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# MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



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Ring 76

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

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Volume XVIII 8 August 2004

## Ring 76 housekeeping announcements

Ring 76 is about to begin a new year; so far a total of 50 members have renewed their membership by paying dues. Ring dues are \$25 per year and have not changed in four years. In planning programs for the year ahead, the executive committee has placed emphasis on more programs that allow the members to perform.

Bob Ingalls, our 1st vice president in charge of entertainment, is making contact with two top names in magic to present two free lectures for our Ring members between now and the first of the year. Bob has not confirmed the lectures as of this writing, but both are respected magicians and will present outstanding lecture programs for the members. We hope to announce the names and dates they will lecture in next month's MagiCurrents newsletter.

Sherry Luft, our new 2nd vice president in charge of membership, is producing a new roster of member's names and e-mail addresses. If you have not paid your dues as yet, you may be hearing from Sherry or from treasurer Richard Ustick reminding you that dues are now payable. If your dues are not paid in August this may be your last newsletter, as the membership chair presents the newsletter editor with a new active mailing list the first of September.

We remind all new members who have joined Ring 76 since last January you will be officially inducted into the Ring at our August 9th meeting so please plan to attend. You will also be invited to perform a trick or a routine during that meeting if you are so inclined.

The August meeting is an invitation to all members to bring a favorite trick to present at the meeting. If you have been working on something special this summer, this is the time to share it with our members. There are some exciting events planned for Ring 76 members in the coming months, so stay tuned. as the announcements will be forthcoming.

## Magicians needed for Carlsbad fundraiser

Magician Joel Ward, who is spending his summer performing at the Flamingo Casino and Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey, reports that his act is being well-received by audiences and business is very good. He has promised a future article on what it's like appearing in a major nightclub review for MagiCurrents readers.

Joel will be back in Southern California in early September and is producing the entertainment portion of the Carlsbad Art Splash program that will take place Saturday & Sunday, September 25th and 26th on a street just above the flower fields in South Carlsbad near the entrance to Legoland.

Joel needs volunteer strolling and close-up performers to entertain for one or two hours between 10 am and 5 pm on both of the above dates. He is hoping he can get six or eight magicians who would like to hone their skills with an audience to take part in this program either one or both days. If you are a working magician or a hobbyist and volunteer to take part in as a performer, you will be allowed to pass out your cards or other materials for future bookings. Entertainers working three or more hours will receive a \$50 payment for their services.

The event chairman is expecting between 30 and 50 thousand people each day at this event. They are expecting both print and electronic news coverage of the activities, and they will promote volunteers in the printed programs that will be given out to those attending.

If you can volunteer some time to this nonprofit event, you should contact Joel Ward via email at [joel@joelwardmagic.com](mailto:joel@joelwardmagic.com). He is lining up his talent now and needs a list of volunteers before September.

**Continued on page 5**

# July meeting our annual Installation and Awards Banquet at Dave & Buster's

Nearly one hundred people attended the Ring 76 installation and awards banquet at Dave & Buster's restaurant and nightclub in Mission Valley. Because of a larger than expected number of people, the kitchen had to prepare more food, and it was late in arriving on the serving line. Dinner was not without some problems.

The board of the past year was thanked for their efforts and Joel Moskowitz, who was retiring from the board, was given special thanks for his efforts during the year just past. Then Territorial Vice President Jeff Marcus inducted the new board.

Officers for 2004 and 05: Diane Lane, president; Bob Ingalls, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president; Sherry Luft 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president; Jack White, secretary; Richard Ustick,



*New Board for 2004-2005*

treasurer; Kenny Shelton, sgt. at arms; J.P. Jackson and Terry Lunceford, members at large. Two weeks after the installation banquet at the first board of directors meeting for the new board a plan for programs for the coming year was established, as the new board rolled into action.

During the awards ceremony it was announced there was a tie in the stage contest voting by the membership that was held in May. The first prize went to Armando Torres and Bob Ingalls; each received first place medals and \$50 dollars in prize money. Armando Torres was also the first prizewinner in the close-up contest that was held last February. Because of the first place tie no second place award was presented,;Kenny Shelton won 3<sup>rd</sup> place.



Jack White, Bob Ingalls & Armando Torres

In the close-up competition, again Armando Torres took the first place medal and \$50 prize money. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place award was presented to Michael E. Johnson along with a check for \$25. Neal Reed took 3<sup>rd</sup> place honors in the close-up contest and was given his award in June because he was moving to Louisiana.

