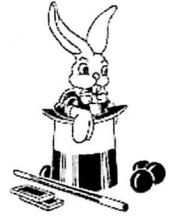


Ring 76 Chartered by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1958



MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



Recipient of the IBM's Quality Ring Award
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Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
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Volume XVII No 4 April 2003

Swap Meet & Auction to be Bigger than ever!

The much awaited Ring 76 Magic Swap Meet and Auction is upon us again; Monday evening ,April 14th at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue. The doors open to the sellers at 5:30 and to the general public at 6:30 p.m. Our auction is scheduled to start at about 7:45 pm. This is one meeting that is open to all magicians in San Diego and neighboring counties. In addition to magicians, many members of the local clown clubs attend this annual event.

At this writing, we have at least 10 tables sold to vendors and we expect a number of last minute sellers to arrive and want to sell their magic as well. Bob Ingalls and Richard Ustick are working to accommodate everyone who wants to sell. If you want a table



Alfonso Vazquez at last years Swap Meet selling a Phantom Tube. Ken Shelton in background

and have not already signed up, it would be a good idea to contact one of the above people. A full sized table costs \$10 dollars, a half-table is \$5 dollars. Here is an opportunity to sell that magic you have not used in years and use your profits to buy something in magic you have always wanted to add to your act.

This year several magicians have donated large quantities of books, video tapes, magic tricks, and

Continued on Page Ten:

Ring 76 Web Page Gets New Technical Support

Though not obvious to the casual surfer of the Internet, there have been many changes going on at the Ring 76 Website in the past 30 days. We have changed our server to a company called "GoDaddy." Our address has not changed; it is still www.ring76.com, but the people who are now sending our site out to the world have changed. We believe it is a win-win situation.

First, Ring 76 is paying far less for the service than ever before. Second, the new server will allow each member or our Ring who wants a magic e-mail address to have one free of any charge! We will have more on how that will work and how you sign up for that service, and create a password next month in MagiCurrents. Third, we will be able to archive items such as our monthly MagiCurrents newsletter that appear on the Website. We will be able to have up to a year's worth of back issues of the newsletter easily available in case you want to go back and look up a trick, story, column, or photograph in a past issue.

The Internet has allowed us to do many things. Most important is getting the word out about our Ring, its history, what we are currently doing, guest lecturers and distributing our newsletter to a much wider audience. If you have looked at the newsletter online you have no doubt noticed that many of the graphics and photographs are in color online. To print them in color is at this time is a little too costly for us to consider. But you can now print those pages in color at home if you have a color printer with your computer.

Continued on Page Thirteen:

Ring 292 Presents Comedy and Magic in an exciting exchange show for March meeting

Our March meeting got off to a fast start with a few official announcements by President Don Soul, who then introduced the President of Ring 292, Jack Evans, who acted as the master of ceremonies for the evening's entertainment. This is the second year Ring 76 has had an exchange show with the North County Magic Guild. Josh London volunteered to operate our spotlight for the show and did a good job keeping all the performers well lit.



Josh London
spotlight operator

First on the program was the silent comedy act of Eddie Lake. With a chest length wig obliterating his vision, he began his act by winding up a jack-in-the-box toy until the



Faceless Eddie Lake

music indicated the box was ready to open; then, he set it aside and then he lit four grapefruit-sized balls by touching them with a wand. That was followed by a very good rope through neck penetration. At one point in his act his wig that had covered his entire

face fell off and the audience discovered he was wearing a rubber mask under the wig. This act was filled with comedy and a lot of surprises and got this show off to a fast start.

Between each act, Jack Evans came out wearing a different and very wild colored shirt. Jack makes all of his wardrobe, and some of his shirts are loud enough to be heard in the next county.



Dr. Bob Allen

Dr. Bob Allen does some very fine mental routines, and the effect he

selected for this occasion was sensational. He had a special deck of 50 cards; each card had a different color, number, and symbol. After the deck was very well shuffled and distributed between three spectators, Dr. Allen, alternating between spectators, called out the symbol, color, and number of each card they were holding, and he even called out the surplus cards being held by an audience member. It was an amazing effect.

Fourth grade teacher Lou Heck tried to sell us an "Acme Magic Course" by demonstrating one of the audio tapes he had just received. Unfortunately, Lou confused "bandana" with "banana." He neatly folded a real banana into quarters and then caused it to disappear in a foulard. Lou's expressions made the routine work.



Lou Heck



Fred Bull

Following Lou was the very funny Fred Bull who was costumed with Coke bottle bottom glasses, buck teeth, and Joe College shoes. Fred peered through a large telescope when suddenly an inflated eye appeared out of the end of the scope. When the needle through the balloon failed to work, Fred used a huge needle and passed a balloon through the eye of the

giant needle, and that got a really big laugh.

Next up was Ring 292's youngest member, 11-year old Jean Marc, who came on stage wearing formal dress with a cape and an umbrella. Jean did a delightful "Delite" routine. A la a miser's dream but, instead of coins, plucked red lights out of the air to

music. Jean's stage presence indicates a good future as a performer.



**Jean Marc
11-years old**

The ever-popular Stu McKinley was up next with a wonderful sight gag act. Producing a rubber dove, Stu beat the poor thing on his table. A rubber rabbit was next. Stu followed that by producing 50 feet of rope from his hand as a running gag,



Stu McKinley

as he let go with at least 50 one-liners as he produced the rope. Then, from a standard paper shopping bag, he found 13 large boxes filled with colorful flowers. His act ended with the production of two large live doves which were

not harmed in anyway.

