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MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



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2002-2003

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

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Installation & Awards Banquet for Ring 76 at Al Bahr Shrine Auditorium 4:30 pm. July 20th

In an election by the general membership of Ring 76 on June 9th, Diane Lane, was elected the new president of Ring 76. Bob Ingalls was elected to a second term as 1st vice president; Dr. Joel Moskowitz will begin his first term as 2nd vice president; Jack White will serve a third term as secretary and editor of the Ring newsletter; Richard Ustick returns for a second term as treasurer and historian for the Ring. Sherry Luft is serving a second term as the sgt at arms; and J.P. Jackson, is returning to the board of directors after a thirteen year absence as an officer in the Ring. He will become a member at large. Don Soul becomes the immediate past president and also assumes the job of member at large.

Diane Lane becomes only the fourth woman to serve as President of Ring 76. Pat Hannum was the first; Sherry Luft, the second; and Julie Dale, the third woman president. Diane has been a member of the Ring since 1996 and an active member of the board of directors since 1999. In her job as 2nd vice president, she was in charge of membership, and



Diane Lane President
Elect Ring 76

during her two years in that position, the Ring has enjoyed a wonderful growth period. Diane is active in a variety of non-profit volunteer groups and brings a special magic to those organizations. She is best known for pioneering a weekly television program featuring magic known as "Magical Moments" that is viewed on both Cox Cable and TimeWarner Networks. As host of the show, Diane features the magical talents of both local and visiting magicians. Lane also finds time to work several regular gigs as a restaurant performer doing close-up strolling magic. She is also active in the San Diego Clown Club.

The installation and awards banquet will be our regular Ring meeting for July and will be held on Sunday the 20th at the Al Bahr Shrine Auditorium, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. The Al Bahr Temple is located just behind the Hampton Inn Motel. Consult the map on this



Continued on page 5:

June meeting includes election, dues, and stand up contest for members

The June meeting is traditionally one of the busiest of the year, and this was no exception. Ring dues were collected. New officers were elected and the "Stand Up Magician of the Year" contest was held.

Don Soul, Richard Ustick, Joel Moskowitz, and Diane Lane collected dues as members arrived. Greg Wauson's nomination committee then conducted the election of officers. Elected to office was Diane Lane, President; Bob Ingalls, 1st Vice President; Dr. Joel Moskowitz, 2nd Vice President; Richard Ustick, Treasurer; Jack White, Secretary; Sherry Luft, Sgt. At Arms; J.P. Jackson, Member at Large; Don Soul becomes the Immediate Past President and remains on the board as a member at large.

With our election out of the way Bob Ingalls began the stand up competition which included nine members. Kenny Shelton was the first performer and mystified us with a selected card vanishing from the deck and mysteriously appearing in a card frame that had been in sight during the entire performance. Shelton then presented a very original cups and balls routine. At the end he produced liquid from his cups and a 20-foot streamer from his mouth.



Kenny Shelton



Loch David Crane

Next to perform was Loch David Crane, better known as Bafflin Bill Cody. Loch dresses in leather western ware complete with a ten gallon hat and high boots. He displayed the parched skull of a Buffalo mounted on a stand. On the other side of the skull was a wheel. Attached to the

wheel were five envelopes. A \$20 bill was borrowed from Jim Whiting and placed in one of the envelopes. The wheel was spun and members of the audience called out which envelopes they wanted Loch to burn. With only one left, it was the borrowed \$20 bill. This is an act that plays big and Loch played it for all it was worth.

Joe Mystic was the next act. Joe opened his act with a very nice chameleon silks effect, ending with red, white, and blue silks that were blended into a large American Flag. That was followed by Joe's exceptional three ring routine, which is beautiful in Joe's hands. To close his act Joe presented a beautiful floating table with a helper from the audience. This effect was a real show stopper. You could hear gasps from the audience when the table suddenly began to rise. A beautiful well-balanced magic act.



