

Ring 76 Chartered by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1948



MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



Recipient of the IBM's Quality Ring Award

Honest Sid Gerhart
Ring 76

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

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Ring 76 Summer picnic & magic party set for Sunday, August 14th.

The Ring 76 picnic and magic party will be held Sunday afternoon, August 14th from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., at Lindbergh Park just off the 805 freeway at Balboa. The park is on Ashford Street; there will be additional parking at the Lutheran Church parking lot next to the park. A map is being provided for the exact location of the park. We had originally planned to have our party on Mission Bay; however, we have learned that several large companies are planning to use that area the same day and time we had scheduled our party, and there is great concern there will not be enough parking or restroom facilities. So we have moved our event to an area that we believe will be less crowded.

We urge everyone planning to attend to bring a lawn chair and some pocket magic. The Ring is supplying all of the food and soft drinks. Chefs Jack and Bob will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs; there will be veggie burgers for those not eating meat. We are also offering chips and salad and dessert. This party is "free" to all members of Ring 76 and their immediate families; there will be a charge of \$5 for non-members and guests.

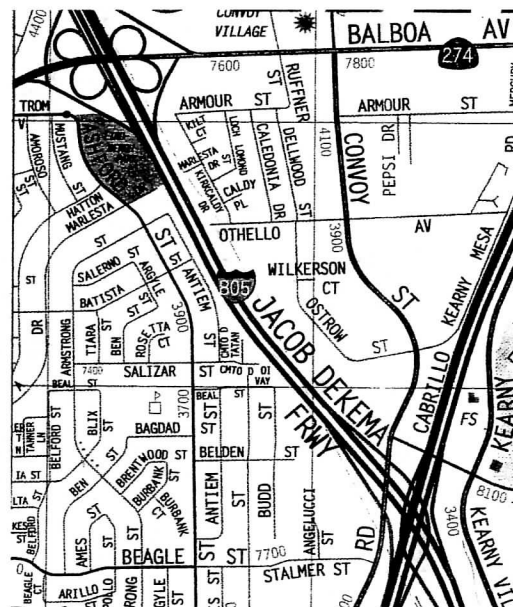
We will begin serving food at about 2:30 and continue until 3:30, so don't be late for the picnic. The Ring is supplying the food and drinks; it is up to the membership to bring some magic to perform on a strolling or close-up basis. This is an opportunity to bring your family and share in the fun. But remember to bring a trick or two to do for our audience.

This is our first summer picnic for the Ring in many years, and if it works out, we hope by next year to have worked out a special event that will involve

several other Southern California Rings for a one-day meeting of magic, fellowship, food, and fun.

We have only one request and that is to let Jack White know if you plan to attend and how many people will be in your party. You can e-mail Jack at prestoone@cox.net or you can call him and leave a message at 619-299-9037. We ask that you do this so we have enough food to cover everyone that will be attending.

This special Sunday meeting will take the place of our regularly scheduled second Monday night



Get off 805 at Balboa, go west to Hathaway St. Turn left and follow Hathaway to Ashford or to the Lutheran Church parking lot. See map above.

Ring 76 Installation and awards banquet July 10th brought out 80 members and guests

Our annual Installation and Awards banquet was held for the second year in a row at the Mission Valley nightclub and entertainment center, Dave & Busters, which is located under the 805 bridge next to Interstate highway 8. Guests began arriving at 4 p.m. and dinner was served at 5 p.m.

Following dinner as dessert was being served, Ring 76

President Diane Lane called the board of directors to the stage and

handed out awards to each member and then thanked

Sherry Luft and J.P. Jackson for their efforts as board members for the past year. Territorial Vice President Jeff Marcus then introduced the board for 2005-2006 and began the installation ceremony.

Bob Ingalls, was introduced as the new president; Terry Lunceford is the new 1st vice president; Kenny Shelton, becomes the 2nd vice president; Jack White continues his duties at Ring secretary; Richard continues as the Ring's treasurer; Sal Barajas become the new sgt. at arms for the Ring; Jacques Lord, was sworn in as the new member at large; and Diane Lane becomes the Immediate past president. Those are the people who make up the board of directors



Outgoing board: Diane Lane, Bob Ingalls, Terry Lunceford, Sherry Luft, Richard Ustick, Kenny Shelton and Jack White



Jack White and Lifetime Achievement Honoree Vi Freeland

for the next year.