Elbert Gardner, from New York, came to San Diego County to visit and liked what he saw, so he stayed. Elbert did a very nice torn and restored paper napkin. He did it not once but three times and fooled us badly each time. Superb sleight of hand in this routine. This is a case of getting a great deal out of very little.



Elbert Gardner

Professional magician Michael Johnson, who holds membership in Ring 76 and 292, did an escape act.

He had Sherry Luft choose a padlock from six or seven locks on a chain. Sherry used a key to remove the lock from the chain. Then Michael, using a borrowed paper clip, opened the lock by picking it. Then, he was bound in the chain and locked with his hands behind his back. Several times, Michael removed each hand, and then immediately showed them to be shackled. It all involind a lot of comedy, and good entertainment in his routine.



Michael E. Johnson



Joel Ward

Joel Ward stepped onto the stage next, wearing a crisp blue tuxedo. We were treated to fan to dove, and then several dove productions. A blue colored dove was given a bath in a small portable bathtub and transformed into a white dove. All the doves were placed in a cage and instantly

changed into white balloons that floated to the ceiling. Joel gets better everytime we see him, and this is a very commercial act.

The last act of the evening was Jack Evans, who was wearing a shirt that was made of the same material as the drapes for the wings. Jack has had years of trooping on cruise ships and other entertainment venues. With that grand old trick "clippo" and some of that special Jack Evans showmanship, he held the audience for 8 minutes. Once again Ring 292 can be proud of the excellent show they presented for Ring 76. It was a fun evening with a lot of very good magic.



Jack Evans

Magic notes from Jack White

If you are a magician, it pays to advertise

We all know that advertising pays, but for magicians it is finding affordable advertising that allows us to daily appeal to new clients. I picked up the current issue of "San Diego Family" magazine and found advertising for several of our Ring members in the pages of that publication. Their ads were so well written and produced I thought it important to pass this information along to our members.

San Diego Family magazine is just what the name implies a monthly publication of about 150 pages of articles and advertising for family products and services. Toward the back of the magazine there is a classified section with display ads for entertainment for family functions, parties, and shows. This magazine has been in business for 22 years, with a readership of 300,000.

All of the magicians I talked with tell me their ads all pay for themselves and bring them many leads for new shows. In the classified section there are display ads for about every kind of entertainment you can think of, including a complete circus. So the competition for the entertainment dollar is fierce. Having an appealing ad for magic is very important.

Under the heading of magic, Terry Godfrey has the largest ad; it is one column or two and a quarter inches by five inches long. He has a very eye-catching headline that forces you to read the ad. "Make your child's birthday one of the happiest & most memorable days of their life." In the ad itself Terry invites potential clients to come and visit his show at Seaport Village with the times he performs. This quickly lets the reader know this is a professional entertainer who works a popular venue on a

"Make Your Child's Birthday One of the Happiest & Most Memorable Days of Their Life"

Here are 5 reasons why you should call Magician Terry Godfrey Today

1. Birthday Child Is The Star of the Show.
2. Children Will Laugh & Smile.
3. Your Child Will Love The Adorable Puppet.
4. Children Will Gasp And Applaud The Magic.
5. Every Child Receives A Free Magic Trick.

**Call
619-426-1839
Today!**

When you call we will send you a free report, "How To Create The Perfect Birthday Party."



The Perfect Birthday Party Magic Show will be performed at any location of your choice in San Diego County.

Come experience Terry Godfrey's Public Magic Show for FREE at Seaport Village every Thursday in May and June.

- Show times at 12 & 1:30 p.m.
- You could be the lucky volunteer to float in mic air.
- Located in the West Plaza Fountain area.



For more Seaport Village event information, call 619-235-4013

or visit our web site: www.seaportvillage.com.

Seaport Village is located on beautiful San Diego Bay, Pacific Hwy. at W. Harbor Dr.

regular basis. His telephone number is in large bold letters, a nice clean ad that gets a lot of important information across to the potential customer.

On the next page I found an ad for Michael E. Johnson. Michael says he has been advertising in this publication for about five years and has received a lot of work as a result. In the beginning Michael had a photograph of himself in the ad and would receive just enough work to pay for the ad.

Then he found the cartoon drawing of the little boy pulling a wagon with a rabbit. He began using that image as his logo and suddenly his leads tripled for work. He also has included a 760 area code telephone number which makes his ad appealing to North County customers.

Magic Birthdays

Memories to last a lifetime...



Call Magician
Michael E. Johnson

(760) 747-4627 or
(858) 483-8632

Jeff Marcus is another Ring member who has advertised in San Diego Family magazine for many years. He says he finds that this publication is easier to work with and gets him many more leads for shows than "Parent" magazine. He reminds readers all of the work he gets from these ads are kids shows. Jeff offers more than just

magic; his Alakazam Entertainment is a complete unit and can offer clowns, games, and more. His clowns do balloon animals and face painting. Like Michael Johnson, Jeff has two phone numbers in his ad, both a San Diego number and a North County number. When you call Jeff's phone, there is a recorded message if he is not in the office. He returns his calls promptly, and that is very important

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for good client-performer relations. Jeff also makes it clear that his company accepts Mastercard and Visa as a form of payment for his services.

