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Magic Day at the San Diego Blood Bank a success!

On Saturday, October 16th, members of Ring 76 took part in this years San Diego Blood Bank, Magic Day; 19 local magicians turned out to entertain those who gave the gift of life. Blood Bank officials tell us they drew 212 pints of blood at the five county wide donor centers, making for a larger than normal day at these blood centers. They believe the presence of the magicians at the various centers contributed to the greater than usual donor turnout.



Ted Dunning &
blood donor

This is the third year that Ring 76 has sent magicians to the various blood banks in the county to entertain those who donate. We have photographs of many of the magicians doing their special magic at this event and are publishing them in this newsletter. There was a malfunction in the camera that was being used at the East County donor center, and we have no photographs from that location we are sorry to report.

Charlie Gott gets the biggest pat on the back for spending the entire day from 8 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon performing magic. Other Ring members spent from two to four hours entertaining. Bob Ingalls and Jack White began in the morning at the Hillcrest donor



Charlie Gott

Continued on page 7

Michael Ammar presents a "free" lecture Nov 15th

At the turn of the millennium, Magic Magazine listed Michael Ammar as one of the "Most Influential Magicians of the Twentieth Century." Michael will be lecturing to members and guests of Ring 76 Monday evening, November 15th, at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue at 7 p.m. We urge you to come early to get a good seat. This lecture is free of charge to Ring members, a charge of \$15 for non-members and guests.

The Academy of Magical Arts at the Magic Castle in Hollywood gave the lecturer of the year award Michael two years in a row. He has authored eight books on magic and produced and appeared in 20 magic DVDs and videos. He is often referred to as one of the best teachers of magic anywhere.



Michael Ammar

It was just a year ago that West Virginia University inducted Michael into the Alumni Association's Academy of Distinguished Alumni. WVU has recognized Michael Ammar as a graduate who has made exceptional achievements in the teaching and presentation of magic.

Most famous for his series of card and money videos Michael will present an array of effects with cards, coins, paper money, and some new and commercial

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October meeting includes a haunted house, spooky magic, and a surprise guest juggler

Our October meeting again required fans to cool down the meeting hall as nearly 50 people attended the Halloween meeting. Richard Ustick supplied "trick or treat" candy for everyone to get us in the mood. Richard also appeared in costume and make-up for the occasion. He had planned to do one of his musical magic songs but left his music at home.

Ed Greene has finished his haunted house and brought it to the meeting. Standing over 6 and a half feet tall, the house is made of cardboard and plywood and decorated in a very eerie manner. Ed Greene has made window displays for department stores and sets for plays for years and has developed a talent for making and painting props. He told the Ring 76 membership they could have the house; he was happy to build it; they must now come up with a routine to make it entertaining.



Ed Greene and his haunted house

Bob Ingalls and Jack White demonstrated how a ghost could be added to the house with just a few minutes work and a string and white handkerchief. It's now up to the members of the Ring to take the prop and create some real magic with it. It is hoped

that by next year we can come up with a program that can feature the "Haunted House." If you would like to work on this project, let Jack or Ed Greene know.

Tom McCarthy took a few minutes at the opening of the meeting to talk about his new online magic shop



Tom McCarthy

that will be open for business soon. Tom and his crew are still tinkering with the site to make some improvements before actually opening for business. The future plans sound very exciting and with McCarthy's marketing background this could become one of the biggest sites in the country.

We said good-bye to Julie Abbott Marshall, who is moving back to her home state of Michigan. Her husband is going to work for a medical center there. Julie tells us they have bought a new home and she made a recent visit to her hometown of Colon, Michigan, and visited the Abbotts Magic show that was founded and operated by her grandfather Percy Abbott.

While in Colon, she was told that a banner from an Abbott's Magic Get Together from the 1950s was for sale at an antique shop in a nearby community. Julie jumped in her car, found the shop, and bought the banner; she brought it to the meeting and showed it to the membership. It is a beautiful bright red and white, and says "Magic Capitol of the World" for which the community of Colon was known for many years.

We wish Julie and her husband well and look forward to their return visits to Southern California.

Belinda Kaesler, past president of Ring 313 and Central California TVP, was on hand to talk about her Halloween costume shop across from the Del Mar fairgrounds. Belinda invited any members of the Ring that would like to do strolling or close-up magic to do so at her exhibit. The costume shop will be open through October 31st.



Julie Abbott Marshall
Abbotts Banner 1950

Because of a slip up in membership plaques from September, new cards were made up, and Diane Lane handed them out at the October meeting. Then our 1st Vice President in charge of entertainment, Bob Ingalls, took over the meeting. Bob made a plea for more members to turn out for our Ring-sponsored free lectures and reminded everyone of the Tom Craven lecture on the 21st. Bob reminded our members that this was Halloween effect month; he then quickly introduced our first entertainer of the evening, Jeff Marcus.

