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Honest Sid Gerhart
Ring 76

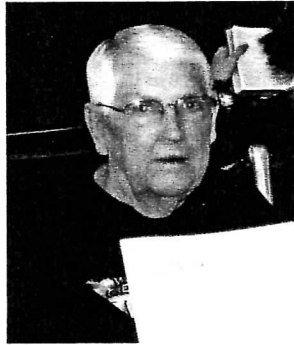
Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

Volume XVIII 2 February 2005

Bob Ingalls a candidate for Ring 76 President

Ring 76 First Vice President Bob Ingalls announced he would be the board's candidate for president in May during the Ring's nomination process. Bob has been an active member of the Ring since the early 1980s and for the past four years, has been a member of the board of directors of Ring 76. Bob has recently given up his work with a young people's basketball league giving him more time to devote to his magic and Ring 76 activities.



Bob Ingalls

As a little boy, Bob can remember his father had an interest in magic and had a small collection of magic tricks. Bob always enjoyed watching magicians as a child and teenager but never developed an interest in the hobby. But after he was married and began raising a family, his interest in magic manifested itself. Now he wishes he had some of his father's old props to work with today.

A San Diegan since he was a teenager, Bob is well known in magic circles, a member of the Magic Castle in Hollywood; he is also a former member of the Society of American Magicians and a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, currently serving on the IBM Convention Committee. He attends two or three magic conventions a year and will always support local magicians and causes that feature magic.

Magicians needed for February school show in Chula Vista

Ring 76 has received an urgent appeal for two or three magicians to volunteer to do a magic show Friday, February 25th, anytime between 6 and 8 in the evening at the Rogers Elementary School in Chula Vista. The school is presenting their annual "Kid's Night Out" program and school officials say in years past they have had magicians, and they are the hit of the evening.

The youngsters range in age from 6 to 12 and the school principal says close up performers are enjoyed the most but they do have a stage if someone wants to present a stand-up act. This program is a volunteer show; they will be serving soft drinks, pizza and other finger food that our performers' are welcome to sample. They also will include the performers names in all of the school press releases, and you can also hand out your business cards for future shows.

Karyn Graham of the Rogers School PTA says all of the children who take part in this event are all top students and this evening is a reward for their efforts in school. If you can give of your time and do a few minutes for the children, it will be much appreciated.

You should contact Karyn Graham at karyniouise@yahoo.com as soon as possible to confirm your appearance at the school. If you like working with children and want to do something to help youth and your community, this is a wonderful volunteer effort. But don't wait; they are planning their evening right now.

Continued on page 7

January meeting sees new members installed and membership enjoys the first ever brown bag night

Ring 76's January meeting was very different and a unique way to get the New Year off to an exciting start. Members began arriving at 6:30 and we were happy to welcome longtime Ring 76 member Don Halvach, who now lives in Texas. Don brought along another past member of the Ring, Vic Minert, who still lives in San Diego. They both took part in the pre-meeting magic experience.



J.P. Jackson, Vic Minert, and Don Halvach

Diane Lane, President Ring 76, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. sharp and had a brief list of announcements and then began the induction ceremonies of our new Ring members. The new members taking part in the induction ceremony included; Salomon A. Barajas, Brianna Philipp, Jacques Lord, and Nelson Bui.



New members being installed by Ring President Diane Lane

Following the installation of new members Jack White took over as master of ceremonies for the evening for "Brown Bag Night." J.P. Jackson had filled 15 brown paper bags with magic tricks; some were more difficult than others and some had instructions and others did not. Eleven brave members of the Ring each selected a bag and were given 10 minutes to prepare their routine. While that was going on, Kenny Shelton presented his close-up routine to the members. Kenny is hoping to take this routine to the IBM Convention in Reno in June and become a contestant in the close-up contest there.

Our first "brown bag" contestant was Tom McCarthy, who found a deck of jumbo cards and a card silk in his bag. Tom turned these two props into a very

entertaining session with the help of audience volunteer Charlie Gott. The audience enjoyed this little presentation very much.



Charlie Gott assisting Tom McCarthy

Next came Sal Barajas with a collector's prop that is called "Tannen's Acrylic Card Rise" with jumbo cards. To get into his routine, Sal had a jumbo card selected and then introduced a magic wand from nowhere and did some very clever work with the wand making it disappear and reappear and then went into the rising card routine that was very clever.

