

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

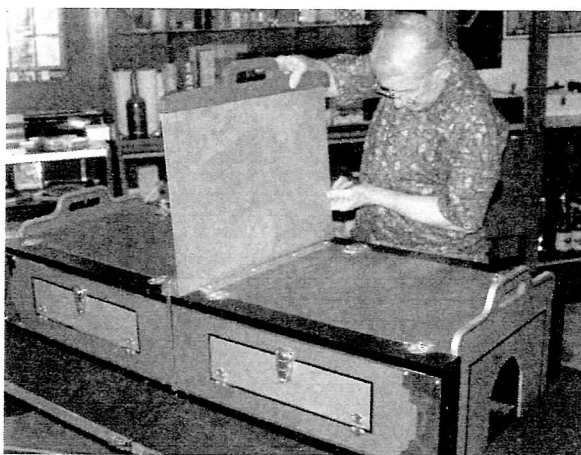
Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

Volume XX 6 June 2006

June 12 auction to be biggest in Ring 76 history

"This year's Ring 76 Magic Auction may be the biggest in our history," according to J.P. Jackson, curator for the event. Jackson announced that he has accumulated 50 lots of magic apparatus, including a \$2700 dollar illusion of cutting a woman in half that will be sold for whatever the top bid might be. Many of the items have come from a collection donated to Magician David Alexander and in turn given to Ring 76 to be auctioned at whatever can be earned with no reserve. To be included is a



J.P. Jackson examines the Sawing a Woman in Two illusion in the June 12th Ring 76 Auction.

like new attache portable sound system that belonged to the late Mike Rogers and was used at trade shows. A rare Rice Haunted Chimney with 6 foot production silk, arm chopper, beautiful 12 inch Linking Rings, Jet Set Backdrop stand, Abbotts Tear Apart Box, Props for a complete Dove Act, Fraidy Cat Rabbit, complete set of Linking Ring Magazines on DVD, tons of magic magazines, small magic of

(story continued on page 5)

Election of new officers and dues are payable

The June 12th meeting of Ring 76 is an important one because we elect a new president and board of directors. This year Jeff Marcus, I.B.M. Territorial Vice President and Ring 76 Elections Committee Chairman presented the slate of officers and had that slate ratified at the May meeting. Jeff conducted nominations from the floor and Donna Greenbaum was nominated to fill the one vacant seat on the board of directors.

At the June meeting there will be one more call for nominations. If there are no further nominations, the Executive Committee of Ring 76 will be accepted and all of the officers will be sworn in at the July Awards and Installation Banquet.

The slate of officers is as follows: President, Bob Ingalls; 1st Vice President, Terry Luncford; 2nd Vice President, Kenny Shelton; Secretary, Jack White; Treasurer, Richard Ustick; Member at Large, Sal Barajas; Member at Large, Donna Greenbaum; Immediate Past President, Diane Lane. Leaving the board will be Jacques Lord.

Those becoming members of the board are asked to make a commitment of attending 23 meetings a year. Along with the 12 regular general meetings and the 11 board meetings, board members are also asked to attend special events and business meetings as well. The I.B.M. and Ring 76 are both volunteer organizations and there is no pay or remuneration for expenses incurred.

The June meeting also is the time to pay our dues, which remain at \$25. Those not paying at the June meeting will be billed in July and will be considered delinquent if not paid by August 1st. Annual dues pay for all Ring activities, our newsletter, and lecturers that are otherwise free to members.

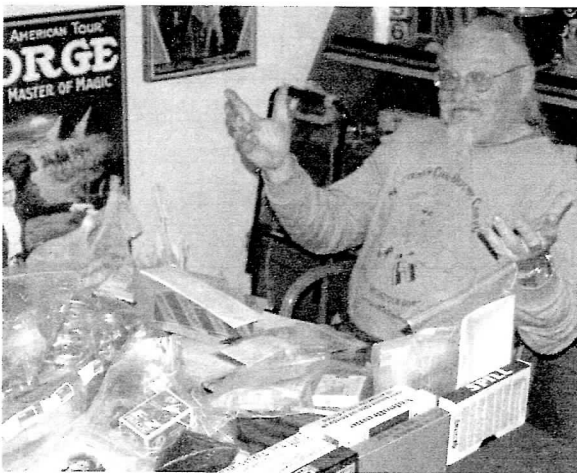
A look back at our April & May meetings in words and photos

Because of illness of our newsletter editor, Jack White there was no MagiCurrents in May. We are catching up on past events with this our June newsletter; we begin by recapping our events of the April meeting. The annual Ring 76 Swap Meet has been considered a success. Richard Ustick, our Ring Treasurer, reports that 16 members purchased tables and sold magic apparatus, books, videotapes, and DVDs. The Ring took in just over \$300 dollars in table rental fees and commissions on items sold.

