

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

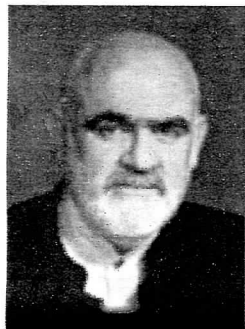
Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

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

Volume XXI 11 November 2007

## November meeting to feature "Free" lecture for members

There will be a change in the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, instead of the planned close-up round table program we will present Charles Gauci, who is known as the "Magician's Magician" in a special lecture that is "free" to all members of Ring 76. Charles is from Australia and is currently on tour in the United States and Canada. He is no stranger to San Diego either, having been an exhibitor at the 2002 I.B.M. Convention at the Town & Country Hotel.



Charles Gauci

Charles Gauci's favorite form of entertaining is performing at tables in restaurants, corporate functions, and private parties. He will show his audience on Monday evening some unique material for the close-up performer, as well as some clever items to include in your next cabaret or stage production. Charles will demonstrate some of his incredible feats of memory, and his mindreading feats. An all

round performer and lover of magic, last summer he produced the now much acclaimed Australia magic convention.

This is not just another lecture; it is a true adventure in magic, with magic tricks you will be able to master and perform. You will not learn a lot of card tricks, but you will receive some information that will help you create a better act and more exciting performance. This will be a special evening for Ring 76 members, so plan to attend. There will be a brief business meeting at 7 and the lecture to follow immediately. Our Close-up Round Table meeting will be rescheduled.

Non-members are \$20. at the door for this lecture.

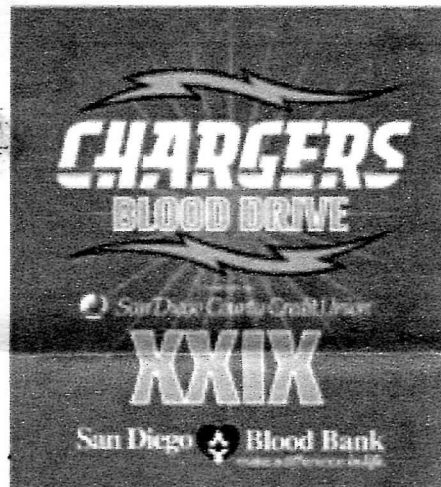
## Magicians needed at Ring 76 booth at Chargers Blood Drive

The San Diego Chargers will hold their 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Blood Drive on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley. Ring 76 has been invited to have a booth just outside of the donor room for this gala event and supply magicians to entertain those waiting to donate blood. We are asking that one or two members of our Ring be on hand to do close-up or strolling magic for an hour between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

If you have four or five tricks that you can perform, then you are a candidate for this very worthwhile program. The blood collected during this exciting event is the blood that will be used to get our hospitals

through the holiday period when most people are too busy to go to a local donor center and give the gift of life.

We will have a sign up sheet at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and you can sign up at that time to donate an hour of entertaining with your magic. That same magic will come back to help our community through the tough holiday period ahead. You will have a lot of fun at this event, as well as gaining some experience with your magic. Ring 76 hopes we can count on each of you to help out for an hour on November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Chargers Blood Drive.



## October meeting at the Pumpkin Station in Del Mar an exciting evening

The Ring 76 October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting was a little different: we moved our meeting out of Jack's Magic Place and instead met in a tent across the street from the Del Mar Race Track. The tent is the location for the Pumpkin Station, which features a petting zoo, carnival rides, and the biggest bunch of pumpkins you have ever seen for sale, and Belinda Kaesler's Costume Shop.



Guests from Ring 313 and Belinda Kaesler

In addition to members of Ring 76 many other I.B.M. members from several other Rings in Southern California were our guests. Everyone met in a hospitality tent out behind the pumpkin patch for cake and soft drinks. President Terry Lunceford called the meeting to order and welcomed all of our guests. We had a brief business meeting, and they adjourned to a little theater area that used bales of hay for seats under the big tent. The Ring was scheduled to do a show for the visitors to the Pumpkin Station, as well as our members and visitors.