Following the installation ceremony, Jack White took the stage and he introduced our special new Lifetime Achievement Honorees. Vi Freeland, who has been a member of the IBM since the 1960s and a member of Ring 76 since 1965, was introduced. Jack talked about her lifelong interest in magic and the many awards she has won at IBM Conventions. "Vi has always been willing to go the extra mile to help young people starting out in magic, as well as helping those who are veterans of the art" according to White's remarks. Vi Freeland then received her award and became the first of two new Lifetime Achievement honorees for 2005.

Next Jack White introduced the name of Bob Pozner and talked about his many contributions to the magic scene in San Diego and to Ring 76. Bob joined the Ring in 1969, and succeeded Jack White as president of Ring 76 in 1976. It was noted that Bob's hearing disability has not diminished his interest in magic, and it was his spirit of keeping this art of magic alive that lead the nominating committee to include him as this year's honoree. Pozner could not attend the banquet and Diane Lane accepted his award.

Terry Lunceford, the new vice president in charge of entertainment took over the program and began calling out the names of the members who took part in the Close-



Terry Lunceford awards medal to Joe Mystic

up contest last February. Eleven contestations lined up on stage to receive their certificates as participants. Then the winners were announced. 3rd Place went to Alex Greenbaum; 2nd Place went to Mago Ruly and the 1st Place award was given to Joe Mystic.

Then Terry called out the names of the seven contestants who took part in the Stage competition

last May. They were all given certificates of participation, and the winners were announced. 3rd Place went to Joe Mystic, 2nd Place was awarded to Diane Lane, and the 1st Place award went to Mago Ruly.

The first place winners received a check for \$50 and a gold medal; second place winners received a gold medal and a check for \$25; our third place winner received a gold medal and a check for \$10.

The next award was the prestigious Performer of the Year award that went to Joe Mystic, who was very active this past year in every contest, teach-in and every other Ring activity that required the talents of a skilled professional performer.

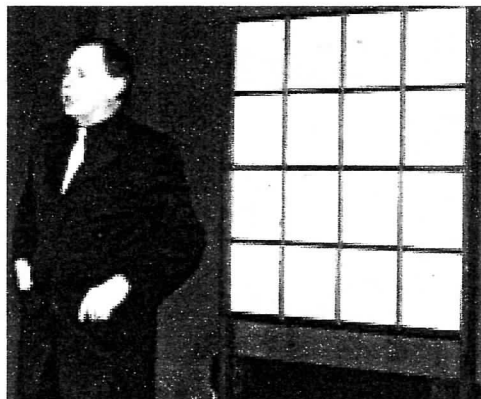
Bob Ingalls had the honor of presenting the final award, the Member of the Year honor, because he was



Bob Ingalls presenting member of the Year award to Diane Lane

last year's recipient of that special award. The Member of the Year plaque went to outgoing Ring President Diane Lane, who was very surprised and most thankful to all of the members for helping her through her two years as the leader of this Ring.

The new president then introduced the first surprise



Dale Hindman and his clever magic square act

act for the evening- Dale Hindman, the President of the Magic Castle in Hollywood. He made a special trip to San Diego to take part in our

program and presented his very funny magic act featuring lots and lots of real dollar bills and then a very entertaining magic square routine that shows us what you can do when you can quickly add columns of figures in your head. It was solid fun and professional magic at its best.

Then Bob Ingalls introduced our special entertainer of the evening; award winning comedy magician and juggler Randy Pryor. Randy's act is very much in demand around the country for corporate events, parties, and shows. He recently



Roy Armstrong helps "Dusty Nuggets" Randy Pryor with his very funny act.

appeared at MagicLive in Las Vegas and has worked cruise ships. It was the perfect act for a group of magicians, and it presented great material for him to talk about the following evening during his lecture to Ring 76 members.

The meeting was adjourned at shortly before 8 and guests left Dave & Busters while it was still light outdoors. Members who attended have said it was the best installation and awards banquet they have ever attended. There are more banquet photographs below and on the next page.



Robin Freeland, Tom McCarthy, Craig Stone, Sal Barajas and Michael E. Johnson doing card tricks before dinner.