Jeff presented a very nice routine for a floating cigarette, that, coupled with a story about ghosts and spooky music, makes for a very nice Halloween effect. Jeff was able to present this little routine as something that looked to the audience as though it was impromptu. Jeff is an experienced performer and turned this little effect into an excellent opening number.



Jeff Marcus & floating cigarette

Next came Jim Thayer, who did a mental card effect that involved a nice story that included spooks and the help of Alex Greenbaum from the audience. Next came Nelson Bui, a new member to the Ring, who did some very nice card work with good story telling. Nelson has very good stage presence. Following Nelson was that grand old pro, Jack Evans, who presented a very nice folding dollar bill and a very funny routine with the "haunted match boxes" that really fooled a lot of people. Jack had made a special jacket with ghosts, the Frankenstein monster, and other spooky images.



Joe Mystic & floating table

Joe Mystic then came on stage and stopped the show with his sensational presentation of the floating table. Joe has presented this effect before, but when the table suddenly began to rise off the floor, the audience sat motionless and just watched his routine. Joe had a spooky story about Houdini he told as the table floated and moved about the stage. A

very strong effect presented by a consummate magician.

Diane Lane presented a very clever mental effect that required the help of the spirit world, that was a nice ending for the magic portion of our program. To give the audience a special thrill, Mago Ruly and Armondo Torres invited Mago Turin, an excellent juggler from Tijuana, to close our show. His skill is excellent, his personality delightful, and his act is very daring. He closed on an elevated platform, on top of a bola bola board, juggling flaming torches. He received a standing ovation for his excellent efforts. All of our performers were brought back for a final round of applause. It was a very exciting meeting.



Belinda Kaesler



Jack Evans



Mago Turin



Our performers for the evening

Magic Book Review

By Dr. Joel Moskowitz



The Secret Art of Magic by Evans and Craver

Too often books of instruction for magicians are akin to cookbooks, i.e., take two gaffed queens, add three Elmsley counts, a Zarrow shuffle, mix by your favorite method and, Wallah: you have whipped up a bafflement which served with a dollop of patter will assure you of raves. Too often, hapless victims of crafty conjurers do, in fact, leave raving. Not Another card/coin/box/cut/restored/disappeared/reappeared-affected prestidigitators are quick fingered performers who frequently fail to understand that the affect is the essence of the effect. The wizardry of a wordsmith, not unlike a magician, is best when they adhere to the theme that the play's the thing. The Secret of Magic, Two Books an Two Magicians by Eric Evans and Nolan Craver, published by Magic To Laugh By, pp 288, \$40. Does what most magic tomes don't, enlightens and entertains and, more specifically, invites a novel way of conceptualizing the craft of the conjurer.

This artfully constructed two volume (bound as one) book privately Published by Magic To Laugh By is finely illustrated by S.N.Ave with calligraphy by Francis Yu Zhang. Both authors, seasoned performers, offer their concept that performers of magic would do well to heed the maxims of Sun Tzu, martial theorist. Eric Evans leads with street Magic and the Art of War and Nowlin Craver interprets magicians ploys in the framework, The Secret Art of Dispersion.

The initial resistance to identifying the interaction between audience and mystifier as a battle gradually melts as the reader appreciates the thought and energy both authors apply to making their point. What constitutes the interaction between audience and performer?

There is a concept in the art of psychotherapy, which has been called invitation to the dance. For successful psychotherapy to be accomplished, there must be a willing patient a determined knowledgeable therapist. Each of them knows their role. The patient enters, takes his/her seat (not that behind the desk which is designated for the therapist), and begins to unburden him/herself. The therapist, utilizing active listening, deftly makes surgical comments to evoke emotional and intellectual insight and change. What makes this psychotherapeutic? Experience works in this partnership, but similar dynamics must prevail for magicians to charm audiences.

Evans and Craver approach the dyadic interaction using war or a contest of wits as the fulcrum. While this reviewer doesn't agree that the magician must accomplish wizardry against an enemy, aka the ancient strategies of The Art of War, he was captivated by the analogy, which, if accepted, serves to uniquely educate in the complexities of performing as a street magician or in any venue.