Jack White started out by teaching all of the youngsters in the crowd some special magic words as Jack performed the old torn and restored "Fresh Fish" trick. That got everyone in the mood for magic as Terry Lunceford presented his famous "Snake Basket" routine with a few of his own original twists. Next came Richard Ustick, who was in costume and looked very much like Dracula. He did a clever routine with a paper napkin that got the kids laughing.

Joe Mystic was up next with a stand-up large card "Three Card Monte" routine that fooled everyone. Michael E. Johnson did his entire children's show act that included

some sword swallowing and Michael tears a big thick phone book in half. Children love Michael's show.

Greg Wauson brought a lady out of the audience for his "Ring on Rope" routine. Then came Jeff Marcus with his always-beautiful "Linking Ring" routine that is a crowd pleaser for adults and children alike.

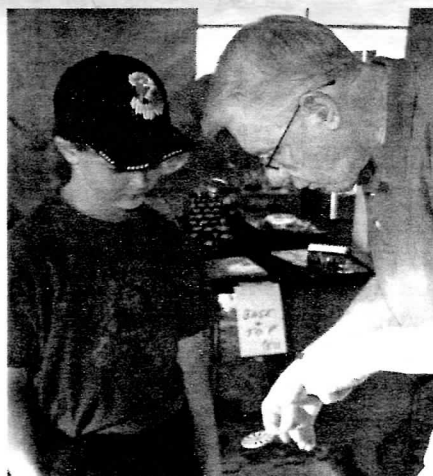
Craig Stone stole the show with a very cute boy and girl who did everything he told them to do and made Craig's act a huge success. Kenny Shelton closed the show with his juggling act; Kenny managed to find three medium sized pumpkins to juggle as the closing to his act.

Everyone who was visiting the Pumpkin Station that evening went home entertained, and the members of Ring 76 all had a good time performing before a lay audience, as well as a

group of fellow magicians. Some of the members hung around and visited J.P. Jackson's magic booth where they could purchase new and used props. Others went over to a nearby Denny's restaurant and performed close-up magic for each other. We closed the Pumpkin Station at 9 p.m.



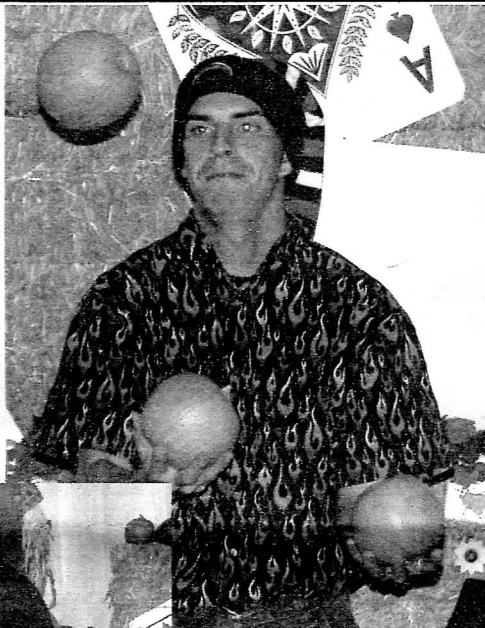
Our audience on bales of hay



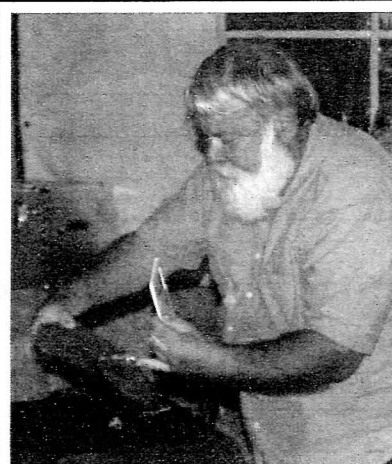
J.P. Jackson shows a young magician the paddle move.



