever endeavor Will, under took. The Staar's counted many prominent magicians as close friends, Dr. John Booth, Vic & and Carolyn Trask, Salvatore Salla and Theo "Okito" Bamberg, to name just a few. Jane owned one of Okito's famous Chinese robes and would display it to fellow magicians with much pride.

Following Will's death Jane remarried. Her second husband also preceded her in death.

Though not active in magic in the last years of her life she still kept up with friends who were magicians and with what was going on in magic circles.

She will be missed by Ring 76 members.



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News

It was reported in late May that **Glenn Farrington**, a prominent New York Magician and Television Producer has been brought in to join **Rich Block and Joe Stevens** in producing next January's World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas Jan 12 to the 15th 2003. In a recent article in Magic Magazine Rich Block said the popular magic event was in trouble and was losing its audience. It is believed that Farrington is being brought in to help turn things around and create some new interest.

Magic Mike Stillwell is taking a leave of absence from the **Corvette Dinner** after fifteen years of working there steady on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Mike says he wants to spend more time at home with his sons. Replacing Mike will be **Paul Thomey** who is a busy magician in San Diego these days.

Are you looking for a special piece of magic to add to your show or your collection? The **Houdini Milk Can Escape** is for sale in London, England. The milk can was made in the United States and used by Houdini on one of his later tours of England and Europe. Henry Aldridge of London owns the milk can and is auctioning it off to the highest bidder. The selling price is still unknown at press time.

J.P. Jackson and Marcus Day attended the Magic History Convention in Fort Worth, Texas in mid-May. They had a booth selling books and collectable magic. But J.P. reports he wound up buying less magic than he sold. That either means there was nothing new to purchase or that J.P. has one of everything on the market.



There was another Magic Expose Program on the Fox Network on May 16th titled "**Magic's Biggest Secrets Finally Revealed**". The program had magicians in San Diego and around the country upset about exposing current tricks. But the Nielson rating service says the program was only 4th in the 8 to 9 P.M., time slot. That means that less than a quarter of the sets in use at that time watched that show. Meanwhile, **David Blaine** fared a little better and came in 3rd place in the ratings as he fell from a ten-story building onto a 12-foot platform of cardboard boxes. Network executives say they were disappointed with the ratings, after the massive promotion and hype for the stunt. Network officials believe the show should have done better.

We learned late last month that **Frances Ireland Marshall** had died. She was 92 and had been in magic almost all of her adult life as a performer, writer and operator of a Chicago Magic Shop. It began as Ireland's Magic Company started by her first husband L.L. Ireland. She changed the name to Magic Inc., in the 1960's and operated it with her second husband Jay Marshall. She founded Magigals in 1938 an organization for women magicians. For more years than most of us can remember she wrote "Around Chicago" a column filled with magic news from the mid-west for Linking Ring Magazine. Her most successful books and there were many, include "Kid Stuff" and the four volume

Briefs

"Magic Success Books". Most of all Frances Marshall always had time to write a fellow magician a letter of encouragement. She was one of those special people to magicians everywhere.

At Houdini's Magic Shop at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas a couple of the young magic demonstrators enjoyed talking with a gray haired man who would drop by on various afternoon's and show them a card trick or some other clever magic. After a few weeks of this a customer in the store informed the young magicians the man was actor **Tony Curtis** who once had played Houdini in the 1953 bio movie and is a life long magic enthusiast. Curtis recently moved to Las Vegas with his wife and child. For kicks he would visit the MGM magic shop but they didn't know who he was! As for Curtis, he said it was kind of nice not to be recognized for a change.

San Diego Magician **Phil Stoker** has sold his home in Kearney Mesa and is moving to the east coast. He still has a lot of magic he wants to get rid of before he moves at the end of this month. He will hold an auction on **Saturday June 15th** at Jack's Magic Place. His starting bids on all items will be quite low. He will demonstrate most of the illusions and tricks before he auctions them. Auction starts at 10 a.m. and he hopes to be finished by 1. He has a lot of stuff to sell at very reasonable prices. Tell a friend admission is **free**.

Plans are being made for a special Holiday exchange program with Ring 313 in Orange County. This is a meeting you will not want to miss. Details coming:

Monday June 10th Meeting of Ring 76

Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue

Elections and our annual Stand-Up Magic Contest. Also a reminder your dues are due and payable at our June meeting. If you are taking part in the Stand-Up Contest notify program chairman Richard Ustick.

Ring 76 Library is open and all members may check out books: Many new volume's to choose from.

Have you Registered for this Summer's IBM Convention? This is one event you do not want to miss!

Installation Banquet will be July 8th the Monday following the close of the IBM Convention. Installation will be a full service dinner at the Al Bahr Shrine Temple on Kearney Mesa. \$20-dollars per-person.

**Return Address:
4275 University Ave
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