The Ring Swap Meet is an opportunity for members to sell or trade magic-related items that are no longer used and to purchase someone else's magic at a bargain price. Many members have described our swap meets as one of the highlights of the year. It should be mentioned that the swap meet format might change in the future and become part of the annual Ring 76 picnic that is being planned for August. If that happens, then the April meeting date

contestants presented acts: John London with a clever mental routine, Toni Perrine with her family act, Jacques Lord and his daughter Phoebe offered an appealing magic and comedy presentation. Loch David Crane presented his always-popular Bafflin' Bill Cody magic act, Kenny Shelton did a very exciting bullet catch illusion and Randy Kappe, who is a seasoned pro who works a great deal in Southern California, closed the show. Bob Ingalls acted as M.C. for Terry Lunceford who was performing that week at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. Bob offered several bits of business while the stage was being set for the next act. Jack White was also called upon to do a bit of mind reading while the various acts were getting ready. Ingalls and White were not part of the regular judging.

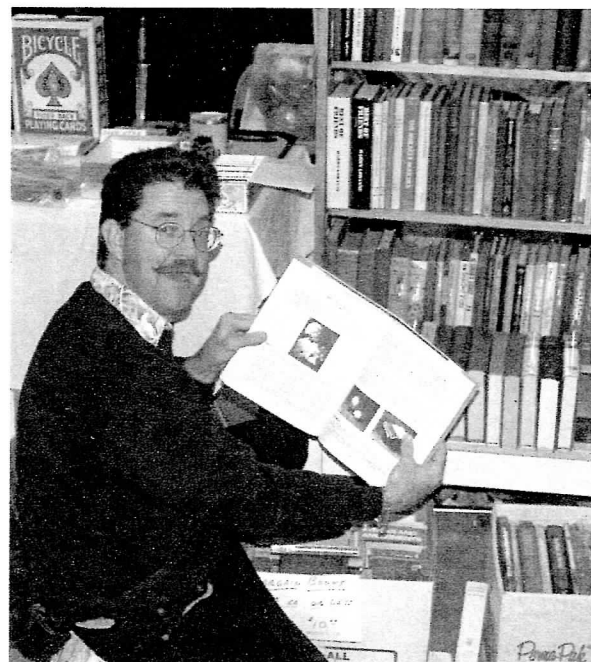
The winners of the Stand-up contest will be announced at our annual Awards and Installation Banquet in July. We are sorry to report pictures of the contestants during the Stand-up contest did not come out because of a camera malfunction.



Loch David Crane with a table full of good close-up magic at the swap meet.

would be freed up for another type of program for the membership.

You will find photos from the April Swap Meet on the next page. The May meeting was our annual Stand-up Magic Contest. Six contestants made up the contest with two additional acts that were not judged but helped to fill out the show. The following

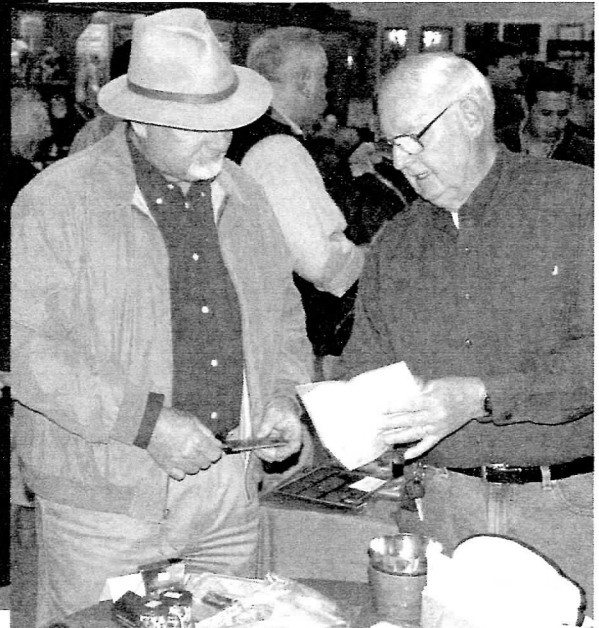


Terry Godfrey finding that special book for his huge magic library at the April swap meet.