Jeff Marcus was next to take center stage, and he had picked a handful of jumbo cards with a brief explanation. The trick was actually called Harry Anderson's "Jumbo Marked." Jeff is one of those talented guys who can take anything and be entertaining with it. This effect presented a challenge, but Jeff rose to the occasion and gave us an entertaining routine and mystifying experience.

Brian McDaniel followed Jeff and had to make a stand up routine out of Bob McAlister's close-up effect called "Ringo." Brian choose little 9-year-old Brianna Philipp and had her stand on a chair so she would be the same height as the 6-4 McDaniel. Brian is one clever guy and made a sensational effect out of nothing.



Greg Wauson and Instanto Rope

The always-smiling Greg Wauson found nothing but a hank of soft rope in his brown bag and a few brief instructions that informed him that he had selected E.J. Moore's "Instanto Rope." Greg, being the kind of guy he is,

quickly made up some patter and did a routine that was entertaining and if it would have appeared in a magic catalog that way, it would have made me purchase the trick.

No magic show is complete without an escape artist and that honor went to Jim Thayer who found the wonderful old Siberian Chain Escape in his selected bag. Even though this chain was made for a child Jim made it work and carried off the effect with great humor and the respect it deserved with a well throughout story about Houdini.



Jim Thayer saying: "I had one of these when I was a kid."

Jacques Lord reached into his brown bag and came up with a hand full of ESP cards and somehow turned them into a very clever prediction effect that had the audience asking, "How did he do that?"

Ed Estrin made the best out of a very difficult situation. He received a sixth finger and a small silk. He, like the others before him, created a clever little bit of patter and produced a silk from nowhere. He told me he had never seen this trick before and had no idea how it worked, and he presented it flawlessly.



Diane Lane and a vanished multi-colored silk tied between two solid color silks. A miracle!

Diane Lane found a set of 20th Century Silks and a pull vanisher in her brown bag. J.P. Jackson told me, after the show was over, the vanisher was the most difficult of all the props for him to locate. Diane did a traditional routine and with only a few minutes to practice did it very well.

In one of the bags marked difficult, Joe Mystic found a set of Fakini Multiplying Billiard Balls. Joe says he has never owned a set of multiplying balls and never presented the trick privately or in public. But he took what he was dealt and presented a very nice billiard ball routine. When it was over he said, "I'm just glad I didn't drop one of the damn things."

Closing our show was Richard Ustick, who selected a bag containing a Morrissey Coffee Vase. Richard put his personality and his brain to work and used this metal vase in a way that we have never seen before.



Richard Ustick muttering to himself: "How does this thing work?"

He also used a hank of rope, a pair of scissors, and when he was finished, he was awarded one of two top prizes for being original and entertaining. The other prizewinner was Tom McCarthy.

It was decided by the audience that everyone did a sensational job of taking little or nothing and making something very entertaining out of it. Very big



After the meeting the finger flingers gathered at the bar for one quick session of the latest moves they have mastered.

(more photos on the next page)

(Continued from page 3)

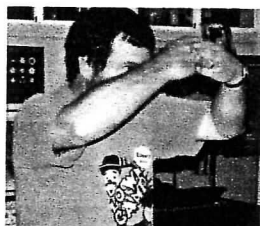
congratulations to all of our contestants; we witnessed some of the most original magic we have seen at Ring 76 in a longtime.

Following the meeting we all broke up into groups for

some conversation and close-up magic at the bar.



A new member with some impressive sleights



Ed Estrin with a "sixth finger" silk production. Making something out of nothing!



Sal and a jumbo rising card effect and good showmanship



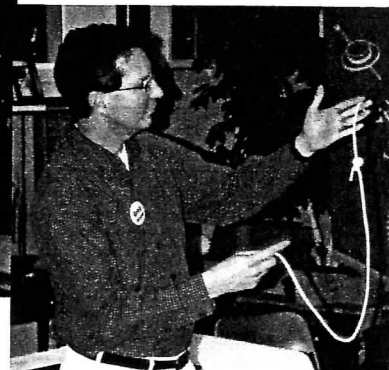
New Lifetime Achievement member Vi Freeland and J.P. Jackson



Bryan McDaniel with ring on string.



Jacques Lord and a mental routine with colorful ESP cards.



Greg Wauson still trying to restore that darn rope.

Below: Biranna Phillipp 9-year-old auditioning for the Ring members.



The always clever Jeff Marcus, saying to himself: "What am I doing here?"

Michael Close to lecture at Ring 76 March 1st.