Veteran performer and longtime friend of Ring 76



Jack White & Jack Evans receiving his Lifetime Achievement

Jack Evans from Oceanside was made a Lifetime Honorary Member of Ring 76 for his dedication to magic and support of our Ring for so many years. Evans was on hand to receive his award; also presented an Honorary Lifetime Membership was Joe Bertuzzi, now living in Anaheim. Joe, for health reasons, was unable to attend our banquet.

Bertuzzi was an officer in Ring 76 during the 1970s and also served two terms on the board of directors of the IBM. Joe helped plan two IBM Conventions held in San Diego.

The Performer of the Year award was a tie in the voting, so the award was presented to Michael E. Johnson and Jack White. Member of the Year was presented to Bob Ingalls in thanks for all his efforts on behalf of Ring 76 and in making each meeting special for all of our members.

We offer a special thank you to James Kellogg Jr., who just returned to San Diego after an extended run in two casinos in Las Vegas. James presented a portion of his show as the entertainment for this special awards program for Ring 76.



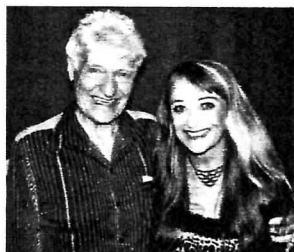
Magician James Kellogg Jr. with his shreader illusion.

To make sure some of the problems we encountered at this year's banquet do not happen again, Diane Lane will appoint a committee from the general membership to work with a member of the board in planning next year's event. Diane will be asking for volunteers, so don't be afraid to step up to the plate and take part.

We devote the rest of this page to photos of the banquet itself.



Judy & Bob  
Ingalls



Jack Evans &  
Diane Lane



Robin & Vi  
Freeland



Dick Bush



Mr. & Mrs.  
Joe Mystic



Richard Ustick &  
Bob Ingalls



Joel Moskowitz &  
Jeff Marcus



Loch Crane &  
Peg Marcus



The LaChances



Ralph Mauzy &  
Carol DeLucia



Terry & Lynn  
Lunceford



Julie & David  
Marshall

## The Misadventures of a Working Magician

By Michael E. Johnson



Success is great for the ego, but disaster has always been my best tutor. That lesson came clear back in the 1970s, when I was hired to do my first corporate gig for McDonald's.

At the time I was just a teenager, but I was already gaining a reputation for magic. Local newspapers gave me exposure, like the San Marcos Outlook, the Vista Press, and the Escondido Times-Advocate.

When a new restaurant opened in Vista, McDonald's hired me to do magic at the grand opening. It was a dream come true, but not without its nightmares. Immediately before the show, I spilled a milk pitcher over all my props. My opening trick, the 20th Century Silks, was soaked. So were ropes, cards, table cover, suitcase, and several other parts of my show.

Now it was show time. The client told me to start. The crowd was waiting and watching. With nothing else to do, I grabbed my milk-soaked props and did a show. I don't remember how the show went. I only remember I did it despite the obstacles.

Two decades later, in the 1990s, I was hired for a show in a Jewish synagogue. While waiting to start, a kid spilled his ice cream cone on my tuxedo. That was the least of my troubles.

A few minutes into the show, my entire Magic Pro Suitcase collapsed, and several props went tumbling down. My rabbit production box produced its rabbit instantly (on the ground); my crystal tube spilled its secret compartment of silks; my elaborate colored waters routine blended into a river of carpet staining dye.

The crowd roared in laughter, so I continued to play the show sloppy and made up new material as I went along.

After the show, I was busy cleaning up the mess., which was quite significant, when an older gentleman stopped me. "Nice recovery," he said, and winked. That was the nicest compliment I had ever received from a disaster.

### WHOOPIE CUSHION SHOWDOWN

I've done plenty of shows in the worst parts of the city, but only once did I face weapons. It happened in National City, during an otherwise normal birthday party.

When I arrived at the show, I could see the party was larger than my client indicated. There were 12 children, as she told me, but also a huge posse of teens, adults, bawling babies, and barking dogs. Everyone was packed into the living room waiting for the entertainment.

Facing tough conditions, I took control of the room. There's no way to avoid a lousy stage, but it's still possible to minimize negative influences. The first thing I did was gather up the dogs and put them outside. Over the years, I've learned that cute animals distract during a magic show.