More installation & awards banquet photos

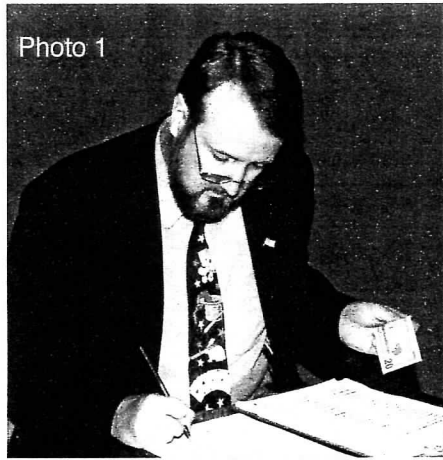


Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13

Photo 1, Hard working Richard Ustick keeping the books. Photo 2, Jim Whiting admiring Joe Mystic's chest full of awards. Photo 3, Belinda Keasler and Michael E. Johnson. Photo 4, Kenny Shelton and his Aunt. Photo 5, Diane Lane. Photo 6, Randy Kappe, Randy Pryor, Terry Lunceford & Bob Ingalls. Photo 7, Mr. & Mrs. Tom LaChance

Photo 8, Vi Freeland and Dick Bush. Photo 9, Jacques Lord & daughters, Photo 10, Don Soul, Photo 11, the Greenbaum family. Photo 12, Joel & Arlene Moskowitz Photo 13, Mr. & Mrs. Greg Wauson.

Magic Book Review



By Dr. Joel Moskowitz

If a coin were crafted with the likeness of Dai Vernon, master card magician, Born to deceive would be on the tail and The Professor, on the obverse. This man from Ottawa would fool Houdini and become the master teacher of elegant natural wizardry with a pack of cards. Karl Johnson, former Editor of The New York Daily News, has crafted a true tale of a youth possessed in search of the Holy Grail, the ultimate magician's secrets. Henry Holt and Company, New York, brings the reader, *The Magician and the Cardsharp*, the search for America's Greatest Sleight-of-Hand Artist, pp 349, 2005, \$26.00. From very early youth, Dai Vernon (aka David Verner) was possessed with a compulsion to master the art of magic with cards. Spectacle Box magic the venue for stage illusionists such as Thurston were replaced by Vernon's use of the contents of a card box, 52 pasteboards.

Instruction in card conjuring was not readily to be found. Simple pick a card tricks described in books found in libraries were averred by Vernon.

He was on a quest to learn from the experts. A sole tome, *The Expert at the Card Table* by Erdnase, was a template for creative card mysteries. This book, believed to be written by a gambler who has forever remained unknown, was deemed too complex for magicians and was ignored.

Vernon studied it as he also analyzed the elements, which were the foundation of the modern era of card magic. He was determined to learn from those who made a living from dexterous handling of a pack of cards, the cardsharps. When swapping secrets with a Mexican gambler, he heard of a master mechanic (the name insiders know as one who has infinite control of the cards) who unbelievably could undetectably deal a card from the middle of the pack! To be able to covertly deal the second card from the pack was hard enough. Vernon was determined to find this wonder-worker and learn his skill.

Karl Johnson, the author, takes us on Vernon's odyssey in a well researched scholarly but eminently readable adventure. Those who are magic enthusiasts will revel in the author's acknowledgments to those who

shared their knowledge of Vernon, Max Maven, John Carney, Herb Zarrow, Johnny Thompson, Charlie Miller, Harry Reiser, Richard Kaufman, and many others including Jackie Flosso and Jay Marshall.

Not so well known to the magic community is the name Allen Kennedy. This out-of-the-way card cheat was the maestro of the center deal. Doubting that it could be done invisibly, yet thirsting to learn how to do it, Vernon was relentless in discovering who had achieved this impossible feat.

Vernon's pursuit and victorious discovery after a path of criss-crossing the United States, mixing with grifters, Carny types, cheats, in the turbulent 20s and 30s was finally rewarded when Kennedy yielded his technique. Although the destination was triumphal, how Vernon got there, the anecdotes about his magical contemporaries, T. Nelson Downs, Persi Diaconis, Ricky Jay and many others will thrill all who share the excitement that the study of magical arts brings.