Joe Mystic



Ted Dunning

Our fourth contestant was Ted Dunning, who did some original work with ginger snap cookies. The cookies were manipulated like coins, suddenly appearing and disappearing. When they were finally given to the audience, the cookies were eaten. Following the cookies, Dunning presented a very clever card trick. He had a card selected marked and returned to the deck, the

deck of cards was then torn up for a total of 208 pieces that were dropped into a paper bag. Dunning reached into the bag and produced all four corners of the torn card which was the eight of clubs.

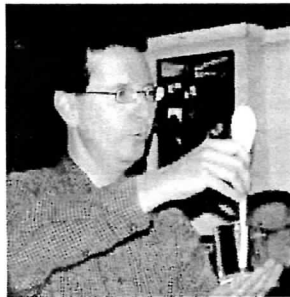
Following Ted's act, Jeff Marcus took center stage. He opened with a standard 52 on 1 prediction card and then after marking a single card on the 51 on 1 card, he asked a spectator to name a card and the named card matched the card Jeff had marked. Next Jeff did his classic linking ring routine. Jeff has done this routine for years and in his hands it is flawless. It is a very nice visual piece of magic. As

a finale, Jeff did the color changing 45 record effect with the records changing colors four times. This was another clean and entertaining act.



Jeff Marcus

We can always count on Greg Wauson to come up with some unusual magic. He entered imitating David Copperfield and saying: "I wanna



Greg Wauson

fly, I wanna fly!" He then reached into a bag and produced an eight inch house fly! Greg gave us all a little cooking lesson from a copy of the "Betty Potter's Crock Book." He asked a spectator to pour water from a pitcher into a drinking glass. Greg then began to stir the water with a large wooden cooking spoon. Suddenly the glass

of water was floating with the spoon still in the glass. There were more gasps from the audience during this very nice mini-illusion. Greg's comments and patter were amusing and well-choosen for this presentation.

High energy performer Michael E. Johnson then came on stage with more comedy magic and a lot of heavy, large props that included a chain full of locks. Two of the large locks were selected by the audience and Michael's wrists were chained and locked. Then Michael poured a glass of water into a plastic tub and he jumped head first into the tub. Struggling for air, rolling about, he managed to free himself before drowning. Harry Houdini would have laughed himself silly watching this escape act. We should mention that Michael does a very fine challenge escape act, as well as his comedy presentation.



Michael E. Johnson

Ring 76s most senior member, Jim Swoger, got out of his wheel chair and presented a routine he first

did in the Pacific in World War II. Displaying some unusual sleight of hand dexterity, he did a multiplying bullet effect. Using 30 caliber bullets, Jim managed to produce a dozen or more of the shells, dropping each one to the floor showing it was not hollow. Jim is 85-years young and always has a story or interesting piece of magic to show ring



Jim Swoger

members.



Diane Lane & Sherry Luft

The last act of the contest was a bit of a surprise to most members. Diane Lane and Sherry Luft teamed up and dressed up, complete with gray wigs, to look like two senior citizens who were doing their husbands magic act.

The fun began as the two women started tugging at a walking stick that turned into a bright silk scarf. That silk scarf was placed in a bag and it changed into two scarfs of darker colors. The two pulled Jack White out of the audience and stuffed the scarfs that were tied together into Jack's pants. You guessed it, the women pulled on the silks and removed Jack's shorts that were a bright red; Jack remarked, "Now I know why mother always told me to wear clean underwear!" Then Diane and Sherry did the sword box with Diane in the box and Sherry confused as she filled the box full of deadly looking daggers. In the end Diane emerged no worse the wear. This is a very entertaining and original act. I am sure we will see this act updated in the future.

The audience then voted on the first, second, and third place awards. The winners will be announced along with the winners of the close up contest at the July 20th Installation and Awards Banquet. First place winners get \$50, second place winners receive \$25 and third place recipients \$10.



Our Performers

Long Beach Mystics Week at the Magic Castle

by Greg Wauson

The Long Beach Mystics is a now-legendary club for teenage magicians. It was started in 1955 and continued into the 1980s. During this time it nurtured hundreds of young magicians and magician wannabees. The Mystics produced more professional magicians than any other club in the United States. At the monthly meetings the members would practice their acts, try out new material, and learn from guest lectures and performances by the likes of Harry Blackstone Jr., Frakson, Chuck Jones, Bill and Milt Larsen, Tina Lenert, Peter Pit, Marvyn Roy, and Steve Martin.

