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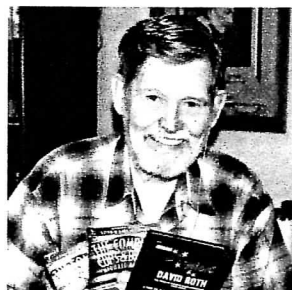
Website
www.ring76.com

Volume XVIII 1 January 2005

Ring 76 announces the names of two new Lifetime Achievement members

The Ring 76 board of directors received five nominations for Honorary Lifetime Achievement members for 2005. The field was narrowed to two recipients for this year. This award has been presented to ten past members of the Ring since 2001. With this honor goes lifetime membership in Ring 76, your name on the Ring honor roll and a plaque that will be presented at our annual installation banquet in July, dues to Ring 76 are paid for life and lifetime honorees are given free privileges to all Ring activities and events. Past honorees include: Pat & Art Hannum, Betty & Roy Armstrong, Al Knox, Jim Swoger, Jack Evans and Joe Bertuzzi.

The 2005, inductees are Robert Pozner and Vi Freeland, both longtime members of Ring 76, who have actively supported Ring functions over the years. Both are being honored for their lifelong dedication to magic and to helping fellow magicians.



Bob Pozner

Bob Pozner did not find magic until he was 32 years old. He was given a guest pass to the Magic Castle in Hollywood and saw Ron Wilson perform in the Close-up room. Following that performance he was "hooked." Bob headed

over to Chuck Martinez's Magicians World magic shop on El Cajon Blvd. And purchased a deck of "Fako" cards and a set of color changing knives. In that magic shop he met J.C. Wagner, Al "Tom Allen" Stanko and later Magic Mike Stilwell who would have a great impact on Bob's training in sleight of hand and magic in general.

By 1973, Bob was working professionally as a magic entertainer and had one of the first ads for a magician in the yellow pages of the phone book. Bob was employed by day as a chemist and did magic in the evening. In 1975, when Bob Sheets and later J.C. Wagner left Marco's Magic Bar in Coronado the owner of that establishment, Marco Palumbo, offered Bob a job as magic bartender on the weekends. Bob knew nothing about bartending, so he took a crash course at the AAA Bartending School and went to work. Later Bob would teach a bartending class at Marco's.

From Marco's Bob took his magic bartending skills to Crystal T's Emporium next to the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley. After a few years there, he moved to "The Oz," a short-lived private disco. His final two years of performing were at the prestigious La Jolla Country Club. When he would finish his regular gig, he would head over to the Magic Lounge on University Avenue and do bar magic there.

Bob joined the IBM and Ring 76 in 1972; Jack White was Ring president during that period. In 1975, Bob became president of the Ring and served until 1976. Bob is a native San Diegan and graduated from Hoover High School, served three years in the U.S. Navy and graduated from San Diego State College in 1964, with a B.S. in Chemistry.



Vi Freeland

Continued on page 11

Holiday potluck dinner draws 70 members and guests and a banquet of good food and entertainment

We are going to let the photographs from our December meeting pretty much tell the story of our last meeting of 2004 at Ring 76. As usual it was our annual potluck holiday dinner and what an array of food we had. A very special thank you has to go to Richard Ustick who once again did a splendid job of organizing the dinner portion of the evening and cooked one of the turkeys. Peg and Jeff Marcus cooked two turkeys and both were on the serving line making sure that no one went by without getting a full plate. Terry Lunceford had a roast of beef for those not into turkey. Don and Donna Soul were also on the serving line making sure dishes were filled and there was enough for everyone. Another big thank you to Kenny Shelton, who made sure there were plenty of soft drinks for everyone.

Just over 70 members and guests took part in this year's annual holiday event. Belinda Kaesler, from Orange County, donated two very nice gift certificates at her retail exhibit and boutique in Del Mar, and Joe Mystic offered Sunday brunch for two at a restaurant as part of our drawing that was "free" to all members and guests.

The theme of the December show was: "tricks old and seldom seen." In Bob Ingalls's absence, because of a death in his family, we had Jack White act as the master of ceremonies for the evening and performers included Charlie Gott, Jeff Marcus, Howard Harris, J.P. Jackson, Alex Greenbaum, Joe Mystic, Bob Pozner, Greg Wauson, Ken DeWoody, and Gary Dismukes. The audience was treated to some rare old magic and routines that are seldom seen today. After our regular show there was a lot of close-up at the various tables in the room.

