

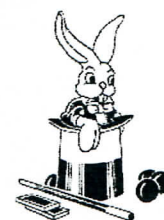
Ring 76 Chartered by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1948



MagiCurrents

San Diego, California

Recipient of the IBM's Quality Ring Award
2002-2003



Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
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Volume XVII 12 December 2003

Ring 76 Holiday Magic Party and Potluck Dinner set for Dec. 8th

Our December 8th Holiday Potluck dinner meeting will begin at 6:30 in the evening at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue. Richard Ustick has purchased two turkeys and is roasting them for the dinner. Bob Ingalls will bring a beef roast, the Ring will provide paper plates, utensils, napkins, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and soft drinks. We will also be serving wine the Ring has left over from



previous dinner functions. We are asking our members to bring other food items for the potluck dinner. At the November meeting members intending to be part of the holiday event drew slips of

paper that listed the items they were to bring. If you plan on attending the December meeting and have forgotten what you are to bring or did not draw, you can call Richard Ustick at 619-463-2407, he is the chief cook and bottle washer on this event and has a master list of what is needed. There will be someone at that number to assist you.

After dinner, the program will be presented by the many past presidents of Ring 76. We are

expecting a few past presidents from out of town as surprise guests for this event. Ring 76 will give a Past Presidents Medal that was just created by the International Brotherhood of Magicians this year. Each past president will be introduced and presented his or her medal and each of them may or may not perform. We are hoping this will be a high point in holiday programs.



**New IBM Past
Presidents Medal**

We will have some truly "special" magic raffle items for this holiday meeting. Of note we have several new magic sets that would be perfect for holiday gift giving. Get into the holiday spirit and plan on attending this special meeting. There will be plenty of opportunity to do close-up magic at your table, so don't forget to fill your pockets with magic.



Seasons Greetings

to
**Ring 76 Members
and their Families**

November "Favorite Trick" night was a huge success with many members performing

Our November 10th meeting was well attended with 55 members and guests on hand to watch various members present their "Favorite Trick." Before the meeting began, members were treated to some wonderful card work by the always clever and popular Terry Lunceford, who got behind the bar for just a moment to show Jack White one little move he does and wound up doing 30-minutes worth of material to a swarm of people who gathered around the bar and kept asking for more.



Terry Lunceford

Diane Lane called the meeting to order a few minutes after 7 and welcomed members and their guests. A quick report that Phil Tuttle is out of the hospital after heart surgery and doing well. An announcement that the Chargers Blood Drive is coming up November 25th, and



Armando Torres & Diane Lane

they always need strolling magicians to be part of that event. Armando Torres showed off the very colorful poster for the 3rd annual Magico Festival across the border on Sunday, November 16th, all local magicians are invited to attend.

Once again this month the Ring offered five very nice items in the monthly raffle. Kenny Shelton did his usual excellent job of selling tickets at a dollar each or six for \$5. This month's raffle brought in \$115 to the Ring treasury. It is a combination of desirable raffle items and Kenny's arm-twisting that has made this raffle work. All of the money generated in the monthly auction helps to make our Ring more solvent. Also a big thanks to Kenny Shelton for his salesmanship and excellent results.

Richard Ustick took a few minutes to allow members to draw a food item for the December Holiday Dinner Party. See the story on the front page of this newsletter if you are confused about bringing something for the December meeting.

Bob Ingalls then took over as the master of ceremonies for the evening's program. He introduced our first performer, Jack White, who said he hates to do card tricks

for a stage show and then proceeded to produce a deck of cards. He presented his rising card routine using the Val Evans Card Rise set up, which is one of the cleanest and best of the card rise gimmicks. Jack's unit was purchased from Max Holden's Magic Shop in the 1950s. This trick has not been manufactured in many years. Two spectators each freely select a card from a deck and sign their names on their cards.