The member list included Stan Allen, Mike Caveney, Michael Weber, Kevin James, Mark Kalin, Brad Burt, Dana Daniels, and Victor (of Victor and Diamond). Some of the members served as adult consultants to the club after reaching the ripe old age of 20. Dale Salwak and Les Arnold are two of the post-teenage veterans of the club. They provided their expertise for the annual Mystics show, "It's Amazing," during my tenure as a Mystic. It was presented for 25 years and gave many of the members their first taste of performing on a full stage before an audience of hundreds. The quality of these shows rivaled the best anywhere.

The week of June 9-15, 2003, was Long Beach Mystics week at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. All performers that week are past members of this Long Beach, California, organization. Since I was a member during my teenage years I didn't want to miss this rare opportunity to enjoy performances from fellow Mystics. On Thursday that week, fellow Mystic Greg Stevenson and I drove up and saw most of the acts that night. First was Randy Pryor in the Parlor. What a class act this is. Funny and high energy, his

experience from magishing and juggling for years on cruise ships shows.

Then we caught Kevin James, Bill Smith, Stan Allen, and Mike Caveney in the Palace of Mystery. Kevin James performed the appearing bowling ball, snowstorm, and his immaculate floating rose. First class stuff. The floating rose just can't be beaten as a most magical effect. Stan Allen's act featured Killer the Rabbit. Hilarious and touching, this act should not be missed if you have an opportunity to see it. Bill Smith is known as a designer and builder of custom illusions for the top names in magic but put together an entertaining act with a vanishing and appearing duck. And what can you say about Mike Caveney, one of the best emcees in the business. He fascinated us with his juggling of a glass of coffee and baffled us with a gozinta box routine, all the while making us laugh.

Next up was Dana Daniels in the Parlor. I laughed until I cried watching him and his mindreading bird, Luigi. This is a guy who raises comedy to an art form. Although there are few tricks in this act, the magic is in how he squeezes every ounce of funny business from his volunteers. Funny, funny stuff. Here's another act not to miss.

The night was over too soon and I hadn't had enough. I grabbed my wife and a neighbor couple, Randy and Carolyn, and made the long trek back on Sunday evening, the last night for the Mystics.

I thought showing up at 6:00 for our 6:30 p.m. early dinner seating would let us take in the close-up gallery show before eating, but that didn't happen because the performer there was Michael Weber. He hadn't performed at the Magic Castle for 25 years, when he was 15; and he was the big-time buzz that night. We ate first and then took our places in line. Since the room holds just over 20 people, getting into a popular show is a costly doing. 90 minutes later we were in the second row waiting

continued on page 7

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Strategic partnerships welcome!

Banquet, cont from page one:

page for the exact location. Doors open at 4:30 pm with an appetizer buffet, followed by dinner, served at 6 pm. Members and their guests will enjoy a sitdown dinner with salad, prime rib, twice baked potato, vegetable, beverage, and dessert. A special vegetarian lagsana dinner will be served as a substitute for prime rib. Our caterer needs to know how many vegetarian dinners to prepare, so please let Richard Ustick or Diane Lane know if you will be attending and which dinner you prefer. Richard can be contacted by phone at (619) 463-2407 or via e-mail at rustick@flash.net; Diane Lane at (858) 278-1669 or e-mail at dvlane@san.rr.com. Appetizers, dinner, awards, and show for \$20.00 per person payable at the door.

Following the installation of officers, the awards for Close-up performer, Stand-up performer, Performer of the Year, and Member of the Year will be presented. Two new members will be inducted into our Honorary Lifetime Hall of Fame. Past President and longtime member of Ring 76 Al Knox, who now lives in North Carolina but remains in contact with Ring activities, will be our first honoree. Jim Swoger, our oldest active living member will also be added to the role of honor. Jim continues to take part as a performer at regular meetings and has donated many books to our Ring library. Our first names on the Lifetime Hall of Fame were Roy and Betty Armstrong and Art and Pat Hannum.