Las Vegas-based magician and Magic Magazine columnist Michael Close will bring his lecture to San Diego Tuesday, March 1st, at Jack's Magic Place, 7 p.m., tickets at the door or contact




Dick Dale at dickdale@juno.com. Cost of the lecture is \$20.

A Michael Close lecture is not just an educational experience, it's a lot of fun. You'll laugh, you'll be amazed, and you'll leave knowing more about the art of magic.

Michael's new lecture features routines from his groundbreaking ebook "Closely Guarded Secrets." This is material that Michael developed during his three-year run at the Houdini Lounge in the Monte Carlo Hotel in Las Vegas. Michael will also discuss some old favorites from his critically acclaimed Workers series.

Don't miss this great opportunity to spend some time with one of magic's modern masters.


The first half of the Michael Close lecture will include the trick that Lance Burton showed him: Gary Plant's "Magnetized Cards." The second part of the evening will be devoted to an examination of some standard card moves, the palm, the pass, and various shuffles. Michael will also talk about the real secrets of magic, the concepts and stratagems that elevate your magic beyond mere tricks. Regardless of our skill level, this information will make you a better magician.




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The Misadventures of a Working Magician

By Michael E. Johnson



After 35 years in the magical arts, I have experienced enough blood, sweat and tears to wipe out an entire army. Somehow, I persevere. I must be a Magician. My limbs bleed, my ego shatters, and still I come back for more.

In the early years, it was the cut and restored rope trick. There should be laws preventing magicians from carrying sharp objects. Many times, in the enthusiasm of the moment, I snipped the wrong item. After several unauthorized cuts, I learned to carry bandages. Finally, after many bandages, I learned to carry dull scissors.

With every injury, I learn a new lesson. Once, before a show, I accidentally stabbed myself. You had to see it to believe it.† While racing around the office, gathering props for a show, I stumbled over a pencil. In an amazing display of physics, the pencil leaped upward and punctured my tuxedo shoe. That was a funny sight, the yellow #2 pencil sticking perpendicular out of a shiny black tuxedo shoe, while firmly rooted in my big toe. Since that incident, I'm extra careful about kicking pencils which might impale me.

Another day, I managed to hurt myself right after a magic show in a supermarket parking lot. I had just finished a successful gig, and I was feeling so happy I decided to go shopping. I found my groceries fine, but then I had a teenage flashback on the way to the car.† I decided to ride the shopping cart full of groceries like a scooter. I used to do this as a kid, although never in a tuxedo.

Unfortunately, neither the shopping cart nor myself were aerodynamically compatible. Looking every bit the 40-year-old fool I am, I wiped out and hit the pavement. Groceries went everywhere. I ripped my tux pants and ended up with road rash. Since that spill, I haven't ridden any more shopping carts in tuxedo.

In a similar temporary loss of insanity, once I tried to ride my Magicians Pro Suitcase into a show. It seemed logical at the time.† There was a steep driveway before me. My suitcase had wheels. I saw the audience, waiting below, so I straddled the suitcase and tried to ride it like a horse down the driveway.

Waving to everyone, I enthusiastically embarked on this bad idea. As I picked up speed, the suitcase tipped. I took a crazy spill, and literally started my show on a roll with visual comedy. The audience was roaring. After that show, I limped back up the driveway, dragging that vengeful suitcase with me.

A recent Saturday night reminded me of my continuing vulnerability. The event was an elegant black-tie affair at the Princess Resort in Mission Bay. I was scheduled to perform close-up magic for two hours. This was my third show of the day, but I still felt good. Adult sleight-of-hand is a real treat for me after a day of rowdy kid's parties.

A few minutes before show time, I stood in the dark, rainy parking lot, loading my pockets in preparation for the stroll. I blindly reached into my suitcase to find a prop. Fumbling around, I found something sharp. Extremely sharp. When I pulled my hand back out, there was a huge cut on my finger. My hand had connected with a steak knife.

As the blood started flowing, I felt a deep pain. Not from the cut, but from the realization

that my close-up performance was in jeopardy. How could I perform with a bleeding finger? My style requires class and sophistication.

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Quickly I grabbed a tissue and applied pressure. Then I found my first aid kit, which I always carry in the car. I applied a bandage, and then stuffed five more in my pocket. Wasting not a second, I left for the show. It was essential I meet my client on-time, wounded or not.

When I arrived at the show, I got busy immediately. I like to create a stir right away, so the client knows I'm working. However, my first set lasted only ten minutes, which coincidentally was the same amount of time it took my first bandage to bleed through.