While they were signing their cards, Jack introduced a little wooden tray, covered it with a silk scarf,



**Jack White & Val Evans
Rising Card effect**

then had the cards returned to the deck and shuffled. The cards were placed in a wooden houlette that was placed on top of the wooden tray that Jack carefully balanced on his left hand as he walked among the audience and each selected card mysteriously rose up out of the houlette. It's one of the great oldies but most effective as everything was handed out to the spectators to look over after the cards rose up out of the deck.

Our next presenter was a gentleman we don't get to see enough of-- Bob Machinske, who presented a sensational



**Bob Machinske and his
comedy coin routine**

routine with a borrowed quarter that was signed and placed in a handkerchief and handed to an audience member to hold. The coin, after some byplay, was dropped into a glass, the handkerchief was removed, and the quarter had vanished. Bob then removed a small, securely locked box from a paper bag and again worked this

routine with some very clever and funny showmanship. When the box was unlocked, there was the signed quarter. Bob received a well-deserved thunderous round of applause for taking a mundane little trick and turning it into an excellent routine.

Bob Ingalls then introduced Jeff Marcus, who invited a young boy and girl who were both visitors to our Ring meeting to join him on stage. Jeff did a hilarious routine



Jeff Marcus & Company

with a silk handkerchief that jumps several times from a change bag held by the girl to an attractive wooden box held by the boy. The box the boy is holding is a

breakaway clatter box, and it is a surprise and funny ending. Jeff knows how to handle young people and milk an effect for all it's worth. It was a fun presentation.

A visitor from Orange County, Kenny Castillo, did a very different and very difficult card trick of having a freely selected card duplicate itself in a deck. We knew the card had duplicated itself because it had a different colored back. Kenny has a nice presence and did an excellent routine.



Kenny Castillo and spectator

Our MC for the evening Bob Ingalls entertained us by having a borrowed quarter signed and then pushed it through the bottom of a standard Coke bottle. Of course, everyone thought Bob was using a folding quarter, but that was not the case; the signed quarter could clearly be seen inside the bottle. This is a real stunner; Bob then put the bottle in a clear plastic bag so everyone could see it and broke it open with a hammer, the spectator was the only person to touch or open the bag and took out his signed quarter. This effect got a lot of attention and talk after the meeting.



Bob Ingalls our Cindy Crawford look alike and coin in bottle

It was veteran performer Phil Kings turn next to present his favorite trick. Using a

mentalist's deck of cards Phil had a spectator select a card. The spectator was on one side of the room. Phil then asked Jack White to stand up and to present an envelope that Phil had given him when he arrived earlier in the evening. Someone else in the audience opened the envelope; it had a letter with the spectator's chosen card in bold letters across the middle of the paper. Another stunner of the evening presented with great flair.



Phil King and mental routine

Loch David Crane arrived center stage in what has to be one of the best-looking Santa Claus suits I have ever seen. It was custom made for Loch, who will be getting a lot of use out of it between now and December 25th doing private parties and other



**"Santa" Crane
Loch David Crane**

events. Loch's real white beard lends a lot of authentic flavor to his costume. Loch did a very nice rope through neck effect, then did the trick on the necks of two spectators from the audience.

Loch was followed in the program by that skilled performer Greg Wauson, who has a natural easygoing style in front of an audience as he

presented his classic ring on rope routine. Each time the ring is removed from the rope, it seems to become more and more impossible. Greg has spent some time perfecting this routine and has some nice little moves and great patter. Another fun routine you can carry in your coat pocket and be ready to work at a moment's notice.