This event is always a special evening for Ring 76 members and their guests. We urge all members to attend and bring your spouse or significant other. It is important that we let the caterer have an idea of how many dinners to prepare and how many tables to set up. PLEASE let Richard Ustick or Diane Lane know if you are planning to attend, how many in your party, and whether you are having the prime rib or the vegetarian dinner.

Ring 313, from Orange County, will be bringing a special magic program to our banquet. Jay Leslie will be the master of ceremonies, and you can be sure he will present some clever comedy magic between the acts. Chris Christian, Kyle Merck, and Ryan Schell will all present acts with the show to be closed by Ring 313 President Belinda Kaesler.

Ring 76 took a program to the Ring 313 Installation Banquet in December of last year. This is going to be a fun filled program of magic and comedy. We expect the evening's events to be over by 9 pm.

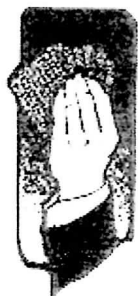
Tickets are available at the door \$20 per person which includes dinner and the program. This is a big evening for Ring 76; we hope to see everyone at the banquet.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Oh, alright, here's the remote!"



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View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

Developing a Signature Effect, Part Two

Last month we discussed whether or not you want a signature effect in your repertoire. This month's article will begin to examine aspects of picking and developing such a signature effect. There are many considerations, but we will examine only two of them in this installment.

1. You must choose an effect that suits your performance character. You cannot be a "man of mystery" whose signature effect is a comical affair. Nor can you shift gears from being a mentalist to being a magician. Your signature effect must help etch your name, character, and likeness into the memory of each of your spectators, so it must be consistent with your established performance identity. An inconsistent character dilutes the performer's effectiveness, which in turn nullifies the whole idea of a signature effect. Performance identity is a whole different subject, and worthy of discussion in a future VFCS.
2. Your signature effect must be distinctively your own. This means that you must:

A. find a unique presentation of an established plot, or

B. devise a new plot.

Neither is as difficult as it may sound; after you have learned an effect so well that you can concentrate on its presentation rather than its execution, you should begin playing around with it. For the remainder of this article, free-associate effects in your current repertoire from the standpoint of A., using the suggestions below.

What you would like to see if you were watching the effect? How might it be different in the hands of your favorite performers? How might your established character perform the effect? Could you devise an unusual storyline? Could you reconsider the methodology, and find another way to do the same trick? Anything which would significantly vary the procedure would look different to the spectators,

so you would have a distinctive version.

Let us examine a couple of effects in light of this way of thinking. Dai Vernon's *Triumph* is a well-known effect wherein half of the deck is shuffled face up into the other half, and all of the cards are magically righted except for the chosen card. How might you alter the effect to make a distinctive presentation? Vernon's presentation in **Stars of Magic** was the story of a challenge by a spectator to the genteel magician. In the hands of a comedy or bar magician, the mythical spectator might have been inebriated and grabbing the cards from the magician's hands, or the magician himself might have been "smashed" and mis-shuffled the cards. A card-sharp-style magician might not even have a chosen card, instead finding the four aces face up in the righted deck after the catastrophic shuffle. A mentalist might use the power of his mind to right the deck, or the collective power of the spectators' minds to do so; then he could make only the chosen card turn back face up, giving two climaxes instead of one. Instead of using the Vernon strip-out shuffle, the performer might use the slop-shuffle version to enhance the "inebriated" version suggested above. Altering the method, one could streamline the effect by controlling the chosen card to the bottom, using a Braue reversal for the bottom card and then turning both halves of the deck face up in opposite directions during the cut, riffling together the halves and cutting once to place the chosen card in the middle; this would dispense with the "proving" cuts of the original effect and make the effect almost instantaneous in the eyes of the spectators.

