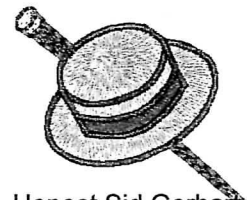


Ring 76 Chartered by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1948



MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



Recipient of the IBM's Quality Ring Award

Honest Sid Gerhart
Ring 76

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
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Volume XVIII 4 April 2004

Pat Hannum Ring 76 Founder and First Woman President Dies

Pat Hannum, whose bigger-than-life presence was a lady who always had a smile on her face and loved the art of magic. She died suddenly on Friday, March 19th. Pat had been a driving force on the magic scene in San Diego for more than a half century. Married to Arthur Hannum, a former member of the U.S. Navy and an active magician in Southern California for many years, Pat had a life that was filled with magic both on and off the stage.

In November of 1958, when Ring 76 was reactivated after having been dormant for six years, Pat Hannum was the only woman member of the club. For years Pat would tell friends, "They made me a member of the Ring because they needed a secretary." But Pat went on to prove she could do a lot more than write letters, keep files and carry out the office of Ring secretary. She was elected president of the Ring in the early 1960s, becoming the first woman president of Ring 76.



Pat & Art Hannum circa 1968, in performance

Art and Pat Hannum and their son Stephan were all members of Ring 76, at one time, and took part in many magic activities and shows over the years. The Hannums and Sid Gerhart were active in reenergizing the Ring and getting it back on its feet in 1958. Art Hannum and Sid Gerhart were members of the local Society of American Magicians Assembly and brought the IBM back to San Diego because they both loved magic and wanted to be able to get together one more night a month to do shows for each other, so they reactivated Ring 76.

For many years, Ring 76 members met in the basement of the Baptist Church on 5th Avenue in Hillcrest. Pat's father was the minister of the church and a magic enthusiast himself. So when his son-in-law asked if a group of magicians could meet in the church basement, Reverend Hollis Burge said "yes." And the church basement became the official home for Ring 76 for the next five years.

In the 1960s Art and Pat Hannum did their magic act on almost every stage in San Diego County. When their show was over, the stage would be filled with brightly colored feather flowers. They had hundreds of flowers in the finale of their act and presented it for schools, trade shows, special events, and private parties. They were kept very busy during that period filling magic dates. Pat liked to say she assisted her husband in his magic act. But she told a reporter once, "A good assistant can make or break the act. Even magicians can't always make things run smoothly during a performance. When Art gets into trouble on stage, I am there to get things back on track."

Continued on page 8

March Teach-In draws a large crowd and an excellent group of magic teachers for the meeting

March Magic Madness swept through our regularly scheduled meeting with 54 members and guests turning out for the annual "Teach-in." Diane Lane called the meeting to order at 7 pm sharp and asked for volunteers to serve on the election committee. Neal Reed, Joe Mystic, and Lou Heck raised their hands and will be searching for members who would like to seek office on the board of directors for Ring 76. If you have an interest in holding office, see one of these members about being nominated to the board. The official nominations will be made in May with the election being held in June. All members serve for one year and are asked to attend 23 meetings a year, the 12 regular Ring meetings and 11 board meetings.

Diane introduced our special guest Trevor Moore, a 7th grader from Frances Parker School, who is active in the junior magicians group at the school. Trevor was with his teacher and advisor Mary Brown, who is a longtime member of Ring 76.



Mary Brown with 7th grade student Trevor Moore



New member Alex Ruiz

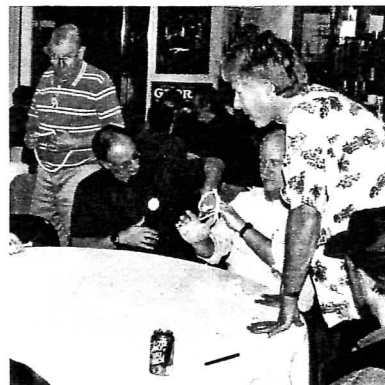
We are also happy to report that Alex Ruiz has become a new member of Ring 76 and his paper work is being processed in the IBM. Nice to have you as a new member, Alex.

With introductions out of the way, it was time to start the teach-in. Five top professional magicians, all members of Ring 76, volunteered to teach an effect at this meeting. Our members were asked to gather around one of five tables as the performers were given 12 minutes at each table to teach a trick, a move or sleight.

