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MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



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Honest Sid Gerhart
Ring 76

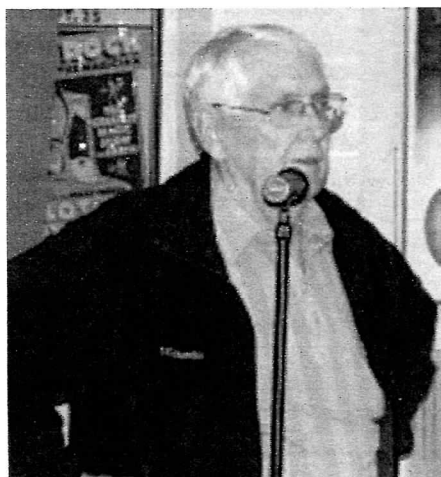
Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

Volume XX 4 April 2006

Bob Ingalls to seek 2nd term as Ring 76 President

At the March Board of Director's meeting, Bob Ingalls announced he would seek a second term as



Ring 76 President
Bob Ingalls

president of Ring 76. In making the announcement Bob and the board began the process of putting together a slate of officers for the coming year 2006 & 2007. Those recommendations will be given to a nominating

committee made up of volunteers from the general membership who will canvas members and ask if they would like to become a member of the Ring 76 executive committee.

President Ingalls was interviewing the various members of the current board to see which members would continue to serve and if there were any people to replace. There is currently a member at large position open on the board. Terry Lunceford, Richard Ustick, Jack White, and Kenny Shelton said they would continue to serve on the board and seek re-election. Diane Lane remains the immediate past president and will continue to serve. Two members, Jacques Lord and Sal Barajas, did not attend the meeting and, at this writing, have not announced whether they will seek re-election.

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Ring 76 Swap Meet Monday, April 10th

Monday evening, April 10th, one of the most talked about and anticipated meetings of the year for many members of Ring 76 will take place; it is our annual magic swap meet. This meeting is an opportunity for members to sell their unwanted magic and buy someone else's magic treasures. If you are a buyer, this is a time to dig through a lot of other people's magic videotapes, DVDs, books, tricks, seldom seen apparatus, and props of all kinds.

If you have some magic and would like to sell it at the swap meet, here are some things you should know. Tables are available for \$10 for a 6-foot-long table or you can share half a table with someone else for \$5. Sellers are the only people allowed into the hall until we officially open for business at 7 p.m. The room will be open to sellers from 3:30 p.m. to unload and set up for the swap meet.

Ring 76 Treasurer Richard Ustick is in charge of assigning tables to our sellers. Do not wait until the last minute to make your reservation for a table. Contact Richard early because there is always more demand for tables than there is space available. If you are a seller, we urge you to get in early and set up for the opening buyers. Richard Ustick can be reached by phone at (619) 589-1913 or by e-mail at rustick@flash.net.

We remind everyone that the swap meet does not include an auction; the magic auction will be held in June. This is just a swap meet, and you will not be competing with an auction of magic props and books. You keep all of the proceeds from your sales; your only cost, as a seller, is the ten or five dollar fee for a table.

If you have a friend who is interested in magic and is not a member, this is the perfect evening to bring

(Continued on page 7)

J.C. Wagner gives his magic lecture at the March Ring meeting

There was a very large turnout for our March meeting with some faces we have not seen at a Ring 76 meeting in a longtime. Many turned out for our special guest of the evening, former Ring 76 president and active member J.C. Wagner. Wagner gave a lecture and in his opening remarks told the members as a teenager he joined Ring 76, has attended many of their events but this was his first opportunity to give a lecture to his home Ring, and he was excited to be the featured entertainer for the evening.

President Bob Ingalls, who asked for volunteers to form a committee for our annual Installation and Awards Banquet to be held in July, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.. Bob then asked for any announcements and there were several from the general membership.

President Ingalls then read the names of all the new members who have joined Ring 76 in the past year. They were invited to the stage where they all took an I.B.M. oath to preserve the art of magic. They were given their official membership certificate in Ring 76 and welcomed as members in good standing.

