

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

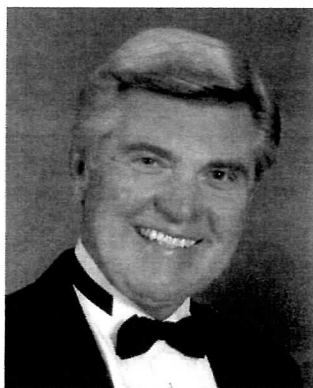
Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website  
[www.ring76.com](http://www.ring76.com)

Volume XX 1 January 2006

## Public Relations chief announced for joint I.B.M. & S.A.M. Convention

Brad Jacobs, Chairman of the Combined International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Society of American Magicians Convention in 2008, has appointed Jack White as the official voice for both magic organizations. As such, White is charged with the responsibility of writing and distributing all news releases and announcements during the two-year period leading up to what is being billed as the largest and most exciting magic convention ever held.



Jack White new P.R.  
and Press spokesman  
for IBM & SAM  
2008 Convention

In making the appointment, Jacobs noted that White is a longtime radio, television, and newspaper journalist, and a member of both the I.B.M. and S.A.M. Jacobs added that White would be the source for all news releases, announcements, and information concerning the planning and events leading up to and throughout the convention.

In his first news release (December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005), White informed the magic media that the combined conventions would be moved out of New Orleans, because of severe damage to the theaters that are so vital to the success of this event. The site selection committee is currently reviewing several new venues and an announcement will be forthcoming on the new location and exact dates of the combined convention.

## January meeting to include installation of new members & Trick Parade

If you have joined Ring 76 in the past year, plan to attend the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting when all new members will be officially installed in the Ring. Each person must be a member of the I.B.M. and will be asked to take the Ring 76 oath, after which they will be given a certificate making them an official member.

The program that evening is a "Trick Parade;" several members of Ring 76 will present magic routines and then explain how they are done. This program is patterned after the popular section in the I.B.M.'s Linking Ring magazine. The effects presented are for stand-up or parlor performance. Several members have volunteered to take part in this exciting program. There will be an opportunity to ask questions during the explanation portion of the program.

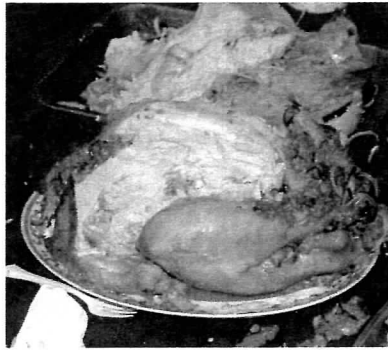
This will also be a good opportunity to learn a new effect to incorporate into your own program. We have not presented this program in several years, and we believe we have lined up an exciting evening of magic and magic instruction.

We also remind everyone who wants to take part in the February close-up contest that you must audition Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. The field of performers will be limited to six contestants. Everyone who auditions for the contest will be asked to do their complete routine for the judges. Their act should run no longer than ten minutes. The judges will be announced the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The auditions will be held following the regular board meeting of the Ring 76 executive committee at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue.

(Continued on page 5)

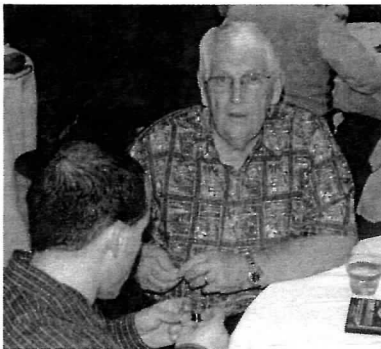
# Large turnout for the annual Ring 76 Holiday Party, brings year to a close.

The holiday season was celebrated at Ring 76 in grand style December 12<sup>th</sup>, with a potluck dinner complete with roast turkey, roast beef and roasted pork loin. Our head count shows 62 members and guests turned out for the annual event. There was more than enough food and the dinner was topped off by an exciting array of desserts that included brownies, carrot cake, pumpkin pie, and pecan pie, as well as a large variety of cookies.



Turkey for everyone!