More Swap Meet Photographs



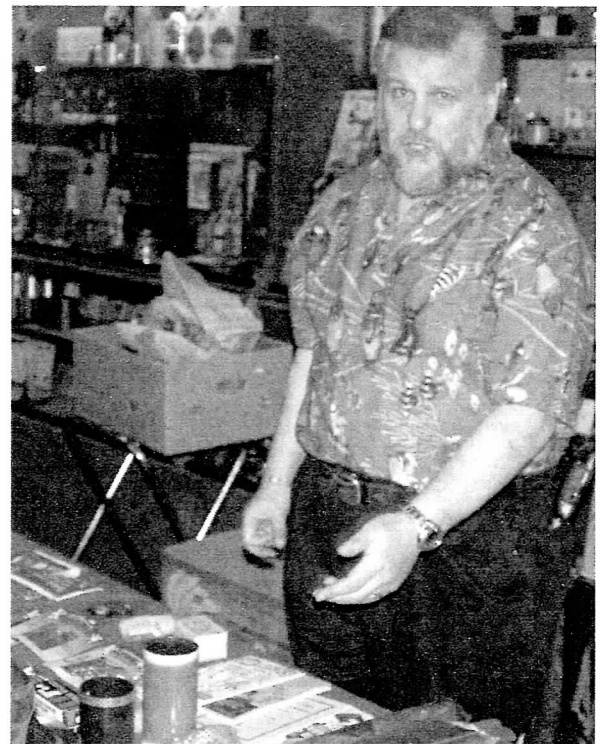
Terry Lunceford explaining an effect to a group of interested magicians at the swap meet.



Charlie Gott, on the right, going over a set of instructions for a magic trick he is selling.



Armando Torres showing off a unique collection of older magic props that include a beautiful arm chopper.



Jeff Marcus selling many of the props left by Bill Soloman, who died earlier this year.

Magic notes from:



I am using the column this month to bring you up to date on some news events and photos that feature various members of our Ring. The first Sunday in May the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce stages the largest one-day swap meet in the nation, which draws more than 100,000 people. Ted Owen, the CEO of the Carlsbad Chamber, invited me to write a story for a national publication and one of the first



Toni Perrine and her gang working the Carlsbad Street Fair

people I ran into was Toni Perrine doing some magic in front of a booth featuring women's clothing and jewelry. Toni was dressed in a fancy hat

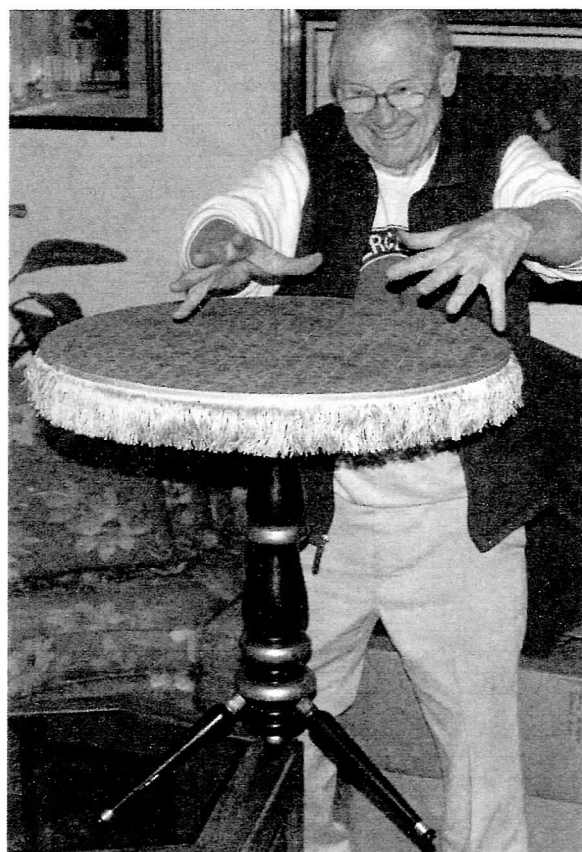
with flowers and a vest that was covered with circus and clown patches and buttons. Toni's job was to attract people to the exhibit and while I was there she seemed to be doing a good job.