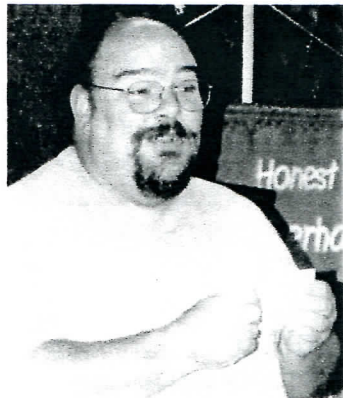


**Greg Wauson
Ring on Rope**

Continued on next page:

Nov. meeting continued from page 3

Our closing act, Lou Heck, told an amusing and entertaining story about changing two one dollar bills into a two dollar bill and then back to two ones. All the time doing what he was talking about. When asked if he wanted to use the microphone for his routine, Lou announced, "I'm a teacher, I think you will all be able to



**Lou Heck with
a neat bill change**

here me if I just talk as I normally do!" We did hear him very well without the mic. Lou also brought along his beautiful collection of magician's coins. He spent a lot of time after the meeting showing them off to many interested Ring members.

Here is Kenny Shelton accounting for all of his raffle ticket sales and his money. Again we thank

him for all of his efforts in behalf of Ring 76.

It was another fun evening of magic. Many split up into groups and there was what seemed to be an extended talk session and a scattering of close up at many tables set up around the room. The show was over at 9:10, but people were still performing at talking at 10.

Don't miss our December Holiday Party meeting, Monday, December 8th at Jack's Magic Place.



Kenny Shelton

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Diane Lane announces she will seek 2nd term as Ring 76 President

In a recent article for a future edition of Linking Ring Magazine, the official publication of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Diane Lane announced she would seek a second term as President of Ring 76. "I had a rough start after being sworn in as Ring President last summer," Lane said. But she commented that her health crisis is behind her and medication to keep her body from rejecting her transplanted liver has been adjusted.

Diane told a reporter she still wants to work harder to make the Ring better and expand magic activities in San Diego County. Diane is the current host and producer of the cable television magic program known as "Magical Moments."



Diane Lane palming coins during a Ring teach-in earlier this year.

Lane has been working on her own for years, taping magicians and using the segments on her program. She says the program has never been about her; it has always been about magic, magicians, and the arts in San Diego.

In 1993, Diane was operating a successful business in Lake Tahoe and was on the road to developing a magic/clown act when doctors told her she would have to have a liver transplant to survive. She sold her business and moved her family to San Diego to be closer to her family during the transplant procedure and recovery period.

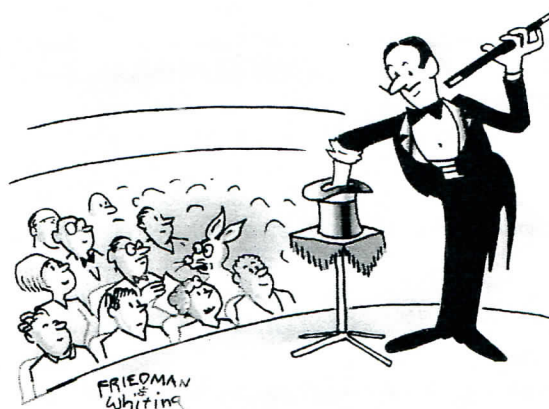
By 1995 Diane had received her new liver and was on the road to recovery when she decided she wanted to give back to the community some of the kindness she received during her liver transplant. It was then that she became active as a clown known as "Snickerdoodle" and magician.

Today, Snickerdoodle is pretty much in retirement, but Diane is more active than ever before doing magic shows for a variety of charities and nonprofit groups. She also does strolling magic at two San Diego restaurants each week as well as producing her weekly television program.

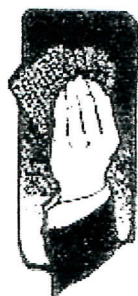
Diane also takes an active part in all Ring 76 meetings and activities. Because of her caring, the magicians of San Diego County recently voted her "Magician of the Year."

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Hope he remembers it's my day off."



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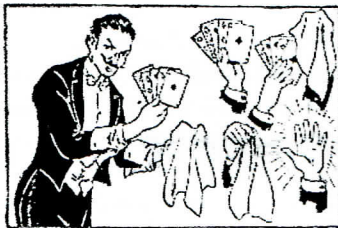
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View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

Small Magic Bag

Roughly two years ago I detailed in this column a magic briefcase and my contents. It was made of aluminum with moveable foam/wood dividers, and it was available at better home improvement stores such as Home Depot or Lowes. Ever since that time I have been performing whole shows out of that case, and a careful stocking of effects has allowed me at least three completely different 30 minute shows from the case without changing anything.