Michael E. Johnson had his students all tied up in what they were learning. He gave lessons in how to tie a one handed knot in a hank of rope. He also presented a very clever rope routine that would work

well for the stand-up or close-up worker. This was a very popular session during the evening.

Terry Lunceford who spends a lot of time each month at the Magic Castle in Hollywood working behind the W.C. Fields bar doing card magic. It was a real treat to watch



Michael Johnson & his students



Terry Lunceford peeling a card

Terry work as he presented a new effect that he will be putting on the market this spring. Our Ring members got to learn the trick and a lot more during the teach-in session. If you missed this session, you missed a great trick.

Jeff Marcus is the king of rubber band magic and he gave his students some basic moves with rubber bands and then quickly presented a session showing his students

how to properly load a chop cup or cups and balls with the final loads. A lot of excellent information in this session. Jeff has worked close-up and stage shows for years and has learned by way of the school of hard knocks how to hide your loads.



Jeff Marcus and a group of eager young students

Terry Godfrey presented his thimble act a few months back at one of our regular meetings. It was so well done that many members have asked Terry

about certain moves and tricks he included in his routine. Terry told the board he would teach his entire thimble act at the next teach-in session, and that is exactly what he did. Terry started with the basics of how to hold a thimble in a thumb palm and then presented some sensational moves and very different routines with a thimble.



Terry Godfrey with a thimble move

He brought with him a couple of dozen thimbles so everyone got to work with him as he explained all of the various moves.



David Eldridge reading someone's mind!

David Eldridge has won some top prizes for his mystifying mental magic. He gave his students a very clever mental mystery and talked about the importance of good presentation. David has amassed a great collection of good workable effects and put them out in book form and on DVD. It was a nice treat to have David as part of our volunteer teaching staff for this special evening of magic and learning.

As the evening began to wind down, there was yet another exciting event. Mago Ruly was celebrating his 40th birthday. He brought two very large chocolate cakes and shared them with all of the assembled members. We sang Happy Birthday in a slightly off key rendition but we all meant it, and we thank Ruly for sharing this special day with us and for bringing the cake; it was delicious.



Happy Birthday! Mago Ruly

April 12th, our next regular meeting, is the Ring 76 swap meet. Richard Ustick, the Ring treasurer, says he has already received money for several

tables for members and has reserved several tables and half tables for other members. To rent a table to sell your unwanted or preowned magic is \$10, a half table is \$5. All proceeds go to Ring 76; if you have not reserved a table, you should call Richard Ustick at 619-463-2407 or he can be reached via e-mail at rustick@flash.net. We urge you to reserve a table in advance; if you wait until the night of the event you could be disappointed. Last year was a sold out event.

A Special Gift to our Magic Collection

Again we thank all of the professional magicians who took the time and effort to put together this special teaching session so that we can become better performers.

We want to also thank Julie Abbott Marshall, the granddaughter of Percy Abbott, for presenting to our museum a beautiful permanent display of rare and candid



Percy Abbott looks on as his son tries out new Disecto arm chopper on a bewildered friend

photographs of her grandfather, as well as her father and other members of the Abbott family at the Abbott's plant and home in Colon, Michigan, to our museum.



Percy Abbott practicing his cups and balls routine

We will be placing the photos around the various Abbotts props in our collection. Take the time to look at them: they are truly part of magic history. We are featuring only a couple of the pictures in this issue of MagiCurrents.

The Misadventures of a Working Magician

By Michael E. Johnson



Lessons from the Senior Circuit

Back when I was a young magician, I enjoyed the benefit of performing for lots of elderly people. Seniors were always polite to me, even though I was a bit precocious for a pre-teenager.

During my first show in a convalescent home in San Marcos, I quickly learned the limits of my magic power with the audience. Pulling out a deck of cards, I tried to prove the deck wasn't gimmicked. I offered the pack to a woman in a wheelchair to examine. Someone in the back of the room shouted out, "Sorry, she's blind. She can't see you."

Rebounding, I offered the deck of cards to a man next to her. But this time, someone shouted out, "Sorry, he can't hear, he's deaf." When I finally found someone who could see and hear, I attempted a card routine, but this routine fell even flatter. The audience applauded my efforts, but they just couldn't remember the playing card no matter how hard they tried.