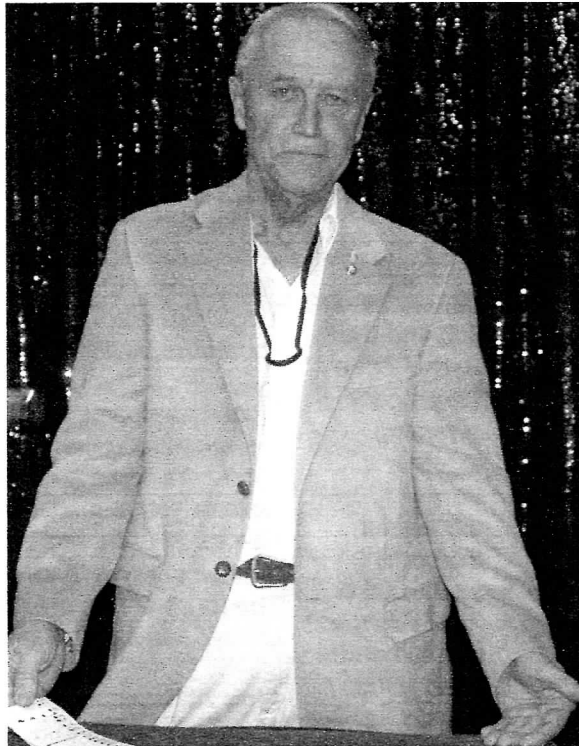
Ring 76 inducts its new members once each year; we had intended to have our ceremony in January but because of the press of unscheduled business the induction ceremony was postponed until March.

Then first Vice president Terry Lunceford introduced his friend J.C. Wagner who began the featured portion of the evening.

Because Wagner specializes in close-up magic, the Ring set up a big screen and video camera so that everyone in the audience could see close up all of the action of the lecture. Kenny Shelton did a good

job keeping the lens of the camera trained on the action as the lecture moved along.

J.C. explains every move of each trick he teaches; one of this first effects offered a different twist on things by finding a selected card with your foot. I guess this could be called sleight of foot. There were a number of card routines, a session with coins and one of the slickest coins across you will ever see and a nice little session with dice stacking.



J.C. Wagner close-up legend in magic, giving a lecture at Ring 76

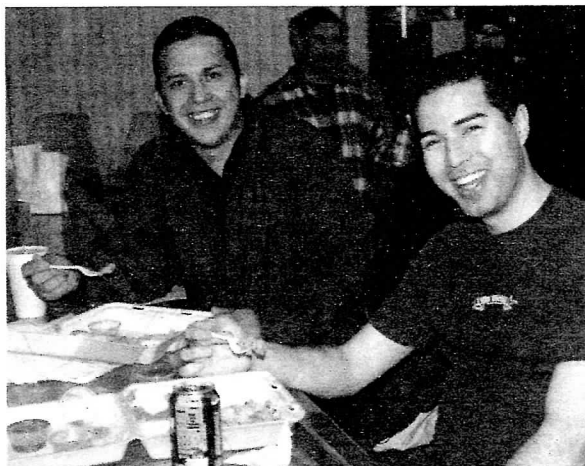
There were books and a set of lecture notes for sale on the dealer's table along with one of the greatest close-up pads you will ever see and some dice stacking cups and other gimmicks and props. If you never do any of the magic J.C. Wagner teaches it's wonderful just to have a little insight into what he goes through to make his mini-illusions work and entertain the public.

When the lecture was over, Sal Barajas opened up the Ring library for about 30 minutes. There were some photo opportunities with J.C., and we called it a night. Our next meeting, March 10th, will be the annual swap meet.

Our May meeting is the annual Ring 76 stage competition; get your act

together and plan to take part in that program. This is your opportunity to show off your skills and your act. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three winners. The awards will be announced at our Installation and Awards Banquet in July. This is your opportunity to shine as a performer and show off that magic act you have been working so hard to perfect. See Terry Lunceford if you would like to take part in the stage competition in May.

Meeting Photos



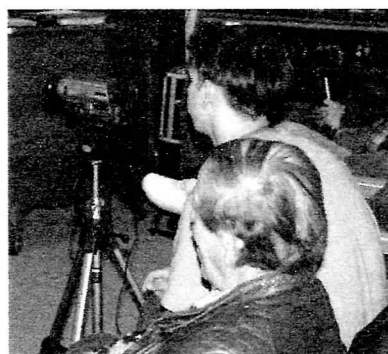
Ring librarian Sal Barajas and Jose Sanchez didn't want to miss any of the meeting, so they brought dinner and ate at the bar.