As versatile as the case is, it is somewhat heavy, especially when loaded as described. For a set show of single or multiple performances, I sometimes remove the unneeded items to make the show run smoother, to make the case pack lighter, or to include new items such as a Bengal Net and a Dove Pan for platform or parlor shows. Lately I have been scouting for an impromptu, smaller case, and I have found two items which fit the bill.

The first is a man's vinyl shaving kit bag. This zip bag is light and folds flat when empty, but opens to 10" long, 4" wide, and 4" tall. Right now, mine holds a set of cups & balls, decks of red and blue cards, two 6' ropes, a 24" silk or bandanna handkerchief, a set of 1" sponge balls, a set of 2" sponge balls, small C battery rigged with Invisible Thread, nine colored thimbles, 9" magic wand, small round-pointed scissors, permanent marker, small butane lighter, five personal letter envelopes, small spool of off-white thread, 2" square newspaper vanishing cone, small change purse or drawstring bag with 5 English pennies & 5 half-dollars, a 2 oz. shot glass, and a lemon.

Look at just one list of potential show items from this small case!

1. Cups and Balls, with larger final loads
2. Coins Across, Coins Thru Table, Coins to Glass, or Coins Thru Handkerchief
3. Glass Thru Table (use newspaper vanishing cone over shot glass)
4. Cut and Restored Rope, or Professor's Nightmare, or Cutting Spectator in Half
5. Card Thru Handkerchief, Card To Sealed Envelope (or other impossible location)
6. Silk Knot routine, Handkerchief Thru Rope

(or spec's arm, neck, etc.)

7. Dollar Bill to Lemon (or other impossible location, using vanishing cone)
8. Torn and Restored Card (using vanishing cone)
9. Floating Dollar or other I.T. effect, or Rising Cards
10. Cards Across
11. Complete Thimble Routine
12. Two in the Hand-One in the Pocket routine, or Sponge Routine
13. Favorite Card Trick(s)

Here, then, is a small, light case with a huge potential impact! A good many of the effects here can be platform effects, giving you a stage show in a bag! All of the effects listed above can be performed in parlor and close-up settings as well, making a most versatile setup. Give this "shaving bag show" a little thought, and include your pet effects to make a 30-minute show for any kind of venue.

Tiny Magic Bag

Want it still smaller? How about a whole close-up show in a tiny bag? Recently I discovered a \$2 vinyl zippered book cover, designed for carrying a hardbound book to the beach or other location. The cover is black vinyl with a heavy duty zipper, has two interior pockets (originally designed to hold the covers of the book), a sewn-in cloth bookmark, a sewn-in pencil/pen loop, an exterior pocket for other items, and a vinyl handle. Dimensions are 10" long by 8" wide by 2" tall. I was amazed by what I could put into this case for magic purposes.

Right now, mine holds Micro Cups and Balls (see next month), a deck of cards with jokers removed and a folded dollar bill tucked into the card case, a 5' rope rolled into a ball, a set of four 1.5" sponge balls, an 18" length of thin rope, a set of four .5" hand-cut sponge balls, a 24" silk or bandanna handkerchief, a flat leather folder for Thought Camera (my original routine), small cloth bag with 6 half dollars, stripped invisible thread and ball of wax, small rounded-point scissors, permanent marker, a 7" hand-made magic wand in the pencil loop, a 17" wide by 11" deep close-up pad (two pieces of textured denim sewn together, tan one side, blue the other side), five personal letter envelopes, and a small butane lighter.

Here is perhaps the tiniest close-up case possible with a huge-impact show in it. Look at some of the possibilities from the contents as described.

