

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

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Website
www.ring76.com

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Silk Magic is the theme of our Sept. 11th meeting

Our September 11th meeting will begin with a special mini lecture by J.P. Jackson on silk magic. This is a lecture that J.P. put together for a magic collector's group and shows off some of the most beautiful silks ever made for magicians. J.P. has been collecting Rice and Tannen Ultra silks for years along with many other rare and beautiful silk items of the past. If taken care of silk scarfs will last for many years and the best care you can give your silks is to use them often.

You will find this a very special presentation. Following the lecture our members will be invited to perform on stage. The theme of the evening will be silk magic so anything that you do with silks, produce them, vanish them, make them pass through each other, tie or untie or what ever you do with a silk scarf will be the perfect effect for next Monday evening.

Diane Lane is keeping our pre-meeting teach-in session going. However, she has not announced who will be teaching a trick for September. That is usually set to start at 6:40 p.m. The teach-in is usually held around the bar area. So don't be shy-pull up a chair, watch and learn.

For those of you new to Ring 76, our meetings are held at Jack's Magic Place at 4275 University Avenue the second Monday of each month. the meetings begin at 7 p.m. sharp with a brief social period before and after the meetings. The Ring library for checking out magic books and videotapes is open immediately following our regular meetings.

Disney Magic Show set for San Diego Sept. 13 - 17th.

Some of you may remember about a year ago a number of fine young magicians in Southern California, were invited to audition for a new traveling show that was to be produced by Kenneth Feld, the man who produced the Siegfried & Roy Show and produces the Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus each year. The show Mr. Feld was putting together would be a theater/arena show in association with Walt Disney Productions. The illusions were to be designed and built by Jim Steinmeyer and San Diego was on the list of cities the show would play.

Early this summer Feld Entertainment announced they had selected Alex Gonzalez from California and Brad Ross of New Jersey to be the magicians in the

Story continued on page 5



Brad Ross causes lady to float as Goofy looks on in Disney Magic Live

August Ring 76 meeting draws large number of performers for favorite trick night.

More than sixty members and their guests turned out for our August 14th meeting. It was Favorite Trick night and a dozen people got up to perform. We have photos of them working on this and the next page. President Bob Ingalls called the meeting to order and made the necessary announcements. Loch David Crane asked for a few minutes to talk about a Halloween event for the San Diego Historical Society. Then 1st Vice President Terry Lunceford took over the meeting and presented each act.



President Bob Ingalls conducting the meeting.

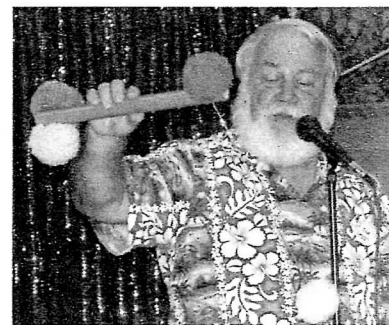
We will let the photographs tell the story of the performing session. We need to mention the wonderful talents of longtime professional magician Bob Elliott who makes the trip each

month from the North County to attend our meetings. Bob is excellent with cards and coins. We invite all of our members to take a few minutes to say hello to Bob and if you have a question about a certain sleight or move ask him and he will help you perfect it. He is one of those rare talents and we are so lucky to have his likes in our group.

Sal Barajas, our Ring 76 Librarian, has recently changed jobs and has been unable to attend some of our meeting, but we are happy to report he has had his schedule changed and hopes to be back with us on Monday evenings. There have been a number of new videotape additions to the library during the summer months. We have also added some new book titles. The magic library is free to all Ring 76 members; it is a great asset; take advantage of it to improve your knowledge of magic.



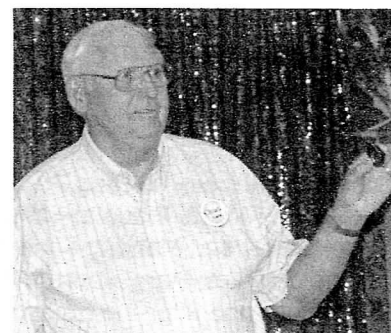
Alex Greenbaum helps Greg Wauson with "Ring on a Rope" beautiful in Greg's hands.