The case of the disappearing lady

Since magic pays the mortgage, I look forward to working shows, even if it means a holiday shift. One of my most memorable holiday shows happened in Chula Vista, at an adult Halloween party. With nothing more than close-up magic, and a lot of nerve, I managed to make a full-figured woman disappear into thin air! Here's the story.

I was hired to work two hours of close-up magic at a private residence. The mixture of costumes and alcohol created a raucous environment with guests. Loud music and poor lighting accented everything. In other words, an ideal party situation, but a lousy performing environment for magic.

In this context, I focused on single, visual effects that were powerful enough to demand attention. Any time there's strong competing influences, I like to sweep through a party doing one thing at a time. That way I can pace my material, so the show is constantly fresh, even if people move around and follow me.

Near the end of my two hours, I was working a mental effect where people think of cards, and I reveal them through magic. I had a large audience following my routine, when a costumed woman sat on top of the table next to me and watched intently.

People were challenging me left and right, but I kept my cool and set up an impossible prediction. I asked the crowd, "Wouldn't it be amazing if I knew the card you were thinking of?"

Stealing my spotlight, the tabletop woman said, "If you did that, I'd give you anything you want." She then gestured provocatively with her body.

I knew I had her. I had done this trick dozens of times, and this time, I was certain I had it right. I paused, briefly, to savor my victory. Then I revealed the card, as the crowd shrieked and gasped.

By the time the dust had cleared, the woman had long since vanished, never to show her face again. I don't think she had any intent of paying off on that bet.

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Magic Magazine to hold August Convention

Magic Magazine will hold another of their "unconventional" conventions August 22-25 at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas. *MAGIC Live* is the name of the event and it will be hard to top the convention the magazine put together in August of 2001, but Stan Allen publisher of Magic Magazine says they have a lot of new ideas and have refined a lot of the things they did last time around.

The Orleans hotel is some distance from the Vegas Strip and the hotel itself offers a lot as a venue for a magic convention. Stan Allen gets the entire show room at the hotel for three nights for the convention shows. This year they have announced they will have better video systems to show off the close-up performers.

Allen has not released a list of the people who will be performing and lecturing at the convention this year. He says those names will be forth coming. The cost of this four-day event is expensive: registration is \$265 per person. However, rooms at the Orleans are \$49-a night. To register call (702) 798-0099 or online at www.magicmagazine.com/live.

Las Vegas has become an exciting place for magic conventions, especially for those of us living in Southern California. It is close by and you can take the entire family. The *MAGIC Live* convention has a large dealers room, as well as a museum room for those interested in collecting magic and its history.

It is interesting to note that Rich Bloch is moving his 2005 World Magic Seminar to the Orleans Hotel and Casino, and it will be held a month later than usual-in February instead of January.

Don't miss the Ring 76 Swap Meet Monday evening, April 12th. There will be bargains galore and an opportunity to sell that unwanted or slightly used magic you have had around the house for years. Reserve a table to sell your items by calling Richard Ustick at 619-463-2407. Don't wait until the day of the event because people are calling from Los Angeles and Orange County to come to this event. Doors open to sellers at 5:30 pm and to members and buyers at 7 pm.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"I told you never to call me at work!"



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View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

Micro Cups & Balls, Phases 5 & 6

At the conclusion of last month's article, the three sauce tub cups were laid in a line from the performer's left to right, each with a 1/2" sponge ball in front of it. The extra fourth ball is fingerpalmed, probably in your right hand. In preparation for the final loads, you have three differently colored 1.5" spongeballs (I use red, yellow, and blue), two in the right trouser or jacket pocket, and one in the left trouser pocket.

At this point in the routine, spectators have seen balls vanish and reappear, fly from cup to cup, and even travel from one spectator to another. The routine now needs a strong ending with final loads. Phase 5 is a vanish-and-reappearance flurry that increases the pace of the routine while also setting up the final loads.

Pick up the cup 1 (on your left) with your left hand, and place it in the right hand, loading the fingerpalmed ball. Pick up the exposed ball from the table with your left hand and display, keeping your eyes on the left hand, and replace the loaded cup with the right hand. Rather than a "put" false transfer, I prefer a "dump" false transfer at this point in the routine, as it lends a careless air that assists the rising pace. Display the exposed ball in your left hand, either at the base of the fingers or in the center of the palm. Turn the hand over 90 degrees, pretending to dump the ball into the waiting curled right fingers, actually retaining it in a 3/4 fingerpalm. Pattering about taking the ball further from the cups to increase the difficulty of the effect, you place the right hand with its mythical ball into the right trouser pocket, picking up a red large (1.5") sponge ball in curled fingers. Snap the left hand fingers over cup 1, as the fingerpalmed ball is no hindrance, and lift the cup just as the right hand emerges from the pocket. The ball has returned instantly to the cup!