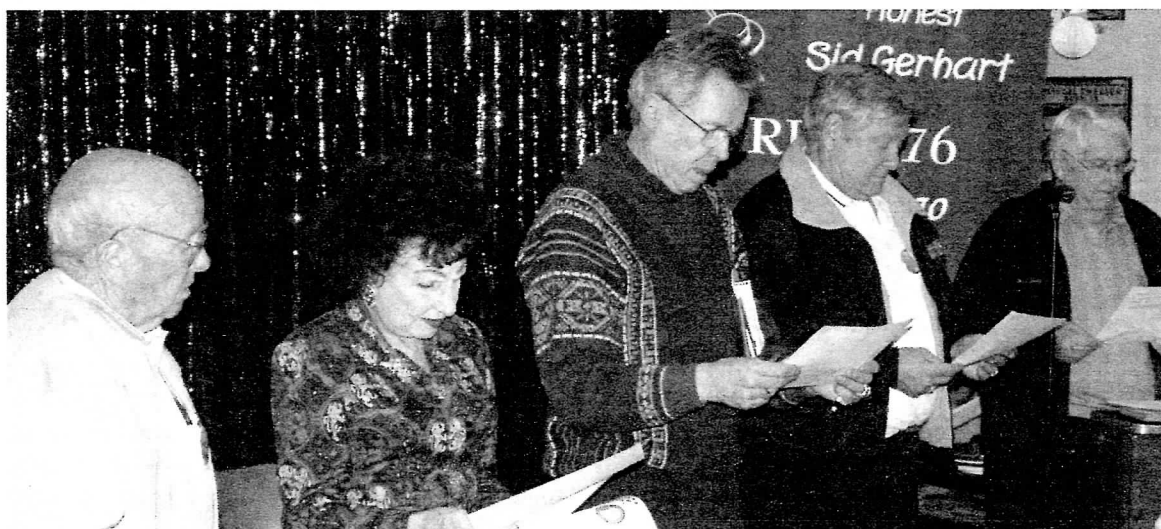
Diane Lane, membership chair for Ring 76



New members Jose Sanchez and Lou Heck.



Joel Moskowitz and Kenny Shelton behind the camera.



Bob Ingalls, extreme right, giving the oath to new members, including Lifetime Achievement honoree Vi Freeland.

Magic notes from:



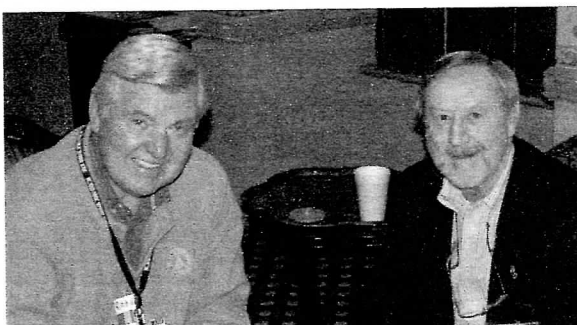
Because of my recent illness, I did not have a write up last month on this year's "World Magic Seminar" at the Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, February 19th to the 22nd. Rich Bloch and Bob Rossi always put on a great show; 2006, was one of their best efforts to date. This year's event was aimed at the close-up artist and a number of top names in close-up magic were on hand to deliver lectures and close-up magic demonstrations. Michael Gallo, Geoff Latta, David Roth, and Michael Rubinstein were but a few of the names taking part.

The World Magic Seminar dedicated this year's seminar to Tomsoni and Company, Johnny and Pam Thompson, for bringing magic and laughter to millions with their on-stage antics.



Roy Horn walking on stage at the 2006 World Magic Seminar with Siegfried.

The highlight of the four-day event was the appearance of Roy Horn, who actually walked out on the stage and spoke a few words to the audience. Siegfried & Roy, Lance Burton, Johnny Thompson, Les Arnold & Dazzle, Dana Daniels, Mark Kornhauser, and Ali Bongo appeared on the afternoon shows.