Disappearing into the bathroom, I reapplied the dressing, and then raced back to the audience for more close-up magic. This went on for the next two hours. Each set lasted longer and longer, as the bleeding slowed, until eventually, I went through all five bandages.

Fortunately, the magic was a smashing success, and the guests raved. Some even accused me of using the bandage as misdirection for my sleight-of-hand. I never mentioned the wound to my audience, but more than once, I applied the principles of concealment to hide my injured digit.

For my next show, I'll carry a supply of 20 bandages, just in case. And I'll probably leave the steak knife at home.

New President Cont. from page 1

As President of Ring 76 Bob will promote an active schedule of events that will allow our membership to perform on a regular basis at meetings and will work to improve our library, our image as magicians, and enlarge our membership. Bob has been instrumental in the past five years in bringing some of the best lecturers available to San Diego.

If elected at our June meeting, Bob will take office in July at the regular Installation and Awards Banquet and dinner. The term of president runs for one year, and a candidate can serve two terms if he or she is so elected. Our current Ring President, Diane Lane, is now in the final months of her second term in office. She will continue to be on the board as the immediate past president.

February Close-up Contest

If you enjoy or present close-up magic, then plan to put an 8 to 10 minute act together for the Monday, February 14th Close-up Contest. Each contestant will move from one table to another presenting his act as many as five times during the evening to five different groups of people. Those folks will be voting for the top performer.

The winners will be announced at the July, Installation and Awards Banquet with top prize being \$50, second place \$25, and third place \$15. That has been one of the highlights of the year at Ring 76 meetings.

The winners of this contest are not always the best "finger flingers" in the club but most of the time winning acts are presented by people who are good entertainers and can tell a good story and present a well-balanced act, not just a group of card tricks.

Let Bob Ingalls know the evening of the 14th before the meeting begins if you are interested in being a contestant. Remember, this audience is all your friends and wants you to succeed so go for it and take part.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Could you please just empty your pockets, Sir?"

View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

Some of the greatest fun in magic is creating one's own take on classic plots. Here are two versions of Dollar Bill to Impossible Location using varying methods and plot wrinkles. I hope you find one that you will enjoy using, or that these will springboard ideas of your own.

Version 1 — A borrowed dollar bill has its serial number noted and is burned without covering right before the spectator's eyes. A matchbook lying on the table throughout the effect is then opened, and the borrowed bill is found folded behind the matches. Of course, the serial number is the correct one.

This is the simplest, most direct version of the effect. No doubt you could construct your own version of this, but here is mine. You need a fresh matchbook, and a somewhat used dollar bill in good condition. Note the serial number, and write it lightly in pencil on the striking surface of the matchbook. Remove the back row of matches from the matchbook, leaving the front row complete and intact. Fold the dollar bill in half from left to right, fold it again from left to right, and fold from top to bottom. Insert the bill behind the matches as if it were a tent, with the fold up. The matches should hide the bill completely at a casual glance. Close the cover, place the matchbook in your right jacket ticket pocket, and place a marker and your business card in the larger pocket proper. An ashtray, or metal or ceramic bowl is needed on the table to receive the burning dollar. You are ready to perform.

Ask all of the spectators to show a dollar bill from their wallets or purses. Mentally select the one that best matches the condition of the bill in the matchbook. If you like, ask the owner if he or she is a risk taker or a gambler. Bring out the matchbook and table it face down. Reach back into your pocket and bring out the marker and the business card. Receive the dollar bill in your left hand, and give out the marker/business card with your right in exchange. Pick up the matchbook, lay it atop the bill in the left hand, and open it, tearing out a match.

Close the cover, grin wickedly, and tell the owner to write his serial number on the back of the business card. Boldly read the serial number off the matchbook, and have him table the card or hand it to a second spectator for safe keeping. Strike the match on the striking surface, which obliterates the written serial number. Allow the matchbook to slide off the dollar bill to the table surface, landing face down if any of the penciled serial number still shows. Set fire to the dollar bill, holding it as long as possible for effect, and allow the final bit of it to drop into the ashtray or bowl to finish burning. Take back the marker, and wave it like a magic wand over the matchbook. Pocket the marker, and show both hands completely empty front and back. Pick up the matchbook and hold it to yourself face up. If the serial number is completely obliterated, toss it to a spectator to open. If not, use your right hand to open the cover widely, your left thumb covering the striking surface, and reveal the dollar. The spectator removes the dollar, reads the serial number aloud for verification from the business card, and you have a miracle! Note that there was no switch, and that you really destroyed the borrowed dollar, so you are out a dollar for each performance. I think that is a small price to pay for a BIG effect.