I should have tossed out the babies too. One mom sitting in the front row was oblivious to the magic show. While I performed, she vigorously fed two babies and a toddler. I finally stopped her when she started changing diapers. Because I have artistic standards, I can't allow bathroom humor, even in the front row.

But the situation grew uglier. From the back of the room, someone kept letting off a whoopie cushion. A bunch of gang bangers in hairnets and neck tattoos were trying to derail the magic show, much to the dismay of the children.

Finally the distraction grew too much. Stopping the

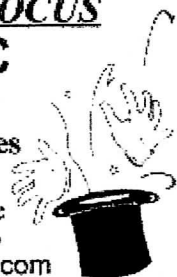
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magic show, I walked up to the trouble makers and demanded the whoopie cushion. Posturing and smirking, they refused. It looked like a standoff.

With the entire room silent, I held out my hand and firmly said, "Give me the whoopie cushion." I didn't care if I was the only pale face in the neighborhood. Still, the gang refused to cooperate, so I used the most powerful weapon in my arsenal: the audience.

Turning to the larger crowd, I said, "I can only stay here another fifteen minutes, and I have to leave for my next performance." Then I gestured at the gang and said, "Would you rather watch a bunch of clowns, or do you want to see more magic from a professional magician?"

With catcalls from the audience and a stern look from the hostess, the gang finally relented. They handed me the whoopie cushion and disappeared like cockroaches.

After I finished the show, the hostess apologized for the crowd. Keeping my professional demeanor, I said my standard line, "Don't worry about it. We're just here to have fun."

As I left the house, the gang was waiting outside for me. Staring straight ahead, I walked right through them, lugging my magic suitcase. One of them said something off color, but I ignored him.

Then I stopped, turned and addressed the ruffians. Patting a \$200 check in my pocket, I said with my best professional smile, "Thanks for your consideration." And I disappeared with their whoopie cushion.

If you have an interesting or funny story about performing, jot it down on paper and send it to Michael E. Johnson, 197 Woodland Parkway, Suite 140 PMB 492, San Marcos, CA. 92069-3020. He may want to use your experience in a future column.

## Magicians Needed: Con't from page 1

5<sup>th</sup>. If you can help out in this effort, we urge you to contact Joel via email as soon as possible.

This is a great opportunity to be seen, get your name out as an entertainer and to practice your magic skills in front of a lay audience. Work the kinks out of your act and take part; you may walk away from this event with a lot of good publicity. Joel tells us he needs magicians, jugglers, clowns and specialty street performers. Remember, work three hours and you will receive a stipend payment of \$50.

## "MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



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## View from the Cheap Seats



**By Jon A. Hand**

**Crediting:** This is my combination of Don Alan's Sponge Bunnies Surprise Finish and Dr. Jak's final move from Multiball. Jak's version involves a wand and more complications, but Alan's version lacks the impact of Jak's, so I took the simplicity of Alan's idea and combined it with the impact of Jak's idea. I have never found anything stronger.

The effect is that a huge shower of sponge balls falls from the spectator's hand when she expects to see only one new arrival. This is the follow-up for the "one in your hand, one in my hand, mine vanishes to appear in your hand" sponge ball move. There is no way to follow this multiball effect, and it is the only thing I have found that follows the in-the-hand appearance of a vanished sponge ball. I find it easier to do standing, but sitting is also possible. It is indeed a fantastic parlor/platform item for 50 people or less, yet plays wonderfully one-on-one.

First, get a variety of sponge balls. I use 10 of the 1/2" balls (available only in red, in packs of 10 for \$2.50 per pack at [www.themagicwarehouse.com](http://www.themagicwarehouse.com)), several red 1" balls, and one each of 6 different colors of 1.5" balls. Or, you can take common household kitchen sponges 1/2" thick in several colors and cut them up into 30 or 40 cubes of 1/2" each. Stuff them all into your right trouser pocket if you are right-handed. If you intend to do it seated, then take your seat, pull the sponges out of your pocket, and stuff them between your legs during setup before the show so that you are ready at any time.

Perform your usual sponge routine. Reserve the "one in your hand, one in my hand, mine vanishes to appear in your hand" part for the end of the routine. Spend the routine pulling balls out of an invisible coinpurse, splitting them in two with the finger, changing colors or shapes or sizes, making them go from hand to hand, making them appear under your hat/cap, whatever; just don't involve the spec's hand until near the end. Do the "one in your hand, one in my hand, mine vanishes to appear in your hand," and wait for inevitable shriek. Then...