I had an opportunity to have a few minutes with the president elect of the I.B.M., Fred Casto.

The dealer's room was very large with 27 dealers displaying their wares. The room had tables and chairs for people to sit and talk among themselves and show off



Bob Ingalls in the dealers room with Tom Jones at the Wild Magic booth.

some of the items they purchased, which is always a nice touch at any magic convention.

There was a large contingent from San Diego and Ring 76 attending this year that included: Bob Ingalls, Jack White, Diane Lane, Kenny Shelton, Tom

LaChance, Joe Mystic, Ken Ball, Jose Sanchez, Joel Ward, and Len Cardoza.

There was never a dull moment with lots of magic and renewing of old friendships. Kenny Shelton took part in the close-up contest at this event. In a future issue of MagiCurrents, I will do a feature story on Kenny's impressions' of taking part in a major magic convention contest.

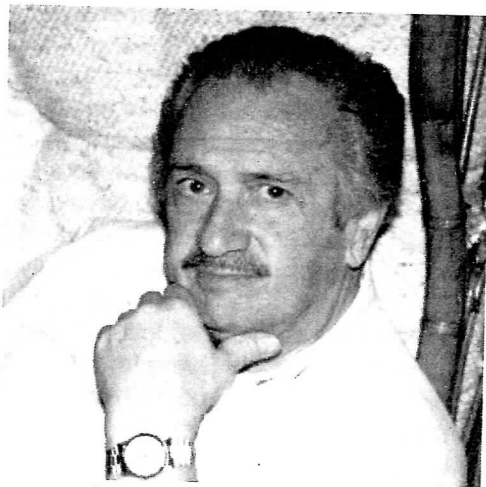
Ring 76 member Bill Solomon Dies

We received word from Territorial Vice president Jeff Marcus that longtime Ring 76 member Bill Solomon died on March 3rd; he was 82. Solomon was active in Ring 76 in the late 1970s and 80s and remained a member of the I.B.M. into the 1990s. Though he seldom attended our meetings in recent years, he remained active in magic.



A publicity photo of Bill Solomon in the 1950s.

Bill was from New York City, and spoke with a "thick" New York accent, giving his character on stage a special charm. He had a great passion for writing and created material for comedian Phyllis Diller, among others. He wrote poetry, short stories, and gags. He authored one serious book on "Ice Point Therapy." Bill served in the U.S. Airforce and was a pilot in World War II.



A recent photo of Bill as most Ring 76 members remember him.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



Election story Cont from page one

Any member can run for any office or seek election to the board. If you are interested in one of the board positions, see a member of the nominating committee and have your name placed in nomination. There is a commitment to being a member of the Ring 76 Board of Directors. You are expected to attend our general meetings and our eleven board meetings each year. That is a total of 23 meetings each year or two meetings a month. Because the I.B.M. is an all-volunteer organization, you have to pay your own way on all events.

President Ingalls will be asking for volunteers for the nominating committee at our next meeting. If you would like to serve on that committee, please let him know.

View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

A Slydini Classic for Standup Use — Part One

The late Tony Slydini had a reputation for mind-boggling magic with simple objects. Paper balls, cigarettes, sponge balls, rope, cards, and coins all fell under his disarmingly simple-appearing spell. His use of misdirection was legendary, and his effects appeared to be impossible miracles of legerdemain.

Few find Slydini a worthy study today, which is sad. There is much to be learned from masters like Slydini, but his magic was so ideally suited to his performance character that modern magicians often find the magic awkward. Also, Slydini's magic depended heavily upon a seated performing stance, which is not as available to the average magician as it once was. Seated close-up has been largely replaced by walk-around, table-hopping, and platform magic. The bulk of Slydini's material could not be performed under such circumstances, but his misdirection concepts are essential studies for the sleight-of-hand performer.

Slydini had an effect called Paper Balls in the Hat, in which four balled napkins vanished singly from his hands and were found all together at the end of the routine inside an upturned hat. Sometimes Slydini would use a square cardboard box with no top or bottom, but the effect would be the same. The original routine requires much lapping and some of Slydini's peculiar (and very effective) steals from the lap. Enjoying classic sleight-of-hand as I do, I often challenge myself to find ways to adapt seated magic to a wider platform audience. I do not call any of my ideas improvements, as Slydini was the master, and I am merely a lifelong hobbyist. I do feel that my ideas can adapt Slydini's classic seated plots for larger audiences who would otherwise never experience them, and so I humbly offer them for your examination and possible use or adaptation.