The uninitiated layperson will learn more than the Masked Magician of TV sought to disclose. Author Johnson, in some instances, may describe what is done to deceive, disclosure is not his intent. He makes clear that knowing the secret is not enough. What makes entertainment is the performer's ability to take colored pieces of cardboard from what many consider boorish annoyances (He said pick a card. I said, No. He did three!) to the stage of delight and surprise which follows sensitive performance based on tedious practice.

Author Karl Johnson tells us how he did it, which is equally as interesting as what his investigations produced. Few books on magic have a bibliography or detail the process to mine the material later woven into the story. Johnson's quest to understand Vernon's quest is rigorous. His writing style is natural and emulates Vernon's maxim Confusion is not magic. For the inquisitive, the lover of mystery, history, and magic, *The Magician and the Cardsharp* is highly recommended.



View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

Welcome back! I hope you had a great Independence Day weekend. Did you make it to IBM convention in Reno? It was a too far for me from TN, especially since my family had just completed eight days in Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon last month. However, a smaller convention called the SouthEastern Association of Magicians is scheduled in early August just 45 miles from my home, so I am looking to that event.

Last month we examined the basics of online magic bulletin boards, including signup and typical rules. We also examined the differences between type one, or open, boards, and type two boards. We also discussed two of the oldest popular open boards, the **Conjuror Conversation Corner** and **MagicTalk**. Refer to the June issue for more information.

This month we will continue our discussion with a look at "type two" bulletin boards. Type two is a board divided into headings and subheadings that must be navigated to find the messages. Use of the board is a bit slower, but specific subjects can be found easily. Messages tend to remain in place for a much longer time in this type of board, often for years, but some of the immediacy is removed. Fewer people join individual discussions because they tend to frequent their favorite headings rather than read everything on the bulletin board. Boards using this newer format include **Genii Forum**, **Magic Café**, **MagicBunny UK Forum**, and **Kevin James Magic Board**, to name only a few.

Topic heads range from a few basic ones (general magic, stage magic, close-up magic, children's magic, etc.) to dozens of different headings and subheadings within a single bulletin board. Like most boards, you can read without posting (called *lurking* in bulletin board jargon), but to post a response you must register, a simple and painless one-time affair, and include a working email address. You can use a pseudonym, or screen name, but you must

remember that name and your password to log in again later. Should you wish to remain truly anonymous, you can set up a Web mail account with Hotmail (Microsoft) or Gmail (Google), or even a second account with your usual email provider. As mentioned in the June article, I have not had a problem with email spam or viruses generated from joining these magic bulletin boards, so any boards I recommend will be safe for your computer. After logging in, you choose a major topic area, and then choose a "conversation" to follow within that heading. For example, you might choose Close-up Magic as your heading, and then join a discussion called Cups & Balls, which could discuss pros and cons of available props, accessories, routines, and methods. Most bulletin boards have a search engine to help you find topics in which you would like to read or post.

A simple-to-navigate type two board is the "**Kevin James Magic Board**", found as a part of the larger Kevin James magic site, <http://www.kjmagic.com/>. Although there are more than 2200 registered members, the board is a modest affair with 12 topic headings and relatively small posting traffic. As such, it might be a great way to explore your first type two board.

One of the advantages of the Internet is quick communication all over the world. A larger bulletin board site, **MagicBunny Forum**, is headquartered in the UK, and so will be 9 to 10 hours ahead of you in time zone. It is interesting to log in and see that it is already "tomorrow" as you post. This large site has 14 major headings, including two restricted areas that can eventually be opened to you when you have logged a sufficient number of quality posts. Moderators read everything that comes into the areas for which they are responsible, and they can recommend that you be given access to these restricted areas, the Library (contributed routines, sleights, etc) and Secrets (detailed discussion of secrets that cannot be placed into an open public bulletin board). Membership of this bulletin board includes many working professionals and nearly 4000 magic enthusiasts from around the world.. Moderators are knowledgeable and take active parts in discussions. The larger site also includes a monthly online magazine called *Tophat*, a fun and useful reference. The forum and larger site can be found at <http://www.magicbunny.co.uk>.