Joe Mystic's very funny "Pom Pom Stick" a great routine.



Jim Whiting and his clever effect of pulling two straws through each other.



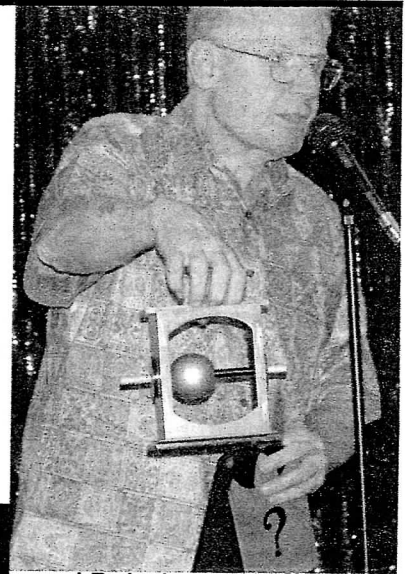
Charlie Gott and a clever piece of magic.



Terry Lunceford goes into the audience to do a knockout card trick.



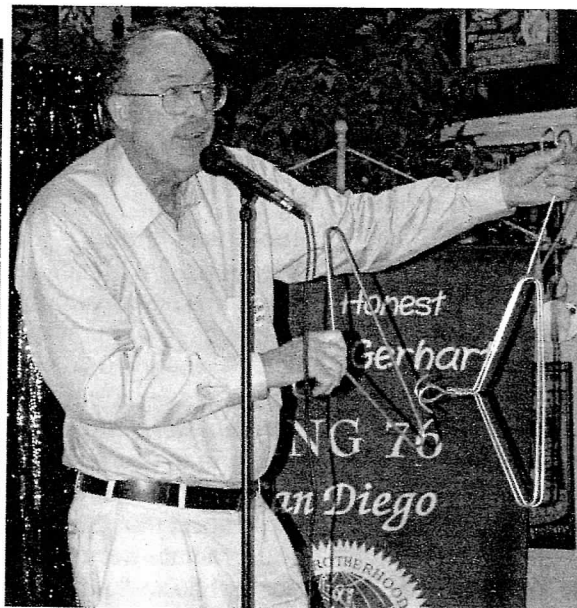
Diane Lane reveals a prediction card that John London thought of before the show.



J.P. Jackson shows off an old effect with a ball on a wand.



Michael E. Johnson accepts his "Performer of the Year" trophy and does a favorite trick.



Jim Riley does his favorite trick of "Linking Clotheshangers" and has to saw his way out of the linked up mess.



Donna Greenbaum makes her debut as a performer.



All of our Favorite Trick performers

Magic Notes From:

Handling Stage Fright



This past summer I made it a point to put some of my files in order and clean up my office. I found a file full of notes I had made on overcoming stage fright. Most of the notes were little tips that friends and fellow performers had given me over the years. I have been compiling these words of wisdom for a long time with the intent of writing them down for my fellow magicians. The time has come to share them with you.

Let me begin by telling you that at one time or another every performer has had his or her moments of stage fright. It is nothing to be ashamed of but it is something you can deal with and here are some thoughts that I hope will help you.

Practice Makes Perfect.

Yes, practice, practice and more practice is the first requisite in your efforts to combat stage fright. When I was anchoring the news each evening, on occasion I would get a touch of the jitters. In looking back at the moment it was because I did not know the story I was about to tell, the facts were incomplete or important parts of the story were missing. The same is true with magic; if you don't know everything you can about the trick you are going to present, you can suffer a good case of stage fright.

Apparatus That Works.

The right kind of apparatus – apparatus that you know will work is very important. Using cheap or worn-out apparatus is like telling a bad joke. You never can depend upon it to deliver the goods. Once you decide to include an effect in your act used the best equipment you can get.

Checking Up On The Act.