My primary motivator was to seek ways to make the routine more visible. This meant more color, more size, and more elevation. Of course, each deviation from the original routine potentially weakens the final effect, but I feel that the choices made to increase the visibility more than offset any weaknesses induced by alteration of the effect. Remember, the audience will not know the Slydini original, and so this routine will be taken on its own merits. The routine below encompasses these aspects in the choices made.

First, I dropped the number of balls transported from four to three. Three is a magical number in religion, in music, in decor, in sports, and many other fields as well. View it this way: once is an anomaly, twice is a coincidence, but three is a deliberate event. Four is then boring, predictable, and anti-climactic (wow, I can hear the howling of the Slydini devotees way over here!). Secondly, I elevated the balls with a clear receptacle, increasing their visibility from the stage. Thirdly, I added a different color to each of the balls so that the final display was obvious to the distant viewer.

Materials needed: [1.] Six sponge balls in three different colors, either 1.5 or 2.0 inches in diameter. I chose red, yellow, and green, all of which will show up well against dark clothing. [2.] A clear glass brandy snifter. [3.] A piece of buff or tan card stock of sufficient size to be formed into a tube for covering the snifter when turned into "landscape" position (i.e., wider than it is tall). [4.] Two large paperclips, or small spring clips with folding handles (often called "bulldog clips"). Don't forget to purchase backups for the above items if you plan to do this routine on a regular basis. [5.] A stock magic table with a servante, and optional black art well.

Setup: Place one sponge ball of each color into your right jacket pocket. Place two paperclips or bulldog clips on top of the balls, or in the ticket pocket that is inside the jacket pocket. Place the snifter where it can be retrieved quickly and easily, and place the buff/tan card stock near that.

Routine: Place the brandy snifter on your table, to your right of a black art well if you have one, and slightly off center toward your right side of the servante. Produce the three sponge balls magically, or simply place them on your table to your left of the snifter (and to the audience side of the optional black art well). Reach into your case and bring forth the buff/tan card stock. Rotate it back and forth to show both sides, and then turn so that the longest sides are the top and bottom ("landscape" position). Form into a tube with short ends overlapping a bit on the audience side, and hold in this position with your left fingers. Reach into your right pocket and remove a paperclip or bulldog clip with the thumb and

forefinger. Emerge from the pocket with the last three fingers curled, and place the clip over the overlapped joint. If using a bulldog clip (more secure), fold the handles down over the paper, one outside the tube and one inside the tube.

Turn the tube upside down and hold the overlap with the left hand. Reach into the right pocket, and crush the three sponge balls between the last three fingers and the palm. Then grip the other clip between the thumb and forefinger and emerge from the pocket as before. Place the second clip over the overlapped ends. If using a bulldog clip, fold down the handles as before. Holding the tube by the second clip/overlap, place the tube over the brandy snifter. Lower the right hand a bit into the tube and release the three sponge balls, which fall into the snifter in necessarily random order. You are now three ahead, and the audience has seen mere introduction of the props.

I have opted for three different vanishes for the balls. I feel that this keeps the audience interest up, especially since no climax is seen until the end of the effect. For the first ball, a modified dump vanish with a Slydini lapping move will be used to ditch the ball in the servante. Pick up the red ball from the left of the table with the left hand. Display at the fingertips, and turn slightly left. Allow the ball to sit in the palm of the left hand, and approach with the right hand. Position the right hand below the left hand, and curl the right fingers to receive the ball. Turn over the left hand as if to dump the ball into the right hand, but curl the left fingers gently to retain the ball. The key to this dump vanish is the response of the right hand, which should dip slightly as it "receives" the ball, and then close. The left hand stays still, and the right hand curls loosely to simulate the girth of the mythical ball. Using the thumb as a hinge, rotate the right hand away from the left hand (outward and toward the audience, as you are facing somewhat left) to turn it face down. Don't just turn the wrist/forearm, but move the right elbow outward and to the audience as well. Look at the audience as you execute the dump, and they will meet your gaze, attaching even less importance to the dump. Turn back toward the table (facing the audience straight on), the right hand rising to a foot or so above the tube, holding its mythical ball in a fist. The left hand simultaneously moves in an arc, downward and to the right, setting up the Slydini lapping move by bringing the left hand to the rear edge of the table. Follow the mythical ball in the right hand with your eyes as the left hand dumps the ball into the servante. With some practice, you could even arrange the left hand to fall behind the snifter/tube as it dumps, but this is not necessary if you execute a good dump vanish, follow correctly with