An even larger type two board is **Genii Forum**, found as a part of the larger Genii Magazine Website. Since the forum site is so large, my link

will direct you to the forum itself rather than the full Genii site. Go to <http://www.geniimagazine.com/forum> to register for your screen name, email address, and password. Genii Forum has 22 topic headings, including free advertising for items you might wish to sell from your collection, and even a "book of the month" heading for an organized magic book discussion. Hosted by Genii editor and prolific magical author Richard Kaufman, the site is frequented by many working pros such as Doug Conn, Pete Biro, Paul Green, David Regal, Mike Gallo, Paul Cummins, and many, many others. This is a strong site, with much posting traffic, and there is much to learn and discuss here. Because the site is also an adjunct to Genii Magazine, some of the major topic headings are for discussing articles in Genii, but these dedicated headings are in the minority compared to the other topic headings. I find interesting reading on a regular basis.

The largest commonly used type two site is the **Magic Cafe Forum**, a huge site meticulously divided into 13 major headings, further divided into 77 subheadings which then lead you to specific poster-initiated topics. One could read in here for years! As of this writing, there are more than 20,000 members who have contributed nearly a million messages. If you can't find something to discuss here, you have nothing in magic about which you can talk! The downside is that moderators here are the most intolerant I have ever seen, and offending posts are removed (called *zapping* in bulletin board jargon) with regularity. However, since **all** bulletin boards on the Web are owned by people and/or corporations, they are the hosts, and we are the guests. As such, "freedom of speech" and the First Amendment really do not apply. Rather, rules of the "house" apply, and we abide by them as guests. Find the Magic Cafe at <http://www.themagiccafe.com>

Finally, new magic bulletin boards appear (and often disappear) like the proverbial rabbit in the hat. Let me leave you with a new site that has a small but growing membership, the **PMZZ Lounge**. This site is for magicians who love building their own props, illusions, and materials. Discussions include woodworking and finishing details, materials, tools, methods, and much more. Moderators have many year's experience, many of them having built illusions for professional touring magicians or worked on the creative staff of such touring professionals. If you like getting your hands dirty as you make your own gear, then visit *Professional*

Magicians Sawing Logs at <http://www.pmzz.org> and click upon the link for the message board.

In June and July, I have given you seven of the best magic bulletin boards to urge your participation. On these sites, I have made some great personal friends from all over the world, and you can, too. Join a few of these sites, and tell them Jon Hand sent you.

Plan to attend the Ring 76 picnic and strolling magic review, Sunday, August 14th, 2:30 to 5 p.m. Lindbergh Park in Kearny Mesa.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Yeah, but it was supposed to be a rabbit."

Magic notes from:



The IBM Convention 2005

When Bob Ingalls and I returned to San Diego from the IBM Convention in Reno, Nevada, it took us several days to rest up from the week of non-stop magic activity. We arrived home late July 3rd after driving from Reno to San Diego. At times the temperature in the Mojave Desert soared to 110, as we zipped along the highway in our air-conditioned car.

The Reno convention turned out to be one that will be remembered for having everything in close proximity to each other. Even the showroom where the evening shows were held was just a short walk from the elevators that led to our rooms. The hotel has 16 restaurants that offer a price range and menu for every taste and budget.

I was truly excited by the large number of Ring 76 members who attended this convention. Diane Lane, Bob Ingalls, Jeff Marcus, Don & Donna Soul, J.P. Jackson, Dr. Joel and Arlene Moskowitz, Kenny Shelton, and Greg Wauson—all from San Diego.

Jeff Marcus attended the activities for Territorial Vice Presidents and tells MagiCurrents he found the sessions filled with good information, as well as an opportunity to share stories and meet other TVPs from around the country.



Diane Lane & Jeff Marcus
between events

Diane Lane networked and met with other female magicians and talked about working conditions and putting their various shows together. Don and

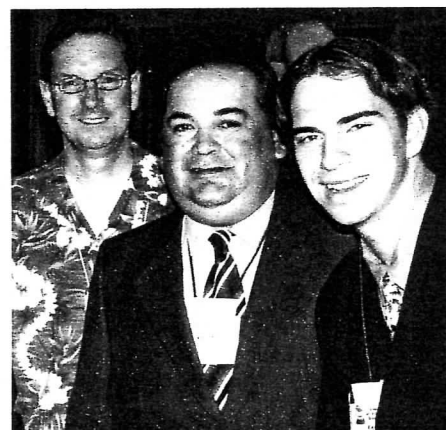
Donna Soul spent a great deal of time at the registration desk helping others who had problems solve them.