If all of that were not enough, the bar was covered in every kind of dessert you can think of from cookies to pies and all of them were delicious. It was a great way to end a wonderful year at Ring 76.



Don & Donna Soul taking care of the serving line



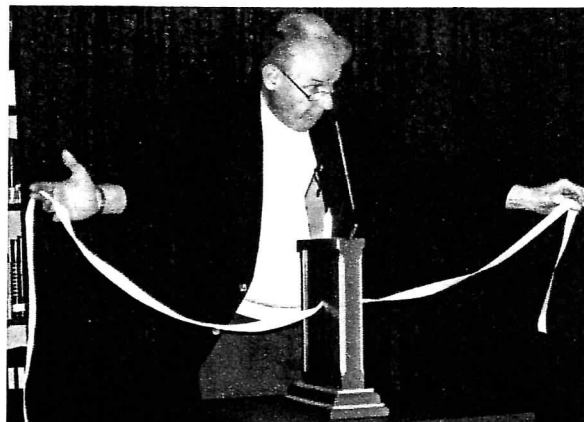
The best dressed Santa in So. California, Joe Mystic



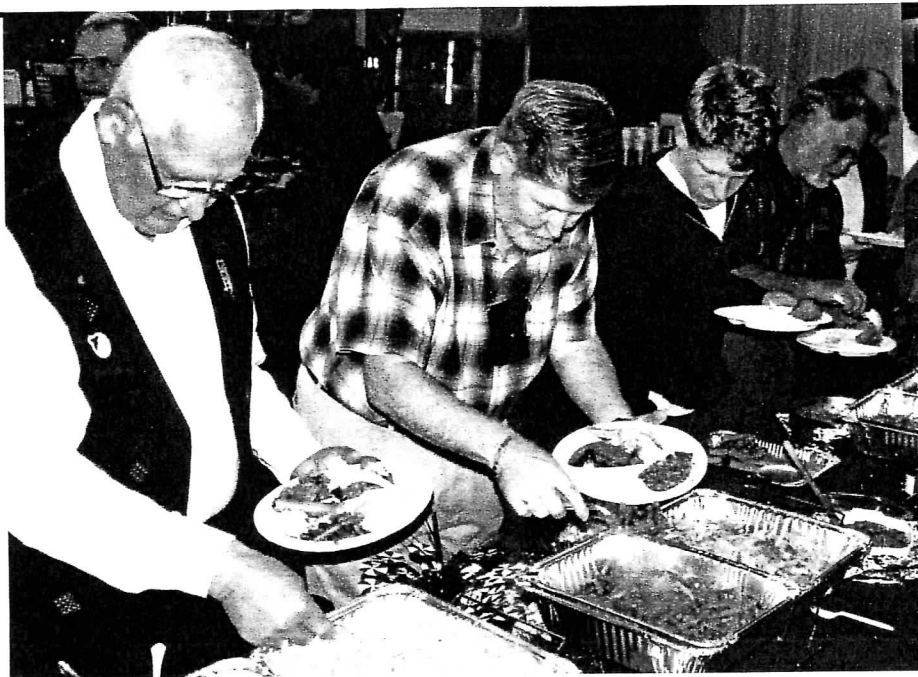
Howard Harris and his Milson-Worth Block Go



The magic hot dog Ken DeWoody style



J.P. Jackson stealing the show with this 62-year-old prop. Glass through ribbon. Clever routine.



Performers were the first to go through the serving line. Charlie Gott, Bob Pozner, Alex Greenbaum, and Howard Harris.



Jeff Marcus treats us to a true optical illusion with this set of unique linking rings. They look like they are linked but they really are not. This is a very rare version of the linking rings effect and quite collectable.



Doing some cutting up is Terry Lunceford & Peg & Jeff Marcus



The best part of the evening, time to eat.



Jack White & Kenny Shelton and a different kind of Passe Passe routine.

Celebrating the holiday, Joe Mystic, Loch David Crane, and Mrs. Claus.

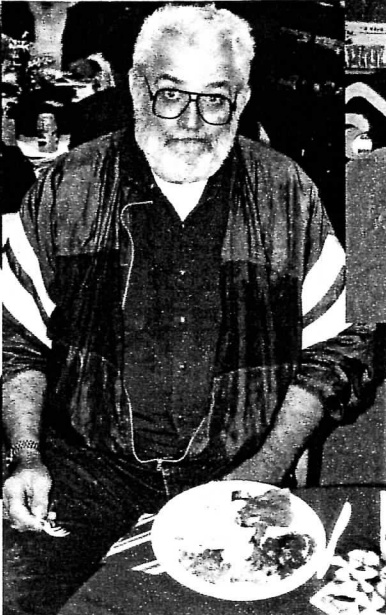
Belinda Kaesler & Toni Parrine in Santa hats share a smile.