A couple of minutes before you go on glance about; see that your tables and all props are in place and loaded to work. But only look once. Repeated, nervous glances only tend to create doubt and uncertainty in your own mind and lead to nervousness. Make it just one good thorough look and let it go at that.

Shun Altercations.

Avoid arguments with friends and fellow performers – with anyone – before the show. Especially those arguments which may lead to bitter, cutting words and sometimes criticism of your act, all of which tends to make you feel a little inferior, shaken up, and very resentful. Those feelings, will keep you from doing your best before an audience.

Several Deep Breaths.

Here is a line that has been repeated to me by any number of performers that range from magicians to singers to circus stars. Take eight or ten deep breaths just before you walk onto the stage. The deep breathing exercise tends to calm you down and get everything working. But there is a warning from several performers I talked with, who say eight or ten deep breaths are fine but never more than ten. There is the story of the performer who took many deep breaths walked out on the stage and fainted. Not a good way to start your act. But a few deep breaths, such a simple, natural routine can get you over those first few seconds of stage fright.

Audience Contact.

This next point on stage fright comes from one of the many new books about that great magician Howard Thurston. As Thurston would first walk out on to the stage with the music playing loudly, it has been said that in his mind he would repeat over and over: "You're a wonderful audience – I love you – I love each one of you – I love you all." Newspaper reviews of the Thurston Show would often report that the great showman and magician would radiate warmth and friendship from the moment he walked on to the stage and there was a glow of love about him. I think we can all take a page from Thurston and learn to relax and just give our audience a loving glance before we speak a word. It will also relax you as a performer to take that moment and say to yourself, "What a wonderful audience I have before me."

Know Your First Trick Inside & Out.

To open your act use a fast sure fire opening effect. But be sure you know that trick inside and out, know it so well that nothing can happen to make it not work. Once you hear the applause from your first effect you will forget about being self-conscious, or being timid, or fear of failure, the whole catalog of phobias will disappear and you will become wrapped up in the act itself and the sheer joy of performing.

Knowledge Is Power.

When you start feeling a little timid about your act, don't forget: The audience can't possibly know one

half as much about your tricks as you do yourself. If something goes wrong don't panic, keep on going as though nothing happened. Have a planned out in case the thread breaks or the gimmick does not work. Keep on going and most of all keep on smiling as though it was all planned. The audience will never know, if you don't panic.

Dress For The Occasion.

If you walk out on the stage and you find the people in the audience better dressed than you are, that can give you cause for alarm that can lead to a good case of stage fright. So buy a nice suit or tuxedo, wear something appropriate for your performing style and keep it clean, wear it only when you perform. By dressing well you will automatically eliminate a big part of stage fright. When we are well-dressed we feel good about ourselves and that is a big part about being a successful performer.

Final Thoughts on Stage Fright.

There's no magic amulet, no "cure all" for stage fright. If there were, it would sell for a million dollars a bottle and a thousand dollars a pill. If you will reread the above points you can learn to control and eventually conquer your stage fright. The reason we become nervous is because we don't know how our audience is going to accept us. Know your act, be friendly and smile, take your time and have fun with what you do and it will become easier each time you walk out on the stage.

Disney Magic Live Cont from page 1

show. Brad plays the polished performer, while Alex plays the part of the bumbling neophyte who is constantly trying to separate his two Linking Rings as a running gag throughout the show. Both of these young men are accomplished magi and each has had exciting performing backgrounds.

They began putting the show together in July, at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. They moved out of quarters and onto the road September 1st in El Paso, Texas; the show is playing in Phoenix, Arizona, this week and will move into the Copley Symphony Hall September 13th and run through Sunday, September 17th, then move to Fresno, California.

The show is filled with music, color, magic and all of the Disney characters and has been produced on a

lavish scale. Ring 76 is trying to get a block of tickets at a discount price; we will let you know more about our efforts at the Monday night meeting.