During the dinner hour many members took the time to show a few close-up effects at the table to their guests. There was a lot of story telling and laughter during this time. Following dinner, Ring 76



Bob Ingalls & J.P. Scirica

President Bob Ingalls, called the meeting to order and made a few announcements and thanked the members for making 2005 a great year for magic. Bob then asked if anyone had noticed anything different about the turkey? He then put his hand to his mouth as he coughed up a large amount of feathers. Bob did a quick card trick with a funny ending to get the audience warmed up and introduced our M.C. for the evening, Terry Lunceford.

Terry was smartly dressed in a beautiful black suit and asked the audience if they would like to see the oldest trick in the world? He then presented his own very beautiful routine of three linking rings to music. There was not a single flaw in his presentation and the big twelve-inch gleaming rings

melted through each other. It was an excellent piece of magic presented by an experienced pro. The audience let Terry know how much they enjoyed the routine with an extended round of applause.



Terry Lunceford and his linking ring routine

But that was only the curtn-raiser for the evening's entertainment. Terry introduced a longtime Ring 76 member who has become a legend in presenting close-up or bar magic, J.C. Wagner. In all of his years as a performer J. C., only gets better with time, like vintage wine he improves with age. A big screen was set up and Kenny Shelton operated the camera so everyone in the room could see the action at the table.

J.C. began with four quick card miracles with each one becoming more involved and complex in their



J.C. Wagner

handling as he moved along. Then came a set with coins and a wonderful story about learning a coins across routine from Tony Slydini. The coin effects were clean and fast with no wasted moves. The audience was silent and their eyes were glued to the big screen

as the performance unfolded.

At this point in his performance J.C. asked the audience if they had a favorite trick they would like him to perform? From the sidelines Terry Lunceford yelled out the name of a very difficult card trick involving a variety of moves. J.C. smiled, and said; "I think I remember that one." And quickly launched into the routine just as a piano player would accept the challenge of remembering an old song and playing it without music and never missing a single note. How many magicians do you know who take requests for tricks and then do them on demand, flawlessly.

Then came J.C.'s version of the Benson Bowl and sponge balls. J.C., has been doing this routine for years and asked a lady out of the audience to come up and help him. The comedy lines came rolling out of J.C.'s mouth, as he began the funny and mysterious routine. It was like watching an old Cary Grant movie as J.C. would throw out his fast patter and then stop and make a funny face and quickly pick up the pace again after a pause for reaction.

The audience was treated to a gifted professional performer doing what he has done for years and making it look seamless, effortless and as though he was doing it for the first time; it was fresh and exciting. It was also a true highlight for our members to see and enjoy.

After the show members stayed and talked, had a second helping of dessert and coffee and wished each other the Happiest of Holidays and a prosperous New Year. Ring 76 had logged another year in the history books.



**Table full of hungry people**

For those who did not attend the photographs on the next two pages will give you an idea of how the evening looked.



# Magic Book Review by Dr. Joel Moskowitz



## Secrets of the Sideshows

Barnum was incorrect. His statistics are wrong. It is not that there is a sucker born every minute. Virtually everyone born is wired to believe the unbelievable, to thirst for the weird, the bizarre, and the monstrous. Our inner anxieties simultaneously draw us to that which frightens us: strange appearances, nature's mistakes, and medical anomalies. Even those who protest an aversion to seeing a two-headed goat or the bearded woman are vulnerable to a spectrum of fascinations which includes slowing down to peer at the victims of an injury crash or the disfigured survivors of a burn. We, and that is all of us not just the sucker born every minute, peer and are repulsed at the very same time. This mental struggle with the vagaries of our existence and how matters may go awry has links to myth, superstition, religion, medicine, and magic.

The sideshow of yesteryear where persons clutching their loved ones and families could, in a socially acceptable way, view those unfortunates where mother nature's plans were corrupted, producing the too short, dwarfs, too tall, giants, humans with extra digits and those with none at all. We may think this is less in evidence in our modern and scientific times. Not at all. Go to underdeveloped countries where birth care and nutrition is lacking, where sexual unions are family affairs, where those unfortunate poor cannot readily obtain plastic or orthopedic surgery or medicine for their hideous disfigurements and where they are obliged to beg on the streets, and you may be shocked that the sideshow is on the main street. In first world societies inquiry from the prurient to the intellectual has become transmuted into the guise of scientific investigation of these errors of medical anomalies or, for example, those whose life's work is dedicated to fix nature's mistakes i.e., separating twins conjoined at the head, etc.