More photo's next page

More photo's of the Holiday party



Charlie Gott with a magic trick he received in the mail. It included a story for the holidays.



Ed Greene with a plate full of food



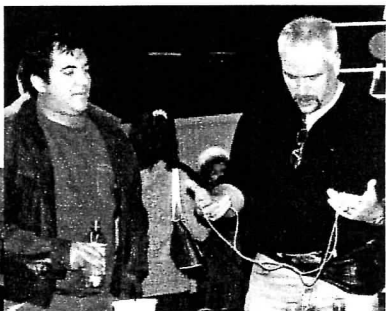
Two hard workers, Donna Soul & Dick Ustick, who stayed and cleaned up.



Founding Father Dick Rowe did not know about the party. He and his wife had dinner before coming to the meeting.



Hungry folks at Ring 76 enjoying dinner!



Tom McCarthy gives a lesson in "Fast & Loose" to Ken DeWoody. No one does this routine better than Tom.



Jim Whiting drawing on the table cloth



Toni Perrine & guest waiting for the show to begin.

New Online magic shop for San Diego

Last summer when Tom McCarthy began talking to MagiCurrents and others in Ring 76 about opening an online magic shop, we became excited. We also learned there is a lot more to putting such an enterprise on the Web than just announcing you are going to take the plunge. Tom and David Eldridge have been aggressively working on this enterprise for six months. We are happy to report they are ready to launch their efforts.

Before the rest of the magic world learned about what they were doing, we asked them to give us a quick overview of what they planned to do and how it would work. The following is what they sent over to the MagiCurrents office.

As many of my fellow MagiCurrents readers are aware, there's a new San Diego-based Internet venture about to open its "virtual doors" for business. David Eldridge and I (Tom McCarthy) began working toward the creation of an Internet magic boutique; soon it became clear to us that an actual magic storefront would more than likely lack the competitive edge to compete in the growing electronic marketplace.

Further, we wanted to offer exciting new products that were not readily available at other fine Internet retailers, so we created San Diego's own Magicshop.com, which is now open for business on the Internet.

Our mission statement follows:
"To offer the worldwide magic community a menu of original magical creations by both recognized and yet to be discovered magic thinkers. Some product will be completely original, while other effects will be familiar with new or reworked presentations. We will offer a small variety of classic magic, beginner

materials and, best of all, great collectables. Our core efforts, however, will focus on digging up, riffling through, and ferreting out "future classics" by taking risks on newer, lesser known creations."

Over the course of the last few years, I have marveled at the wonderful thinking on the part of

Continued on page 7

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The Misadventures of a Working Magician



By Michael E. Johnson

In his more than 60 years of performing magic, Jim Swoger, magician, magic shop operator, builder of magic tricks and storyteller, has had just about everything you can imagine happen to him. He recently jotted down a few incidents for this column. We thought we would share them with you this month.

HALLOWEEN, many years ago in Pennsylvania, Jim was doing a show on the back of a flat bed truck at a Halloween school carnival. Suddenly, as the show started, a strong wind began to blow and local firemen who were watching jumped up on the stage to hold the tables and props from blowing away. As Jim produced a huge number of expensive Rice silks from a production cabinet, they started flying through the air like birds on the wing. Somehow they were all recovered and returned to the magician after the show. The weather suddenly turned very cold and the temperature dropped to 32 degrees. Jim, being a trooper kept on going in spite of the wind and sudden cold snap. Apparently the audience was very hungry for entertainment because they all stayed in their flimsy costumes until the show ended. Then, like a magic illusion, they quickly disappeared.

SWOGER'S BEST FEE FOR DOING NOTHING: Jim Swoger never learned to drive a car so when he went out to do a performance, he traveled by bus or taxi to his show venue. One evening he was booked to perform at a banquet for a group of bowling teams. He packed his show, called the cab and started out for the banquet hall. As the taxi pulled up in front of the appointed building, the chairman of the event ran out of the door waving his arms. He told Jim not to unpack his cases of magic props. He

said the banquet had not even started yet and the bowling teams were already so drunk the organizers of the event were going to forget about any entertainment or speeches. The chairman reached into one pocket and produced the check for the amount agreed upon for the show. Then he reached into another pocket pulled out a wad of bills stuffed them into Jim's hand and said this is for understanding the situation and not getting upset. Jim laughs to this day saying: "That was the most money I have ever been paid for just showing up and not doing a show."