Dick Dale is another Ring member who has a very clean straight forward ad in this publication. Dick's ad is aimed at families looking for a magician to entertain at birthday parties. He says he will make the birthday child a Star. Dale has an 800 number to call which appeals to

people who want to make toll free calls, and he also includes a Website address that allows potential customers to look at all of the things his show has to offer. Dick also makes it clear that his act will include the appearance of a live rabbit. If you have ever attended a David Ginn lecture, you know that is a very important part of doing childrens birthday party shows.



Call NOW!!
Times & Dates
Are Vanishing Quickly

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• Audience Participation

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Wizard theme is hot right now, and Joe has created an ad to take advantage of the popularity of the new Harry Potter books and movies. Joe also has included a Website for customers to go to for more information and e-mail contact for information on open dates. More and more people are using e-mail as a way to communicate and conduct business.

Longtime San Diego magician Joe Mystic has a very different style ad. At the top of the ad he proclaims he serves all of San Diego County. He offers magicians, wizards and clowns in his shows. He lets people know he does school and library shows and also has a complete show with a Harry Potter theme. The

MagiCurrents gives an A+ to all of these enterprising professional entertainers who have learned well the importance of selling their shows to the public. Each one of these performers knows what sells their show and has highlighted that feature. In addition to being good showmen, they are good businessmen. Advertising does sell you and your product.

The advertising department for San Diego Family magazine can be reached by phone at 619-685-6978 or their Website www.sandiegofamily.com.

On St. Patricks Day, Lynn and I celebrated our 19th wedding anniversary and we drove over to Palm Springs for a few days. Shortly after arriving we were on our way to a favorite restaurant and I saw a sign that read "Loads of Fun." I knew at once it was a magic shop so I stopped in to say hello. A very nice young lady behind the counter told me the magician would not be in until 10 the next morning. I asked her what the magician's name was and she told me he was her father, Gary Vess.

I had not thought of Gary Vess in 20 years. He was the man who opened the first magic shop in Seaport Village in the early 1970s. The next morning I was at the magic shop at 10:05 and there was Gary behind the counter not looking any different than I remembered him years earlier.

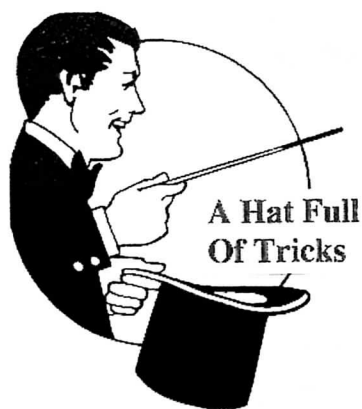


**Gary Vess, Owner of
Loads of Fun, Magic Shop
in Palm Springs**

Not only does he have the magic shop in Palm Springs, but he makes a very good living doing parties and corporate shows that come into the desert area.

Gary tells me that Marvin Roy is a regular visitor to his shop, and they spend an afternoon talking about new close up tricks every so often. Marvin has retired his stage act but just to keep his hand in things, works a few of the restaurants doing close-up magic in the springs.

Next time you are in Palm Springs drop by "Loads of Fun," 158 East Tahquitz and talk a little magic with Gary Vess, a good magician and former San Diegan.



By Josh London

Effect: The four kings turn face down, then turn into the four aces.

Set-Up: Pull out two red kings, one black king, two black aces, and a red ace. Arrange the cards in the following order from the face down. All cards are face up. Black king, red king, ace of spades, ace of clubs, red ace, and red king.

Performance: Perform an Elmsely Count showing four kings. Place the last king (black) on the bottom). Get a break above the one black king on the bottom, and turn all five cards face down. Explain that you will turn one king face down. Perform a Jordan Count showing all the kings face down. Openly transfer the bottom card (ace of clubs) to the top of the packet. Make no mention of this. Now turn your body to the right as you do a Block Push Off with the top 5 cards, turning them face up. You will see a red king. You supposedly turned one king face up. Perform another Elmsely Count showing four face up kings. Place the last king (red) on top of the packet. Get a break above the bottom two aces, and Side Steal or palm them into your right hand. Wave your right hand over the left (your left hand holds the rest of the cards, while your right hand holds two aces). Drop the two aces onto the face of the red king, and perform an Elmsely Count showing four aces.

MagiToon by James Burks



Something like this could never happen at Ring 76. Could it?

Ring 76 Stand-up Contest set for June 9th First Prize. \$50; Second Prize, \$25; Third Place, \$10; Plan to be a part of this big Ring event!

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Magic Pro-Tips

By Brad Burt

Some time ago I set about to gather all the best material I could find on doing truly Impromptu Magic. The reason was simple and, since I don't plan on actually finishing what I started (in this case), I offer it to you in hopes that someone will realize what I believe has the potential to make someone a household name in magical entertainment.

Here's the concept: An act that uses ONLY props, etc. that can be borrowed at the show venue. Period. No gimmicks at all or perhaps very, very few. Perhaps a thumb tip, but I don't want the concept to get too far afield. Perhaps only gimmicks that will then be used to ACT upon items borrowed, etc.

Think of the power and EFFECT that you could have when you really get your chops down. Now, combine your magic skill with a pleasing personality able to be both humorous and serious....man, you could write your own ticket. THINK...in one sense this would BE what people REALLY expect a magician to be! Walk in and without any 'funny props' you take the audience apart.