Joe Nickell, magician and investigator, has written a scholarly book *Secrets of the Sideshow*, The University Press of Kentucky (his Alma

Mater): September 09, 2005, \$32.95, pp 401. The author, lifting up the back flap of the tent show, reveals, informs, and presents a range of human oddities from the real to the created (read fake) Mr. Nickell is senior research fellow of the Committee of Scientific Inquiry for Claims of the Paranormal. The author of this review is Scientific Consultant to PSICOP.

Mankind is a frightened folk. Life is so brittle and marvelous. In primitive cultures, which sadly exist today, throngs cheer a beheading or a hanging. The stage magician dismembers an audience volunteer (and restores the severed hand instantly), cuts his female assistant into multiple sections, randomizes the parts and re-synthesizes the woman to appreciative applause. *Secrets of the Sideshows* may be mistaken for a history of past popular culture but this writer suggests, is as active today albeit in the guise of the conjurer, the physician, the clergy, the purveyor of quackery, and psychics, and even those of the media, for many of whom, dramatic disasters are news. People want to hear, read, and learn about the catastrophes and curiosities of life's adventures.

Magicians need this well-written tome in their library. Those fortunate enough to have enjoyed Al Flosso, the Coney Island Fakir, will pleasure in the memory of this sideshow-style wizard. Harry Anderson penetrating his arm with a long needle, fire and sword eaters, and those who pound nails into their head through their nostrils are variants of sideshow working acts. Bizarre magic is today's subspecialty where theater audiences can work through their fears while seeing the performer tear the head off a duck and glue it back again. It is reassuring to know that no matter what the insult, we can survive.

Some may criticize *Secrets of the Sideshows* because they feel it discloses deceptions used by conjurers today. Penn and Teller have made an art form of revealing secrets, which has only heightened audience amazement. Others may fault *Secrets of Sideshows* as being too encyclopedic while at the same time asserting that most of this data has been described elsewhere. This inherent fallacious internally contradictory argument is its own rebuttal.

Ray Hyman, a friend of mine, and Emeritus Professor of Psychology at University of Oregon agrees (with me) that humans have evolved to be a



credulous species. Dependant on social groups for their survival, these groups tend to share beliefs. Even, I would attempt to persuade, when those beliefs are harmful, incorrect, and even dangerous. H. L. Mencken writing in the Baltimore Sun, June 4, 1923 opines, No democratic delusion is more fatuous than that which holds that all men are capable of reason, and hence susceptible to conversion by evidence. It is this writer's thesis, as a trained psychiatrist, that each of us struggles with inner fears which perforce makes us vulnerable to the mysterious, the magical and those who, with evil intent or their own inability to be rational, seek to capitalize on our anxieties. The Secrets of the Sideshows by Nickell is a thinking person's text.

Nickell seeks to shine knowledge on the history of these demonstrations of oddities, illusions, aberrations of human development, impossible abuses of the human organism (swallow swords and fire, lying on beds of nails while being pounded, escaping traumas which, one would expect, would severe limbs, or lead to decapitation). By being, himself, a magic pitchman in a carnival and obtaining a backstage view of the devices of deception. He shares his fascination not to approve but to enlighten.

Regrettably, it is our unconscious need that makes us susceptible to these carny talkers. As pervasive as is the tendency to be gullible, it is remarkable that the word gullible does not appear in any dictionary or encyclopedia. Check it out! When you discover that I have sent you on a wild goose chase, rush quickly to your local bookstore to buy a copy of Secrets of the Sideshows.

**Ring 76 Special Lecture**  
**Jamy Ian Swiss**  
**Wednesday, February 8th**  
**7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place**  
**4275 University Ave**  
**Special Workshop Session**  
**7 p.m. Thursday February 9th**  
**The lecture is "Free" the**  
**Workshop is limited to 20 people**  
**and is \$50**