SWOGER'S ARABIAN NIGHTS SHOW: The Pittsburgh South Hills Country Club presented a special show for their members that had an Arabian Nights theme. They asked Jim to dress in a turban and flowing robes like an Arabian sheik and do a show for their members. He arrived at the country club in costume and met a giant of a man at the front door who was dressed like a genii. But the genii was having trouble directing guests to the various rooms for the event. Jim quickly reached into one of his prop cases and produced a mean looking sword he used in his levitation act and handed it to the genii and told him to point it in the direction he wanted people to go. It worked. The club had covered the floor of the country club dining room with sand to make it look like a desert. Guests were drinking and not paying any attention to the band or the speakers. The promoters of the event told Jim they were going to cancel the magic show. But not wanting to lose his fee, Jim said he would work the tables and present some close-up magic for each patron. Everyone agreed that was a good idea. But Jim had brought four cases of big props for a stage show. He thought about what he could do for a close-up audience for a minute then, making his way through the sand from table to table, he did but one trick, "cut & restored thread" at each table. He used 25 cents worth of thread and received a fee of \$100 and a request to return the next month for another of the country club's theme nights.

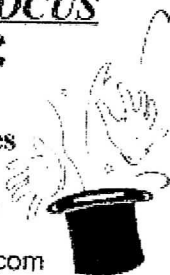
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Alton "Al" Sharpe Dies at 82

Alton "Al" Sharpe, 82 of Laguna Woods, in Orange County died on December 21. A member of Ring 313, Al and his wife Lorraine were often guests at Ring 76 meetings and Ring functions. Al was a good friend of J.P. Jackson; they would talk on the phone at least once a week. Al's interest in magic began at age 7 when he was billed as "Al The Boy Wonder, featuring his wonder dog Scat."



Al Sharpe 1941

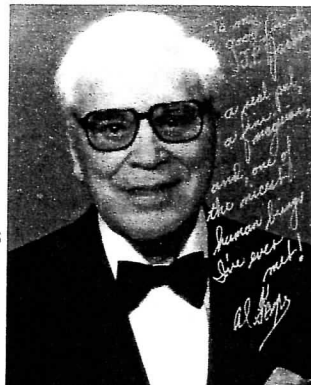
At age 16 Al began performing a manipulative act with billiard balls, cards, coins, and the vanishing birdcage. He appeared on stage in theaters from Chicago to Los Angeles. During World War II, he was released from pilot training school and assigned to the show "Hip Hop Horary," a musical review starring Mickey Rooney. He spent the war years entertaining service

men and women in England and Europe.

After the war Al went back to school and got his law degree. His magic clients in his law practice included Percy Abbott, Joe Berg, Mike Kanter, Harold Martin, Tommy Martin, and Charlie Miller. In 1951, he bought Joe Berg's Chicago Magic Shop and operated it until 1957, when he sold it to Clark Crandall.

He wrote four books on magic and published a journal titled "Ollapodrida," on magic history and tricks. He performed his magic for President Harry Truman, Joseph Stalin, the King of Denmark, King Ibn of Saudi Arabia, and many other notables.

Al was a member of the Order of Merlin, an Honorary Member of Les Prestidigtaterus, Paris, France, a member of the Inner Magic Circle, London, England, and was honored last May at the 35th Magic Collectors' Weekend in Kansas City.



Al Sharpe 2003

(Sharpe Obit Cont)

He recently told a group of Ring 76 members he loved being around magicians and talking about magic. To him our art never grew old and in a way it kept him young.

Online magic shop continued from page 5

many talented magicians right here in San Diego. Creative efforts that, with just a little marketing know-how, can open a new door in shopping for better magic for an appreciative audience willing to invest in quality commercial effects and apparatus.

Shop For Magic.com is dedicated to providing magic entrepreneurs a showcase to the world. If you can think it up we will supply you with an aggressive marketing platform from which to sell your product. I greatly respect your opinions and look forward to getting input from everyone in Ring 76. Tom McCarthy.

All of this sounds very positive to us, and we hope you will look at the site and let Tom & David know what you think.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand



Happy New Year! I hope your Christmas holiday season was merry and memorable! Perhaps you were lucky enough to get (or nice enough to give) some of the magic suggestions that I discussed over the last two months.