As the audience takes this in, transfer the cup to the right hand, loading the large sponge ball. Pick up the magically-returned sponge ball from the table between left thumb and first finger, replace the loaded cup with the right hand, and place the ball atop the inverted cup. The final load for cup 1 is now in place.

You now have a fingerpalmed ball in the left hand, so you are all set to repeat the above moves with opposite hands, picking up the pace a bit more in the process. That is, pick up the center cup 2 with the right hand, and place the cup into the left hand, loading the palmed ball. Pick up the exposed tabled ball with the right fingers, and return the loaded cup to the table. Dump pass the ball into the left hand, actually retaining it in the right fingerpalm, and go to the left pocket to place the supposed ball in it. Pick up the large yellow sponge ball in the curl of the left fingers, snap the right fingers over the center cup, and use the right hand to pick up the cup. Emerge from the pocket as the audience views the ball that has returned to the cup, and transfer the cup to the left hand, loading the large sponge ball. Pick up the tabled ball with the right fingers, place the loaded cup back onto the table with the left hand, and place the ball atop the inverted cup. The final load for cup 2 is now in place.

Since you have a fingerpalmed ball in the right hand, you are ready to repeat the process one last time, using the original hand assignments from two paragraphs back. If you are approaching this phase correctly, you should be getting faster with each cup, leaving the audience a bit breathless as the balls vanish and return instantly to each cup.

Status Check: One small ball atop each inverted cup, three differently-colored large sponge balls hidden under respective cups, and one small ball fingerpalmed in the left hand.

Phase 6 presents some essential time misdirection to take the heat off the cups. Suggest in your patter that the cups are not necessary for the magic, and do a "2 in the hand, 1 in the pocket" move by placing two balls in the left hand singly (joining the fingerpalmed ball), and clearly showing the third ball in the right hand, going into the right pocket. Emerge with the same small ball fingerpalmed just as you dump the three balls from the left hand onto the table. If you must repeat, then pick up two balls at once from the table, adding the fingerpalmed ball, and insert all into the spectator's hand, closing her fingers and turning her hand palm

down. Place the waiting third ball into the right pocket again, and really leave it there. Make your magical gesture, and have the spectator open her hand to reveal three balls instead of two!

State, "One last time," and use a "put" pass to apparently place balls 1 and 2 singly into the left hand, really hiding each in the cage of the fingers. Pick up the third ball, which you can show at the cage of the fingertips since its presence masks the other two balls, and insert all three into the pocket as one, leaving them there. The right hand emerges cleanly, as you ask the spectators how many balls are in the left hand. After guesses are made, open the left hand from little finger to the thumb, revealing that all three balls have vanished.

Wait a beat or two for this to register. Smile, and make your best magical gesture at each of the three cups. As spectators begin to react in anticipation, lift cup 1 to show the large red ball, then cup 2 to show the large yellow ball, and then cup 3 to show the large blue ball!

The *Micro Cups and Balls* routine ends here. However, next month's article will suggest some optional closings to the replace the final loads above, just to keep you thinking. I hope that you have gotten a set of the Sauce Tubs and made your own micro balls to try this out, as the convenience of having a complete cup and ball set that fits into one pocket is too good to ignore. Feel free to email me with your comments, ideas, suggestions, or experiences using the *Micro Cups and Balls*.

jonahand@hotmail.com

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Loch David Crane

Says:

Thank You

for your support during his recent illness and troubled times.

Veteran Magician John Calvert Honored in England

Magician John Calvert and his wife of 42 years Tammy were honored by the Magic Circle in London in February. Calvert has been a magician, movie actor, writer, producer, director, and world traveler for more than 70 years. At 92 he is still going strong. In a recent telephone conversation from his home in Florida, he told Jack White he is planning another cross-country tour to celebrate his 93rd birthday.

John Calvert is reported to be the only other magician or celebrity to ever appear on stage with Siegfried & Roy during one of their Las Vegas shows. One night while doing their show, Siegfried spotted Calvert in the audience and stopped the show. He asked John to join them on stage, and Siegfried said, "This man means everything to magic; he has been a legend for so many years."