These wise scribes address issues of likeability, reconnaissance, various techniques of diversion, the too perfect theory and other micro maneuvers, all ingredients in the art of deception. Thirty-six axioms, from the Strategy of Sun Tzu, are applied to performing magic. As an example, Loot a Burning House, in war, refers to taking advantage of the inner turmoil of a kingdom or an army. In magic, the internal turmoil is the spectator's reaction to surprise. While one might quarrel that surprise is the reaction, it is probably true that the mind, enjoying the unexpected, is momentarily less wary and another wonderment may be created under cover of emotional distraction. Enhanced glee often follows when one amazement is hardly appreciated when another, then another, and still another appears.

Evans and Craver deserve compliments for offering their useful constructs, which range from how to approach where to select your site as a street magician, to how to crash festivals, or basic informa-

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tion should you choose to take your act on the road to Europe. A select bibliography refers to works by Juan Tamariz, Five Points in Magic, self-published, Gary Kurtz Leading With Your Head, self-published, 1992, Darwin Ortiz, Strong Magic Kaufman & Co, 1995, Al Schneider, www.worldmagiccenter.com, 2000, Phil Goldstein, Verbal Control, self-published, 2003, T.A. Waters, The Encyclopedia of Magic and Magicians, Facts on File Publications, 1988, as well as Tommy Wonders, Books of Wonder, Vol I, Hermetic Press, 1996 and Al Leech, Don't Look Now, L.L. Ireland, 1948. Magic by Misdirection, Dariel Fitzkee, Lee Jacobs 1987, is a classic which also served as their reference.

One might quarrel that it is unduly complex and unnecessary to introduce another vocabulary, Cheng (direct force employed in warfare) and Ch'il (indirect). Cheng is the frontal assault, the greater movement, Ch'il is the surprise. Both should be choreographed to produce victory. In the case of magic, the Cheng is all the audience sees in the Ch'il is, their affective pleasure at being deceived. There the analogy fails.

In war, the end point is the defeat of the enemy, often through subterfuge. In magic, while deception and misdirection is key, audiences who imagine they are witness to the impossible, enjoy a type of pleasure, which was one of the greatest excitements of all our childhood.

The experience of doing wondrous things. Making a bottle of milk appear just because you wanted it. (Note: an attentive, prescient mother helps). This reviewer's monograph, The Sorcerer's Apprentice or the Use of Magic In Psychotherapy with Children, addresses this concept in detail.

It may be disputed that the ultimate framework for magical entertainment is best viewed as a war. Authors Evans and Craver examine, in an extensive index not often found in books dealing with magic, how the Sun Tzu's approach applies to many of our best effects. The magician vs.

audience theme may be too militant.

Given their sophistication in the ways of Sun Tzu, it is prudent not to fight with them. This double book is highly recommended for magicians who think.

Michael Ammar Lecture Continued from page 1

effects that most members of the magic community have not seen on tape or DVD. All of the material presented is designed for the average skill performer, though Michael will teach some sleights during his lecture.

This will be a very special Ring 76 lecture featuring some of the finest in close-up style magic. We thank Bob Ingalls, who made a special effort to bring this outstanding lecture to our club. This is a session you will not want to miss.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



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Tom Craven presents lecture for Ring 76

If you are a regular reader of the Linking Ring magazine or if you subscribe to the online IBM daily Internet magazine, Ring 2100, then the name Tom Craven is one you will recognize. Tom is a working magician who does not use a lot of "finger flinging" in his act. He teaches straightforward magic that is strong in story and mystery, but the execution of these tricks is simple.

Tom's latest lecture is titled A Hat Full of "Stuff" and he presented it to Ring 76 members and their guests on Thursday October 21st. About 32 people turned out for this free lecture and all that we talked with said they learned something and will use it in the future.

Craven is from Ohio; a friend and neighbor of his who is also a magician said he would drive Tom across country for this fall lecture tour. The two of them were on the road from early October to just before Halloween. They went from San Diego to Las Vegas, back to Los Angeles, then on to Salt Lake City, and back home to Ohio.

If you purchased Tom Craven's lecture notes, you actually received two sets because a couple of items he was doing during this tour were tricks from a previous lecture, so you got two books for the price of one.



Tom Craven doing a card trick for Kenny Shelton. Kenny looks surprised.

trick; it is a platform or parlor effect involving many members of the audience. A small packet of alphabet cards is handed to a spectator to shuffle.



Lecture by TOM CRAVEN

The cards are then taken by the performer and placed in a stack on the table. A packet of larger cards is also on the table and is picked up. The performer then calls up nine children to help. Each is given one of the large cards and is told to hold it tightly against their chest, with the message side hidden from the audience. The performer says, "I've tried to arrange these large cards in the same order as the shuffled ones in the small packet on the table." The shuffled packet is picked up and the cards will be turned over one at a time. As the first cards are turned up, the first helper turns his/her card around to face the audience. The shuffled cards are all turned, as are all the helper's cards. The audience sees the message, M-E-R-R-Y-X-M-A-S facing them. Your prediction is correct! The audiences sees the prediction was correct, but how did the spectator shuffle the cards into that exact order, that is the mystery.