Toni also sent along a photograph of her in her backyard garden working on her floating table routine. This time she is dressed in a beautiful black and orchard evening gown with a purple foulard on the table to match her dress. This looks to be a sensational act done to music and should get Toni a lot of work as a performer.



Toni Perrine presenting her floating table illusion

While I am on the subject of "Floating Tables," J.P. Jackson found this very unusual table tucked away in a suitcase of magic in the late Alton Sharpe



J.P. Jackson presenting the Robert Parrish floating table. Note the size of the table top!

collection. This table was built specially for magician and author Robert Parrish of Chicago, who died in 1995, and willed the prop to Al Sharpe. Little is known about the prop itself but it has two methods of operation. Guess which method J.P. is using for this photograph?

In early May, George Daily and Mike Cavney, the men who bought the Egyptian Hall magic collection visited J.P.'s collection and while J.P. was showing



J.P. Jackson finds the trick he is doing once belonged to the man he is showing it to, George Daily.

the two men an older piece of magic, Daily stepped forward and announced the prop had once belonged to him, and he sold it to John Mendoza, who sold it to J.P. Jackson. It's a small world when it comes to fine magic props.

Bob Ingalls and I did our annual show for the volunteers at the San Diego Blood Bank on May first. This year about four hundred people showed up for the annual luncheon event. When we finished our program, Bob surprised me by awarding me my pin for the Magic Castle. Bob briefly told everyone about the Magic Castle in Hollywood and announced that I have just been made a new member and then placed the membership pin on my lapel.



Bob Ingalls pins Magic Castle pin on Jack White

I also wanted to include this photograph of the new President elect of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Fred Casto of Walnut Creek, California.



President Elect of the I.B.M.
Fred Casto and his wife
Manya.

Manya, Fred's wife, is also very active in magic and works as a stage manager at I.B.M. Conventions and at the many shows the Oakland Ring puts on each year. Fred will become President of the I.B.M. at the Convention banquet July 1st in Miami, Florida. We are always excited to have a president of the I.B.M. from California and extend an invitation for both Fred and Manya to visit a Ring 76 meeting.

I found a photograph that was taken nearly 40 years ago of a very prominent member of Ring 76. This person was on his way to a Halloween party when this photograph was snapped. Study it closely and see if you know who it is? If you are totally mystified, the answer is on page 10 of this issue of MagiCurrents.

**Can you name
the man in this
photograph?
He is a member
of Ring 76.**



Who is this man?

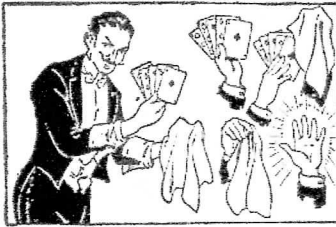


(Auction story con't from page one)

all kinds and video tapes. We also have a six bill repeat with real dollar bills, as well as many rare magic effects from several private collections.

Any member of Ring 76 can bring items to be auctioned off with 10% of the auction price donated to the Ring. There will be bargains galore and many of the effects will be demonstrated as they are auctioned off. We will have two special men of mystery as our auctioneers. This is one meeting you will not want to miss.

View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

A Slydini Classic for Standup Use — Part Two

Last month I began a routine adapting the late Tony Slydini's Paper Balls in the Hat for stage/platform use. I outlined the necessary props, and I detailed my changes to elevate the formerly seated/lapping routine to a standing platform routine. Finally, I described the opening of the routine through the vanish of the first ball. This month I complete the routine with the second and third ball vanishes, and wrap up the denouement.

Assume that the second ball is yellow. This time, pick it up with the *right* hand, holding it between your thumb and first two fingers. Display it briefly, and then turn your body slightly left as before. Approach the left hand with your right, and execute your favorite retention-of-vision vanish, apparently putting the ball into your left hand while actually retaining it in your right. You can use the ROV vanish detailed two months ago in this column for the **Benson Classic for Standup Use**, or try this one that I picked up from professional Patrick Page.