The beginning of a new year initiates so many thoughts. If you will indulge me, I will examine a few of these.

First, I am reminded of Janus, a double-headed mythical Roman god of beginnings and endings that looks back at the previous year and ahead at the new year (see graphic above). Such introspection is healthy, and it really is a shame that many people only indulge in such reflective thought at New Year's. Taking the occasional hard look at one's self may be difficult to do, but it is often quite enlightening to see yourself as others do. As the saying goes, "Hindsight is 20/20."

The concept of looking both ways can be applied to your magic, and/or to your life. Look back at what does, and what does not, work for you, and look ahead to make appropriate changes in your life, or in your magic. Remember to make such "course corrections" at regular intervals rather than only at New Year's.

Secondly, I am reminded of all the blessings that I have been given. I have a wonderful wife of 32 years, a young son who is our joy, and a new home that is beautiful, comfortable, and a perfect match to our family's lifestyle. I have good friends, both in person and online, who add even more enrichment to my life. I have a strong church life which gives my family an expanded base of friends who feel as we do about faith. I have a good job which allows me the freedom to pursue my favorite hobbies (magic and music). I have much extended family within 90 minutes driving distance in any direction, which brings me more happiness. I could fill up this column with blessings I have been granted, and I am sure that you could, too, with only a moment's thought. The blessings of life are taken for granted, and they are the real magic of life. The question is: How often do either of us, you or me, stop to examine and appreciate those blessings? Not often enough, I assure you.

Thirdly, I am reminded of just how tenuous all of the above is. Last spring, I lost my job in a budget-cutting move. I had just bought our new home, and our old home was still awaiting completion of a contingency sale, so I lost my job just as I had, for the first time ever, two homes for which to pay at once! Ultimately, I was blessed, as it only took three months of searching and interviewing to find another job. Then, just before Christmas, my mother, a two-time cancer survivor, suffered a small stroke. In an MRI examination, physicians

discovered a 95% blockage in her carotid artery, and they subsequently removed it in surgery. She could have had a massive stroke, or even died, at any time. How quickly we could have lost her! She is now in recovery and physical rehab, making good progress and keeping a good fighting attitude toward it all. Tenuous? A huge chunk of the blessings I recounted in the previous paragraph could have been gone within a very short time. I understand more than ever how important it is to appreciate the blessings of life.

This *View From the Cheap Seats* may be too personal for you. I hope you don't read my thoughts as complaining, nor find them boring because they are not your life. I use my situation as example because I am intimately familiar with it, not because I want to invoke your sympathy.

Whatever your situation is, apply the concepts here to it. Examine your life for ways to improve it. Recount the many blessings in your life. Take nothing for granted, as it can all slip away so quickly. You may find, as I have repeatedly through my life, that so much of what we value is materialistic ephemeral junk, and that the things of real value lie slumbering at our fingertips, under-appreciated and largely ignored.

So, take a cue from Janus. Look back, and look ahead. Your life, and your

magic, will be all the better for the effort. Until I return with magical musings next month, may your new year be prosperous, and your awareness of it more acute than ever. Regards from your Tennessee friend and correspondent,

Jon A. Hand

Brown bag night at Ring 76 Monday Jan 17th.

The January meeting will be very different from most Ring 76 meetings. A secret group has put together a dozen brown paper bags filled with magic tricks and instructions. As members arrive for the meeting they will put their names in a hat if they want to be part of the program. As names are drawn from the hat, they will be given a number and that person will get a brown paper bag with a corresponding number.

In addition to the brown bag you can select another club member to help you put your routine together and then present it to the membership. This is a test of our skills as magicians in creating something on the spot and under pressure.

The audience will vote on the best presentations and a prize of \$70 worth of new magic will be awarded to the winning performer. This will be a fun evening, so plan to attend and take part in the magic brown bag caper.

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Magic Notes from

As we begin a new year, I thought I would look back at the year just past and quickly talk about some of the books, videos, and DVDs that I truly enjoyed during 2004. I have asked some other members of the Ring to help me in this effort as well.



A must read book for IBM members is "*Linking Rings*," the story of William W. Durbin and the magic and mystery of America by James D. Robenalt. James is the great grandson of W.W. Durbin, and I had the opportunity to meet and hear James Robenalt speak at the IBM Convention in Cleveland last summer.