Version 2 — A borrowed dollar bill has its serial number noted by the owner. A matchbox is opened, a match is removed and struck, and the box is tabled in full view. The bill is burned without covering right before the spectator's eyes. The magician taps the matchbook three times with his left hand index finger. The left hand is held several inches above the tabled matchbox, and a crumbling motion is made. The hand opens, and a flurry of matches cascades to the table top. The matchbox is then opened, and the box has NO matches, only a folded dollar bill. Of course, the serial number is the correct one.

This version requires more preparation, but the effect has a bit more impact, in my opinion. Again, there are many ways to accomplish this, and this is just one of my several approaches. Buy a package of six matchboxes at your local discount store. Open the first box, and dump out all the matches. Break most of the matches in half, and discard the plain wooden ends. Using glue which dries clearly, glue two-thirds of the broken matches into your left end of the empty matchbox drawer so that the red heads show. Allow to dry thoroughly. Note the serial number on your dollar bill, and write it in pencil on one of the striking surfaces. Mark or crimp one edge of the matchbox so that you can tell at a glance which way to hold it to read the serial number, or just

memorize the number. Fold the dollar bill in eighths as in version 1, and place it into the empty right end of the drawer, with the two points facing the drawer end instead of the middle of the drawer. Close the drawer, and open it the other way. Place one full-length match on top of your gaff, and close the drawer. Empty a second box of matches, and place it into your right jacket ticket pocket. Take about half of its matches and tie into a tight bundle with a weak thread. Cotton basting thread is great, as it will snap easily when necessary in the effect, but you may have to go to a sewing shop to get a spool of it. Place the match bundle into your left jacket pocket, and place a marker with your business card into your left jacket pocket. You will still need the ashtray or other receptacle mentioned earlier. You are ready to perform.

As in version 1, mentally select a dollar which best matches your prepared dollar. Bring out your prepared matchbox, and table it. Reach into your left pocket and get the marker and business card. Exchange the marker and card for the dollar, holding the dollar in your left hand. Place the matchbox atop the borrowed dollar as in version 1. Open the drawer to the left using your right forefinger, and remove the good match from atop the gaff with your right hand. Close the matchbox, grin wickedly as before, and read off the serial number from the matchbox. Strike the match, and allow the matchbox to slide off the bill onto the table as in version one. Burn the bill in full view, and drop into the ashtray to finish. Take back the marker, and replace into your left jacket pocket, swapping it for the tied bundle of matches in finger palm as the bill finishes burning. Push the matchbox forward toward the spectators with the right hand as your left hand emerges from the pocket. Unless your hand is miniscule, you should be able to do a left hand Ramsay subtlety to conceal the matches as you point upward for emphasis and say, "Watch!" Lower the left hand to the matchbook and tap three times, counting aloud for emphasis. Raise the left hand a few inches above the matchbox, and crumple as if doing a ball vanish. Instead, this breaks the thread,

and you open your hand to allow a shower of matches to appear, cascading over the matchbox. This is a major surprise, so wait a beat or two to let it sink in. Show both hands empty front and back, and pick up the matchbox with the right hand. Push the drawer open to the right with the left forefinger, revealing the dollar bill! Dump the bill onto the table, or into a spectator's hand. As the serial number is being checked, rake all of the loose matches into the right hand on top of the matchbox, and pocket all in the right jacket pocket. If you think it best, you can emerge from the pocket with the ungaffed empty matchbox from the ticket pocket to end cleanly, but I find this to be unnecessary. You have performed a transposition miracle and a restoration miracle at the same time!

Feel free to drop me a line with your additions or further ideas. See if you can figure out a way in which the spectator can hold the bill in his own hand as it burns and read the serial number aloud. Contact me at onahand@hotmail.com or P.O. Box 1300, Pulaski, TN, 38478. Enjoy!

Howard Harris named new Ring 76 Webmaster

At the January Ring 76 board meeting Diane Lane nominated Howard Harris as the new Webmaster. The board voted to accept the nomination and Howard was on hand at the meeting to accept the challenge and brought with him a hand full of new ideas that give the Ring Website a new look.

In the near future, in addition to photographs and news about the Ring on the site we will have applications for the IBM and for Ring 76 membership. All members are urged to visit the site and to actively contribute material and photographs of themselves and their acts.