Tom Craven and a clever silk routine

holidays. There were a number of stand-up and close up effects in this outstanding lecture. We have a copy of the Craven lecture notes in our library for those who did not attend the lecture.

If you missed this lecture, we have another Nov. 15th with Michael Ammar.

This is a very simple and clever trick that packs small and plays big for the performer who works out of a brief case. The Merry Xmas can be replaced by someone's name or event or holiday. I am sure several of our members will use this effect during the coming

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Blood Bank Story continued from page 1

center and in the afternoon moved to the South Bay center in Chula Vista. The staffs at the five San Diego Blood Banks also look forward to this event, because the various magi take the time to do a little show for them, as well as the donors.

"The members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 76, have helped keep the blood supply at safe levels for our community," said Lynn Stedd, Community Relations Director for the San Diego Blood Bank. Following his hour and a half performance at the main blood center in Hillcrest, Loch David Crane rolled up his sleeve and gave a pint of blood.

Those taking part at the various locations include Diane Lane, Loch David Crane, Bob Ingalls, Jack White, Jacques Lord, Michael E. Johnson, Joel Ward, Len Cardoza, Mike Stilwell, Charlie Gott, James Kellogg Jr., Alex Greenbaum, Ted Dunning, Jeff Marcus, Kenny Shelton, Terry Runyon, James Thayer, Kyle Hohn,+++ and Greg Wauson.



Alex Greenbaum



Diane Lane



Joel Ward



Bob Ingalls



Jack White



James Kellogg Jr.

Jacques Lord



Bob Ingalls



Michael E. Johnson



Terry Runyon

Kyle Hohn

View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

Looking for the ghost of Christmas present? Look to ghosts of the past.

Christmas presents for your magical friends, relatives, or spouse are not a problem. Besides the usual glut of new releases, as yet untried and speculative, the classic books of the past are often still available. Magic reveres its best, and old things either stay in print or are available readily on the used marketplace

Coming back into print is the second coin magic bible, Richard Kaufman's **CoinMagic** (yes, one word). This groundbreaking book of the 1980's revolution in coin magic is coming back into print in November, just in time for Christmas. The hardbound reprint will retail for \$50, but the pre-publication price until mid-Nov. is \$45, with free postage. Also reprinting from Kaufman is the controversial, but illuminating, **Strong Magic** by Darwin Ortiz, retailing for \$45 but pre-pubbing for \$40 postpaid. Check out the full info at www.geniimagazine.com/kaufmanandco/newreleases.html.

Last month I mentioned the **Magic Menu** books, three volumes now, covering the entire 11-year run. Volume 1, the first 5 years, is now out-of-stock at the original L&L publishing, but many retailers still show it in stock online. Volume 2, years 6 - 10, is still available from the publisher at www.llpub.com. The final year is available, as noted last month, at www.threeshellgame.com/shellshop/. You might try Chazpro or the Magic Warehouse for discounts on these volumes: www.chazpro.com and www.themagicwarehouse.com.

Got \$150 to spend? Todd Karr's excellent and very complete retrospective, **The Secret Ways of Al Baker**, is still available at many retailers online. Every Baker book, trick, magazine article, etc., is there, including numerous photos of Baker

throughout his career. I got mine from the Magic Warehouse above at a substantial discount, even after shipping the 900+ page 6-pound tome.

Too rich for your blood? How about \$80 for a similar retrospective, **Annemann** by Max Abrams? It is available at the aforementioned L&L Publishing and also at the aforementioned discount magic retailers online. All of Ted Annemann's work is collected into this one 600+ page book, including many photos of the man at work and the infamous bullet-catching act.

Classic magic books are often owned by enthusiasts only in their paperback reissues, such as Dover reprints of Bobo's **Modern Coin Magic** and Annemann's **Practical Mental Magic**. Why not spend a few bucks more to get your loved one a hardbound, larger-format version of these standards? Go to Magic Inc. in Chicago at www.magicinc.net to get the expanded hardbound **New Modern Coin Magic** (contains all of the 1952 original plus some new chapters added in 1966) for only \$35, and the original hardbound **Practical Mental Effects** (original title) for \$35 also.