Roy Walton's *Card Warp* is another classic. In that effect, the magician makes one folded card turn inside out as it passes through another folded card. One famous variant passes the card through a borrowed \$1 bill to achieve the effect. Why not pass a \$5 bill through a \$1 bill and have it turn inside out? How about passing the magician's business card through a borrowed \$1 bill that has been folded into one-quarter size? One could write "Bruce Wayne" and a "Batman" insignia on opposite sides of a double-blank playing card, and then switch the card for a pre-gaffed duplicate while the spectators write "Batcave" on their blank card and fold it in half. Thinking topically in summer 2003, one could write "Bruce Banner" (use black marker) and the "Hulk" (use green marker) on that double-blank card, and have the spectators write "anger" on their card.

I am not suggesting that *Triumph* or *Card Warp* are necessarily good signature effects; in light of additional criteria presented in the next installment of this article, you may decide that they are not

appropriate for signature effects, or that one or the other is indeed a good choice *for you*. The messages today are to choose from effects that suit your character or can be altered to suit your character, and to find a presentation that is distinctively your own. Once you become adept at such re-thinking, you will find yourself doing it for all of your magic, making your whole show distinctively your own.

**"Batman" is a trademark of National DC Comics;
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*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 , and put VFCS in your subject line.*

Long Beach Mystics, continued from page 4

for the show to begin. What a crowd in that room: Ricky Jay, Mac King, Andrew Goldenhersh, and Gregory Wilson. From a show of hands, only three people in the room were non-magicians.

The wait was worth it. The room hostess asked for two volunteers to sit at the performance table in front; our friend Carolyn was chosen. Gregory Wilson took the other seat. As I'll explain soon, it was not an accident that he was selected. Michael Weber then came out and began by saying he was going to use only what was in his pockets and then emptied them. A couple rubber bands, some coins, a pack of cigarettes, another coin, another pack of cigarettes, hmm let's see what's in another pocket. Three more cigarette packs, five more in another pocket. Everyone laughed to see about 20 cigarette packs come from his pockets. No magic with the cigarettes but what a linking and unlinking rubber band routine. He fooled me badly; I've worked with some rubber band effects but he

actually convinced me that those bands were linked. Next was a convincing routine in which he explained the mystery of how solo socks magically appear in the laundry.

Then was a bare-handed money-making routine in which a blank piece of paper was printed to look like a dollar bill. But, hey, that's not George Washington on the bill; that's a photo of Gregory Wilson! Michael passed the bill around the audience and completely unfolded his wallet to become a wanted poster for counterfeiter Gregory Wilson. I know from seeing Michael Weber lecture years ago that he and Gregory Wilson are good friends and continually try to outdo each other with magical practical jokes. This one went to Michael.

Mike Caveney was again emcee in the Palace of Mystery. I was interested to see how much his presentation would differ from a few nights back. The only effect he duplicated was juggling the glass of coffee. That's a strong entertainment piece with some element of danger – at least a big mess – and he didn't change a thing. He's seasoned enough to be able to play off audience members and keep his act fresh. Randy Pryor was first up. Then it was Les Arnold's turn, with a performance as a debonair magician and an overzealous assistant. Funny act which made me think of the Great Tomsoni. Stan Allen was next; I was as enamored with Killer the Rabbit as much as I'd been on Thursday.

Then it was Mike Caveney's turn. He selected me as his volunteer and "hypnotized" me. He did a convincing scissors through the coat routine while I held my coat and kept my eyes closed. Caveney thought it would be wrong not to have some fun with an unsuspecting volunteer while you have him onstage. He started to hand my coat back and a spoon fell out. Then another and

continued on page 9

Loch David Crane

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Magic Notes from Jack White

Thank You, Don Soul president of Ring 76, for two great years!

Here is a look back in photos at those two years.



Long Beach Mystics Continued from page 7

another; soon, about 20 spoons had fallen. "Gee, I'm surprised with all the spoons you got from the restaurant that you didn't take a water pitcher, too." Klang! Out it dropped, followed by a couple of silver trays. Then he said, "I'm sure glad you didn't order the beef"; he lifted away my coat and was holding a big chicken flapping its wings. Very funny and surprising.

I hadn't been able to see all the performing Mystics at the Castle that week because there were some nightly changes and waiting in line takes time. But we went away satisfied that we'd enjoyed some of magic's best.

(Editors note: We thank Greg Wauson for taking the time to submit the above article. We will make an effort to publish all member's contributions.)