Tell the woman/girl that you are going to try

something very special, but that you need her to follow exact directions for this experiment to work. Actually, you are going to train her to accompany you in a "fake off," and she will be as fooled as anyone if you do the training well. Position her on your left side, holding her right hand out palm up, right after the "one in your hand, one in my hand, mine vanishes to appear in your hand" shriek. Tell her to close her hand and turn it palm down. Demonstrate this with your right hand. Tell her that on the count of three, she is to open her hand completely, palm down. Again, demonstrate with your hand: Count "1 - 2 - 3" and open your right hand exactly on three. Go over this with her three times, making sure that she opens her hand palm down exactly on three. The important thing is that you do it with her, demonstrating each time how you open your hand, palm down, exactly on three. If she does it right three times, you have conditioned her to opening on time, and conditioned both her and the audience that your hand will open the same way.

Now, back up a couple of steps and put both hands into respective trouser pockets as you tell the woman/girl what you want her to do now. If seated, drop both hands into lap in rest pose, and lean back as you tell her what's next. Tell her to pick up exactly two balls, put them both into her right hand, close the hand, and turn it palm down. All eyes will be on her as she does this, as the training exercise has piqued everyone's interest. Meanwhile, use your right hand to collect as many sponges as you can and crush them into your right hand. It does not matter how many of them you actually grab, just do it quickly and without attracting attention. When she is finishing with the balls, remove both hands from pockets at the same time. Come out with the sponges crushed into the right 2nd through 4th fingers, and the forefinger pointed. If necessary, use your left hand to guide her hand back into the correct position. When she is in position, remind her that she must open exactly on three for the experiment to happen.

Using your forefinger to tap the back of her hand, count to three as dramatically as you can, staying in rhythm. This is not the place to make comedy or interrupt the count rhythm in any way, so save that bit for some other trick that requires counting. At the exact moment you say three, open your right hand exactly as you did earlier, and she will open hers at precisely the same moment. Back away instantly as she and the audience shriek, because a huge collection of sizes and colors of balls just appeared from her hand after she, herself, picked up the two balls! They will bounce away in every direction, looking even bigger than they were because of their scattering.

Believe me, no one will suspect that the balls came from your hand! I did this as my climax of the sponge routine five times in three hours of one night, for audiences of 25 to 35 each time, and it rocked every show.

The sponsor for the evening saw three of the shows, and she still came and asked me how I made that shower of balls appear in the spec's hand! Of course, I told her that secrets couldn't be told, or they wouldn't be magic.

Only once did I ever have a problem with this effect. The girl was mentally challenged (no joke intended, she was somewhat mentally retarded), and she just could not open her hand on cue fast enough. I just relied upon my conditioning of the audience and did it anyway. It breezed right by everyone, and she had never even opened her hand at the moment of the appearance! She didn't understand, but the audience didn't know that, and when I escorted her back to her seat to thunderous applause, she simply gave me back the two sponge balls she was still holding, with no one noticing!

Get comfortable with the pocket steal to make it unobtrusive. Get comfortable with teaching the counted response. Get comfortable holding the wad of sponge balls while you point. Do those three things, and you have a miracle. Enjoy!

\*\*\*\*\*

Got anything you want to share with me? I spent about 90 minutes putting this together for you, so I would greatly appreciate anything you want to share in return.

Regards from Tennessee,

Jon A. Hand

**Loch David Crane**

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## Terry Godfrey's demanding fair schedule for 2004

Terry Godfrey was the official magician of the Del Mar Fair from June 16<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup> this year. He presented four shows a day at three different stages. This kind of work is nothing new for Godfrey; he carries his entire act in a carpet bag and, with his ever present hat and vest, is ready to present an exciting interlude with linking rings, an egg bag or the Miser's Dream coin effect. These are but three of a host of routines that are carried around in that carpet bag.

He began working fairs many years ago, and in years past would travel from San Diego to Texas, then to Alaska, back to California and then to the mid-

west, often times ending his season in Arizona at a fair. Terry told members of Ring 76 a few years ago that fair shows are a lot of fun, but they can be exhausting for the performer. Often times in addition to doing his magic act, Terry is called upon to do the fair ground announcements and go to radio and television stations to do promotions for the fair.