1. Micro Cups & Balls with final loads
2. Cut and Restored Rope
3. Thought Camera
4. Two in the Hand-One in the Pocket routine, or Sponge Routine
5. Signed Card to Sealed Envelope (or other

impossible location)

6. Spectator's Finger Ring On/Off Rope
7. Silk Knot routine, Silk Thru Rope
8. Coins Across, Coins Thru Table, Coins to Cup, or Coins Thru Handkerchief
9. Card Thru Silk
10. Burned Dollar Bill to Card Case
11. Cards Across
12. Flying Card, or Floating Dollar Bill
13. Favorite Card Tricks

Everything you need for several close-up shows is in this tiny bag! It doesn't get any smaller or better than this! Arrive at the venue a few minutes before the show time, and load the few needed prepared props into your pockets, leaving the remainder in the bag to remove as needed in the performance.

For either bag, forming whole shows is a snap: one card effect, one rope effect, one coin effect, one silk effect, one paper money effect, and cups & balls is typical. The variety of effects is excellent: vanishes, appearances, transpositions, restorations, penetrations, and even levitations. Just be sure that basic effects in a single show are not too much alike despite disparate props, such as Card Thru Hank, Silk Through Rope, and Coins Thru Table, all of which are penetrations.

Of course, you can make these two bags even lighter by including only what you need for a single show. You could even load either of these bags from the aluminum briefcase mentioned earlier, leaving the full case in the car trunk and bringing only what you need for the show at hand. You are only limited by your repertoire and your imagination, so see what you can stuff into these small and tiny bags for huge rewards of audience appreciation.

Jon A. Hand welcomes your feedback on this or any other columns he has written. Email him: jonahand@hotmail.com.

MORE PHOTO'S FROM 2003



**Loch David Crane
Says:**

Thank You

**for your support during his
recent illness and troubled
times.**



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Magic Notes from Jack White

Tijuana's 3rd Annual Magic Festival

Sunday, November 16th at a beautiful fun park in the Zona Rio section of Tijuana, the magicians from South of the Border presented their Third Annual Festival de la Magia. This year Diane Lane and I were invited to be part of the program that includes music, juggling, clowning and a lot of magic. A beautiful color poster that carried Diane's and my photograph was made up for this event. The challenge for Diane and me was that we could not speak Spanish and we knew that most of the audience would not be able to understand English. So we both planned our programs to include music, very visual magic and a lot of pantomime and comedy.



We were very lucky to be surrounded by fine performers and Ring members like El Mago Ruly (Raul Rivera Melo Madera) and his wife Liye and Armando Torres. This was the first time I had been able to see Ruly work. He does a very good vent act, as well, and an exciting magic program aimed at the children. It is obvious watching him perform that he has worked his act many



Mago Ruly

times and has his audience in the palm of his hand. His wife Liye is a prominent TV personality and clown in Tijuana and acted as our MC for the program, the kids love both of them. Liye knows how to keep a program moving.

Armando Torres presented his beautiful act to music, and I can watch him work over and over again because his act is pure magic. I also was excited to

meet a wonderful international clown who really knows how to work the crowd Mago Margorito. I first encountered Margorito as I entered the park; he was in costume and make-up and made it a point to come over and say hello. I could tell by the way he walked that he was a real "pro." When it came time for him to perform, everyone came out from back stage to watch him work. He knew how to handle the children and did some very clever comedy magic



Armando Torres

with ropes, including one of the best linking rope routines I have ever seen. His patter was very funny because the audience never stopped laughing.



**Mago Margorito
International Magic
Clown**

An excellent musical group, who put the audience in a toe-tapping mood for an afternoon of magic and comedy entertainment, opened the program. I must also give high praise to an outstanding young Mexican juggler. This man is fearless and did his juggling while balanced on a Rolla Bolla board on top of a table. He has promised to come to San Diego and perform for Ring 76 in the future and when that happens you are in for a real treat because this guy was a sensation during this show.