Now, a story to illustrate why I came up with this idea: Billy McComb, my vote for one of the 10 best magicians of any kind of all time, used to work cruise ships.

His reputation maker? He worked a LOT of international cruises and there might be folks from 5-15 different countries on board. He was able to put ANY COIN FROM ANY COUNTRY given to him into a borrowed bottle! Think of that.

There is the basis. You walk into any venue and produce magic with what is there. Easy? No, I don't think so, and there may be only a handful of folks in the world that could pull it off. I would love to see someone give it a try or find out that someone has realized my dream already! Take care and all the best,

Bob Sheets Brings his very famous Comedy Lecture to Ring 76 April 15th

Bob Sheets and J.C. Wagner are the two guys who really started the current close-up magic revolution. In the 1970s they were working at Marco's restaurant and bar in Coronado and attracting magicians from all over the country to watch them work. Over the years there are not many places Bob Sheets has not worked with his magic.

In recent years he has been in great demand at magic conventions around the world. In May he will be appearing at the Florida Magicians Convention at Cypress Gardens doing his famous lecture that includes close-up and platform magic.

Bob brings that lecture to San Diego, on April 15th at Jack's Magic Place, 7 pm, tickets at the door will cost \$10 dollars. This is the first time Sheets has ever presented a lecture in his home town of San Diego. He says he is looking forward to working for Ring 76 after all of these years away from this city.



Bob Sheets
dice routine

You will see his dice routine, the three shells that are a knockout, some card work and several stand-up routines that Bob has used with great success for years. This is a rare opportunity to see one of the "good guys" of magic. You will come away having learned something new and having laughed until your sides hurt. This is the one lecture of the year you don't want to miss. He was the hit of last year's SAM Convention in New York City.



The Gathering

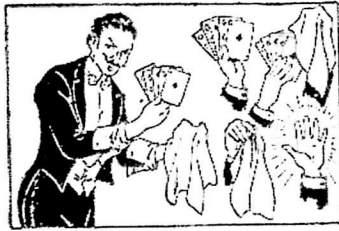
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View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

Exploring the Allied Arts, Part One

At one time or another, most magicians become curious about some of the allied arts to magic. If you haven't explored any of these yet, it is almost a sure bet that you will at some time in the future. Perhaps this View From the Cheap Seats will save you some money, time, and effort in your initial investigations.

Our first allied art is Clowning, a profession perhaps as old as magic. From court jesters to circus clowns, these mirth-makers have become as legendary as magicians. Often you can find some good books on beginning clowning at your local municipal library. A quick check on-line with book specialty stores should reveal dozens of books on the subject.

Good clowning books detail makeup, costuming, and several routines for clowning. Just as platform magicians have their assistant(s), clowning depends upon more than one individual for maximum impact; the best routines are often for three clowns. In the eyes of the audience, the members of the clown troupe are equals, unlike the audience perception of the magician and his/her assistant (your magic assistant is more than just your lackey, right?). Serious clowns devise their own original makeup, which gives them distinctive identities that are required for professional work. If you find that you enjoy clowning and have aptitude for such physical comedy and mime, you will most certainly want to devise your own makeup.

My favorite book on the subject is *Be a Clown*, by Mark Stolzenburg, a 1989 book that may be still in print or readily available in the used marketplace. Search for it in the sites listed later in this article.

Finally, there are books mixing magic with clowning. Magic Inc. in Chicago lists two volumes by clown professional Ernie Kerns, both entitled *How To Be a Magic Clown*; the second volume is a compilation of three books by Kerns and two other clown magic professionals, so the reader gets three professional opinions on makeup, costuming, and

routing, all in that second volume. For working magicians, clowning might even be a separate side career and a significant source of additional income.

Juggling is another allied art to magic. I must confess that juggling intrigues me, and I will have a "go at it" this summer. Beginning juggling books abound in public libraries and bookstores. Many of the ones that I have read feature color photos augmented with graphics explaining the arcs, tosses, and patterns. Many of them go beyond scarf juggling and ball juggling to include clubs, rings, knives, and two man juggling.

An almost forgotten aspect of juggling is plate spinning; the plates are not only spun on dowels, but also on their edges, as one might spin a coin! I know of no juggling books which cover plate spinning, but there is a marvelous photographically-illustrated chapter on it in a century-old classic magic book entitled *The Modern Conjuror* (and *Drawing Room Entertainer*), by C. Lang Neil (incidentally, the magic in the book is superb and taught well; the book also includes chapters on Troublewit, Chapeaugraphy, and Shadowgraphy).

Most all beginning juggling books seem to agree that juggling is not nearly as difficult as it looks. Most insist that the average person can learn the basic moves in under an hour, and that regular practice in short periods every day works wonders in making the actions smooth and automatic (imagine that!). My favorite beginning juggling book is *Juggling for the Complete Klutz*, a book that predates the current ...for Dummies series of books by almost 20 years. Authors John Cassidy and B.C. Rimbeaux wrote the book in 1977, and it has sold more than a million copies and stayed in print for more than 25 years (my copy is the 25th anniversary third edition). If you get it new in a book store, it even comes with a set of three juggling cubes (they don't roll away when you drop them...). A specialty book within the subject is *Three Ball Juggling* by Ken Bengé, an encyclopedia of moves possible with just three juggling balls. I have even found available specialty books on rings and clubs.