Bound versions of magic periodicals abound, many of them remaining in print or returning to print in recent years. Often you can find used copies in great shape at used magic emporiums online, such as H&R Magic Books at www.magicbookshop.com or Bradbury Books at www.bradburybooks.com. Annemann's **Jinx** is a goldmine of ideas to explore, running three volumes at \$22.50 each new, or 20% less used. Bruce Elliott's **Phoenix** runs 6 volumes at roughly the same price, and it, too, is a goldmine of ideas. The mental magic from **Jinx** became **Practical Mental Effects**, and selected items from **Phoenix** became Elliott's books, **Best in Magic**, **Magic as a Hobby**, and **Professional Magic Made Easy**, but there IS SO much more information in the original periodicals. Hugard's **Magic Monthly** runs many, many volumes, and contains both stage and closeup material from working professionals. Karl Fulves's **Pallbearer's Review** runs three volumes, and has companion volumes in **Chronicles** and **Epilogue**, all from L&L Publishing and various discount retailers online.

One cannot look to the past without mentioning the eight volume **Tarbell Course in Magic** by Tarbell, Lorayne, and Kaufman. Almost anything you would like to do in magic is here, often in many forms and variations. The set sells for \$200, but you can get a

discount by purchasing the whole set at once. How about setting up your own Book-of-the-Month club by purchasing your loved one a single volume each month, generally under \$30 each, until the set is complete?

I would be remiss if I omitted Henry Hay's **Amateur Magician's Handbook**, a hardbound book in 4th edition for under \$10! This might be the one single book I would take to the proverbial deserted island, if I also had two decks of cards, 6 half dollars, and a few silk handkerchiefs along. The name is a misnomer, and there is superb magic for cards, coins, and close-up taught lovingly in this volume.

In the budget category, many magical classics are now available again in paperback. Dover's original work, **Magic and Showmanship** by Henning Nelms, is now once again in print. Pick it up for under \$15 while you can at <http://store.doverpublications.com/>. Also useful is Jean Hugard's **Modern Magic Manual**, now in print after a long absence.

While you are at Dover, save money on postage by getting some other great magic reprints from Dover for your library, or for a beginner. Henry Hay's **Learn Magic** is as lucid a beginner's books as you will ever find, and teaches excellent magic the right way. Alan Kronzek's **Book of Magic for Young Beginners** (originally titled **Secrets of Alkazar** in the hardbound version) is a wonderful book on how to do presentations that make magic, rather than present tricks as puzzles. The huge number of Karl Fulves books in the **Self-Working** series from Dover will give you (or your beginner) easy, but solid, material to learn. An intermediate or advanced magician can update these Fulves fine presentations with some sleights to make some serious material. The Bill Tarr books, **101 Easy-to-Do Magic Classics**, and **Now You See It, Now You Don't** are fine additions to your beginner's library, too.

Harry Lorayne's **The Magic Book**, around \$30, is a fine introduction to sleight magic, assuming nothing except interest by the reader, and teaching solid

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card handling from the outset. Available from L&L Publishing and other retailers mentioned earlier, the book also teaches basic coin magic and other close-up magic in Harry's crisp style.

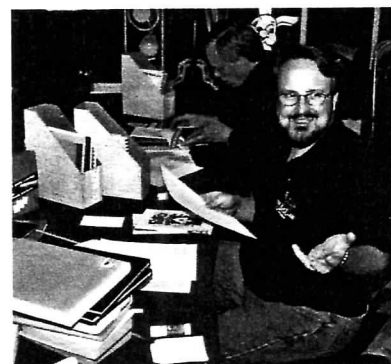
The above are just samples. **The Card Magic of LePaul** remains in print, as does the seminal **Stars of Magic**. Check used magic book sites mentioned earlier for classic magic by legends. Mentzer's three volume **Closeup Cavalcade** series has all close-up magic, no card work in it, and there are matching **Card Cavalcade** books if you must have more card magic. Slydini's books are worth a search, too, either in the old originals, the softbound reprints, or the newer annotated and expanded editions by Karl Fulves and others.

There is more fine magic out there than one can ever digest. Check out your loved one's collection to see what holes are present from the titles I suggested, and pick up something that your magician will dearly love. Have a magical Christmas!

Ring 76 Library is now open and ready for business

The Ring 76 Library has been inventoried and a new checkout system has been created. Bob Pozner was appointed by the board to be the Ring Librarian. He will talk about the new system at the next general meeting. Your Ring membership card will become your library card.

The entire board took a couple of hours following the regular board meeting and went through all of the library books, video tapes, and DVDs and created a checkout system that will allow us to keep better track of our collection. We have a number of books out on loan and if we could get them back we will put them into the system. We also have a set of DVDs out and would like to put them into the system as well.