Howard has dedicated himself to making this one of the best Ring Web sites in the country; it is up to us to help him achieve that goal. In case you have forgotten, the Web site address is ring76.com.

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Magic Notes from**The benefits of working in a magic shop**

As I walked through the front door of the Seaport Village Magic Shop one Saturday morning recently, I spotted Ring 76 member Salomon Barajas behind the counter with a rope around his neck. He was demonstrating a very visual magic trick for two young men who were interested in purchasing the book "Magic for Dummies." The rope trick is one of many in the book. As Sal pulled the rope through his neck, two young girls who were pretending like they were not interested but were watching from a distance let out a scream of disbelief.

When I later quizzed Sal on the reaction to the neck illusion he smiled and shrugged his shoulders and said it's just part of the fun of working in a magic shop. Sal has been interested in magic for about five years. In fact he



Salomon Barajas at the Seaport Village magic shop doing rope through neck.

told me until one afternoon in 1999, he really had no interest in magic at all; then, while watching Opera Winfree on television, he witnessed the close-up magic of David Blaine and was hooked. David did the "Ambitious Card trick" on Opera's show.

That afternoon Sal headed down to the Seaport Village magic shop and purchased a DVD telling how to do the card trick he watched David Blaine present on television. He practiced and practiced and, once he mastered that

effect, went back to the magic shop and began learning more about magic. In fact he hung around the shop and talked with the people who worked there so often that the owners of the shop T.J. and Mary Colley offered him a job working there.

Ask Sal what his favorite trick to demonstrate is and he will quickly tell you it's the "Invisible Quarter." I asked to see it and

Sal said every time he does the trick he sells it and at that moment he was sold out of invisible quarters, but he would do pen through the dollar bill

for me. He says from a value point of view the pen through dollar bill is one item that is really good for all skill levels and can be used in almost any performance venue. In other words you get the most "bang" for your buck with this trick.



Sal & T.J. Colley, owner of the Seaport Village magic shop

Sal grew up in the Oldtown section of San Diego; he enjoys photography and would like to be a photographer but he has also studied bartending and is a bartender for a catering service that does private parties. He plans on incorporating his magic skills with his bartending services. He found Ring 76 while reading about a lecture at Brad Burt's old magic shop. He attended the lecture and picked up a newsletter from the Ring and read it and decided he would attend the next meeting and learn what the IBM was all about.

Now a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and Ring 76, Sal is also the new writer of the Ring Report that appears each month in the Linking Ring magazine. He says working in the magic shop has given him new confidence in performing his brand of magic. He is putting an act together for the February 14th close-up contest. I asked him what he planned on doing for the contest, and he said he was still refining his act. That's a polite way of saying watch me the night of the contest.

The Seaport Village magic shop has about 2700 items in its inventory. I asked Sal if it was difficult learning the inventory when he went to work at the shop. Again he smiled that big friendly grin and said he had hung around

the shop for so long before he went to work as a sales person that he knew what every item did, how much it cost and where it was located in the store. Now that's the kind of employee every shop owner dreams of hiring.

He says the UFO or flying card is another of his favorite tricks to perform in the shop. He says magic demonstrators at the Houdini magic shops in Las Vegas and

at other Houdini magic shops around the country have pre-sold the effect because they have demonstrated it so often.

He says when someone asks to see that trick they want to buy it because they have already seen it demonstrated before.



Salomon Barajas doing a card trick for a couple of customers at the Seaport Village magic shop

I asked Sal what the most valuable things were that he has learned in his two years behind the magic counter at Seaport Village. He will quickly tell you that he has learned how to better handle people. Kids are sometimes a bit of a pain, but he says he has learned how keep them from becoming too obnoxious. He says another difficult moment is when a wise guy magician who is a finger flinger comes into the shop and wants to present a one-man performance for everyone that will watch. But he reminded me that he is working at the magic shop to have fun. He says he tries to make it a fun experience for everyone who drops by the shop.

At the next Ring 76 meeting, take the time to introduce yourself to Salomon Barajas; he will tell you to call him Sal, he loves to talk about magic, and he will show you the latest thing he is working on for his own act.

Ring 76 Honored by the Chargers:

During a football game at Qualcomm Stadium in December, the San Diego Chargers publicly thanked The International Brotherhood of

magicians and Ring 76 for our efforts during the Chargers Blood Drive in November. During that event Diane Lane and Charlie Gott and Howard Harris took part in the entertainment activities at the nation's largest one-day blood drive.