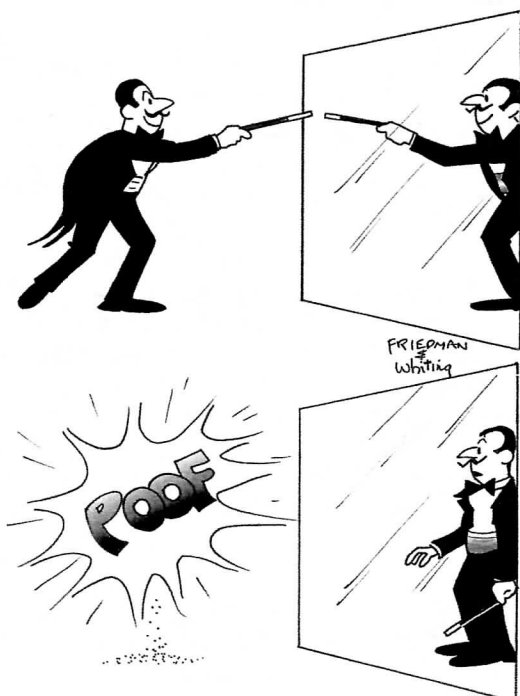
## January meeting, continued from page one

During the actual close-up competition itself, each contestant will perform at five different tables before members of the Ring. Each member will be allowed to cast one vote with the outcome of the contest being announced during the Awards and Installation Banquet next July. Our top winners will receive a medal and cash award in July.

**J.C. Wagner Lecture**  
**Wednesday, January 11th**  
**"Free" to all Ring 76 members**  
**7 p.m. Jack's Magic Place**

## "MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



## View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

Have you ever wondered why magic is a second-rate entertainment in the eyes of the public? Or why magic is not considered an art like music, theatre, or dance? I have been giving this some thought and discussion on some of the magic bulletin boards, and here are my conclusions. As a professional musician and music teacher by profession, I will compare music and other "live in real time" arts to magic, in both their history and their current incarnations, as the parallels and differences are crucial.

Like music, dance, and theatre, magic has a long history dating back centuries. At the time that Scot's *Discoverie of Witchcraft* made its appearance in the 1580s, music and dance were about to explode due to the popularity of musical instruments in the Renaissance (1400 -1600) and the subsequent new styles of the Baroque era (1600 -1750). However, the founding of permanent settlements in the New World stemmed the development of magic in America when the Salem witch trials made anything magical a dangerous entity. Meanwhile, street magicians had flourished in Europe throughout the Medieval era and Renaissance, perhaps due to the fact that many of them were also pickpockets and team thieves, using the magic as misdirection for the thefts.

Magic, then came into major periods of public distrust just as music, theatre, and dance were hitting their strides. From the Classic era (1750 - 1820) through the Romantic era (1820 -1900), traveling circuses and touring shows became popular in both Europe and America. However, in America, the distrust of "traveling show folk" lingered, and it continues to do so in many parts of America today.

Music became an integral part of society. Even in the 1800s, when all music was live prior to the advent of Edison's cylinder recording machine, most Americans learned to sing and/or play the piano or

violin for self-entertainment. Organized dance became the prominent social entertainment in those days when "dating" was severely restricted to mixed social events. Live theatre was the highlight of entertainment, and as such was relatively rare except in large cities. Touring magicians did well in both America and Europe (see Milbourne Christopher's *Illustrated History of Magic* for more details), but the popularity of live magic never translated into the sort of personal interest that music and dance had engendered.

After the popularity of Edison's cylinder player and subsequent flat disk records invented by others, music began to revert to a passive listening mode rather than the previous active music maker mode. The invention of radio in 1921 contributed further to this passivity, and individual music making faded quickly during the depression. In addition, dance became more frantic and less organized during the Roaring Twenties. Still, the long popularity of personal music making, stretching more than 500 years since the Renaissance, meant that music had a highly organized infrastructure. Masters taught students, and those students spent years of practice to develop those skills. Music was respected because the amount of effort and time that is necessary for those skills to blossom.

Magic had, and still has, precious little infrastructure. Undoubtedly, the art of magic has been hampered by the secrecy of the methods and relatively hard to get information. Very little information was available until the late 1800s. In the twentieth century, only a serious student would seek out deeper information and find the insider information held in "small print run" books available only from magic dealers. Although this lack of information made magic more mysterious to the public, it also deterred the development of infrastructure. Professional magicians were quite often too busy making a living to serve as the master to an apprentice.