Michael E. Johnson



Top: Kenny Shelton



Joe Mystic



Left: Craig Stone & assistants



Above: Christina & Richard Ustick



Terry Lunceford and assistant selecting a card

Left: Jeff Marcus



left to right: Greg Wason, Joe Mystic, Jeff Marcus, Craig Stone, Terry Lunceford, Richard Ustick, Michael E. Johnson, and Kenny Shelton. Our performers for the evening.

## Magic Book Review by Dr. Joel Moskowitz



### "The Complete Idiots Guide to Street Magic"

"Idiot" was originally created to refer to "layman, person lacking professional skill," "person so mentally deficient as to be incapable of ordinary ...". So says Wikipedia, the Internet resource. If that is so, The Complete Idiots Guide to Street Magic by Tom Ogden, Alpha Books, 2007, pp 379, \$18.95 promises an impossibility. Surprisingly, it delivers! Even the most magically uninformed, dexterously impaired, and audience phobic will be able to find something which he or she can perform in *The Street*.

Some magicians have blessed the wanderings of David Blaine, whose antics on the byways of the barrio and elsewhere have stimulated a renaissance of conjuring fascination. Chris Angel is equally known to the public of the future, our younger generation, most of whom would not know Blackstone from Cardini. Author Tom Ogden does more than provide a cookbook of effects, most of which can be performed without a stage. With a humorous pen, he educates the mentally limited reader about the history of the art, the maxims for proper performance, and offers many routes to expanding one's knowledge about the entire art of magic.

Magic in the street is an ancient pursuit. (Often the pursuit would be from the local gendarmes chasing these tricksters who were suspected of fleecing the crowd of onlookers). Historically referred to as "buskers," these performers were limited by using apparatus which was such that they could carry it with them but large enough to be readily seen by a small, immediate crowd.

Tom Ogden offers engravings of 18<sup>th</sup> century Mountebanks, the ancestors of such as Jeff Sheridan, who in the 90s became the singular street magician. Mountebank, translated from the Italian, describes the trickster who would stand up on a bench and often would entice passersby with deceptions and humorous tales with the intention of selling quack nostrums.

Critics of Blaine's blandishments and Chris Angel's mystifications would prefer to refer to them as "video illusionists." To be sure, attempting to create amazement out in front of a mixture of disinterested, suspicious pedestrians who may be inclined to surround you and unafraid to challenge your behavior takes especial self-confidence and skill. Chris Angel and Blaine are alleged to have the benefit of artful video editors who delete unsuccessful audience interactions and magnify extraordinary results.

The essentials advocated by author Ogden for optimum Street Magician success include: Avoid being an unwashed, smelly, annoying intrusive person. Remember, the book is for Idiots who wouldn't know these things. Know who you are and what you wish to do. You might be surprised to learn that even professionals in established careers are hard pressed when they are asked, "Just what do you do?" An understanding of the identity which you wish to communicate is more important than knowing how to do a double lift. Congruent with your clothing is what emits from your mouth. "Wanna see a trick" simply doesn't cut it. Most successful conjurers adhere to Dai Vernon's referred to as "The Professor" axiom, "Confusion is not magic." Magic must be entertaining. Telling a story (trade term 'patter') converts an exercise in finger flicking to a theatrical presentation.

Ogden's assortment of suggested "street appropriate" effects includes, among many others, Karate Kard; Piercing effects (in vogue these days); Matrix with bottle caps; Voodoo theme mental business and many more. Basic maneuvers are taught, as well as full routines. In our techno ponderous times, shuffling in electronic gadgets such as the Ipod makes street magic described in the 16<sup>th</sup> century very contemporary. Ogden gives you several options for your audience's entertainment using the Ipod.

The Appendix (not a useless piece of your anatomy) is one of these fine book's best features. With the realization that you can't really enroll at Hogwarts, there are schools for magicians, clubs to join, magazines to which you may subscribe, an extensive bibliography that you may consult. Even if you consider yourself a learned conjurer, you might just be an idiot if you don't buy and read, "The Complete Idiots Guide to Street Magic." Highly recommended.