John Calvert doing his cigarette production with wife Tammy.

At the Magic Circle in London, Calvert presented a 90-minute show, then, after a short break, went into his 90-minute lecture, followed by a lengthy question and answer period and an autograph session that lasted until everyone had an autograph. Calvert remembered it was 50 years ago that he presented his first lecture at the Magic Circle of London. He hoped it wouldn't be that long before they asked him back again.

It is not clear whether Calvert will include San Diego on his spring tour to the west coast. He will appear in Las Vegas and at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. We will keep you up to date on any appearances in Southern California.

Pat Hannum Tribute Continued from Front Page

Pat took her work as a magician's assistant seriously. One night early in her career of helping her husband, she was gracefully dancing around the stage and suddenly the bouffant skirt of her evening gown swept all the props off of the table, almost bringing the last half of their



Pat & Art Hannum doing the flower act 1965

show to a stand still. She would later laugh about that incident and remind fellow magicians that at one time or another everyone has had an accident like that. She said it makes us better performers because we had to learn how to get out of a tough spot gracefully.

There is so much we could say about Pat Hannum: how she and Art brought the PCAM Convention to San Diego in 1963; they were both charter members of the Magic Castle in Hollywood, holding card # 23; Pat was an active member of the Magigals of Southern California; A past IBM Territorial Vice President.

If a famous magician was appearing in San Diego they spent time at the Hannum's house. In fact the front door was always open to magicians at the Hannum's and if you wanted to stay for dinner Pat would always set an extra place at the table.

At a PCAM Convention, Pat saw Roberta Griffin do her famous Indian Sand Painting pictures and thought it was a sensational act. After much research, Pat found an old time performer who would teach her the act. Later, Pat presented the almost lost art as a featured portion of several Ring 76 magic shows during the 1960s.

Pat was an active member of the planning committee for all of the IBM Conventions held in San Diego. At the 2002 Convention, she contacted the post office and had them set up to sell the first day issue of the Houdini Stamp at the Ring 76 table just

outside of the dealers' room. She also helped the Postal Service design a special IBM cancellation stamp that was used only one day at the San Diego Convention.

There was no one more kind or helpful to people interested in magic than Pat Hannum. She remained active in Ring 76, making welcome surprise visits to meetings and always attending installation banquets. For the last three years, she helped to plan the catering portion of the annual banquet.

Pat and Art Hannum were honored as the first Lifetime Achievement members of Ring 76, in 2002, along with Roy and Betty Armstrong. Pat had saved a suitcase full of props from Sid Gerhart and at that installation banquet she presented the suitcase and contents to Ring 76, to be a reminder of what had gone before. Pat had a great sense of history of our Ring, and wanted to make sure that that history was preserved.

The last Ring meeting Pat attended was in December when she was presented with her IBM Past Ring Presidents medal. She applauded the various acts and took the time to talk with everyone. As she left the meeting that night she said,

"This was a wonderful evening, I should attend more of these events." We all knew her health was fragile and it was an effort for her to get around, but she made the attempt and was there with us.



Jim Riley & Pat Hannum at a Ring meeting 2003

All of us at Ring 76 will miss Pat Hannum, and we thank her for all of her caring and for continuing to be a part of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Her spirit and love of magic has in some way touched all of our lives at Ring 76.

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Magic Notes from Jack White

Last minute column brings late breaking magic news stories:

This column is usually the first thing written each month and put into place in the newsletter. But for a number of reasons it is the last item to be written for the April issue of MagiCurrents, and that gives me a chance to talk about some late breaking events that you may not have heard about yet.

Siegfried & Roy Sign:

On Thursday March 31st the last hope that Roy Horn might make a miraculous recovery and return to the Siegfried & Roy Theater at the Mirage Hotel and Casino was dashed. The famous S&R sign that lit up the entire strip advertising the superstars of magic was taken down early in the morning. That it was kept up and stayed lit each evening since the show closed October 3rd 2003 is a tribute to the two performers themselves.

April Magic Show by Members of Ring 76:

We have had an outpouring of volunteers to do close up magic for about an hour and 15 minutes Saturday evening 17 for Saint Clare's Home for battered women in the North County. The event is being held at the California Performing Arts Center in Escondido.