Getting ready for the Reno Convention:

On January 6th, Don Soul, Bob Ingalls, and I flew to Reno, Nevada, and experienced the worst blizzard to hit that area since 1916. We are part of the IBM Convention planning committee. Reno does not have an IBM Ring, so Mel Kientz, convention chair, has asked for volunteers to help from San Francisco, Sacramento, and San Diego.

The convention will be held at the Reno Hilton Hotel and it is going to be an exciting time in the Old West. Dale Salwalk has lined up a sensational list of talent for the four evening shows that will take place in the hotel showroom which has one of the largest stages in America.

The dealer's room will be huge, and this year there will be tables and chairs so you can sit and talk with friends in the dealer's room between shopping sprees. One of the special events taking place this year will be a bus trip to Mark Kalan's Magic Underground Theater in Reno. That adventure is part of the overall convention package.

Taking a break from IBM business, we all went to the Darren Romeo show in Reno. Here we are after the show having a drink with the singing star of magic.



Loch David Crane

Says:

Thank You

for your support during his recent illness and troubled times.

Message from the President



Dear fellow Ring 76 members,

I would like to say I sure had a good time at the last meeting. We had brown bag night with great success! The contestants all did a great job. There was some real creativity in action! It was a great way to get the new year started. I noticed a few familiar faces at that meeting that have not been around in quite a while. It's always good to have some of our members of the past come back to our meetings.

Our upcoming meeting is our annual "Close-up" contest. If you plan on entering the contest, get to the meeting early and sign up with Bob Ingalls. The room will be set up like last year's contest with four separate tables. The contestants will rotate around the room performing at each table. All members will be able to vote for their favorite act. Practice now and sign up, remember we have cash prizes and a medal for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners!!

I want to again thank Don Soul for his hard work over the past few years for his work as our Web-master. He took the project over from Sumit Dua (who is in his 2nd year of med school in LA.). Don has done a great job keeping the site alive and updated for the past four years. He's handing the site over to Howard Harris. Howard has reformatted the site to be manageable with his software. Please visit the site as it's got a new look and new pages! Howard will be posting pictures after each meeting so visit

regularly! Send the link to your family and friends! Howard is accepting input for the site. E-mail stories, news, lectures, etc. Thank you, Howard!
www.ring76.com

I'd also like to thank Bob Pozner for stepping up and getting the library together and operational. It was a lot of work though, with the help of Jack White (and the board members one night), it has come together nicely. Please have your membership card ready to give Bob for checking out books and videos at the end of the meetings. We have added a large number of new video tapes to the library, so check out what has come in during the past month.

Diane Lane President, Ring 76



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

♦ Member of Hollywood's Prestigious "Magic Castle" Since 1981

♥ Member of International Brotherhood of Magicians Since 1976

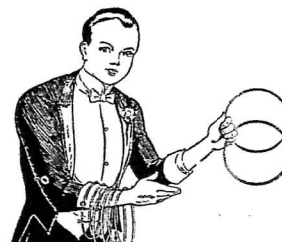
♠ Member of Society of American Magicians Since 1974

"Magic"
Mike Stilwell
(619) 660-9662

P.O. Box 1166
Rancho San Diego, CA 91979
email: magicmikeofsd@aol.com



Ring 76



Board of Directors

Diane Lane
President
858-278-1669
dvlane@san.rr.com

Bob Ingalls
1st Vice President
858-571-3340
bailysgp@san.rr.com

Sherry Luft*
2nd Vice President
sluft@secor.com

Jack White*
Secretary
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

A big congratulations to **Terry Lunceford** this month as he received word from the Magic Castle that he is one of the finalists for Bar Performer of the year at the Magical Arts Awards banquet to be held in Hollywood in April. Terry is up against some pretty hefty competition in this category that includes names like: **Witt Hayden, Doc. Eason, Chef Anton, and Jeff Ezell**. This is the first year that Bar Magician has been a category at the Magical Arts ceremonies. We at Ring 76 say GOOD LUCK, TERRY!

Magic **Mike Stilwell** and **Terry Lunceford** both performed at a Golden Globe Awards party following the popular televised award program. The party was in Palm Springs at a huge estate and, according to Mike, all of the stars in Hollywood over the age of 50 were at this party.

Following the Golden Globe show, Mike flew to Reno to join **Terry Godfrey** for the Western Fairs Association meeting at the Reno Hilton. Mike was looking for acts to book for the San Diego Zoo's Summer Nites programs while Terry was looking to book his magic act into several fairs in the western states.

