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MagiCurrents

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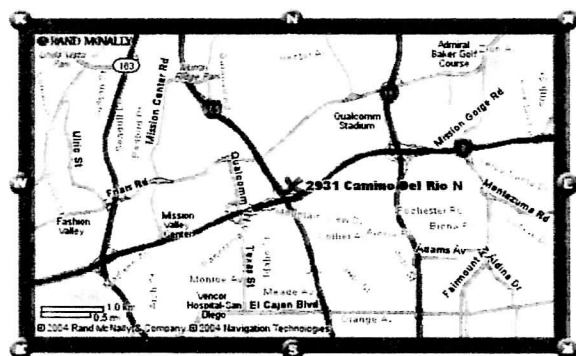
Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

Volume XVIII 7 July 2004

Ring 76 Installation Banquet, Awards & Show Sunday, July 11, at Dave & Buster's

The showroom at Dave & Buster's nightclub, 2931 Camino del Rio North, will be the location for the annual Ring 76 Installation and Awards Banquet Sunday, July 11th, beginning at 6 p.m. If you have taken part in one of the Ring contests during the year, you will be presented with a certificate, and you may be the winner of a cash prize.



Map to Dave & Buster's

We will gather for a social hour from 6 to 7 p.m., and then dinner will be served. The menu includes: lemon herb grilled chicken breast served with Chardonnay herb cream sauce, house salad or Caesar salad, rice pilaf, sautéed green beans with pecans, fresh baked rolls and butter. Dinner includes all you can drink—coffee, tea and soft drinks. Dinner is \$20. per person. For those who do not eat meat, we will have a vegetarian dinner available. Please contact J.P. Jackson at 619-569-0096 and let him know you are coming and how many will be in your party. If you want a vegetarian dinner let J.P. know when you make your reservations. It is very important we know how many will be attending before July 7th. Pay at the door.

James Kellogg Jr., who has just finished a 3 month run at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, will be our entertainment portion of the program. You will remember last summer Jim did the Houdini underwater escape in Oceanside. A

great entertainer, he will be doing his Las Vegas act.

In addition to installing our board and handing out Ring awards, we will also be honoring two people who over the years have worked hard to make Ring 76 a success and promote the Art of Magic. Becoming Lifetime Achievement members are Jack Evans and Joe Bertuzzi. They will both be honored during the ceremonies.

Jack Evans has been a magic performer for many decades and is most famous for his 14 years entertaining passengers on cruise ships. Jack is a collector and builder of magic apparatus. A longtime member of Ring 76, he is also one of those special people who rolls up his sleeves and goes to work when called upon. We are proud to make him a Lifetime Member of Ring 76.

Our second honoree is Joe Bertuzzi, who was an officer and past President of Ring 76 in the 1970s. Joe was instrumental in bringing two IBM Conventions to San Diego, and has been a longtime supporter of our Ring. Bertuzzi spent two terms on the executive committee of the IBM and has been lauded for his efforts in putting the Linking Ring magazine on CD Rom, as well as establishing an affordable insurance program for performers. We are honored to make Joe a Lifetime Member of Ring 76.

Our board of directors will include some new faces: Diane Lane will return as president for a second term. Bob Ingalls begins his second term as 1st vice president in charge of entertainment; Sherry Luft becomes our new 2nd vice president in charge of membership; Jack White begins his third term as secretary and newsletter editor; Richard Ustick begins his second term as treasurer; Kenny Shelton begins his first term on the board as the new sgt. at arms; J.P. Jackson begins his second term as member at large; Terry Lunceford begins his first term on the board as member at large. Jeff Marcus, territorial vice president, will install these members as officers of Ring 76 for 2004 & 05.

Ring 76 collects dues and holds annual auction in June

Our June meeting was both important and exciting on all fronts. Dues were payable for the coming year. That alone kept our treasurer, Richard Ustick, and sgt at arms



Richard Ustick & Sherry Luft tabulate dues and then keep track of all the auction items.