As you read this report, Terry is in Santa Rosa, just above San Francisco, doing his magic act on the fair grounds there. This will be his last fair date this year, which is a shorter route than usual for this tireless performer. Terry actually booked this year's fair dates last December at the Western Fair Association meeting that was held at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley. Because the Del Mar fair was so long and so demanding Terry decided he would slow down and not travel quite as much this year.

Later this year, we are going to ask Terry to give one of his mini-lectures to the Ring on working fairs, getting bookings, and what goes with this outdoor entertainment venue.



Terry Godfrey doing the egg bag routine on the Whoville stage at the Del Mar Fair

***Magic Notes from Jack White*****Wrap-up of the IBM Convention in Cleveland**

The IBM's annual convention held in Cleveland, Ohio, June 30 to July 3<sup>rd</sup> was a well-planned event with lots of good magic, excellent dealers room and outstanding lecturers. Attending from Ring 76: Diane Lane, Bob Ingalls, Kenny Shelton, Don and Donna Soul, and Jack White. Each evening our group would gather around a table in the lobby of the hotel or bar and would be joined by many magicians who remembered our group from the San Diego Convention of 2002. One evening World Champion Magician Jason Latimer joined our table and we suddenly became very popular. I wonder why?



Donna & Don Soul late in the evening at the Ring 76 table in the hotel bar holding court with Bob Ingalls, Diane and Jack & Lynn White

Having hosted International President Elect Tony Wilson and his wife Mary just a week before the convention, we had a close tie to him, and he took time out of his busy schedule to spend time with us.

This photo was snapped just minutes after he was officially installed as the new International President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. We send our best wishes to Tony & Mary in the year ahead.



New IBM President Tony & Mary Wilson

Jeff McBride, Abby and Eugene Berger presented a show at the beautiful Palace Theater in Cleveland's Theater Square on Thursday evening and brought the audience to their feet for a standing ovation, the only one of the



Eugene Berger & Jeff McBride

convention. Both Eugene and Jeff were everywhere during the convention and helping anyone that asked them for suggestions on a trick or a routine. This was a very friendly convention.

**PUBLICITY STUNT OF THE CONVENTION**

My main job was to coordinate public relations and get some publicity for the IBM during the convention itself. A prominent member of Ring 23, Cleveland's Harry Blackstone Sr., chapter was going to appear on a very well listened to Cleveland morning radio program, but he didn't know what kind of trick to present on radio. As he was explaining his plight, David Sandy, the outgoing IBM President, was at our table and made a suggestion.

What follows is an effect that David and Roger Miller used during the Kansas City convention a year before. You have the radio show host shuffle a deck of cards as many times as he wants. You have the radio host describe in detail to his listeners what is happening. The cards are spread and the host slides one card out of the deck but does not look at it. The magician then says I have the cell phone number of David Sandy, President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians; call him up.

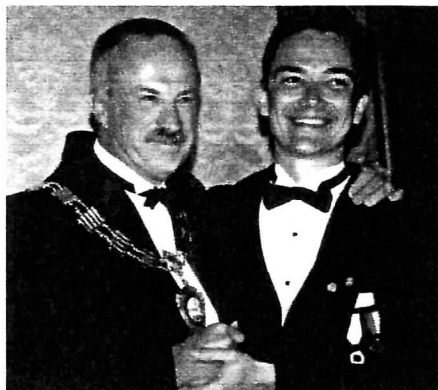
The host dials the number and while that is happening, the in-studio magician and host are talking about the convention. When David Sandy comes on the phone, the host tells him he has just slipped a random card out of the deck and that no



one knows what the card is; it is still backside up on the desk.

David Sandy on the phone says I feel the card is the 4 of clubs; it is then turned over and it is the 4 of clubs. It's a miracle on the radio. The card is not forced; it is a free choice by the radio host. I don't think

David, who came up with this effect, will be upset if I tip this very clever effect to our members for their use should a radio situation arise.



New International President Tony Wilson & out going president David Sandy

The deck is a marked deck so the magician knows what the selected card is after it is slipped out of the deck. David Sandy was listening to the program in his hotel room before the radio host called him. Once the card is selected and the magician knows its value and while the radio host is dialing up David Sandy on the phone, the magician begins talking about the Cleveland Ring. He says there are "eighty-four" members, which tells David the card is a "4". The magician calls the Ring a "Club" and that is the tip off it is the "4 of clubs." If it were a diamond the magician would say it was a gem of a Ring. If it were a heart, he would say, "the members have a lot of heart." If it were a spade he would say "the Ring is just digging itself out of a troubled period."