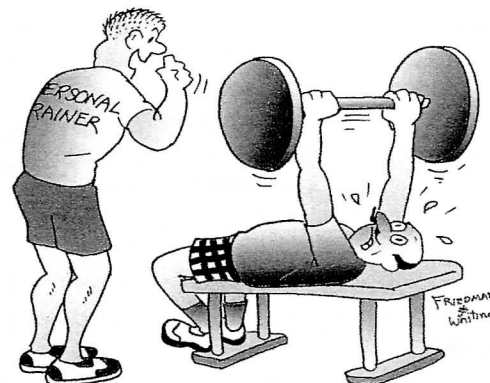
This is family entertainment at its best and should be around for a longtime to come. The show is currently booked into theaters through December 24th with a holiday break for the cast to follow that date and then a new set of dates after the first of the year.

Some of our members who attend the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas will remember Alex Gonzalez, as the young man who won the Teen Championship award in 2004, at that convention. Alex then began appearing at theme parks with his magic act in Southern California. Brad Ross is also a regular at the World Magic Seminar and at I.B.M. Conventions. He has presented a large illusion show in the New Jersey area for 5 years and has become a popular and well-known performer on the east coast.

Brad Ross is also the creator of a business to help other magicians find the Business Building tools to make money with their magic. If you would like to know more about Brad's business, visit his Web site at www.MakeMagicMoney.com. There are business building tools, books, resources, products, and a free e-zine on how to become business savvy with your magic. Brad Ross is a guy who has come up the hard way and learned the information about magic as a business by doing it himself. Check out the site and plan to see the Disney Magic Show when it comes to San Diego, later this month.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Great! Now try for a double lift."



Message from the Ring 76 President

As you read this column, Judy and I are getting ready to take a cruise to Alaska. We have been planning this trip for years. Yes, years. We intended to go in 2003, but because of eye surgery I was forced to delay it. Then in 2004, we had our bags packed and were ready to leave and Judy's health was such that we had to postpone our sailing. Now, our bags are packed and barring no more unforeseen circumstances we will finally be able to enjoy that long awaited vacation and cruise to Alaska.

The cruise means that I will be missing the meeting on the 11th but I will be with you in spirit. In fact there will be a lot of "spirits" where I will be and I promise I will toast you all on the evening of the 11th.

I am truly saddened that I will not be there for one of the long awaited highlights of the evening, J.P. Jackson's Silk Magic Lecture. J.P. has a collection that is second to none and his knowledge of the beautiful artwork on magic silks of the past is both entertaining and exciting to behold. Again, I am sorry I will miss that event.

While we are talking about lectures Craig Stone is confirming a date for Martin Nash to do a lecture for Ring 76 and that should happen sometime in late October or early November. We will keep you up-to-date on the

exact time and date for that event. I was at the Magic Castle over the Labor Day holiday and had an opportunity to talk with many friends, among them Mark and Nani Wilson; we are trying to workout a time for them to come to San Diego and present a lecture on magic. Mark Wilson has some great material to share with you, especially those of you who are working pros and want a few tips on making extra fees with your magic. Mark is a legend in his own time and will share some great stories about his days on network television and working some of the biggest fairs in the country. We hope to have a date for Mark Wilson's lecture firmed up soon.

In case you haven't noticed, our Ring 76 Web site has been sadly neglected in the past year or so. Howard Harris who has been our volunteer webmaster has been called to Los Angeles on business and has been unable to work on the site for some time now and we need a new webmaster to give our site new life. If you would like to take on that project please let me or Jack White know at once and we will help you in getting started on turning things around online for Ring 76.

Monday evening will be an exciting meeting, sorry to miss it but I will be thinking about all of you somewhere on the high seas.

Bob Ingalls
President Ring 76



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*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

Milt & Bill Larsen, who created the Magic Castle, will be honored with their own star on the Hollywood Walk of fame September 15th. The star will be located at Hollywood Blvd & Orange, just across the street from Houdini's star on the walk of fame. Then on Sunday, September 17th, "It's Magic" will celebrate its 50th Anniversary at the Kodak Theater on Hollywood Blvd. Milt Larsen has produced the show all of these years and the anniversary show will feature: Jason Alexander, emcee, Rich Bloch, Lance Burton, Juliana Chen, Dimmare, Michael Finney, Kalin & Jinger, Jason Latimer, Mac King, Jeff McBride, The Pendragons, Darren Romeo, The Passing Zone and Rick Thomas, with a special appearance by Siegfried and Roy. Now that's a who's who of magic, tickets are still available at the Kodak Theater box office.