Bob Ingalls could be found everywhere. He was the MC of the various lectures, shows, and events. He videotaped several programs for the IBM Web cam, and he helped collect funds for a Reno charity that helps disadvantaged children. The IBM Convention Committee each year collects funds for a charity in the city where the convention is being held and presents the money to that charity during one of the public shows. This year, \$1600 was given to the Reno children's fund.

Kenny Shelton was with his father, Kenny Senior, who has

become hooked on magic himself. Kenny Junior was called upon to take part in the hospital shows that are done the day before the convention opens. It was a last minute call but when the request came to take part, Kenny

grabbed his bag of tricks and headed out with the other performers. This group of magicians works bedside and sometimes in a parlor setting doing tricks for those in the hospital. Kenny also took part in the close-up contest. The competition was very strong this year, and Kenny presented a good entertaining act. Though he did not place, he is already working on an act for next year's competition in Miami, Florida. Kenny told me he learned a lot



Greg Wauson, Ken Shelton Sr.
and Kenny Shelton Jr.

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just taking part in the contest, and he knows where he can improve in his presentation next time around.

J.P. Jackson held court in the dealer's room at his table selling a nice selection of collectable magic and books. Many old friends from around the country dropped by to chat with J.P. and look at the items he had for sale. You could always stop at J.P.'s table and catch up on the latest information or story that was going around at the convention. Longtime North County magician Marty Brenner is now living in Reno, Nevada, and was at the convention. We met him at J.P.'s booth and



J.P. Jackson working in the dealers room.

caught up on his new life in the Reno area. The seller's room was huge with 58 dealers all selling magic from all corners of the globe.

For Arlene and Joel Moskowitz, the highlight of the convention was a visit to Mark and Jinger Kalin's Magic Underground Theater in downtown Reno. This small 240-seat theater is beautiful and the show that Mark and Jinger put on is nothing less



Dr. Joel Moskowitz & Arlene and the beloved Howie Schwartzman

than sensational. Dr. Moskowitz and I agree that the Kalin's spirit cabinet routine is one of the best anywhere. The Moskowitzes also enjoyed side trips to Carson City and Virginia City and a little sight seeing.



A group of Ring 76ers, Bob Ingalls, Don Soul, Lynn Wite, Donna Soul, J.P. Jackson & Jack White at Mark & Jinger Kalin's Magic Underground show in Downtown Reno.

The IBM will be going back to Reno again in 2007, so if you missed the convention this year you will have a second chance. Nearly everyone I have talked to had a good time at this year's annual magic get-together and looks forward to doing it again in two years.

Next year the IBM Convention will be in Miami, Florida, the IBM and the SAM will hold a joint convention that is being billed as one of the largest magic conventions in U.S. history in 2008 in New Orleans, Louisiana. You will be hearing more about this mega magic event in the near future.

The best part of attending a magic convention is the people you meet and share your magic with. Plan to attend a convention in the future.

Magician
Terry Lunceford
supports
The IBM & Ring 76

Loch David Crane

Says:

Thank You

for your support during his recent illness and troubled times.



Message from the Ring 76 President

First off, I would like to thank all the Ring 76 members for your faith in me. I promise to do my best to keep us "the best Ring in the IBM."

Our new year started off with a bang. The banquet was very successful this year. I have heard nothing but raves about the food, service, and the entertainment.

We had our first board meeting on the 25th and set up the agenda for the rest of the year. The new board worked very well together, and we have several exciting programs in the ensuing months.

I will be hard-pressed to keep up the good work done by last year's board. Especially that of our past president, Diane Lane. Those are mighty big shoes to fill!

I also promise to keep these letters very short so Jack White can use the space for "important stuff."

Bob Ingalls
President Ring 76

A Jim Swoger magic story from the past

Retired magic dealer Jim Swoger likes to tell the story about Pennsylvania magician Henry Able, prominent in the 1930s. Able went to the Pittsburgh Trunk Company and asked them to build a special trunk for him to do the substitution trunk escape. The trunk company manager gave the job to one of their top trunk builders who spoke very little English.

He built the special trunk with a top trap in the lid of the trunk for the magician. The immigrant liked the idea so well he just kept on turning out trunks with the hidden trap door in the lid of the trunk. Some months later a luggage shop called Pittsburgh Trunk Company and wanted to know why they had a secret door the top of all of their trunks?