Richard Ustick & Terry
Lunceford working on
library organization

*Magic Notes from Jack White***The magic scene in New Orleans**

I recently had an opportunity to spend some time in New Orleans, Louisiana. It is a great city if you like good spicy food, especially fish. The French Quarter has always held special intrigue for me; I first visited this section of New Orleans 16 years ago while, as a reporter, I was covering the Republican National Convention of 1988.

As I was strolling, one very warm fall afternoon in front of the Cathedral St. Louis on Charters Street in the heart of the French Quarter, I came upon a group of street performers. One stood out because he was a magician; he had no table—just a pair of scissors, a hank of rope and what appeared to be a little back bag to transport his act. The bag was sitting on the ground in front of him; the performer was dressed in a funny hat, a T-shirt, black trousers, and a black vest.

He quickly gathered a crowd and promised them a demonstration of sleight of hand, Na'wlin's style. He told the crowd, "people smoke in Na'wlin's," and immediately he produced a corncob pipe; after taking a puff on the pipe, it immediately turned into a very nice looking gentleman's pipe. A visual opening for a street act, I thought.

Next came a piece of dowel or a stick about a foot long and a red bandana style kerchief and a succession of vanishes and productions with the stick. With no sleeves, his moves of flipping the stick behind his arm were well executed. The street act was fast and funny, the entire routine with the stick taking only a minute. Then the performer picks up the scissors and the hank of rope on the ground in front of him. What followed was a very fast and clever two-minute routine with the rope. He closed with a very effective rope through neck routine that brought an audible gasp from the audience, then the passing of the hat for the tip. For less than five minutes work, the magician took in 12 or 14 dollars from the people gathered around him. His next show started minutes later.

On a break between acts I approached the magician and introduced myself, where upon he quickly said, "I know you, you did the news on television when I was growing up in San Diego." The young performer's name is James Davis; he grew up in La Mesa and has made his living for the past 14 years by doing street magic in the French Quarter of New

Orleans. James told me there were dozens of street performers doing magic in that area. I told him I had visited any number of good restaurants and found no one doing restaurant magic; in a city with so many popular restaurants, I wondered why there weren't more restaurant workers? James's answer was because when you work the streets in New Orleans you don't have to split your tip with anyone, you keep it all and on the street you are your own boss, not so in a restaurant.

James said he got his start working the streets in Balboa Park and Seaport Village. He says he remembered working Seaport Village and not getting paid a penny for his efforts. He remembered that San Diego was a tough city in which to work the streets as a performer. In New Orleans he says he makes a good living. I asked him if there were any magic shops nearby? He pointed down the street and said Harry Anderson's shop called Side Show was just two blocks away. I began walking in the direction he pointed.

Harry Anderson, has given up network television and has moved to the "Big Easy" and opened a magic shop. He lives in a three story 170-year old brick building in the French Quarter. Anderson plans to move his shop to the bottom floor of the building at 835 Charters Street, where he lives in the next month or so.



Harry Anderson's home and future store front

Eric Hussey manages the magic shop for Anderson and keeps things going on a day-to-day basis. Eric greeted me as I walked through the front door and made me feel at home in this unique magic emporium. The first thing my eye caught after the side show banners that were hanging on the walls and from the ceiling

was the digger machine or the "claw" as it was called by midway and arcade workers. You put a coin in the machine; then, an arm with a claw-like device would drop down and pick up a prize. These machines are hard to find and very collectable today.



Jack White and the Claw Vendor

About that time Harry Anderson, himself came bounding into the

store, carrying a box that had just arrived. He said to Eric, I think those new Juan Tamerz books are in this shipment. Eric opened the box and, sure enough, the books were in there, Harry wanted a copy for himself. It was about then I introduced myself and reminded Harry of an interview we had done together several years earlier. He remembered the event, and we talked for a few minutes.

I told him I was intrigued with the painting of himself and the big rabbit that hung on the back wall of the store. He told me it was from a network TV movie he did when he recreated the role that made Jimmy Stewart famous in the play "Harvey." After they filmed the program he said the producers didn't know what to do with the painting, so they gave it to him.



Harry Anderson and Harvey the rabbit and a side show banner from the past

The store was filled with memorabilia from both Harry's career and the days of the oldtime tented sideshows. In between is a nice collection of magic, both new and used, that is for sale. Eric Hussey, told me that to be successful in the magic shop business you have to sell your own line of magic and Harry had any number of effects he had created and packaged for sale. Harry wrote the instruction sheets and Hussey illustrated the directions.

Harry Anderson's original reason for moving to New Orleans was to open a magic bar and restaurant in

the French Quarter. He bought a building at the corner of Esplanade and Decatur streets. But, because the building is 180 years old, it has taken longer to recondition and remodel than Harry and his wife thought it would take. I walked by the building and there is a lot of construction going on there. New Orleans has become a major city for year-round tourism and the site for many big conventions. Harry's proposed magic club seems like a natural in this grand old southern city steeped in tradition and history.