Two movies featuring magic are still in local theaters. "The Illusionist" is a love story and a mystery thriller all rolled into one. This was a big budget movie with excellent actors and beautiful locations and a real twist for an ending. Woody Allen finally gets to play the part of a magician in the movie "Scoop," a sexy comedy with some good magic in it. Anyone who has ever asked someone to pick a card will be able to identify with Woody's character in this film. Meanwhile, a new movie about Houdini and his brief affair with author Jack London's wife is in production in England. No release date on this film as yet.

On October 1st Michael E. Johnson is hosting a Magical Mystery Tour to Hollywood; this event is sponsored by Palomar College in San Marcos. For more information on the tour contact Michael at



mjohns341@cox.net or (760) 747-4627.

Joel Ward has been entertaining the guests at The Four Seasons Resort in Carlsbad. He appeared on September 7th to do a little strolling magic for late afternoon guests enjoying themselves in the gardens. The Four Seasons is the only four star hotel in San Diego County.

Joe Mystic continues his shows at the Lawrence Welk Resort Theater off I-15, on Wednesday evenings, show time is 7 p.m. Appearing with Joe is the very funny and talented ventriloquist Kevin Johnson. For show information or reservations call (760) 749-3448.

Ring 76 is looking for a new Webmaster to take care of our Web site. If you have an interest please contact Bob Ingalls or Jack White for more information.

Saturday morning workshops at J.P. Scirica's Grand Magic Shop in Escondido are growing. Bob Elliott is often on hand to help performers workout intricate moves with cards and coins. Drop by Saturday morning between 10 and noon and join in the sessions.

The first magic magazine on DVD has just been released by Chuck Smith; it's called "Enigma." Chuck and his crew filmed most of the material in this first issue this summer at the I.B.M. Convention in

Briefs

Miami, Florida, and at the S.A.M. Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, and the Battle of Magicians Convention in Canton, Ohio.

Articles or in this case interviews include: George Schindler, Dean of American Magicians, reminiscing about growing up with magic. Dan Stapleton talks about how to get into cruise ship magic and his prolific career. Bev Bergeron, Fred Moore, Dennis Phillips and Chuck Smith discuss the history of magic. Vince Carmen reveals what it takes to create an ongoing magic dinner theater. The list of guests and subjects goes on and on. The premier issue is \$25 including shipping and handling. Each issue of "Enigma" runs about 2 hours in length. If you don't want to read a magazine here is a great alternative. To get the first issue or to subscribe contact www.enigmathedvd.com.

Magician Criss Angle has reportedly just signed a 200 million dollar, 10-year deal with the Luxor Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. Angel will produce his own show to be performed in a custom-built theater. We are told the show is set to open just before the Christmas holidays of 2007. Magic is apparently still a hot ticket item in Las Vegas.

Bob Ingalls was at the Magic Castle over the Labor Day Weekend and saw a number of Ring 76 members including: Nelson Bui, Ruben Padilla and Loch David Crane. Bob attended Argentine magician Henry Evans's lecture at the Castle. Bob also reminds us the Magic Castle Swap Meet is set for Saturday, October 14th this year.

Coming Attraction

Monday, September 11, J.P. Jackson will open our evening with a mini-lecture featuring the most beautiful Rice magic silks you have ever seen. The brief lecture will be followed by Ring members presenting tricks featuring silk magic. This will be a very colorful evening.

Monday, October 9, members will present Halloween-themed magic effects with a spooky story. Get ready for the ghost and goblin season of trick or treat.

Monday, November 13, Ring 76 Teach-in. Come and learn a new trick or sleight as 6 top performers teach our membership some new magic effects in one on one sessions.

Ring 76 Board of Directors meeting will be Monday evening, September 25th, at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. This meeting is open to all members. It begins at 7 p.m. sharp.

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.