Before television, magic could only be experienced live, just as music could only be experienced live prior to cylinders and radio. Actually, relatively few people have ever seen any superbly-performed magic live. The desire to see it is not fueled like the desire to see musicians perform live, and this lack of desire is a vicious circle in holding back the development of a magic infrastructure. Prior to the advent of television in 1941 (and widespread popularity of it beginning around 1952), the public was more aware of magic than it is now. As television kept more people at home, the interest in live performances of all types began to wane.

To continue my music analogy, after the invention of multi-track recording and tape splicing/editing in the 1950s, the goal of musicians became to sound as good live as they did on record, a complete reversal from previous attitudes. Magic is having the same problem: the goal is now to be as impressive live as magic is on television. Actually, live magic is more impressive than televised magic, but so few people have ever experienced it that the public does not understand that fact.

Today, entertainment has become disposable. Have you ever noticed that the best pop songs of 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, even 140 years ago are still known by the general public, yet the current pop songs die a quick death in less than six weeks? Current movies costing \$100 million to make often stay in the theaters less than two months. Television shows that do not find a huge audience in six to nine weeks are cancelled. In the rush to disposable entertainment, magic has fallen by the wayside.

Many thought that video, computers, and the Internet would be the saving grace of magic. Certainly, information on magic is much easier to find and purchase. However, magic is lost in the glut of information and entertainment so readily available from the Internet, television, DVDs, movies, MP3s, iPods, video games, etc. Brick-and-mortar magic dealers, previously assuming a major role in the master/apprentice relationship, are vanishing as more young magicians order their information through the Internet. What little infrastructure that existed is all but gone.

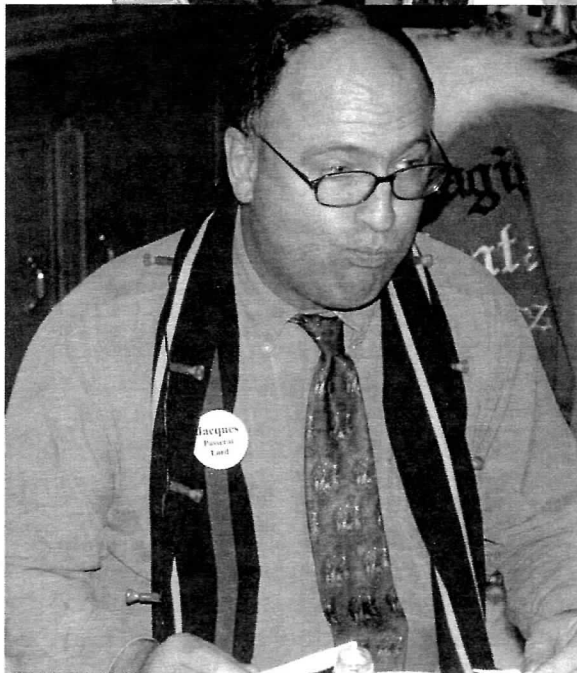
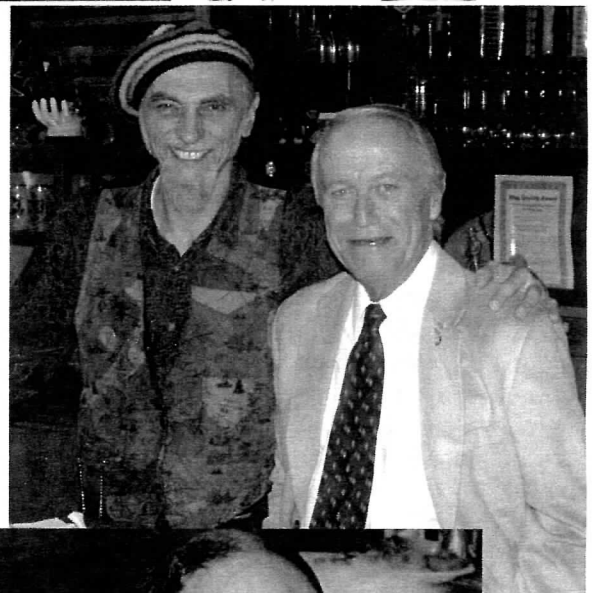
Teachers in all fields of study are finding that students do not have the patience to learn something thoroughly, perhaps due to our disposable world. The fine arts take much time and effort, and magic is no exception. There is simply too much out there to be experienced, and the experience has become everything, instead of the assimilation of the experience.