New IBM Board Member from So. Cal.

At the regularly scheduled business meeting of the executive committee of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, in Kansas City, Missouri, Jack White of Ring 76 was nominated and elected to the IBM Board of Directors. The election took place on the afternoon of July 5th. Dr. Bill Spooner, former IBM president, placed White's name in nomination and spoke in his behalf.

Jeff Marcus Elected TVP For Southern California

Jeff Marcus has won the election for Territorial Vice President of Southern California. Marcus was in a heated race against former TVP Dick Dale, both from San Diego county. The ballots were counted at the International Brotherhood of Magicians Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, on July 2nd. All California members of the IBM were sent official ballots and asked to vote for one of the two candidates in May. All ballots had to be returned by June 15. The territorial vice president acts as a go between in offering advice, administering IBM business, and helping to mediate disputes. Marcus has been the acting TVP for Southern California since September of 2002.




Jeff Marcus

Because California is such a large state and there are many new Rings setting up shop, it was decided by the IBM that three TVP representatives are necessary in the golden state. Jeff Marcus will represent Southern California, Belinda Kaesler will become the new TVP for Central California, and Art Gagne, represents the Northern portion of the state. The three TVPs are working out their exact territories. One of Jeff's first duties as the newly elected TVP will be to install the new president and board of directors of Ring 76 on July 20th.

You can contact your new TVP by calling 619-562-3434 or by e-mail at alakazam@cox.net. Jeff Marcus is an active member of Ring 76 and attends most monthly meetings. He is eager to help all members in any way he can.

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Message from the President

The end of an era. I step aside as president at the July 20th banquet when Ring 76 installs officers for a new year. I wish them well and hope membership enthusiasm sustains. The new board, as usual, depends on membership support so let's give it to them.

I had my share of ups and downs in two years, many predictable, some not so, but the board helped keep it all together. A revised constitution & by-laws, the I.B.M. Ring Quality Award, hosting the fantastic 2002 I.B.M. convention, Ring 76 night at The Gathering, the initiation of cash awards for competition winners, the talent exchange programs with Rings 313 & 292, the successful auctions, an ever-growing library, our Web site implementation, the treasury windfall standing at over \$5,000 as I depart, hosting dignitaries of both the I.B.M. and S.A.M., the reactivation of the junior magicians auxiliary, some great lectures by people like Paul Gertner, the ambience of our meeting facilities and the eagerness of members to perform are highlights that occurred during my stay as president. Except for the Gertner lecture, I can't take credit for any of it. It was my board that made it all happen and I thank them. I was extremely fortunate to have such a devoted crew.

I invite you to attend the installation banquet where we can formally give our outgoing officers the recognition they deserve. A good dinner and top-notch entertainment by The John Fedko Ring will make this gathering one to remember for a long time. I'll see you there. Thank you, all.

Don Soul

President Ring 76

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Notice to all Ring members: If you have something to sell, trade or if you are looking for a certain trick, book, video, or illusion, use this column to get the word out. It is free to all Ring 76 members.

Wanted: Genii Magazines from 1948 to 1953. Please contact Jack White, with condition and asking price. 619-299-9037.

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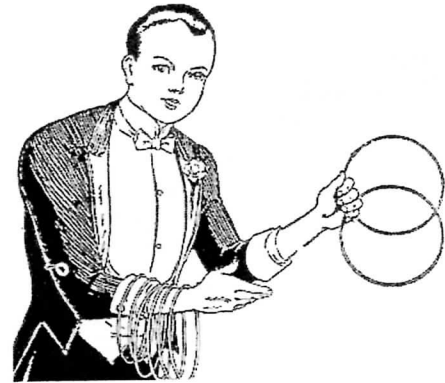
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News

Berry Price, being billed as the best close-up card magician around, will conduct a lecture on Tuesday, August 19th, 7 pm at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue. **Vince the Magic Man** is bringing Price to San Diego. The cost is \$15. To reserve a seat, call Vince at (619) 482-4881. This lecture will attract a lot of people, so don't wait too long to reserve your seat.