I suppose what impressed me about being part of this show is that magic works whether you can

speak the language of the people who are watching or not. They laughed with us and applauded our efforts. I would hope this is the beginning of a new exchange with our fellow IBM members across the border. They are excellent performers and very warm hosts. Diane and I thanked them for making us feel at home and for allowing us to be a part of their Magic Fiesta. We look forward to these kinds of events in the future, and we hope that



**Diane Lane
Performing in
Tijuana**

more Ring 76 members will take part.

I could not have asked for a better victim for the arm chopper routine than Ruly's wife Liye. She was the perfect assistant, mugging to the audience and pretending to be frightened and often times making little asides to the audience in Spanish. We had no time to rehearse everything; it just happened and she carried it off perfectly.



**Jack White &
Liye, TV Personality
in Tijuana**

I had to include our juggler, who did such a great job on the small stage. The area we were working in was an outdoor theater in the middle of an amusement park. The juggler used flaming torches during one set of stunts. As you know, using flames out-of-doors is always unpredictable. We are happy to report everything went fine.

With a steel beam overhead and a hard cement floor beneath makes you be careful doing this stunt.



Below, our hosts and fellow magicians in Tijuana, Armando Torres and Magco Ruly with Sherry Luft and Howard Harris, who went with us to Mexico for this special event.



**Left to right: Armando Torres, Sherry Luft,
Howard Harris, and Mago Ruly**

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Message From the President



Hello fellow Ring 76'ers,

I hope all of you had a nice Thanksgiving. It truly is a season for giving thanks, especially this year.

I hope all of you are ready for the holiday entertainment needs in our festive city! There will be plenty of opportunities for entertainers of all levels to perform. Clean up and re-dress those fun props and get ready for a good holiday season! Comedy magic will be well received this year; be sure to include some in your show.

There was a good turnout at the "Charger Blood Drive" this year. We had a lot of fun entertaining the folks that came to give the 'gift of life.' Thanks to Kenny Shelton, Howard Harris, Charlie Gott, and of course, Jack White.

Here is a tip from someone who knows, stay well, get your flu shot, plenty of rest, and we will see you at our annual Holiday Party Dec. 8th.

Enjoy the holidays!

Diane Lane
Pres Ring 76

J.P. Jackson visits famous magic collection

Ring 76 board member J.P. Jackson during the Thanksgiving weekend visited former IBM President and magic collector Dr. Richard Mossey in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Jackson says Mossey has one of the nicest collections of antique magic around. Many of the effects in his collection are one of a kind tricks. The collection occupies the Mossey family's basement. J.P. says it was a true learning experience for a veteran like himself in looking over the Mossey magic collection.

MagiCurrents:

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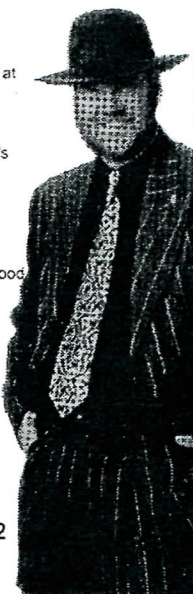
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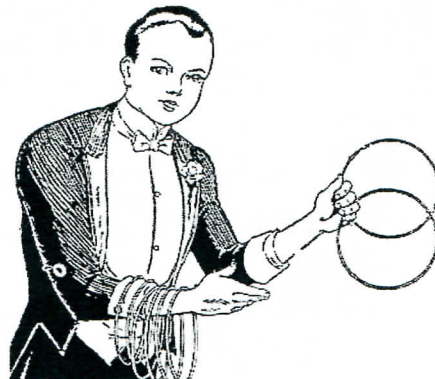
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News

The reason that **Bob and Judi Ingalls** are beaming from ear to ear is



the arrival of their new granddaughter on November 15th: **Summer Lee Ingalls**, who weighed in at 6

pounds 10 ounces. Yes, grandpa has already tried to teach the infant a magic trick. Baby, mom and dad are doing just fine but grandma and grandpa are just touch and go. Congratulations.