Harry has set several dates for his grand opening, but, each time, something has gotten in the way of it actually happening. When you are dealing with a building that is almost 200 years old, there is always the unexpected that can happen. When asked when he will open his magic club Harry just shrugs his shoulders and says: "Who knows, maybe never."

The site of the new Side Show magic shop was originally the offices of Spade and Archer, movie buffs will recognize those names as detectives from the film "Maltese Falcon" Warner Bros. 1940. That is where Harry displayed his extensive collection of antique magic.

I had arranged to have lunch with Jon Racherbaumer while I was in New Orleans, but he was working as a consultant on a new Disney movie that features young people and magic and could not get away from production. That gives me another reason to return in the future.



The current Side Show Magic Shop that will move soon.

Loch David Crane

Says:

Thank You

for your support during his recent illness and troubled times.

Message from the President



I hope everyone had a great Halloween! Lots of tricks with your treats!

Of course now it's time to dress up the props for holiday shows. I love this time of year; not only is it festive, but the stores seem to stock lots of things to dress up our props with. I like the sparkly material bags and stockings they sell this time of year. They are perfect for holding props year round and giving various effects a new look.

At our last board meeting, the group all worked together and put the Ring's library into a workable state, so that members can now begin checking out books, videotapes and DVDs at our next meeting. We will now have a new check out system, so we know who has various articles on loan. Our Ring library may well be one of the best in all of the IBM we have some great materials that are available free of any charge to all Ring members, please take advantage of this valuable resource.

In inventorying our collection we have found that many magic books and a set of DVDs are missing. If you are currently holding books from our library or DVDs, please return them so we get them set up and into the mix for our members to check-out.

Jack White has worked many hours to get the library logged in the computer for an accurate database of our treasures. We put special library envelopes with cards in each book, videotape and DVD so you can check these items out for a 30-day period, with relative ease. This new system will also let us know who has a book or video on loan.

Our new volunteer librarian is Robert Pozner. Please check out all books, videotapes and DVDs with Bob. Never take them without properly checking them out.

Our next club meeting will be a teach-in session. Please bring basics like cards, coins, ropes, etc. It will be great learning experience for anyone wanting to learn some new magic and become a better performer. This teach-in session is very popular with our members and is asked for by many each year. Bring a friend who is interested in magic and let them see and hear about our Ring and its many activities.

There was a story on page one of this newsletter about the success of Magic Day at the San Diego Blood Bank. I want to personally thank all of our members who turned out for this event. I want to remind you of the Chargers Blood Drive on Tuesday, November 23rd, at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley. I have performed at that event for the past 14 years; if you would like to volunteer an hour or so of magic to entertain the many donors who turn out for this event, let me know and I will put you in contact with the entertainment chair for this very big one day blood drive.

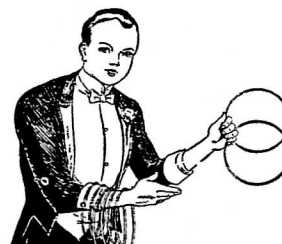
Hope you are all planning on attending the free Ring-sponsored Michael Ammar lecture on Monday, November 15th. This is going to be an exciting month for magic.

Diane Lane
President, Ring 76

**Teach in session Monday,
November 8th.**

**Come and learn some new
magic. Meeting begins at
7 p.m.**

Ring 76



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News

Bryan McDaniel reports that he and his wife have purchased a home in Ramona. Bryan has been retired from the Marine Corps for just over a year but still gets calls from military bases around the country to do his safety presentations using magic and stage hypnosis. He was in Washington, D.C., doing three shows at different locations in the nation's capital in September.

Jack White returned to his hometown of Oceanside, October 15th, and did his stage magic act at the Star Theater. Jack was backed up during his portion of the program by a 17-piece big band. North County Times columnist **Tom Morrow** was the bandleader and assisted Jack with several tricks. Jack worked at the Star Theater when he was a teenager when the theater was a movie house back in the late 1950s. White says he has changed the marquee hundreds of times but was shocked when he drove up to the theater and saw his name in big letters on the marquee.

Terry Lunceford is celebrating his 23rd year of performing at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. He worked there in October at the W.C. Fields Bar. Terry expects to be back at the Castle for a week before the holidays begin.

For those who attend the Magic Castle Swap Meet every spring and fall, in case you didn't notice, the swap meet has been pushed back a month this year. It is usually held in October, but this year will take place November 13th, so it's not too late to make plans to take it in. It's always a great time to get a group of magic friends together and visit the Magic Castle. **J.P. Jackson** headed out for Boston Nov 5th, for the Yankee Gathering of magic collectors in New England. J.P. will return in time for the November Ring meeting and the Castle Swap Meet.