Bob Ingalls and **Ralph Mauzy** attended a lecture in late June at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. **Guy Bavli**, whose mental magic is well respected, talked about being a mentalist and gave his audience some new effects to perform and a new perspective on the subject of mental magic. Ingalls was especially interested in learning a couple of new effects he could do at the IBM and SAM conventions in July. Bob and **Jack White** are attending both magic conclaves this summer.

Used magic dealer **Mario Corandi** has just purchased the magic collection of the late **Joe Thompson**, a former San Diego magician. Thompson died December 30th in Columbus, Pa. He was 73. (See February 2003 MagiCurrents for obituary.) Among the treasures in Thompson's collection were a number of items by the late **John Dahms**, the Escondido builder of fine magic props. Corandi will sell the Thompson collection piece by piece on the online auction house, Ebay. Thompson's extensive library of magic books was sold to another dealer earlier this year. If you knew Joe Thompson then you know he bought only the best in magic props.

If you work with a live rabbit and need a new rabbit hutch, call longtime Ring member, **Dick**



Bush (619) 443-9710. Bush has a double wide hutch that is wired for electric heat for cold winter nights and equipped with side panels to keep the rabbit warm and out of the wind. This is a very nice rabbit hutch, professionally built. Dick says if you will haul it away you can have it for \$50.00.

North County Magician **James Kellogg Jr.** performed the famous **Houdini Water Torture Cell Escape** illusion at the Oceanside Beach Stadium on Sunday, July 13th. Kellogg built the escape tank himself; he is a locksmith by trade. The outdoor band shell forced Kellogg to put up a 20-foot high scaffolding to support the rigging needed to drop him into the water-filled glass tank. He spent the early part of his life performing as a magician. When his lock business began taking up more and more of his time, he put his magic on hold. Now after nearly 20-years of being inactive as a performer, he has returned to magic. James is applying for membership in Ring 76.

Congratulations to **Gary Schwartzwald** on being named the new principal of Santana High School for the coming year. Santana was very much in the news a few years ago with a campus shooting spree.

Briefs

Longtime San Diego performer **Monty Stratton** and his wife **Gloria** have pulled up roots and moved to an area just outside of Kansas City, Missouri. Monty met with San Diego magicians at the IBM Convention and says his money goes a lot farther in the mid-west, and he feels the school system is better there for his growing children. Monty is close to the family entertainment center of Branson, Missouri, and is looking forward to getting bookings there. Many magic and variety artists are booked into various theaters in the Branson area.

Some of you may have seen Ring 76 member **Joe Mystic** present a special magic and hypnosis show at the North County Rep Theater in Solana Beach on July 9th. We are told Joe's act was a real highlight of the show. The North County Rep has been a great venue for local magi. Joe is a true professional who has honed his act after many years of practice and many stage appearances. He is a great asset to our Ring.

Michael E. Johnson is presenting a show Thursday, July 17th in the Bird Rock area of La Jolla. The show is part of the "Taste of Bird Rock" put on by the restaurants located in this exclusive section of La Jolla. Michael will be presenting a Houdini Challenge Escape act, featuring a number of restraints. He is also inviting members of the audience to bring padlocks and handcuffs that he will attempt to escape from during the show. The proceeds from this event will go toward the building fund for the Bird Rock Elementary School Library.

July 20th, Sunday afternoon, 4:30 pm has been set as our Installation Banquet and Awards program. The event will be a catered sit-down dinner at the Shrine Auditorium on Kearny Mesa, and feature a special program of magic by Ring 313 members. This promises to be a grand event. See location map and story on page one. Dinner and program are \$20 at the door; guests are welcome. If you have not paid your dues they can be paid Sunday at the banquet. Annual Ring dues are \$25.

August 11th meeting, installation of all new members. Fred Kaplan's Junior Magicians will present a program for Ring 76 members. Attend and support our Junior Program.

July 28th, board of directors meeting 7 pm., Jack's Magic Place. All board meetings are open to members. The board will be planning the various events and activities for the coming year. This is an important board meeting. E-mail your suggestions to the Ring secretary, Jack White at prestoone@cox.net

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