Check out the listings for clowning and juggling books at www.Amazon.com, www.Barnesandnoble.com, www.Booksamillion.com, or www.Bibliofind.com. In just one of those sites, I found more than 35 different Clowning titles and more than 100 different Juggling titles.

Next month I will continue this exploration of allied arts. Until then, may your greasepaint never run, and may you never drop your 3-ball rotation.

Jon A. Hand welcomes your commentary or feedback on this or any other column which he has contributed to *MagiCurrents*; email him: jonahand@hotmail.com



MIND OVER MATTER

By David Eldridge

Pair-A-Dox

Once again we pay a visit to the Palindromic Stack.

While this effect is a coincidence effect, it has its roots in the classic Brainwave Plot.

Effect: The performer tosses a packet of seven arbitrary cards face up onto the table. A spectator mixes the cards till content. The performer takes the packet and tears it in half along its width, creating two packets. Each half packet is mixed by the spectator. The packet is now assembled, and now consists of 14 half cards. The spectator goes through a process of dealing two packets and reassembling the whole packet as many times or as few times as desired. When satisfied that the packet has been mixed, the spectator once again deals the cards into two separate packets. The spectator hands one of the packets to the performer, and keeps one for himself. The performer and the spectator mix their packets thoroughly, even trading packets if desired. After the mix, the packets are replaced on the table, and shown to be totally without order. The performer picks up a pile and so does the spectator. A random sorting and elimination procedure now takes place until one card remains. The two half cards match. The discarded cards are now turned face down to show that all the cards came from a red-backed deck. The "selected" half-cards are turned face down. It came from a blue-backed deck!

Method: This is stupidly simple, but it has fried many magicians who should know better. The packet is made up of six cards from a red deck, and one card from a blue deck making it a seven-card packet. The only card that you care about is your one blue-backed card.

Give the face-up packet to the spectator (note: the cards must always remain face-up so that the odd card is not seen. I should not of had to say that, but there are some people. Instruct the spectator to thoroughly mix the cards. When she is satisfied, take the cards back. If the odd card is the top or bottom card, give the packet a cut. This is not absolutely necessary, but this insures that it will not flash. Tear the packet in half along the width of the cards, giving you two packets. Place one packet on top of the other. Go through the cutting and shuffling necessary to get the packet into a palindromic stack. This was described in last month's column, so I will not go over it again. Once the packet is in a palindromic order, have the spectator go through the dealing and reassembling procedure also described in last month's effect. Once the spectator is satisfied with the mix, have the assembled packet dealt into two separate packets. Have the spectator hand you either packet, keeping one for herself. Each packet is thoroughly mixed. However, sneaky work will come in when you trade packets. In actual fact, you are mixing the cards, yes, but you are insuring that the odd card ends up second from the bottom. Once you have the odd card in position, take the packet from her, and while casually showing the random order of the cards, cut the packet so that the odd card is put into the same position as in your packet, i.e., second from the bottom. All that is left to do is a standard Down/Under Deal, and the effect works itself.

At 1st glance, you maybe asking, why bother with the palindromic stack? This will ensure that one packet with not end up containing both odd-backed halves. Try this out. It is a wonderful moment when the magicians in the room see the odd back.



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for a new generation.*

*Caring.
Sharing.
Giving back to the community.*

Fellowship of Honorable Magicians
1657 Palomar Dr., San Marcos, CA 92069

Swap Meet Con't from Page One:

props to our auction. We also expect to have several large illusions for sale at bargain prices in the auction portion of our sale. Jack White will once again be our auctioneer. The illusions that are not sold during the auction following the swap meet will be listed in the coming months in the classified section of MagiCurrents.

Don Holcomb who has done much to help build our magic book collection has donated a huge number of very fine magic books to our library. About 26 of the books he donated to the Ring library

are duplicates, and they will be auctioned off in lots of several books per lot during the auction portion of the evening. We will start the bidding low and stop when the audience stops bidding. We are also told that Holcomb is bringing some of his older magic effects to also be auctioned off. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Ring treasury.

North County Magician Cameron has also designated the Ring 76 magic auction as the place he wants to dispose of a good deal of his surplus effects in his magic warehouse. Those effects will not be inventoried until a day or so before the auction, so we have no listing of that material at this time. Don't miss this opportunity to pick up the effect or prop you have been looking for at bargain prices. There will be a lot of deals so be sure to attend this meeting and bring a friend who is also interested in magic.

If you learn your magic from video tapes we have a very nice video library that will be auctioned off at four tapes per lot. This is an opportunity not to be missed. Payment or arrangement to pay for all merchandise bid on will take place immediately following the auction. Richard Ustick, Ring treasurer, will accept all payments and all sales are final. The Ring 76 auction committee has been working long and hard to have a dazzling display of magic for sale and auction, out-doing all past swap meets and auctions.



Marcus Day and J.P. Jackson with boxes of used magic books from last years meet.

Junior Magicians Tour Ring Meeting Place and see show

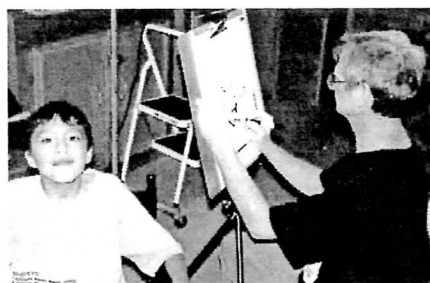
On Saturday, March 22nd, Fred Kaplan and Phil Tuttle brought a group of junior magicians to visit Jack's Magic Place. After some brief introductions, Jack White gave the group a brief tour of the collection, talking about various special props in the collection. The group was not as large as Fred had hoped to have because many of the youngsters had other events to attend.