Volunteers signed up so far include: Greg Wauson, Lou Heck, Phil Tuttle, Jack White, and Edward Estrin. We can always use a couple more performers if you would like to take part. Call Jack White at 619-299-9037.

Top Ring Award announced for 2004;

IBM Officials announced the winner of the prestigious "Superior Quality Ring Award" and noted that out of 300 plus Rings worldwide, only 20 Rings have ever been given this award. This year's winner is Ring 322 of the Philippines. Ring 322 became

the second country outside of the continental United States and Canada to ever receive this distinction. The award was presented on March 29th in the Philippines. Ronaldo Moraleta, MD., is the president of Ring 322 and we at Ring 76 send him and his fellow Ring members our congratulations.

Incoming IBM President to pay Ring 76 a visit in June;

Tony Wilson and his wife Mary will be visiting San Diego June 18th to the 21st. Tony Wilson will officially become the new President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians at the annual convention in Cleveland, Ohio June 30 to July 3rd. Tony is from New Zealand and will spend the first three months of his being IBM President touring the various Rings around the country. There will be an announcement next month announcing plans for a reception and show. All Ring members will be invited to attend.

Cirque Du Soleil features magic:

Cirque Du Soleil, currently appearing at the parking lot of San Diego Stadium, is a magical experience of entertainment. This year's show features a brief illusion to get the show going. This is a great show under the big top, featuring a cast of 65 people from around the world. This is not a traditional circus because it does not feature any animals in its performance.

Speaking of the circus Circus Vargas which usually makes an appearance or two in San Diego county during March and April is not going out on the road this year. Vargas management has not given a reason for not touring a show this season, but they say they will be back next year.

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Message From the President



Dear Ring 76ers,

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful spring weather here in San Diego. The warm weather is here and now's the time for the working magis to get out the light weight clothing and lots of sunscreen!

Consider freezing water in an empty soda bottle for your rabbits to sit next to on those long hot days. Those of us that use live animals in our acts would surely appreciate that!

Due to immense popularity, we are going to start doing monthly "teach-ins" at the club, 6:30-7pm. The board is looking for volunteers to instruct. Please contact Bob Ingalls or me if you would like to volunteer and teach a move or sleight or a new trick. We would like to know the name of the instructor each month and what they will be teaching and promote it in our monthly newsletter. It will also help people coming to the teach-in to know if they should bring cards, coins, rope, etc.

Don't forget to get your old or unused magic out and bring it to the April Annual Ring Swap meet! This is always a great event; if you want a table, contact Richard Ustick to reserve one for you. It is always good to have your table reserved in advance because the night of the swap meet things can get rather hectic. When the swap meet is over, anyone wanting to demonstrate one of their purchases of a new trick will be invited to perform on an informal basis.

Jack White tells me he has accumulated a lot of sweaters, coats and jackets left by people attending meetings and lectures. He has tried to return them to their rightful owners but has been unable to in some cases. He will have them on a table and you can take them. Many have been around for years.

My heart goes out to Art Hannum and his son Stephen in the death of wife and mother Pat Hannum. As founding members of Ring 76 and past president, Pat will be dearly missed. She always took the time to be my friend.

I am proud to announce the arrival of my 2nd granddaughter! My daughter gave birth March 19th to Amanda Diane/Renee Osborne. She is very cute!
Magically yours,

Diane Lane
President Ring 76



Resident Magician &
Goodwill Ambassador at
the Corvette Diner
1987 - 2002

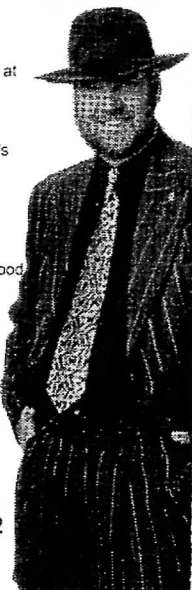
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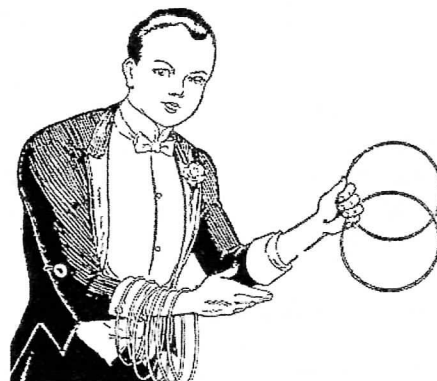
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News

Diane Lane is a grandma for the second time, the baby's name is **Amanda Diane Rene**. Mom and new daughter are doing fine under the watchful eye of Grandma. Diane's daughter **Jaimey** went into labor late Friday, March 19th and had the baby at 9 pm that evening.