The magician is tipping the person listening and about to be called by the radio show host. What makes this a great trick is that the card is not revealed until after the phone guest announces his predicted value.

If the card is a face card, a Jack, Queen or King, you still use the number system but you move into the 90s and say our Ring has 91 members, which would be a Jack, 92 members is a Queen, and 93 members would be the King. Aces would be 81. If the selected card is a ten, he would say 90 members.

It took the Cleveland magician and David Sandy about 15 minutes while sitting at our table in the bar to work out the code and the effect. I listened in to the radio program the next morning, and it completely baffled the radio show host, and it was the only thing he could talk about the rest of the morning on his program. The IBM and the public show they presented that evening got a lot of publicity all because of a well-done card trick on the radio.

If you have never attended an IBM convention, I urge you to do so. You will learn a lot of new magic, but best of all you will meet a lot of people with similar interests. Next year's IBM convention will be held June 29, to July 2, in Reno, Nevada. There is a chance the IBM will return to San Diego in 2009.

Another of the highlights of this year's IBM convention was the blindfold drive by Jim Passe, who is a patents attorney when he is not working on his illusion show.

Jim was injured in an automobile accident about 10 years ago in North Carolina and today is confined to a wheel chair, but that has not slowed down his energy or excitement for life. Jim drove from New York City to Cleveland, Ohio, and appeared with his illusion show at the IBM convention on June 30th, then on July 1st began driving again, ending up in Los Angeles in front of the Magic Castle on July 6th.

His cross-country sightless stunt was an attempt to raise a million dollars for paralysis research. Passe told Jack White, who handled his publicity in Cleveland, that there were some tense moments as he was driving blindfolded out of New York City, but he got through the trip without incident.

Below are a couple of photographs of Jim in his designer blindfold that covers his full head. You can find out more about his efforts by going to his Web site at [www.blindfoldeddrive.com](http://www.blindfoldeddrive.com).



Jim Passe blindfolded driving into Cleveland, Ohio.



Jim Passe out of his car and ready for another news conference.

## Message from the President



Dear fellow Ring members,

I would like to take this time to thank all of you for putting your faith in me as President of Ring 76 for a second year. I am honored to have this opportunity to serve a second term.

The board has set up a new calendar for the coming year. We have worked into the schedule as many opportunities for members to perform as possible.

The 6:30 magic teach-in is getting good reaction. This is a casual opportunity for our members to learn new moves, sleights, and magic. Phil Tuttle has volunteered to teach many of the coming sessions. However, we still need volunteer instructors. If you could help out, please e-mail or call me. [dvlane@san.rr.com](mailto:dvlane@san.rr.com) 619 203-9986.

I'd like to thank Jack White and Bob Ingalls for the hard work and many hours they put in to the "Installation/Awards Banquet." At this time the board feels that this event should have more planning from the general membership. At the August meeting I will be asking for a committee to plan next year's "Installation/Awards Dinner." We need at least two people to work with one of the board members on the planning of this event. You will have all year to put this event together.

I will also be asking for a volunteer to write the monthly Ring Report that is sent to the "Linking Ring" magazine. Bob Pozner has carried out this job for the last few years and did a sensational job. Bob feels at this time he is unable to continue, so we need a new volunteer to carry

on the tradition.

This club is a group effort. That means everyone needs to do something to make it stronger. When I ask for volunteers, if you have the time and talents for the job please speak up.

I'm happy to announce that starting Aug. 22, "Magical Moments" Time Warner time slot is being changed! Finally they are putting me back to my original time slot of Sunday nights at 7:30pm!! Cox is still Sundays at 8pm, Ch 23 S.D. and Ch 18 N/C. If you would like to do a bit for the show, please call me. I am always looking for performers and people with behind-the-scenes technical skills.

*Diane Lane*  
**President, Ring 76**

**Ring 76 Dues are Payable NOW!**  
**If you have not paid see Ring Treasurer Richard Ustick.**



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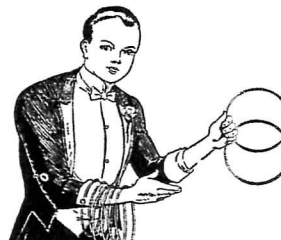
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## Ring 76



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## News

**Julie Abbott Marshall** has announced she and her husband are moving to the Midwest and will be abandoning plans for opening a magic shop in San Diego County anytime in the near future. Julie will give a brief presentation on her grandfather **Percy Abbott** and his magic company during our September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Following the meeting members are encouraged to perform an Abbott's magic effect. We should see some interesting magic from the past at that meeting.