Magic will have to move beyond mere disposable entertainment if it is to gain the same respect as the fine arts. It will have to move emotions and touch the human heart with the same impact as the best music, dance, theatre, paintings, cinema, sculpture, photography, and literature.

The questions are: Will magicians be able to take magic to the next level, given the stiff competition of modern media? How will you and I help advance it?

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## More Holiday Party Photos Dec. 2005



## Magic notes from:



The other day someone wrote to ask about the cartoon at the top of this column. It was drawn by Karl Kae Knecht, who was my great uncle. When I was just a little boy, Uncle Karl came to visit us one summer. He was an elderly gent and liked to take a little catnap at about 2 every afternoon, in a big leather easy chair in the living room of my grandmother's home.

One day while Uncle Karl was trying to sleep I was playing just outside the window where he was seated. I was making a lot of noise and he came out to see what was going on. He wore funny spectacles that would pinch on his nose and had a big black ribbon that ran from the glasses and hung around his neck. As he stood in the doorway looking rather annoyed with me, while the spectacles were perched on the tip of his nose, I told him I was driving a chariot with an elephant as my mode of power.

Karl Knecht was a prominent cartoonist in the mid-west and often did cartoons for Robert Ripley's "Believe it or Not" series that was syndicated in newspapers around the world. After listening to my explication of all the noise, he went to his drawing board that was always set up in a corner of the living room and created the little boy with the elephant and the chariot. That evening at dinner he presented the cartoon to my mother and told her it was her noisy son and his elephant. Mom was pleased by the drawing but for a moment was a little terrified that we might really have an elephant living out in the barn behind grandma's house. You see Uncle Karl had a large collection of exotic animals that eventually became the Evansville Zoo.

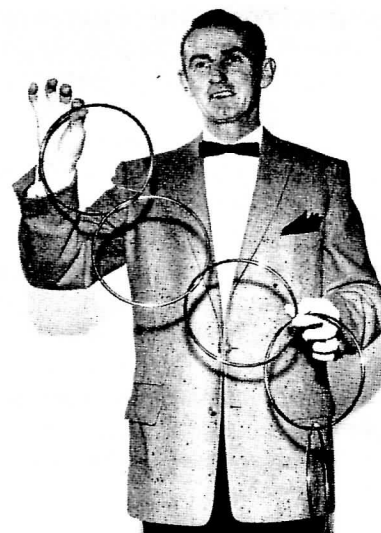
My mother saved the original cartoon and in my late teens when I needed a logo for some advertising I was doing, I remembered the elephant and the chariot, and it has become a bit of a trademark logo ever since. Karl Kae Knecht lived in Evansville, Indiana, and did a daily cartoon for the newspaper

there for 42 years. He loved magic and just about anything that involved entertainment. He was one of the founders of the Circus Fans of America, back in 1926, and was an active member of that organization until his death in 1966; for a time he was the editor of their bimonthly magazine/newsletter called "White Tops."

I remember him best for his exciting stories about circus performers he had met and written about. When he would tell his stories he would sometimes illustrate them with a cartoon or two. I wish I would have kept all of his drawings from those wonderful story telling sessions, but I didn't. Of course to me the best cartoon he ever did was the little boy, the elephant and the chariot.

While we are talking about names from the past I would like to share some new

photographs I found of Ring 76's namesake Cecil "Sid" Gerhart and some of the members of Ring 76 around 1959. The event was a public show that was presented by Ring 76 members and a group of performers who were not members. The show took place on a Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Shriner's Hall.



**Sid Gerhart doing Linking Rings 1959**

Hal Clark was the master of ceremonies and also led a group of women singers known as the "Sweet Adeline" singing group. Bernard Berwin, known as "Baffling Bernardo," presented a forty-five minute act of mixed magic effects and dancing. Harriet Rapheal, a dancer who was produced from a very unique dollhouse illusion, assisted Bernardo.

Tommy Woo did his minpulation act in a beautiful Chinese robe. The act was flawless and brought a great round of applause. Next came young Christopher Fair with his award winning magic act. Fair had been voted the best all-round young magician at the I.B.M. convention the year before.