As the left fingers close in front of the ball, catch it between the right second and third fingers in a scissors/pinching move. Fold the right hand's second, third, and fourth fingers into their hand, forming a pointing fist and withdrawing the ball into the palm as you do so. This withdrawal coincides with a slight backward move of the right hand toward your right. Once the mythical ball is supposedly in the left fist, move the left hand away to the left, watching it with your eyes as the right hand points to the left hand. Don't forget to follow with your eyes. This is a quick and easy move, so don't labor over it. Timing is crucial, so practice by really putting the ball into the left hand a few times, and then closing the withdrawing right hand into a pointing fist to get the timing correct. Then, begin practicing the steal of the ball, watching for glitches or hesitations in a mirror. The two hands actually move apart at roughly the same instant.

Now, turn back toward the table (facing the audience straight on). Move both hands to your right, with the left hand going about a foot over the tube holding its mythical ball. The right hand simultaneously moves in an arc, downward and to the right, setting up the Slydini lapping move with the wrong hand (!) by bringing the right hand to the rear edge of the table. Follow the mythical ball in the left hand with your eyes as the right hand dumps the ball into the servante. Probably this dump is completely covered by the placement of the tube and the snifter, since you are dumping with the right hand. The important thing is that the dumping hand simply rests on the edge of the table in a natural manner with no movement made during the dump. Do a crumple vanish over the tube with the left hand, and open the fingers from pinky to thumb. Turn the left hand palm to the audience, and signal, "That's two," with your two first fingers and a winsome smile.

The vanish of the third ball is a bluff, but it follows my idea of making each vanish of a ball under more stringent conditions than the previous ball, thus keeping the audience interested and more puzzled as the effect builds. This time, the right hand never approaches the left. Instead, in appearance, the left hand merely picks up the ball, holds it over the tube, and crumple vanishes it into nothingness.

Assume that the third ball is blue. The left hand reaches to the table to pick up this blue ball. In actuality, the ball is either scooped into a black art well under the cover of picking it up, or dumped into the servante under the cover of dragging it to the back of the table to pick it up. The right hand never moves. The left hand assumes the proportions of this mythical ball, and moves to the familiar position about a foot over the tube, eyes following. Perform the crumple vanish, and open the fingers from pinky to thumb as before. Smile, and signal, "That's three!" with your left hand's first three fingers. Wait a beat for this to "sink in." Reach to the tube, and lift it with the left hand. Allow the left hand to lower the tube behind the table to put all attention on the snifter. Grasp the snifter with your right hand, gracefully between the forefinger and thumb around the stem, and lift it to the audience in a gesture of toasting as an applause cue. Swirl, as if containing brandy, to show all three colors swimming together in the bowl.

Alternatively, you can try catching the bowl/stem between two fingers of the palm-up right hand, and lift up with the flat hand. Try both in both close and distant mirrors and see which way looks the more graceful for you, and/or which way shows the three colored balls better for you.

Don't discount this bluff vanish. It is very

effective after seeing the dump vanish and the ROV vanish, building to an impossible-appearing climax for the third ball. You have built audience association when taking the ball from the table in the first two instances, and that association makes this vanish a total surprise. The simplest, cleanest way to achieve a result is to be desired, and the audience association works strongly in your favor.

This is a great routine to do without patter and with music. Find some elegant music that builds in intensity, as this will help build audience interest as well. Don't say anything about what you intend to do, just start the music, assemble the tube with the clips, and place it over the snifter. Produce the three balls magically (or simply bring them out and display before putting on the table). Proceed with the routine as outlined, and the slowly building music will help lead the audience through the routine. Don't omit the counting bits, as they signal that as-yet unseen magical events have taken place.

Did you determine why I chose a brandy snifter instead of the wineglass used in the modified Benson Bowl routine (February, 2006)? I wanted to use three different colored balls to increase visibility, as well as making this effect look different from the Benson routine. Since the "three ahead" loading of the balls in this effect would be difficult to load in a specific order, the snifter allows the balls to sit roughly alongside each other in random order. Additionally, the three different colors make it easy to see that all three balls have arrived at the end of the effect.

Try my Slydini adaptation and compare it to my Benson adaptation from February 2006. See which one you prefer, and offer me your suggestions or comments. One reader's commentary on the February Benson Routine suggested the use of a fan instead of a wand, adding yet another element to make the trick look so different in effect that it could be done in the same program with a cups & balls routine programmed much later in the show. This is the kind of idea I would love to have as feedback, so feel free to drop me a line at P.O. Box 1300, Pulaski, TN, or an email at magicbyhand@charter.net.