A week before the Western Fairs meeting at the Reno Hilton, **Bob Ingalls, Don Soul, and Jack White** met there for the International Brotherhood of Magicians business and convention planning meeting. Bob, Don, and Jack are all on the Convention Committee. Jack is also a member of the IBM Board of Trustees. According to



reports from the three of them, this summer's convention is going to be one to remember. It is being limited to only 1200 registrations. If you are planning on going, you had better make a reservation soon.

In late January, **David Sandy**, past IBM president, was in San Diego and with **Jack White**; they checked out several local hotels as a possible back-up site for the IBM Convention in 2007. David is a member of the IBM Convention site selection committee. The IBM enjoys coming to San Diego for their convention, and they were looking at the possibility of another one in our community. A possible site in San Diego would be the Hyatt Hotel next to Seaport Village on San Diego Bay. Stay tuned.

Diane Lane and **Michael E. Johnson** were part of the "Strolling Olympics" night at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, Monday, January 31st. Two top pro's that are used to doing strolling magic showed off their talents at this event. The Ring 76 team did not bring home any medals but several of the old-timers at the Magic Castle said **Diane Lane** was an excellent performer and held her own against the men. She was the first woman to take part in this competition.

Briefs

Bob Ingalls, who recently lost his 14-year-old pet Golden Retriever, has adopted two 8-week old Golden Retrievers as members of his family. Bob says you have to be more than a magician to keep up with two puppies.

Orange County magician and producer **Chuck Burnes** is presenting an evening of comedy and magic at the Valley College of Performing Arts Center in Victorville, February 26th. One of the stars of that show will be Ring 76 member **Terry Godfrey**. Others on the show include **Luna & Losander** of floating table fame, **Chris Hart**, who is one of the stars of "Triple Espresso" here in San Diego, and **Eric Buss**. Tickets are available at the door. Showtime is 7:30 pm.

Loch David Crane is just back from Las Vegas and a weekend at the **Jeff McBride** Magic Weekend Seminar. This is one of those teach-ins that gives each person individual attention by some of the top professionals in the business. Loch has written an excellent article about his experience that will appear in next month's MagiCurrents.

If you are interested in being a better clown, the Fern Street Circus is proud to announce that world renowned Italian clown **Marco Luly** will present an eight hour master class in comedy of the arts on Sunday, February 27th, at the Fern Street Circus rehearsal studio in San Diego. If you would like to attend this one-time only opportunity call the Fern Street Circus office at 619-235-9756 or email them at info@fernstreetcircus.com.

Coming Attractions

February 14th (Valentine's Night). The meeting will be held at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave at 7 pm. Our annual close-up contest is open to all members. Cash prizes for winning contestants will be awarded at our awards banquet in July. 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 magician's work.

March 14th meeting Silk Magic Night! We will begin with a brief lecture on silk magic by J.P. Jackson. You will see some of the most beautiful Rice Silks ever made during this lecture. Then our members will present a favorite routine or trick with silks. This will be a fun meeting.

April 11th, Ring 76 Magic Swap Meet, get your stuff ready!

Next Board of Directors meeting Monday, February 28th, (a week later than normal to accommodate those attending the World Magic Siminar) at Jack's Magic Place at 7 p.m. sharp. These business meetings are open to all members interested in attending.

Classified Advertising

For Sale: "Sword Basket" flaming and regular swords, basket in very good condition and specially made. Heavy-duty ATV cases included for storage and shipping. This is a professional outfit. \$800.00 Interested parties call Diane Lane at 619-203-9986.

For Sale: "Johnson Coin Casket" A borrowed marked quarter vanishes from a clear drinking glass and appears in a brass ring box. Machined from a solid brass bar in the usual Johnson high quality style. Top of the ring box is opened by the spectator and requires many turns to unscrew. A close-up ma miracle and long off the market and now becoming hard to find. Like-new condition. \$65.00 Call J.P. Jackson if interested. 858-569-0096.

For Sale: "Remote Controlled Nut & Bolt Phenomenon with close up case." This is without a doubt the best close-up item on the market today. A nut is threaded onto a bolt and visibly it unthreads itself! These units are getting hard to find. Jack White has one that has never been used. They are selling at the online shops for \$175. Ours is for sale for \$110. Call Jack at 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 prestooone@cox.net. or written manuscripts may be submitted to Jack White, 4288 Arguello St., San Diego, CA. 92103.