The book about his great grandfather is a labor of love for Robenalt. WW Durbin was a businessman, political activist, professional magician, and a great supporter of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. He founded the Egyptian Hall and its early collection of magic. The story is told in flashback form with James at his great grandfather's side.



W.W. Durbin with his grand daughter, James Robenalt's mother, at an IBM Convention which was held in Durbin's backyard in 1926

It is a wonderful look at life, business, politics, and magic in the early 1900s. You will not learn any new tricks from this book, but you will meet a very tricky man who helped to build the IBM and the country at the same time.

Marcus Day says one of his favorite reads of the year was the very popular "*Hiding the Elephant*" by James Steinmeyer, actually published in 2003 but carried over to the year just past. Again not a book you will learn a lot of tricks from but one that will teach you about being a good magician and how magicians make good tricks work.

J.P. Jackson's favorite from 2004 is "*Keller's Wonders*" by Mike Caveney and Bill Miesel. A

massive work on the famed king of magic at the turn of the last century. This book is a limited edition and is over 500 pages plus appendices, family tree, and a time line index. This is the definitive work on the great Harry Keller.

Terry Godfrey, who has a great magic library says he enjoyed "*Lights! Cameras! Magic!*" by Dick and Virginia Williams, who were longtime friends of the late Frank Herman. Terry says this is a great book because the Williamses list the tricks that were performed on Dick Williams's very long running television show. Terry says the Williams's gave him an idea of how to make a visual trick look even better on television. Terry adds that his favorite DVD set was "*Bill Malone on the Loose*." Terry says everything is explained very well on this set of DVDs.

Bob Pozner agrees with Terry about the Bill Malone four disc set of DVDs, which were actually distributed by L&L Publishing in 2002. Bob says Volume 1 contains Malone's very entertaining "Sam the Bellhop" card routine and that alone is worth the price of the set.

I, too, have a favorite DVD set, Richard Osterlind's "*Mind Mysteries*," which is a four volume set from L & L Publishing Company. There is more material in this series than just mental effects. Both Bob Ingalls and I have presented several effects from this series of videos in the past year at Ring meetings. Bob did Osterlind's coin in bottle that is a real stunner.

This series was actually produced and released in 2003 but was very popular in the year just past. Every time I look at one of the programs I learn something new and want to add it to my act. I recommend it.

To be a better magician take the time to read a book or view a tape or DVD in the year ahead. The Ring library has a great collection of publications and tapes; check one out; our library is free to all members; use it and enjoy. Happy New Year!

Loch David Crane

Says:

Thank You

for your support during his recent illness and troubled times.

Lifetime Achievement Con't

In all of his years in magic, Bob has tried to give back to others the great pleasure he has received from the art of magic. He has been a past member of the Ring 76 board of directors, advisor and is currently the Ring librarian. Bob has donated many of the books and videotapes currently in the Ring library for future magi. He is a rare and caring person, and we are excited to bestow the honor of Lifetime Achievement in his name.



Vi Freeland doing her award winning dove act at a PCAM Convention

Our second honoree, Vi Freeland, was born into a magical family. As a little girl she watched her father George levitate and cut her mother Clara in half, and of course put her back together again. By the tender age of four, Vi was in the act, appearing from an empty dollhouse. The show was called "The Dixie Valley Road Show." It toured southern states mostly, setting up in tents just outside of a town or at county fairs giving their shows.

In one rural community, George's magic was so effective that the town's people believed the magician was really Satan in disguise. That night an angry mob descended on the tented show grounds with torches and burned the show to the ground. George heard the mob coming, and he and

his family escaped the violent attack unharmed, but it put an end to the touring magic show.

After that the family moved to Colton, California, where they opened a restaurant that became a Southern California landmark for years. Known as "The Derby House," Southern fried chicken was the most famous item on the menu. Movie people from Hollywood found their way to the restaurant, turning it into a popular eatery in its day. It was there, at the restaurant, during World War II that Vi, working as a waitress, met a charming Army Air Force Captain, Robin Freeland Sr., who did magic tricks on their first date. After the war, Vi and Robin were married. Robin revived his interest in performing magic and for a time Vi worked as his assistant. Later she would join an emerging group for women magicians known as Magigal's. Vi created a dove act for herself that would go on to win five trophies at various magic conventions.

When their oldest son Robin Paul was four, he began doing magic and Vi assisted him in his act well into his teen years. The Freeland's moved to San Diego from Seattle, Washington, in the mid 1960s. Vi attended her first Ring 76 meeting in the basement of the Baptist Church on 5th Avenue. She already knew Pat Hannum, Olive Edwards, and Helen Gerhart from Magigal's meetings. She quickly became part of the San Diego magic scene.