Sherry Luft very busy. Diane Lane called the meeting to order and introduced guests. Bob Ingalls, our first vice president, explained the rules of the magic auction and introduced our auctioneer for the evening, Jack White.



Phil Tuttle at teach-in

Before the meeting began, Phil Tuttle again ran a teach-in for people wanting to learn a new way to force a card. Phil had extra cards and took his time in the back room teaching (a couple of ways to force a card). Phil threw a couple of other sleights with cards into his teach-in. Take the time to attend one of these informal sessions before the regular meeting begins. This is the second month that Phil Tuttle has

conducted the class.

Jack had 50 lots of magic to sell to the highest bidder, and all sales were final. There were many donations to the Ring, and others brought items that were packaged as a group of items and gave 10 percent of the selling price to the Ring. When the dust had cleared and the auction was over, the Ring had taken in a tidy profit of \$425. Diane Lane brought her credit card machine, which allowed us to accept credit cards.



Jack White the auctioneer and Kenny Shelton show posters to be auctioned

sold for \$26. More spirited bidding followed on a brief case filled with magic. Both of these items were made up and offered by J.P. Jackson from his warehouse of magic

Bryan McDaniel brought in a number of surplus items from his shows for the military. There was a huge light weight road case, a Tiffany style lamp with playing cards and a huge supply of magic,



J.P. Jackson demo's a huge production cabinet on the block



Members anxiously waiting to bid on the next item up for auction. Bidders were given numbers on large cards so they could be seen making their bid.

The auction items ranged from small packets of tricks to a huge stack of illusions that were piled up on the stage. It was an hour and 40 minutes of non-stop auction, with the most spirited bidding on a trunk of items ranging from bags of balloons to tricks and silks. It finally

including the sword cabinet that Bryan bought at last year's auction.



Several illusions in a pile all were purchased by Kenny Shelton for a very modest bid.

Brad Burt sent a box of items over to be auctioned off from his close out inventory. A nice supply of videotapes was sold during the auction. Jack kept the auction moving quickly. In years past, the auction and the swap meet were grouped together. The

board has decided to keep these two events separate.

Following the auction many members stayed and showed off their new purchases and did a little magic for each other.

IBM President Elect Tony Wilson visits Ring 76 for Gala Party

IBM International President Tony Wilson and his wife, Mary, came to San Diego for a three-day visit on their way to the IBM Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. On Saturday evening, June 19th, Ring 76 played host to the Wilsons with a party, show, and dinner at Jack's Magic Place. The evening began at 6 with a get-acquainted session with Tom McCarthy doing a sensational job at the bar with some knock out close-up magic. Bob Pozner joined Tom at the bar.

Judy Ingalls collected \$5. from each member that attended the party. Ring president Diane Lane arrived in full evening dress on her way to working a restaurant show but took some time out to talk with the Wilsons.

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Jack Evans showed Tony a very clever trick with a color changing car. A small toy car changed from yellow to green in the IBM president elect's hands. That effect left everyone with his or her mouth open.



Ring 76 President Diane Lane, Mary Wilson and IBM President elect Tony Wilson

Performers for the show included Jack White as M.C.. Terry Lunceford did two of his original effects as only Terry can do them-his six-card repeat and the snake basket. It was a great way to open any show. Then Michael E. Johnson with his high-energy mental routine that included tearing two telephone books in half.

Territorial Vice President Jeff Marcus presented his very funny and mystifying rope act, followed by one of the best Linking Ring routines you will ever see. Then Tony Wilson got up and did a very nice stand up act that included a routine he plans to do at the IBM Banquet in Cleveland.

Closing out the show was Bob Ingalls ,who did a clever card routine and then, as a special tribute to the incoming IBM president, the national anthem of New Zealand was played as Bob created the flag of New Zealand with red, white, and blue silks. Tony Wilson was most impressed with the closing elements of the show.

Loch David Crane
Says:
Thank You

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

The Misadventures of a Working Magician

By Michael E. Johnson



One of the most beloved magicians in North San Diego County is Jack Evans, a silver-haired veteran of the cruise ship circuit, stage, and a whole lot more. Jack's unpublished biography, *Don't Fool Yourself -- That's My Business*, is filled with amazing stories and hilarious anecdotes. I hope it gets published soon. Here's one of my favorite stories, which Jack told to writer Carolann Wright.