Many thanks to **Robbie Willmarth**, Membership Committee Chair of the IBM, who gave a nice mention to Ring 76 and members **Fred Kaplan** and **Phil Tuttle** for their ongoing efforts in organizing and teaching young magicians in San Diego County. The comments appear in the November issue of Linking Ring Magazine.

Jack White and **Bob Ingalls** videotaped the stage competition at the IBM Convention in Kansas City, Mo., last summer. Jack has just finished editing the tape and will present it at the IBM half yearly meeting held in Las Vegas just two days before the World Magic Seminar at the Riviera Hotel and Casino. Ring members will be able to view the tape at the January Ring meeting. Most acts have been abbreviated, showing only their strongest featured effects. Still the video has a running time of an hour and 15 minutes. This tape/DVD will become part of the IBM's archives. **Diane Lane** supplied additional video for this project. **Joe Bertuzzi** is the Executive Producer for the IBM.

We received news this month that longtime IBM and Ring 76 member **Gene Le Hew** died earlier this year, he was 87. Gene was active in Ring 76 in the 1970s and 80s and is well



remembered for his comedy magic. He could always be counted on for an act during an exchange show with Ring 96 in Long Beach. He often had an unlit cigar in the corner of his mouth and performed in black tie and tails with a white rubber dove on his shoulder. He would talk to the dove during his act using the bird as a straight man in his comedy banter. In his advancing years he gave up performing but never lost his interest in magic. He donated many of his books to the Ring library. Recently, while reorganizing our library, we found several volumes with his name stamped on the inside cover. So in a way he is still part of our Ring. Le Hew was a butcher by trade and operated a meat market for many years in Point Loma. He was an important and respected part of Ring 76's past and a member of the Order of Merlin. He will be missed.

"View From the Cheap Seats" columnist **Jon A. Hand** recently performed at a school Harvest Festival, doing a 23-minute show five times in 150 minutes. Audiences sizes ranged from 20 to a maximum seating capacity of 35, covering age ranges from 5 to 75. The shows went flawlessly, and each was well received.

THE FACT FILE:

Many Ring 76 performers who work regularly during the coming holidays are reporting the number of shows they do has not increased but the people who book their attractions

Briefs

have booked earlier this year. Still other performers have noted their schedule has increased by three to four shows this holiday season over this same period last year.

Diane Lane and **Howard Harris** both performed at the Chargers' Blood Drive at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley, November 25th. Howard worked for the people who had just given blood in the recovery room. Diane spent much of her time with her bird Cassie working the big entertainment room for this event that seemed to be better attended this year than years past and in spite of the Chargers' poor showing on the playing field. This is the 25th Anniversary of the Chargers' Blood Drive, Diane has worked this event the past 11 years.

Bob Sheets presented a special lecture for members interested in learning the proper handling of the "three shell" routine the night before Thanksgiving. This event brought out many local finger flingers that included J.C. Wagner. In addition to the hands on learning session where each student had shells and a pea there were many stories about Wagner and Sheets activities as performers in their formative years in San Diego and Coronado. It was a special evening of magic for all who attended.



Jim Riley reports that his home in Julian was spared by the recent fire storm that swept through that area. Jim keeps his rather large library of magic books at the Julian house.

Coming Attractions



December 8th meeting will be the Ring's traditional Holiday Potluck dinner and a special show featuring past Presidents of Ring 76, who will receive their official IBM Past Ring Presidents medal. Meeting will be at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue. 7 PM Sharp.

The January meeting will be the third Monday of the month, a week later than usual to accomodate our many members who will be attending the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas. The January 19th meeting is the evening we officially install new Ring members.

February 9th meeting is the annual Ring 76 close-up contest. First place is \$50 cash. Bob Ingalls is accepting applications for the Close-up contest now!

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