Vi and her son Robin both award winners at a magic convention

Over the years as an active member of Ring 76, she has taken part in Ring programs and worked on convention committees and well as mentored, encouraged and given advice to young magicians on their way up. She is an IBM Excalibur member and is still thrilled by a good magic act. For more than 30 years, Vi has been active in local real estate sales in San Diego County and still today keeps her hand in the business.

Ring 76 honors Vi Freeland for her love of magic and helping to preserve the art for future generations of aspiring magi, both men and women.

Both of our honorees will be officially inducted into the Ring 76 Lifetime Membership Hall of Fame during installation ceremonies at our July installation banquet.

Message from the President



Fellow Ring 76 members,

I want to begin this month by thanking everyone who turned out for our annual holiday party in December; the food was great, the decorations and party favors were delightful and the show featuring our performers' favorite old and seldom seen effects was inspiring. I am sorry I had to arrive a little late and miss the first part of the evening.

We have some great programs planned for the year ahead, beginning with the month of January. Our "brown bag of magic night" is going to be a first of its kind in many years for Ring 76. Please plan to attend this meeting and take part in the program. Everyone who wants to perform will be given an opportunity to select a brown bag with a magic trick inside. You can then select someone to help you produce and present the effect.

January also means that all new members will be installed, so if you have just joined the Ring plan to attend and be officially welcomed as a member. I want to congratulate two longtime members of Ring 76 who are being inducted as Lifetime Achievement members of our Ring: Bob Pozner and Vi Freeland. There is a story about both of these talented people elsewhere in this newsletter. Please take the time to read about their history with our organization.

I also want to urge you to read Jon Hands column "View from the Cheap Seats." This month Jon reminds us about thinking of the

past and looking to the future and how that can enhance our magic shows as well. This is a different and delightful column; take the time to read it.

It is time to say thank you to Don Soul, who has worked so hard for many years to make the Ring 76 Website shine. Don has become active in many new projects and would like to turn the Web site over to someone with new ideas. The board is working to find a replacement for Don, which will not be easy. In the meantime, please remember to send pictures and stories to the Webmaster so that person who ever it will be, can keep our Web site up to date. Ring 76.com.

We also send our best wishes to Bob Ingalls, who recently lost his sister just days before the Christmas holidays.

In the year ahead please bring a potential new member to one of our meetings. Magic is a great hobby; share it with friends.

Diane Lane
President, Ring 76



Resident Magician &
Goodwill Ambassador at
the Corvette Diner
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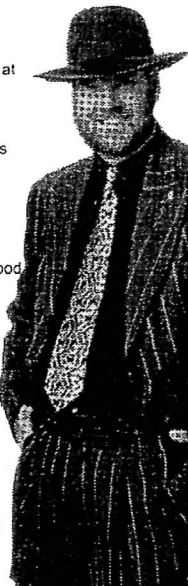
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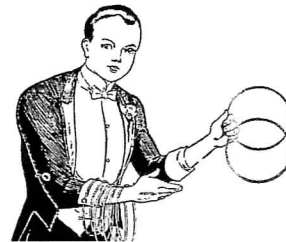
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dvlane@san.rr.com

Bob Ingalls
1st Vice President
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bailysgp@san.rr.com

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619-299-9037
prestooone@cox.net

Richard Ustick
Treasurer
619-463-2407
rustick@flash.net

Kenny Shelton
Sgt. at Arms
vettesbro@aol.com

J.P. Jackson*
Member at Large
858-569-0096

Terry Lunceford
Member at Large
dveditman@cox.net

* denotes past Ring 76 Pres.

News

Sad news from Orange County: **Alton Sharpe**, 82, died while shopping for a Christmas gift for his wife at a shopping mall December 21st. There is more on Al Sharpe's interesting life in magic, elsewhere in this issue of MagiCurrents.

Many local Magi report some of their biggest business in years during December of 2004. **Craig Stone** was so busy he had to give up his regular dates at the Gathering restaurant during the three weeks before Christmas; **Tom McCarthy** filled in for Craig at the Gathering. **Joe Mystic** reports there was never a dull moment in his schedule with his Santa Claus appearances. **Michael E. Johnson** also reports a busy December with appearances at the Pechanga Casino, the California Center for the Arts in Escondido and numerous hotel shows. **Terry Godfrey** kept busy with shows at Seaport Village and **Jeff Marcus** reports a larger number of bookings than he has had in years past for his clowns and his own magic act. **Magic Mike Stilwell** says his December was the best he can remember and it looks like January will also be a busy month of bookings for him as well. This all comes as good news after several years of light holiday bookings for local magicians and clowns.