APPEARING IN THE WRONG PLACE

Driving into a scarlet sunset on the San Diego freeway to a last minute booking, I didn't have much time to think about the usual worries or experience a few jitters that accompany a pre-performance.

I had just returned home only a couple of hours before from doing a children's show when my telephone rang. On the other end was a somewhat frantic voice asking me if I could perform "this evening" after a business banquet. I was to be their surprise entertainment at eight o' clock.

I agreed, but I only had enough time to repack my car with the proper magic accouterments and fresh costumes for an adult theme. There wasn't even enough time to eat a quick supper.

Upon entering the Hilton Hotel on Mission Bay, I noticed there were several banquet rooms lined up on both sides of the elegant hallway. Two men standing outside open doors asked me, "Are you the entertainment?"

I quickly said, "Yes."

They said, "Come in and set up. You'll go on as soon as the last speaker is finished."

I got ready, then began to wait. It was nine thirty before the last long-winded speaker finished and I went on. Thinking my audience was sleepy by now, I went out there and really hit them hard with my opener.

I was paid double the amount we had agreed to and merely thought it was a handsome tip. Looking at the check again, the horror of reality suddenly hit me. I had played to the wrong group! As I left with my gear, someone out in the hallway asked, "Aren't you Jack Evans?"

I said, "Yes."

"Well, you were suppose to do a show for us." Helplessly, I explained the mishap. We ended up laughing about it and both felt saved since the arts association never knew I was to have performed for them that evening.

With another stroke of luck, I was asked to perform for the group I stood up a month later. Three days prior to the booking, my phone rang. It was a representative from the Arts group saying, "Now remember, Jack, we're in room B, not D. We want to see You."

I managed to get things right the second time. "I finally made it" was my opening line that night. Before I left room B, I penned three more bookings into my calendar.

My todays and yesterdays have been a seesaw of events that manage to land upright for me. My tomorrows are yet to be played.

TRICKY TRAVELS

Almost every car I have ever owned, plus a few more, have broken down on the way to a magic show. Perhaps it's a statistical law—every 500th magic show, our car will rebel. Here's an example:

One day I was driving up to Los Angeles to tape a cable television program. With a late start from San Diego, I

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Terry Luncelford
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had little time for distractions or problems. That's when trouble always occurs.

About an hour into the drive, I heard an unnatural "whapping" noise coming from the van. It sounded like the engine tearing itself apart, or worse. I immediately pulled off the freeway and found a service station.

Waiting for the mechanic, I felt doomed. I was still an hour away from the show, yet I was scheduled to perform in an hour and five minutes.

Finally, the mechanic took a look at my problem. Something simple: a damaged fan belt connected to the air conditioner. However, the mechanic didn't have the right parts, so it would be a long wait for him to repair it.

Cutting to the chase, I asked him, "Do I need this fan belt to make it to Los Angeles? The mechanic said "Probably not. You could just cut it off." I thanked him for his advice. Thin I slipped him a \$20 bill, and he was kind enough to immediately cut off the damaged belt so it wouldn't "whapp" anymore.

I continued on my journey, made it to the show, with minutes to spare and the rest is cable television history. Nobody knew that my biggest trick was arriving on time.

HURLING FOR DOLLARS

Every year, I perform magic in a hundred private homes, some of them big enough to smother castles. But I always avoid the restrooms. Ever since "The Incident," I've been cured of client restrooms for ever.

One Saturday morning, I woke up feeling under the weather. It's a magician's nightmare. Clients depend on me for their entertainment. I can't take off a sick day. Unless I'm completely incapacitated, I'll do my best to deliver the goods.

With no other alternatives, I left for work, uncomfortable but functional. It was a beautiful house in Scripps Ranch, so I set up in the family room.

Immediately adjacent was the kitchen.