Meanwhile, **Rocky Osborn**, a very knowledgeable magician, is opening Rocky's Magic Shop to fill the gap left by the closing of **Brad Burt's** shop earlier this year. Rocky's shop is in the Westfield shopping center knows at North County Fair in Escondido. The shop is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor near the food court. If magic enthusiasts support his efforts, the store will grow.

Someone stole **Michael E. Johnson's** most valuable prop, a 1-thousand dollar bill that has been encased in plastic. During a performance involving the bill, it was casually tossed onto a table and a short time later magically disappeared. The bill was not supposed to disappear. If you have seen Michael's award winning act you know the bill is real and an important prop in his show. Michael has always had a lot of faith in his fellowman and that faith paid off because several days after the bill disappeared, it was returned to Michael. Losing a 1000-dollar bill and getting it back, that is a miracle.

**Terry Godfrey** is rested up after 21-days of doing 4 shows a day at the Del Mar Fair in June and early July. He will be appearing at the Santa Rosa Fair, north of San Francisco in Sonoma County, July 27 to August 9. The theme of the fair this year is



"Magic at the Fair." This is Terry's fourth year at the Santa Rosa Fair and the last fair he will appear at this season. He will work Seaport Village in the west plaza August 15<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon and at 1:30 pm.

A special memorial service was held for juggler **Sean McKenney** in Balboa Park in July. Many Southern California jugglers showed up for the memorial service. McKenney is believed to have taken his own life.

**Mike Stilwell** had his condo flooded in July when a washing machine pump broke and kept shooting cascades of water into Mike's house. He was able to save all of his magic and his magic library from the floodwaters. But several dozen decks of new cards ended up looking like potato chips. Mike had a group from a company called Flood Busters come out to his house and dry it out and put things back into shape. At one point there were 5 inches of water in one section of the condo.

**Zoo Nights**, a tradition at the San Diego Zoo each summer, has been the casualty of budget cutbacks this summer. For the first time in many years there is no magician in this year's summer nights program. The living statues are the big hit of this year's nighttime zoo activities.

Los Angeles Magician **Tom Ogden** worked a private party at the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park in July. Ogden worked with

## Briefs

**Mike Stilwell** on the gig and each of them did three hours of close-up magic for the party. Stilwell said it was difficult working with Ogden because Ogden was so funny Mike had trouble concentrating on his own material.

**Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus** moves into the Sports Arena on August 11 to the 15. The theme of the big shows center ring act this year is "Magic." International clown **David Larible** does three illusions that were specially designed for this show. The illusions were described in the April issue of Magic Magazine.

At **Jack's Magic Place** a new display honoring our Ring's namesake **Honest Sid Gerhart** has been set up featuring some of Sid's props and his strawhat. Be sure and look for it at the August meeting.

The **Pendragons** will be presenting their full evening magic and illusion show at the California Center for the Performing Arts in Escondido, November 7th. Tickets go on sale August 27th and are \$38 and \$48 per seat. For ticket information call 800-988-4253. Included in the show will be the faster than light trunk escape.

**Michael E. Johnson** is teaching the YMCA Magic Camp in La Jolla from August 9th to the 13th. The camp is for all children 8 to 18 years of age. Contact Michael Johnson for more information at 760-747-4627.

Later this month, the **Guinness World Records for 2005** will go on sale at book stores with a new category devoted entirely to records by magicians and illusionists. The publisher of the book encourages magicians everywhere to try for new records for the future.

## **Coming Attractions**

**Monday, August 9, at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue-our next meeting is "Favorite Trick" night 7 pm. Bring your favorite effect, close-up or stand-up and present it at the meeting. August is also the installation of new members. If you joined Ring 76 since January, this is your opportunity to perform and to receive your official certificate of membership.**

**Monday, September 13, Julie Abbott Marshall will give a lecture about her grandfather Percy Abbott. Members are asked to do a favorite Abbott's effect or a trick out of TOPS magazine after the lecture.**

**Next Board of Directors meeting Monday, August 23, at Jack's Magic Place at 7 pm. sharp. These meetings are open to all members interested in attending.**

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