One of the things that brought a lot of excitement was the art of plate spinning. Many of the youngsters had never had a chance to spin a plate on the end of a sharp stick. After a few minutes of practice, they all had at least one plate up and spinning on a stick. Many of the youngsters were accompanied by a parent, some had both mom and dad with them.



Junior group with families

Don Soul did his "Pizza Delivery Man" routine that is very funny and has a great sucker ending. The kids enjoyed that effect. Don also presented a very amusing routine with a hank of rope. Next, Jack White did a couple of card tricks and ended with the Val Evans Card Rise. The Val Evans effect dates back more than 50 years and is still a mysterious and effective mini-illusion.



Don Soul at the drawing board with an excited subject ready to pose.

Don Soul set up his drawing board and did a caricature of each of the visiting youngsters and some of the parents. They all left entertained and most appreciative of

their visit. Kaplan and Tuttle are going to try to bring the rest of the junior group over to our meeting place in the early fall for another visit.

Society of American Magicians visit San Diego & Ring 76

The Society of American Magicians held their annual Board of Directors meeting in San Diego, March 27, 28 & 29th at the Handlery Hotel in Mission Valley. Because many members of Ring 76 also hold membership in the SAM, a special dinner and show was presented at Jack's Magic Place on Saturday evening March 29th for the leaders of the Society of American Magicians.

Bob Ingalls talked Loren Sturat, the general manager of the Oldtown Trolley Company, into giving us a bus to transport our 25 guests from their hotel to the University Avenue meeting place. Ring 76 member Bob Matchinske was the bus driver and told his guests he did not know anything about magic. Then, when they reached their destination, he did a very nice billiard ball routine for them. As one magician put it, "We knew then we had been taken for a ride by this guy."

Ed Thomas, President of the SAM asked for a few minutes to speak and gave a new Charter for Assembly 40, The Great Leon Assembly to Fred Kaplan. That group meets during the lunch hour in Rancho Bernardo, the second Tuesday of each month. Kaplan began organizing that Assembly late last year, and it has about 20 members who attend the afternoon meetings. That assembly has been dormant for about 14 years. Thomas also presented a SAM



**Terry Lunceford &
SAM Pres. Ed Thomas**

certificate of appreciation to Ring 76 President Don Soul for his help in organizing this event.

After dinner we presented a special program for the visiting magi. Jeff Marcas, who has

been an SAM member for 25 years, did a very funny card routine followed by a rope effect. Then Terry Lunceford did his six card repeat as only Terry can do it, followed by his beautiful linkig rings and very popular snake basket. Bob Ingalls was next, and, when Bob started to do a rope trick, he forgot how it worked and asked if there



**Bob Ingalls &
Aldo Colombini**

was anyone in the audience who knew the trick. It just so happens that the inventor of the trick Aldo Colombini was in the audience and stepped forward and did 15 of the funniest minutes in magic.

Bob Ingalls returned to the stage following Aldo and did his torn and restored dollar bill. Jack White was next with his burned shoe routine that won Jack stand-up magician of the year last year. The show was closed by Armando Torres from Mexico, who did his classic sleight of hand act to music.

Before, during, and after dinner Michael E. Johnson, Diane Lane, and Bob Pozner entertained the guests with strolling magic behind the bar and at the tables. Ralph Mauzy operated our spot light for the various acts. Don and Donna Soul kept the serving line moving smoothly and kept plenty of hot food available for our guests. It was a fun evening meeting and visiting with the SAM Board of Directors. SAM officials said they are looking at the



Jan & David Goodsell

possibility of holding their National Convention in San Diego in the near future.

Mark's Magic by Mark Stone

Again we thank Mark Stone for sharing with Ring 76 some of his magic routines that he has been assembling for a future book on magic. Mark has been a magic manufacturer, performer, and is a past president of Ring 76. Look for his table at the coming swap meet; he will have some interesting props for sale.

THUNDERBOLT KNOT (Cosmar Magic)

EFFECT

The performer hold and show a piece of rope with a knot tied at his center. Suddenly, at the performer's command the knot disappears with a thunderous BOOM.

COMMENTS

This was one of my first commercial effects, and distributed through a magic wholesaler to magic stores worldwide since 1984.

PREPARATION AND PERFORMANCE

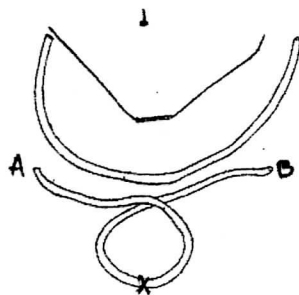
The secret behind this effect is a false rope knot and a firework pull string; while performing do not hold the rope close to the face.

The firework strings comes in a package of 12. To prepare the strings for this effect, make a loop the size of your thumb in both ends of the strings.

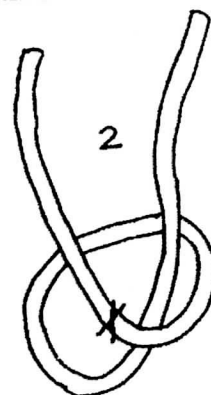
Cut a piece of magician's rope of about two feet long and make a false knot at the rope's center. In case you don't know how to make a false knot, here is described a very easy method.