Another prominent old magic shop has closed its doors for good. Seattle Magic in Seattle, Washington, closed down after serving magicians in that area of the Pacific Northwest for many years. When San Diego magicians were in that area, they were always made to feel welcome at that wonderful old shop. Meanwhile,



Fred Donaldson operator of **Scott Magic Company** in Austin, Texas, says he has operated a brick and mortar shop out of the garage of his home for 25 years. He says the answer to operating a real shop where customers can visit in person is to have it in your home and cut down on the over heard. Scott Magic also operates a successful Internet mail order business as well.

Proving again that our government works in truly mysterious ways, Associated Press reported that the **Department of Agriculture** has cited **Feld Entertainment**, **Siegfried & Roy** and the animal handlers employed by the S&R show for creating the atmosphere for the attack on **Roy Horn**, 14 months earlier in Las Vegas. The Agriculture officials have been conducting an ongoing investigation of the bloody attack that left Horn partially paralyzed. The citation was handed down December 6th; the amount of any fine or fines to be paid have yet to be determined.

Michael E. Johnson has a new magic Web site that deals with autographs of famous and not so famous magicians. Michael has been collecting magicians' autographs for years and now some of them have become very valuable. If you would like to know more go to magicautographs.com. Michael

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says some of the biggest names in magic have visited the site and have sent him an e-mail of encouragement.

J.P. Jackson spent Christmas in Chicago with family members and shortly after the holidays attended "Magic Nite" at **Bob James** magic shop and cafe. J.P. says a lot of Chicago magicians look forward to and attend this evening of magic fun and fellowship each month. If you are going to be in Chicago in the near future, check with J.P. for the location of the shop and cafe.

Magic Cartoonist **Jim Whiting** has finished writing and illustrating his new book about various things that have happened to him as an artist, writer, broadcaster, and magician. Much of the book will feature his art and cartoons. However, chapter 19 is about his interest in magic and will talk about the IBM, the Rings he has belonged to over the years in New York state and California, and magic conventions he has attended. There will be a lot about Ring 76 and its members. Jim will also talk about his favorite tricks and shows he has appeared on over the years. The book will be published in March of 2005.

Ring 76 Lifetime Achievement recipient **Jim Swoger** spent his Christmas in Tri-City Hospital in the North County. A blood transfusion and new medication have him at home and feeling much better. He always enjoys hearing from fellow magicians.

As we go to press we learned that **Georgia Herman**, the widow of **Frank Herman**, died December 30th, the result of an earlier heart attack. Our deepest sympathy to the family.

Coming Attractions

January 17th is new member installation night. Meeting at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. Pre-meeting and social hour at 6:30 meeting at 7 P.M. For our program, various magic tricks will be placed in brown paper bags, and you can choose a bag and perform the trick inside. You may also choose a friend to help you perform this surprise trick. This should be an opportunity to test our skills as performers. (Note: the January meeting is one week later than usual, the third Monday of the month.)

February 14th (Valentines Night). Our annual close-up contest. Start practicing now for this big event. Cash prizes. Bring a friend or a spouse to this evening meeting. Performers will again this year move from table to table presenting their individual acts. This way everyone can see and enjoy each magicians work.

Next Board of Directors meeting Monday, January 24th, 2005, at Jack's Magic Place at 7 p.m. sharp. These business meetings are open to all members interested in attending.

**The next meeting of Ring 76
is Monday, January 17th, one
week later than usual!**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

For Sale: "Joe Porper's Changing Colors Paddle."

Not just another paddle! This one is incredible. A single, quarter inch color dot on a 3-inch black anodized paddle changes SIX times and climaxes with all six dots/colors appearing on both sides. A new and ingenious method by the hottest magical craftsman of 2004. J.P. Jackson has one left for \$40.00: New condition, call him at 858-569-0096

Looking For: "Brema's Brass by Richard Buffum"

Anyone who might have a copy of the book "Brema's Brass" by Richard Buffum, 1984, for sale please contact Jack White with condition and sale price. 619-299-9037.

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 prestoone@cox.net . or written manuscripts may be submitted to Jack White, 4288 Arguello St., San Diego, CA. 92103.