When I started my show, the kitchen started frying giant sausages. The smell was overpowering. As the meat sizzled and popped, I tried to hold my ground, but my stomach was ready to revolt.

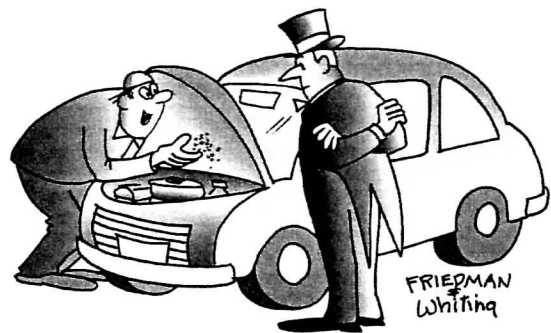
Midway in the show, I had to call an "intermission." The closest bathroom was just a few feet from the audience, so I asked the client for a more remote location. I went upstairs to the farthest end of the house, and locked myself in the bathroom.

Some details are better left to the imagination. Suffice it to say, I lost my composure backstage. But like a true professional, I did it silently and was back to work within a few minutes.

The show wrapped up fine, and the client seemed happy. I felt a few shades of green by the time I exited. However, the client was still nice enough to offer me lunch. I respectfully declined.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Yessir, there's your problem –
Woofle Dust in the engine!"



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Message from the President



Ring 76 Members!

This is the last letter in my 1st year of my Ring 76 presidency. I've had a great year serving you as your president; thank you for giving me the opportunity and for renewing that opportunity for a second year. I am looking forward to another year of fun, good magic, and taking Ring 76 into 2005.

The main task of our next board of director's meeting will be to outline the programs for our meetings in the year ahead. If you have an idea for a program, let me know by email or a phone call. It is important to me that we create monthly programs that you, our members, care about.

Our July 11th meeting will be at Dave & Buster's in Mission Valley. Jack has included a map on the front page of this newsletter to help you find the location for our annual Installation, Awards & Show for the evening. This is going to be a very special evening, so please make plans to attend. To RSVP for dinner, please call J.P. Jackson 858-569-0096 before July 7th. Plan to bring your family to dinner and the awards and show.

Jack White has recently acquired a new glass showcase to display some of the Ring 76 memorabilia. We have Sid Gerhart's hat, briefcase and other personal items, as well as some photographs, awards, plaques, and medals. If you have something that is part of Ring 76 history and would like to have it displayed, please pass it along to Jack. It will be properly cared for and will enhance the tradition of Ring 76.

I will be attending the IBM convention in Cleveland and will be back in time for the installation banquet. I look forward to seeing all of you at Dave & Buster's.

Diane Lane
President, Ring 76

Items For Sale

Complete File of Lloyd Jones The Bat 1943 - 1951.

A nice file of Lloyd's original periodical in his famous "Bat" series, often considered by many to contain the best material of all his later offerings: This file has all 86 issues and one of the two indicies. It comes from the late Mike Rogers collection. All are three-hole punched in one large fat binder, in over-all good shape. \$35.00

100 Years of Magic Posters By Reynolds. This book is getting scarce soft covers in very good condition, it is an oversized coffee table book contains many rare posters that are ideal for framing. \$45.00

Call J.P. Jackson on the above items at 858-569-0096 for information.



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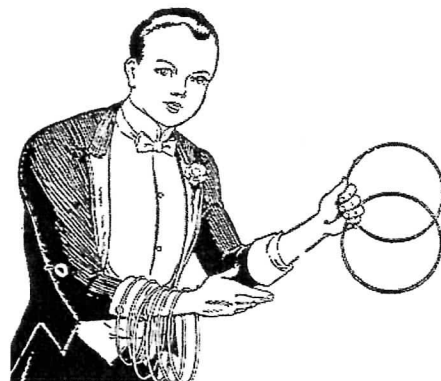
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Ring 76



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News

Al Sharp who was recently featured on the cover of Magic Magazine along with **J.P. Jackson** and **Marcus Day** all attended the Ring 313 picnic, Sunday, June 13th in Orange County. The event was held at Ring 313 President **Todd Reis's** home about a mile southwest of Disneyland in Garden Grove. The party offered a Hawaiian theme and was well attended by magicians from Los Angeles and San Diego, as well as Orange County.