FALSE KNOT

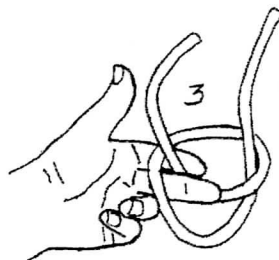
With the left hand, take the rope by the end A, and, with the right hand, take end B. Make a loop in middle of the rope,



With the left thumb, push section x of the rope through the loop, **fig 2.**



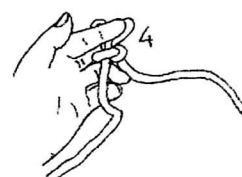
Take again the section of rope marked with a x between the left index finger and the middle finger; then grab with the left



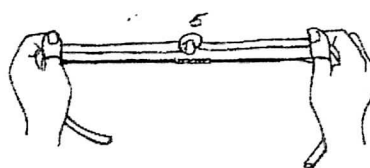
ring finger and pinky finger the portion of rope behind the loop as is shown in **fig 3-4.**

Pull the rope section marked x; hold between the left index and middle fingers and, at the same

time, with the right hand pull rope's end B, this will form the false knot **fig 4.** If you pull both rope ends in opposite directions, the rope will come untied.



Once the false knot is set, introduce both thumbs into each string's loop. Grab the rope's ends with each hand in front of the string so that the string is hidden by the rope, **fig 5.**



While performing, tell the spectators to concentrate on the knot, move your hands **away from your face**, then pull your hands in opposite directions in one strong motion, resulting in the simultaneous explosion and

vanishing of the knot.

Remember : Perform this effect away from your face !



Improved Parking for Ring Meetings & Events

After what seems like years of negotiation we have finally prevailed upon the owners of Tortilla Lilys Mexican bakery to give us a key to their parking lot ,so that our members can park in the lot during regular meetings, lecturers, and special events. We will see that the lot is open and locked up at the end of the evening. In the event that one of their employees locks the gate by mistake on one of the evenings we are using it ,let Jack White know immediately and he will open it up for our members' use. We believe this will be helpful to all members who have in the past had to park blocks away from our meeting place.

Circus Vargas in SD

Circus Vargas is beginning its annual tour and will be playing at the Westfield Shopping Mall at Bonita Plaza in National City, April 8th through April 13th. They then move to the lot in front of the old Navy Hospital in Balboa Park, with shows from April 15th through April 20th. Circus Vargas advertising tells audiences to "Experience the Magic at America's Favorite Big Top Circus." Diane Lane and a group of San Diego Clowns have already taken part in at least one of the Circus performances in this area.

Continued from Page One Ring Website upgrade


A big thank you must go to Ring President Don Soul, who alone picked up the pieces of our Website from Sumit Dua, following last summer's IBM Convention, when Sumit moved to Los Angeles to attend medical school. Don has spent untold hours reworking and building the site and keeping it up to date. He is going to be staying on at least for the time being as the Webmaster for our site. We have also enlisted the help of Ring member Ken DeWoody and his multimedia group to help with the technical side of things.

Ken, during the month of March, talked us through the changeover in servers and shopped around finding us the best prices for our needs. He also has some very exciting plans for moving our Ring forward on the Internet of the future. We are very grateful for all that he has created and look forward to moving ahead as he goes to work with Don Soul in bringing about what we believe will become the most exciting Website of any magic club. These are exciting times for all of us. We will be keeping you informed on all of the changes as they happen.

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Message from the President

I have a growing concern that our youth group activity may become so overwhelming for Fred Kaplan and Phil Tuttle that it may disintegrate due to lack of support. They need the help and support of Ring 76 membership to keep it going. They're looking for just an hour a month of volunteer work to teach the kids simple, lesson-planned magic that we're all capable of demonstrating. Won't you pitch in?

This month's swap meet gives members the chance to empty out their closets, and others to grab good magic for pennies on the dollar. The auction promises some fantastic bargains, as Cameron South and others donate illusions and performance-proven props, all awaiting your bid. The proceeds will help build the Ring 76 treasury.

And be looking forward to an exciting evening as we plan our July installation banquet. Entertainment will be provided by the John Fedko Ring 313 from the Irvine area. Top class performers will appear at the Al Bahr Shrine in another dressy event. Plan on being there. It'll fall on a Saturday, July 19th.

As usual, be observant of common courtesy rules when attending our Ring meetings. Please be quiet and do not distract the others who offer to perform and, afterwards, help us clean up any trash that may accumulate on the floor during the evening. Thanks.