Sid Gerhart closed the show with his comedy medicine show routine that brought him a standing ovation. Sid went into the U.S. Navy after graduating from Franklin College in Indiana. He served during World War II. Following the Navy he married his childhood sweetheart whom he had known since he was 8 years old.



**Row 1 Ed Shultz, Sid Gerhart, Tommy Woo, Bernard Berwin, Sven Lindquist. 2nd row, Hal Clark, Urban Crispin, Ted Russell, Dr. V.C. Harris & Elias Berwin.**

After the war the Gerharts settled in San Diego where he opened a neon sign business. Often working behind the scenes in magic organizations from 1948 until his death in 1974, magic occupied all of Sid Gerhart's spare time. He enjoyed performing, teaching, and collecting magic. He was one of those special people who was always there when you needed help in getting your show packed or moved from one place to another.

It is fitting that we have named our Ring in his name. If you would like to know more about Sid Gerhart, we have some of his props on display at Jack's Magic Place in one of the cases. In the near future we plan to publish his script for his medicine show pitch; it was truly different than anyone else.

While we are talking about things that are different, Samuel Patrick Smith sent me a copy of his new bimonthly publication "Funny Paper." The Funny Paper is a wonderful place to find inspiration, ideas, and information for your business, whether you're a magician, clown, ventriloquist, juggler, puppeteer, face painter, balloon sculptor, or other variety arts performer. This is an ideal publication for kid show workers. It costs \$30. for one year or 6 issues. To subscribe contact The Funny Paper, P.O. Box 787, Eustis, Florida, 32727.

## More Holiday Party Photos Dec. 2005





### *Message from the Ring 76 President*

#### **New Year's Resolutions**

I have a couple of New Year resolutions to share with each of our members. My first resolution is to invite a friend that is interested in magic to attend one of our meetings. I have found so many people living in the greater San Diego area who are interested in magic and want to be part of a club but don't know about Ring 76. Let's let them know about us and about the I.B.M. and give them the opportunity to become members.

New people coming into our Ring bring new excitement to all of our members, so it is important that each of us invite a friend to a meeting. The January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting is the perfect one to invite a friend. Our program will be showing our members how to do a favorite trick. It's more than a teach-in; it's a special workshop on stand-up and parlor magic.

My second resolution is to read more than just the News Briefs column in MagiCurrents. Each month Jack White, Jim Riley and a host of guest columnists produce one of the best newsletters in all of the I.B.M. Please take the time to read it all; I promise by doing that you will find some information about our Ring that you did not know.

Better still, take the time to write a brief article about someone or something that is important to you in magic. Last year, Charlie Gott and Greg Wauson both wrote great articles about a person that had made a difference in their performing lives. From Iran, Bryon McDaniel let us know about a fellow Marine who taught him a card trick and brought him into magic. Each month Jon Hand does a wonderful job talking about tricks and performing style, his writing is excellent; please take the time to read his work.

Dr. Joel Moskowitz is an avid reader, as well as a writer, and at least six times last year he wrote some very insightful reviews of new magic books that were just released. Jeff Marcus, gave us a nice look at the Columbus Magi Fest in Ohio, and included some photographs that he took while visiting that prominent event. Michael E. Johnson wrote a series of very funny articles about unexpected things that happened to him during a magic show. Sal Barajas has written about his visit across the border to the Tihany Show in Mexico.

I hope in the year ahead you will take the time to write about something that appeals to you in magic and send it along to Jack White, for inclusion in our MagiCurrents newsletter. Don't worry about your writing style, Jack will polish it up and make it shine in print.

Make it your resolution to be more of a part of Ring 76 in 2006.

*Bob Ingalls*  
*President Ring 76*



**President**  
Bob Ingalls

**1st Vice President**  
Terry Lunceford

**2nd Vice President**  
Kenny Shelton

**Secretary**  
Jack White\*

**Treasurer**  
Richard Ustick

**Sgt at Arms**  
Sal Barajas

**Member at Large**  
Jacques Lord

**Immediate Past President**  
Diane Lane\*

**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](mailto:prestooone@cox.net) or by phone at 619-299-9037

## News

**Syd Segal** has booked mid-west magician **Nathan Kranzo** to do a lecture in San Diego, on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The lecture will be at the California Western Law School; admission is \$20 and Syd is suggesting reserved seating with payment in advance. Nathan's magic is geared towards beginner and intermediate close-up workers. Syd Segal's e-mail address for more information is [BTL6380@aol.com](mailto:BTL6380@aol.com)

**Bob Ingalls** was a big hit at the Magic Castle in Hollywood this Holiday Season with a card trick that has the name of the selected card written on some M&M candy that he gives away to spectators. The spectator selects a card and returns it to the deck. Bob attempts to find the card by randomly cutting to various cards. When he fails to find the card he tells the spectator he needs a candy break and brings out some M&Ms only to find the name of the card written on the candy.