Seaport Village Magic Shop closes

The members of Ring 76 want to thank Mary Coley for the many years of service her shop gave local magicians with the operation of her Seaport Village Magic Shop. The shop closed in late May; Mary Coley said the Port District which operates Seaport Village would not give them a lease they could live with and that forced them to close the store down. Over the years Mr. & Mrs. Coley special ordered magic and presented special dealer demonstrations for Ring 76 members.

The Gathering Restaurant closed by tragic fire in May

Dan Thomas, owner of the Gathering Restaurant and magician, was stunned when his manager called him on Sunday evening, May 7th, and told him the restaurant was on fire. The blaze began as a grease fire in the kitchen and quickly moved to a hallway, then the restaurant itself. Sunday evening is normally a light evening for business; there were about 16 people in the restaurant when a waiter urged customers to leave by the front door until the fire could be brought under control. Some of the customers at the bar took their drinks with them and stood on the curb and watched as fire fighters from just across the street converged on the restaurant.

Over the years, Dan Thomas has employed many local magicians at his restaurant to work the bar and do strolling magic at the tables. Recently Tom McCarthy and Craig Stone both were working the Gathering. When one of the regular magicians was not on duty and a customer wanted to see some magic, Dan would do a few tricks.

Dan Thomas says the fire and water used to battle the blaze did considerable damage to the restaurant and first estimates put the repair work at just under a million dollars. It is expected the popular restaurant will be open again in early summer. Dan reports he is taking this opportunity to make some changes to the kitchen and the restaurant itself that were needed. He will also be offering some menu changes when he reopens. But one thing will remain the same: the Gathering will still be a great place for magicians to hang out and for those who want to see good close-up magic.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



A MAGICIAN'S NIGHTMARE



Message from the Ring 76 President

We begin this month's message from the president by telling you all how proud I am to be able to represent such a fine group of people as the members of Ring 76. When I first decided to seek the office of president I said I would only serve one term. I said that because I wanted to do a good job and work to make ours truly one of the finest Rings anywhere. With your help, my year as president was exciting, rewarding, and fulfilling of promises made to our membership and myself. Because of the progress we made together and my love of magic, I have decided to seek a second term as President of Ring 76. Again I thank you for your support in the past and I look forward to your continued support in the future.

I will be sitting down with our board of directors in mid July to plan the year ahead; if you have some thoughts about our program schedule for 2006-07 please send me an e-mail, letter or take the time to talk with me about your concerns and thoughts. We must all remember this is "our" Ring and every voice is important. I have already heard from some of you who want to have more opportunities to perform at meetings. With that in mind, we will try to have more programs that allow our members to do more magic.

Again as president I am most happy to report that our treasury is in good shape, and we will be able to start another year of operation without asking for an increase in dues. Richard Ustick our treasurer has kept a very good accounting of where your money goes and questions every expenditure made by our board. As a result we will again charge \$25 dollars for Ring dues for 2006-2007. I remind you those dues are now due and payable, for those who do not pay at the June meeting, you will be billed in July. Many Rings around the country are now charging 30 and 35 dollars annually for dues; some have told us they have raised dues to \$45. Again we have been able to hold the line with no increase and still continue to offer benefits other Rings can only dream of offering. My point being pay your dues and keep Ring 76 strong.

It is time to thank Jacques Lord for his year of service to the board of directors of Ring 76. I want him to know his efforts are very much appreciated by our members, his fellow board members, and by myself. Jacques, you will be missed as a board member, but we look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings. We welcome Donna Greenbaum to our board of directors and thank her for making the commitment to Ring 76. I look forward to working with her in the year ahead, as she has become a welcome addition to our board of directors.

Later this month I will be attending the I.B.M. Convention in Miami, Florida, along with Jack White, and Diane Lane, from Ring 76. See you all at the June 12th meeting.

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

Sal Barajas, Ring 76 Board member and Ring Librarian, lost his job as a magic demonstrator when the Seaport Village Magic Shop closed down in late May. Sal is now working part time at the Grand Magic Shop in Escondido. Sal is also continuing to operate his photo business taking pictures of weddings.