Don Soul
President Ring 76

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Duck Tank by Chu's Magic of Hong Kong. This is a beautiful item. Pour water repeatedly into this large, red wooden bucket during your performance. When lifted by top handle, slatted sides fall open and reveal a full grown duck. Interior is yellow with stunning dragon motif for display. This item will be displayed at the swap meet on the 14th. \$150.00 A rare nice item. See J.P. Jackson for more information 858-569-0096

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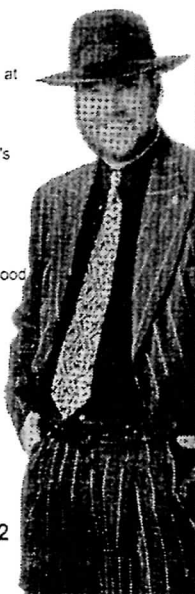
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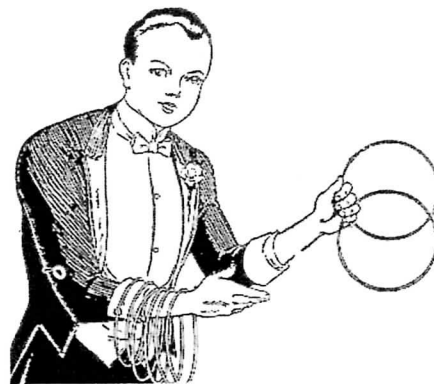
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News

We put a picture of **Alfonso Vazquez** on the front page of this newsletter for a reason. He is now in Iraq. 1stSgt. Vazques is fighting for the cause and, in a recent e-mail to MagiCurrents, tells us he is looking forward to getting home. He says he has a few props with him, and he manages to do a little close-up magic for his fellow Marines during a coffee break in the war. He says his brief magic shows go a long way toward keeping up moral among the troops. We say "Semper Fi, Alfonso" and we all look forward to having you back at a Ring 76 meeting very soon. His e-mail address is VazquezA@3mawdm.usmc.mil. Take the time to say hello to one of our true heros.

Phil Tuttle, in between working his regular job as a paralegal, has become the technical director for **Diane Lane's** weekly television program "Magical Moments." Diane says Phil has been a great help, taking the pressure off of her so that she can devote more time to producing the program and acting as host.

Magician and Circus Historian **Mike Martin** says a fourth unit of Cirque du Soleil will open at the New York, New York Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas on July 31st. The hotel says this show will be a provocative exhibition of human sensuality, arousal and eroticism. Translation: It's Cirque's sexiest show yet! Martin asks the question, "Does anyplace, even Las Vegas, really need four Cirque du Soleil shows and does it need to be the the sexiest in the world?"

Speaking of Las Vegas, **Geno Munari** at a celebration honoring Houdini's 129th birthday on March



24th, told a large assembly of magicians that he would be bringing the definitive Houdini collection from the original museum in Appleton, Wisconsin, to Las Vegas in the very near future.

Aldo Colombini was in town for several days, taping his new magic video at **Terry Luncford's** studio. Terry is producing the tape that will be released this summer and will be filled with lots of original comedy effects from the mind of Italy's funniest export.....Aldo Colombini.

Dr. Joel Moskowitz is sponsoring **Don Drake** and his lecture on Black Art Magic at San Diego State University, April 29th at the Experimental Theater on campus. The lecture begins at 7 pm., admission is 10-dollars at the door. The theater group on campus is very interested in knowing more about Black Art; however, the lecture is also open to magicians. Don Drake has presented this lecture at various magic conventions in recent years and appears at the Magic Castle in Hollywood before coming to San Diego.

The California Magic Quartet is making an appearance at a special event for Children's Hospital on May 17th. The quartet is made up of **Michael E. Johnson**, **Jeff Marcus**, **Joel Ward** and **Magic Mike Stilwell**.

Briefs

They will be appearing at the San Diego Embarcadero Park behind Seaport Village from 10 am to 12 noon. The group is waving their usual 2-thousand dollar fee for charity. The California Magic Quartet is a performing arts group that has helped in numerous fund raising events.

Michael E. Johnson is in the beginning stages of producing a special promotional video tape promoting San Diego's magicians. The tape will cover everything from full-time professionals, inventors, amaters, and collectors. If you would like to be a part of this project, contact Michael at 760 747-4627.

Proving that nothing is new in magic, a trick called "Pharoah's Ribbon" is being rereleased by Klam Magic. The effect was originally made by **Jim Swoger** in the late 50s and early 60s using the black art principal for cutting and restoring a ribbon. When Jim sold the trick, it retailed for \$7.50. The new version sells for \$70-bucks. On e-bay, an original Swoger version recently sold for \$95. **Jack White** has an original in his collection; ask him to point it out next time you are at his little magic museum.

The L A Conference on Magic History just announced their meeting dates for this year: November 6, 7 & 8. This conference is held every other year at the Beverly Garland Hotel in Hollywood. The conference is limited to 200 people. Ring 76 member **J.P. Jackson** is a charter member and will again be at the conference.

We send our deepest sympathy to **Bob Matchinske**, who recently lost his wife following an ongoing illness.

April 14th meeting: Annual Magic Swap Meet & Auction.

Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. Pre-meeting at 6:30 pm.

Meeting at 7 pm. See story in this publication for some of the special items that will be on the tables and up for auction. This is going to be a very exciting event. If you want to sell and have not reserved a table, contact Richard Ustick ASAP!

San Diego Magic Legend Bob Sheets brings his comedy magic lecture to Jack's Magic Place, Tuesday, April 15th. Admission: \$10 at the door. 7 pm. This is a lecture you don't want to miss. Close-up & stage routines.

May 12th Ring meeting presents a special mentoring program. We will have a special teach-in with guest instructors presenting a variety of new effects. These workshops have been a big hit in the past, so don't miss this program.

June 9th meeting: Election of new officers and the Ring 76 Stand-up Contest. This contest is open to all members, with cash prizes being offered. Polish up your routines and plan to perform.

April 21st Board of Directors meeting 7 pm. Jack's Magic Place. All board meetings are open to members.

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