Terry Godfrey has a busy schedule at Seaport Village in November. He will present shows at 12-noon, and 1:30 p.m. in the West Plaza on November 7, 14, 21, and the 28th. If you have not watched him work, find time to attend one of his shows. Terry is a master at building an audience. It's just fun to watch him work, and his miser's dream routine is pure magic.

Longtime Ring 76 member **Joe Bertuzzi** was rushed to an Orange County Hospital on Saturday, October 16th. Joe has suffered with brittle diabetes and heart trouble for many years. While in the hospital, rain flooded his apartment, ruined his magic collection and his brand new computer. As Joe put it to MagiCurrents, "It was a bad week." Also in the hospital in October was another Lifetime Ring 76 member **Jim Swoger**. Jim was rushed to Tri-City Hospital when his wife could not wake him up. Doctors have given him a new medication, and he says he is doing fine now. Jim says he does not get out much anymore but loves to have magicians drop by his house in Oceanside and talk magic. If you are in the neighborhood, drop by and say hello. The Swoger House of Magic is at 3542 Mira Pacific Drive. I should remind you Jim is a late riser, not getting up until noon.

Ring 76 Webmaster **Don Soul** is looking for local magic photographs and news stories to put on the Ring Web site. Don is trying to whip the site in to better order and update

Briefs

some of the information. We can't get your publicity out if we don't know about it. If you have a show or event and want to get the information out to the public, send your material to dsoul@san.rr.com.

Three Ring 76 members are on the move: **Phil King** and his wife are moving back to their home in Liberty, Missouri. Phil says the California highway congestion has gotten to him, but he will continue to be a member of the Ring, and they will return to visit family in San Diego from time to time. **Phil Tuttle** and his wife are moving to Bend, Oregon, to escape the high cost of living in California. Tuttle will also retain his membership in our Ring and make occasional return visits. We will miss both of these gentlemen. We will also miss **Julie Abbott Marshall**, who, with her husband, has moved to Michigan. Julie's husband is a health care professional and has a new job in Michigan. Julie says she will make surprise return visits to San Diego and Ring 76. Our best wishes to all of these folks.

Mike Stilwell is celebrating his 30th year of doing magic in San Diego. He began performing locally in 1974, while stationed at the Mira Mar Naval Air Station. In that 30-year period Mike estimates he has presented close to eight thousand shows. Mike and **Terry Godfrey** will be performing at a special celebrity party at a Palm Springs Mansion on Halloween. This will be their 3rd year doing this gig.

Congratulations to **Ken DeWoody**, the new President of Ring 292 in the North County. Ken takes over for Phil Tuttle, who has moved to Bend, Oregon. That Ring meets the first Thursday of every month at Bakers Square Restaurant, San Marcos. Meeting begin at 7:30 p.m.

Coming Attractions

November 8th, meeting at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. will be our annual Teach-in session. We will have six instructors presenting special sessions. You will come away from this meeting having learned several new tricks and sleights. This is always a well-attended and requested session.

December 13th will be our annual Holiday meeting with a potluck dinner that includes turkey furnished by the Ring. Our show will be "tricks old and new," so dig out those old effects that you presented at holiday magic shows of the past and be part of this special holiday program.

FREE LECTURE for all Ring 76 members will be presented Monday, Nov. 15th, at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue at 7 p.m. Michael Ammar, considered one of the best teachers of magic, will present his latest lecture. This lecture is "free" to all Ring 76 members; there is a \$15 dollar charge to our guests and non-members.

Next Board of Directors meeting Monday, Nov 22nd, at Jack's Magic Place at 7 p.m. sharp. These business meetings are open to all members interested in attending. This will be our last board meeting of 2004, as the board will not meet again until 2005.

Editor's Note: You will note that we have a format change this month with our newsletter. It is being mailed in an envelope; that is because the U.S. Postal Service has requested that first class mail items be enclosed in an envelope. That does raise the postage of sending our newsletters to 74 cents. The Ring 76 board of directors has decided to maintain the size and style of newsletter we have been sending out for the past several years and to mail them with envelopes in spite of the additional charge for postage and mailing supplies. Please send along your thoughts.

MagiCurrents is published monthly by Ring 76 and is edited by Jack White, Associate Editor is Jim Riley. We encourage articles, stories, and news items. All material should be submitted to Jack White by e-mail at prestooone@cox.net. or written manuscripts may be submitted to Jack White, 4288 Arguello St., San Diego, CA. 92103.