Kenny Shelton, another Ring 76 Board member, has recently been commuting to Hollywood and Paramount Pictures Studios for the taping of a new American Idol Show. Kenny is sworn to secrecy and cannot tell us if he will appear on the show that airs later this month. But I would tune in and see if there are any faces you recognize on the program. Kenny will have the air dates at our June 12th meeting.

Former Ring 76 member and longtime magician **Lorin Stewart** had a nice write up and color picture in the May 2nd Business section of the San Diego Union Tribune. Lorin is the director of operations for the Old Town Trolley. What many of you may not know is that Lorin spent seven years acting with the Royal Shakespeare Company in London, England, before moving to San Diego in 1989. His love of magic has not diminished, and he keeps promising he will return to Ring 76 in the near future.

Siegfried and Roy The Miracle will appear on the Bravo television network at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13th. This is of course an older program that is being repeated, but if you are a



Siegfried and Roy fan you might want to tape it for later viewing.

The MagiCurrents office received a very nice new press package from **Michael E. Johnson** telling potential clients why they should book a magic act. Michael had done a great job promoting himself and magic with his latest mailing. Michael has been busy this spring teaching magic to elementary school students and working a lot of magic dates. Take a tip from Michael E. Johnson and update and expand your press material.

Terry Lunceford recently worked two weeks at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. The first week Terry did his stand-up act in the Parlor; the second week he worked the newly reopened W.C. Field Bar area that now is equipped with a gallery where people can sit and watch the performer behind the bar. For the extended stay the Castle management allowed Terry to park his huge camper in a corner of the parking lot where he set up housekeeping for the two-week engagement. Terry says it was his most pleasant stay at the Magic Castle.

Bob Ingalls and **Jack White** were recently asked to videotape **Jason Latimer's** new full evening magic show at Civic Theater in Thousand Oaks, California, a city just north of Los Angeles. Also in

Briefs

the audience were **James Kellogg** and **Joel Ward** who made the trip from San Diego. The highlight of the show was Jason's new floating lady illusion that was staged with a series of video cameras so the audience can see all around the illusion that swings all the way around so you can see all sides of the effect. This is an act you will be hearing more about in the future.

The all-new **Kenneth Feld** arena magic show has been booked for the San Diego Sports Arena in September. Kenneth Feld is the largest producer of family entertainment in America. He and his company, Feld Entertainment, are responsible for Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus, Disney on Ice and several Las Vegas attractions that included Siegfried & Roy. Feld has been shopping around for a young magician to front this new arena show for several years. One of those who auditioned for the lead role was our own **Joel Ward**.

Jim Riley, the Ring 76 Lifetime Achievement award winner for this year, has been doing magic shows for patients in hospitals for many years. He has recently completed 700 hours of volunteer work for patients and their parents at Childrens Hospital in San Diego.

Mike Cavney in San Diego in May to see the long running play "Triple Espresso" at the Gaslamp Theater in the Gaslamp District of San Diego. Joining Mike was **J.P. Jackson**, **Marcus Day** and **George Daily**.

Coming Attractions

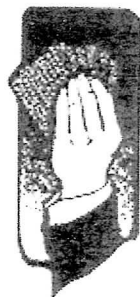
June 12, Ring 76 magic auction. At Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue. Meeting will start at 7 p.m. A brief business meeting and election of officers and our annual auction. You will have the opportunity to bid on a wide range of magic from close-up to illusions. Dues are payable at our June meeting-\$25 per year.

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

August 13th has tentatively been set as the Southern California I.B.M. Ring Picnic. The location is a park in Temecula and all Ring members are encouraged to set up a swap-meet-style table of magic for sale. More information will be available soon on this exciting event.

The next Ring 76 Board of Directors meeting will be June 19th, a week earlier than usual to accommodate those who will be attending the I.B.M. Convention in Miami, Florida. This will be the last meeting of the outgoing board. All members are invited to attend board meetings that begin at 7 p.m. sharp at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave.

Watch for our re-opening soon



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MagiCurrents is published monthly by Ring 76 and is edited by Jack White; Associate Editor is Jim Riley. We encourage articles, stories, and news items. All material should be submitted to Jack White by e-mail at prestooone@cox.net. or written manuscripts may be submitted to Jack White, 4288 Arguello St., San Diego, CA. 92103.

(Mystery Photo on page 5 is of Ring 76 President Bob Ingalls)