Ron London arrived in San Diego for his lecture March 15th and said he wanted to see **The Gathering Restaurant**; he had heard much about it as a mecca for magicians. **Bob Ingalls** and **Jack White** took him there for lunch, and restaurant owner **Dan Thomas** entertained with some card magic. London said the restaurant lived up to his expectations.

Jack White recently appeared on **Chef Larry's** cooking show on the food channel and other cable outlets. Jack does a couple of magic tricks during the show as Chef Larry makes crapes. The show will be airing in April on various cable networks.

Dr. Joel and **Arlene Moskowitz** were in Spain when the subway bombing took place in mid-March. **Jeff Marcus** has been trying to get a hold of them to make sure they are OK. They returned home in late March and are reported to be tired but in good health. I am sure they will have some interesting stories to tell about their trip.

Don Soul has advised the Ring board of directors that our Web site has been entered in the IBM competition. **Joe Bertuzzi** has sent us a preview of some of the other Ring's sites and we have a lot of competition but as of this moment we are in the running.

Brad Burt's Magic shop is featuring **Syd Segal's** new DVD video in their



latest online sales bulletin. Brad puts these special sale bulletins out every few weeks. If you are not currently on their e-mail list, drop by the store and add your name.

A group of local magicians dropped by the Seaport Village magic shop on a beautiful weekend day in March and found the store full of people. The Seaport Village store is well stocked with gimmicked coins and coin effects. If you are looking for a nice variety of "two headed" coins, they have them there. They also carry the complete line of Dube Juggling props which includes the hard-to-find metal dishes for plate spinning.

A large cross section of people attended the services for **Pat Hannum** at the Scottish Rite Temple in Mission Valley, Wednesday, March 24th. A group of 40-plus people were alumni from Hoover High School where Pat was once a student. Magicians attending from Ring 76 included, **Diane Lane, Don & Donna Soul and Jack White**.

On March 24th we celebrated the 130th Anniversary of **Houdini's** birthday. The Wall Street Journal carried a front page story on that date saying that a large portion of the Houdini Collection is being moved from Wisconsin to a new museum in Las Vegas, Nevada. As a result, the Houdini museum in Appleton, Wisconsin, the city where Houdini spent his boyhood, is about to open a

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new exhibit that is interactive for children. It will show visitors to the museum how the "trunk escape" works and the visitors can actually do the trick. Magicians around the country are writing letters to the museum begging them not to expose this illusion that continues to be used by many top performers today.

Michael E. Johnson knows how to promote himself for shows during the spring season. He has just sent out a two-page flier and news release. Michael keeps a mailing list of people he has worked for in the past and a list of people he wants to work for in the future. They all get his mailings.

Magician and noted SAM columnist **Harry Riser** is spending a few weeks in Southern California with his wife. He is looking to get together with some local magicians for a card session. Harry will probably attend our swap meet in April. You might want to set up some time with him. He is truly one of the nice guys of magic.

On March 20th, Ring member **Toni Perrine** and her grandson, **Max Johnson** walked away from their appearance in the San Juan Capistrano Swallow's Parade with a big second place award for the excellent job they did entertaining.

Ring 76 member **Loch David Cane** will tour Europe again this summer, introducing his new character "**Merlin-ye-Mage**." Loch will make appearances at a half dozen Medieval locations across Germany and Austria. His tour begins June 2nd, returning to San Diego on July 2nd. Loch will return home in time for two magic shows and his appearance in the annual Rancho Bernardo 4th of July Parade.

Coming Attractions

April 12th meeting at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue, is the annual Ring 76 swap meet. Please note this swap meet will not include an auction this year. Tables are \$10 each. Sign up early so you are not disappointed. See Richard Ustick to reserve a table. Doors open for the swap meet at 6:30 pm.

May 10th is the Ring 76 Stand-up contest. First place \$50. Start putting your act together for this always exciting contest. Open to all members. May is also time for nominations for Ring officers. If you would like to be a member of the Ring 76 executive committee, have a member place your name in nomination.

June 14th meeting is our annual magic auction, election of new officers and dues are payable for the next 12 months.

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