It's not clear how many trunks were made and sold with no one knowing they had a special magician's escape trunk. If you see an antique trunk for sale and it's made by Pittsburgh Trunk Company, check out the lid. It might be a sub trunk.



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Territorial Vice President
Jeff Marcus*

*denotes Past Ring President

For information on membership, or Ring events contact Jack White, Ring 76 Secretary by e-mail prestooone@cox.net or by phone at 619-299-9037

News

In June we told Ring 76 members about auditions at Sea World, the aquatic theme park on Mission Bay; Sea World entertainment executives were looking to hire jugglers and magicians to do strolling acts in the park for the summer. **John London** was one of our Ring members who took part in the auditions and was hired to show off his skills. He went to work at Sea World doing strolling magic on July 16th.

Belinda Keasler reports that a new IBM Ring is about to be chartered in South East Orange County. It will be called the **Jeff McBride Ring #359** and meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Check their Website for the exact location of each meeting. www.ibmring359.com. That should get you more information. Their first meeting was held in July at Lake Elsinore at a Coco's Restaurant.

Michael E. Johnson is looking at a new property in San Marcos as a possible site for his magic and party shop. Michael is putting together a company that will stage birthday parties complete with refreshments, entertainment, and party atmosphere. It has been an idea of Michael's for sometime now, and he is trying to get it up and going.

Loch David Crane has checked in from Frankfurt, Germany, where he is on tour doing shows for the children of military dependents stationed overseas. Loch recently had a story and photograph of him performing in the Frankfurt News. Loch did shows for throngs of children at the Glessen/Butzbach, a huge



auditorium that had children from four schools as his audience. He has also received a number of awards and citations for entertaining troops on duty in Germany. Loch returns to San Diego, August 3rd.

Mike Stilwell has been keeping very busy this summer. His evenings are taken up at the Zoo where he handles all of the talent for the Zoo Nights programs. During the day Mike has been busy with his YMCA magic classes. Each of his students receives a box of magic and many hours of instruction. When the summer is over there are many new aspiring magicians as a result of this and several other magic teaching programs around the county.

If you are interested in mental magic the **"Mindvention"** designed for mentalists will be held again this year in Las Vegas at the Palace Station Casino and Hotel. The dates are November 13th to 15th. Three days of intense workshops for mental magic enthusiasts and from those who attended last year's sessions, very worthwhile. For more information their Website is www.MINDVENTION.com.

It's now official! The IBM and the SAM, the two oldest and largest magic organizations in the United States, have joined together to stage an International Magic

Briefs

Competition to be held July 7-12 2008 in New Orleans, LA. The six day event will culminate by awarding the largest contest prize ever, \$10,000 each for both the stage and close-up contest winners. Mark your calendars this is going to be the convention to attend.

Speaking of New Orleans, **Harry Anderson** of "Night Court" fame has finally opened his magic night club in the exciting French Quarter of New Orleans. It is called Oswalds and opened its doors for business in May. Harry has been working to bring his life's dream to fruition for more than five years.

Magician and cartoonist **Jim Whiting** says he is feeling great, he is off chemotherapy, he is playing tennis again and his new book "Analecta" is about to be released. Jim received the gally proofs for the book in July and is busy fine-tuning things. The book is about his career in broadcasting, as a cartoonist and magician. It should be a fun read.

Joel Ward spent the first week of August appearing at the Magic Castle in Hollywood with his magic act. Ring 76 President **Bob Ingalls** was at the Castle to wish Joel well and to entertain friends who are visiting from out of state.

J.P. Jackson has been practicing performing some of his favorite tricks a little more diligently than usual these days. That is because his 7-year-old granddaughter has been visiting from Seattle and she loves magic especially when performed by grandpa.

Coming Attractions

August 14th meeting will be something new. A Sunday afternoon meeting and picnic for members and their families at Lindbergh Park in Kearny Mesa. Ring 76 will supply the food and soft drinks. Members will supply the show, with a few surprises. Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 14th. More details on the front page of this newsletter.

September 13th meeting at our regular meeting place, 4275 University Avenue at 7 p.m. Time for members to perform their favorite magic trick. Here is a chance to show off a favorite routine or trick.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be Monday, August 29th. The meeting will be at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave, at 7 p.m. sharp. These business meetings are open to all members interested in attending.

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