The next best thing to going to the IBM convention in Cleveland this summer is watching it on the Internet. A special broadcast on Web cam will originate in the dealers' room at the convention. You will see interviews with many magicians attending the convention, and you will see the latest new magic effects on sale at the convention. To watch this programming go to magician.org, then look for live coverage from the convention. **Bob Ingalls** and **Jack White** will be video taping some of the events for the Web cam experiment. If you would like to look in on the convention, go to magician.org and follow the directions on the Web site.

Joel Ward left San Diego, June 28th, for a 9-week engagement at the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Joel will be appearing in "Prodigy" in the main showroom at the boardwalk casino. He will do his dove act, one illusion-the Shadow Box-that is an original effect, and he will also do some stand up patter in the show as well. Ward, who lives in the North County says San Diego County will continue to be his headquarters even though he will be on the road all summer. Joel



graduated from Mira Costa College earlier this spring.

James Kellogg Jr., has just returned to Vista after a 3-month engagement in Las Vegas at the Riviera, an Westward Ho Resort. Kellogg is the performer who recreated Houdini's underwater escape in Oceanside last summer. James will be presenting portions of his Las Vegas act at our installation banquet, July 11th, at Dave & Buster's in Mission Valley.

Trivia Department: **Jeff Marcus** looked up what was going on in San Diego Magic 20 years ago this month. In July 1984, **George Edwards** was president and **Ursula Roher** was secretary of Ring 76. Attendees included **Frank Herman**, **Al Knox**, **Loch David Crane**, **Jim Riley** and **Joe Thompson**. The IBM Convention was in Norfolk, Virginia, and featured **Lance Burton**, **The Pendragons** and **Bob Sheets**. Registration for the convention was \$55. A Zig Zag illusion sold for \$895. (Don't you wish you would have bought one then?)

Magician Stephen Sloan is celebrating his 22nd year teaching magic as part of the Gateways Summer School program. Stephen teaches two classes: one in basic magic and one on putting together a show. The summer school classes are held at the San Diego Jewish Academy. Veteran Ring 76 member **Jim Riley** is also a teacher during the summer school program. Jim is

Briefs

teaching mathematical origami. Somehow these classes make going to school sound like fun. The best part of these classes, there is no homework and no grades to worry about.

Word from Missouri is that **Monte Stratton**, former San Diego magician, has opened a magic shop and emporium where he can present birthday parties with a magic theme. First reports are that he is booked through the summer with parties. Monte told MagiCurrents last summer that he moved his family from Southern California to Missouri for better quality of life.

While visiting San Diego, **Tony Wilson** president elect of the IBM gave Ring 76 a pennant from Ring 160 in New Zealand. This is the first Ring pennant we have received.

The movie "Shade," that was filmed at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, is out as a rental and can be purchased on DVD. **Sal Barajas**, who works at the Seaport Village Magic Shop, tells us that a lot of people, after viewing the film, are coming into the shop and asking for books and video tapes on card mechanic work. It appears the movie has created a lot of renewed interest in gambling techniques.

**Installation Banquet
Sunday, July 11th,
Dave & Buster's
Mission Valley
at 6 p.m.**

Coming Attractions

Sunday, July 11th, our annual installation banquet to be held in the banquet room of Dave & Buster's, 2931 Camino del Rio North in Mission Valley. Dinner, show, awards, and installation of new officers. The cost for dinner is \$20. per person. For directions and more information see our story on the front page of this newsletter.

Next Board of Directors meeting Monday, July 26th, at Jack's Magic Place at 7 pm. sharp. These meetings are open to all members interested in attending. Planning the meeting schedule for the next year will be the main order of business.

Monday, August 9th, favorite trick and new member installation night. Your opportunity to perform your favorite trick. Bring along something you can share with the membership in performance.

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