**Jason Latimer** appeared on the Late, Late Show with **Craig Ferguson** on NBC. Jason did his see-through cups & balls effect and stopped the show. Craig Ferguson is a young guy who is very fond of magic and is working his way up the late night talk show ladder.

**Marcus Day** was at the Magic Castle on New Years Day night with magic book author **Ron Cartlage** who wrote the book "Houdini in Texas." Cartlage is the president of the S.A.M. Assembly in Austin, Texas, and was in town for the Rose Bowl



game. Marcus Day says that Cartlage and his friends were so hungry for more magic that they stayed at the Castle until 3 a.m. watching shows.

**J.P. Scirica** who operates the Grand Magic Shop in Escondido, says an elderly woman walked into his store during the holidays and told him she had always been interested in magic but knew nothing about it. She said her grand children were coming to visit her for Christmas, and she would like to learn a few tricks to keep them entertained. He showed the woman a few simple tricks, and she left the store. An hour later she called and told J.P. she had just presented a magic show for her mail carrier, and he was amazed she said she was coming back to the store for more. Her show was a success for her grandchildren, and she gave them the tricks she learned and brought them to the store for more magic. See what happens when you teach someone a magic trick.

We also remind you that **Eugene Burger** is doing a lecture at the Grand Magic Shop, 1607 Escondido Blvd, January 11<sup>th</sup> the cost is \$25, Gene will stay around on the 12<sup>th</sup> and do a workshop that afternoon.

**J.P. Jackson** spent his Christmas in Chicago visiting Bob James Magic Shop in Elmhurst. Bob

## Briefs

has just purchased the magic estate of the late **Nick Tomei** who performed magic for 74 years. The Tomei collection consists of 42 large boxes of magic props, rare puppets, vent dummies, and books. J.P. helped Bob James inventory and price the books in the Tomei collection. Part of that collection is just beginning to show up in auctions on eBay so watch for it.

If you read the I.B.M. Ring 2100 daily newsletter then you know the name **Jamie G**, a magician who lives in Canada and is waiting for a kidney transplant. On New Year's Eve, Jamie took a bad fall and tore the muscles in both of his kneecaps. He was rushed to the hospital and was scheduled for emergency surgery New Year's Day after his dialysis. As a result of the accident, a blood clot traveled to his brain and he died. Jamie was a talented magician and he will be missed.

**Jamy Ian Swiss** will present a "Free" lecture Wednesday, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> at Jack's Magic Place. Jamy was called; "A remarkable performer and the epitome of skill" by **Dai Vernon**. Jamy's lecture is packed with practical material from a professional's working repertoire - filled with real-life information about performance of magic. His card in matchbook routine has been adopted by many other magicians. He will hold a special workshop on Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> for a limited group and will teach sleight of hand during that session with will cost \$50.

## Coming Attractions

January 9, 2006, A New Year and time to induct all new members, those having joined in the previous year. Our program will be a "Trick Parade"; various members will show you how to make props for various tricks. This is the first time we have presented this program in several years; it should be very exciting.

February 13, 2006, Annual Ring 76 Close-up contest. All contestants must audition on January 23rd at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue at 7:30 p.m. Six people will be nominated to perform in the contest on February 13th. These are new rules this year.

March 13, 2006, Bag night, members can select a brown bag containing a magic trick without instructions and then perform the effect. This is a true challenge to your performing skills.

April 10, 2006, Ring 76 Swap Meet. A chance to sell your unwanted magic. See Terry Lunceford to reserve a seller's table.

The next Ring 76 board meeting will be Monday January 23, 2006, at Jack's Magic Place; all interested members are invited to attend.

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