your eyes, and the hands move simultaneously to the right, one up and one down. Do a crumple vanish over the tube with the right hand, and open the fingers from pinky to thumb. Raise the left hand, and signal, "That's one," with your forefinger and a knowing smile.

Next month: The routine continues, with vanishes for the second and third balls. In the meantime, gather the materials needed and see if you can determine why I chose a brandy snifter instead of the wineglass used in the modified Benson Bowl routine (February, 2006). Your feedback on this or any other of my columns is welcome, so feel free to drop me a line at P.O. Box 1300, Pulaski, TN, or an e-mail at magicbyhand@charter.net.

Swap Meet Story Continued from page one

them along as a guest. The swap meet evening is open to all members and non-members with many attending from the North County and from Rings outside of San Diego County.

Items we know will be available for sale include a huge collection of used magic books, videotapes, small magic and at least one sensational illusion—a portable sawing a woman in two effect. Here is your opportunity to sell that magic that has been sitting idle in your magic trunk or magic cabinet. This is also a great time to purchase something new to work on for the summer season ahead. Last year's swap meet offered many fine props at greatly discounted prices. This year's event promises to be even better.

A word to the wise if you are a seller: keep your prices as low as you can without giving away your items. Buyers are looking for bargains and if you don't want to pack up the goods you bring to the swap meet, keep your prices low and they will sell.

We have found that swap meet evenings usually end somewhat earlier than a usual meeting, so be on time because the early birds are the ones that get the great bargains and the hard-to-find magic. There will be a lot of different and unusual magic and related items for sale at this event, so plan to attend and look it all over before making your purchase. Please remember if you are going to bring things to sell, call Richard Ustick in advance and reserve a table. As usual at all of our meetings there will be hot popcorn, hot chocolate, and soft drinks available for everyone. See you Monday evening, April 10th.



Message from the Ring 76 President

I have been busy for a week going through my magic locker looking for all of those tricks that I no longer do and getting them ready for the Ring 76 Swap Meet next Monday evening. I have found dozens of wonderful items I have never performed and several videotapes that are still in their original wrappers that will all be on my table for sale at greatly reduced prices. This is one meeting you don't want to miss if you are looking for a bargain.

There will be lots of good deals, and this meeting itself is always a lot of fun. Jack White has written a story that appears on the front page of this issue of MagiCurrents that has all the rules for the swap meet, so read it over and get all of your used magic together and trade it in for someone else's used magic. It is important you reserve a table or half table for the swap meet. Richard Ustick is the person to call to reserve your table; his number is (619) 589-1913.

It looks as though this year's Installation and Awards Banquet will be very special. Terry Lunceford is going to host the event at his house on Sunday evening, July 9th. Terry will have the dinner catered and the program will follow. Terry has hosted several parties at his house in the past. Perhaps the most memorable was the evening before the opening of the 2002

I.B.M. Convention in San Diego. That party is still being talked about by I.B.M. members.

We will be keeping you informed on the Installation and Awards Banquet as we get closer to the event itself. We might want to form car pools so that we can arrive in groups because parking can be a bit of a problem. We will have more on that later, but for now I want to thank Terry Lunceford for allowing us to use his home for this event.

I want to thank all of our banquet committee members for coming together and making this year's Installation and Awards Banquet a very special event. I hope you will mark your calendars for that evening and plan to attend, July 9th.

We are looking for members who would like to serve on the executive committee for Ring 76. We will be appointing a nominating committee this month; if you would like to be a candidate for an office in the Ring let me or Jack White know, and we will see that the committee includes your name.

See you at the swap meet
Monday evening.

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 or by phone at 619-299-9037

News

Big Variety Show Friday, April 7th featuring the Magic of **Joel Ward**, World Champion Juggler **Scotty Cavanaugh** and Hypnotist **Michael Swensen**. The show will be at the King Middle School, 1290 Ivey Ranch Road, in Oceanside. Tickets are \$10 pre-sale or \$12.50 at the door. For information, call Joel Ward Productions (760) 436-1055. By the way, Joel will be appearing on an A&E TV special that was taped at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. The show is called "Magic Castle after Dark" and will air this spring; watch your TV guide for more information on the exact time and day it will be broadcast.

More sad news; **Channing Pollock** died of cancer in March at a Las Vegas hospital. A memorial service was held Sunday, April 2nd at the Magic Castle in Hollywood; a second memorial service will be held in Las Vegas, May 13, at the Monte Carlo Hotel and Casino. **Paul Daniels** of England summed up Channing Pollock best in **Alan Watson's** e-zine when Paul said: "He was one of the most influential magicians of our time. Channing was a great magical performer and I consider myself so very lucky to have seen his act. This was perfection, and so few ever get close to that. Above all, he was a really nice guy."

Milt Larsen, editor of the Magic Castle newsletter, was so impressed by **Bob Ingalls** card trick with the chosen card appearing on some M&M Candy that Milt wrote about the trick in a current Castle newsletter. Bob was also the hit of the recent World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas with the



M&M trick. If you have not seen Bob do the trick ask him and you, too, will be impressed.

J.P. Jackson and **Marcus Day** have a very busy schedule these days. They just returned from Washington D.C., where they had a dealer's table with used books and magic at the Magic Collectors meet. They are re-packing for the Magic Castle Swap Meet this Saturday, April 8th in Hollywood; then they will return to re-pack again for the Ring 76 Swap Meet on Monday, April 10th. J.P. says he will be happy when the Swap Meet session is over.

Brad Burt, who is still very much in the magic business with an online magic store, turned up at **J.P. Jackson's** house with the parts to a very complex and interesting shooting a ribbon through a girl illusion. Brad received part of an estate from a magician in Arizona who died. Brad has the mechanism for making the ribbon go through the girl but has no instructions. Anyone think they can help him out with how this effect works?

Sid Gerhart, the namesake for Ring 76, had two sensational acts – one was his "Medicine Show" act and his "Taming Wild Fleas" routine. Recently **Fritz Lotze**, a close friend of Gerharts presented the Ring with a copy of the "Taming Wild Fleas" act. It is all written in longhand by Sid

Briefs

Gerhart. **Jack White** hopes to set it down on paper, typed out, and publish it in a future issue of MagiCurrents.

It must be spring because **Terry Godfrey** has started his County Fair dates. Terry appears at the Yuma County Fair, April 6th to the 8th. Then returns to San Diego and will appear at Seaport Village in mid-April.

Michael E. Johnson will be the featured performer for the California Federation of Women's Clubs at their 50th Anniversary meeting April 7th in San Bernardino. Michael will also begin his fourth year as a teacher for a special after-school magic class at Carrillo Elementary School in Carlsbad. The eight-week course teaches youngsters a variety of magic effects. At the end of the course, the students put on a magic show for their parents.

J.P. Seirica has moved his "Grand Magic Shop" to 130 E. Grand Avenue in Escondido and he says; "The move was the best thing I could do for the future of the shop." He has tripled the size of the shop and doubled his inventory. He has several new illusions coming in this month that he is selling on consignment. Veteran performer **Bob Elliott** is giving informal lessons for close-up workers on Saturday mornings from 11 to 1 p.m. Drop by and take part.

Terry Luncford recently won the regional championship of his small car racing class. He now goes on to the championship finals in Topika, Kansas, this summer.

Coming Attractions

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

May 8, 2006, Ring 76 Stand-up contest. Get your stage act ready and sign up for the contest. Cash awards to the winners.

June 12, Ring 76 magic auction. You will have the opportunity to bid on a wide range of magic from close-up to illusions.

July 9th Ring 76 Installation and Awards Banquet at Terry Lunceford's house, dinner, awards, and installation of new officers.

The next Ring 76 board meeting will be Monday, April 24th, at Jack's Magic Place; all interested members are invited to attend.

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