## Remembering Howard Thurston



**KELLAR** THE WORLD'S GREATEST MAGICIAN  
AND  
THE PEERLESS CONJURER **THURSTON**

## "MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



The above advertising is from 1907, 100 years ago and one year before Harry Kellar turned his mantle of "The World's Greatest Magician" over to Howard Thurston. Below is Howard Thurston's obituary as it appeared in Billboard, the show business newspaper, in April 1936. In honor of Magic History month we thought you might find this interesting.

## HOWARD THURSTON

Howard Thurston, internationally known magician and for more than a quarter of a century the leading mystifier and illusionist on the American stage, died April 13 at Miami Beach, Fla., of pneumonia, following a cerebral hemorrhage suffered March 30. He was 66. Thurston was forced to quit the stage when he suffered a stroke in a restaurant while showing at Charleston, W. Va., December 13 last. He went to Miami Beach early in the winter in an attempt to regain his health.

Born at Columbus, O., July 20, 1869, Thurston spent five years of his early youth studying for the ministry. His imagination fired by the then famous Herrmann the Great, he soon abandoned his religious studies to dabble in magic. He received his first magical experience as an assistant to a magician appearing at a fair in Portland, Ore., more than 45 years ago. Three months later he went out on his own, working theaters, halls, museums and similar engagements. Thurston also worked for a time as a pitchman, using his magic tricks to draw the crowds.

After a tour of the West and Middle West, Thurston headed eastward and made his New York debut at Tony Pastor's theater. In 1905 he returned to San Francisco and started out on a world-tour, which proved a huge success. In 1908 he succeeded Harry Kellar, who at that time was the top-ranking American magician and with whom he had appeared for about a year before. From that time on Thurston played practically all of the leading cities of the country with his mammoth magic show, carrying 25 assistants. He was always regarded as a master showman. In recent years, with the roadshow business at a low ebb, Thurston played with his company in the country's major vaudeville houses. It was Thurston's boast that his was the last big time, full-length magic show traveling on the road.

Thurston was past president of the Society of American Magicians and a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the Kiwanis and Lions. He was also a 32d degree Mason and an Elk.

His body was shipped to Columbus, O., for burial. Funeral services were conducted Friday night, April 17, with the Howard Thurston Ring No. 9, International Brotherhood of Magicians, holding the special and symbolic wand-breaking services, with S. W. Reilly, president of the group, officiating. The Parent Assembly of the American Society of Magicians conducted a similar wand-breaking ceremony in New York earlier in the week. Burial was made in Columbus April 18.

Surviving are his widow, Paula; a daughter, Jane, by a previous marriage; two brothers, William, of Columbus, and Harry, of Chicago, and a sister, Mrs. Myrtle O'Hagen, of Brooklyn.



### Message from the Ring 76 President

Here we are into November, and the holidays are just around the corner. This is going to be an exciting month for Ring 76 members. The good news is we had a chance to get Charles Gauci to bring his outstanding lecture to San Diego, the downside was the only date he had available was the same as our regularly scheduled Ring meeting. My thought was to make it a "Free" lecture for our members. Bob Ingalls and the rest of the board agreed with me and our members will be the winners. I hope everyone will attend this meeting because you will see some really sensational magic from a great performer and teacher.

The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Ring 76 will have a booth at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley, as we support the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Chargers Blood Drive, put on by the San Diego Blood Bank. Our club is being asked to supply one or two magicians for an hour from 9 in the morning until 6 at night to entertain those thousands of people who roll up their sleeve and give the gift of life, blood. The blood that is collected during this huge drive is used to keep the San Diego County blood supply safe through the holiday periods of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years.

I plan on taking part in this event, and I am hoping I can count on all of my fellow Ring 76 members to sign up for an hour of close-up or strolling magic. If you can do three or four good tricks then you are a candidate for this event. We will be circulating a sign up sheet at the November meeting with times we will need performers. By the way, if you can spend more than one hour that will be even better. Remember, you will be doing real magic for your community by taking part in this event.

For those of you who made the trip up to Del Mar and the Pumpkin Station for our October meeting, I hope you had as much fun as I did. It was great having a lay audience to work for and a great audience they were too. I want to thank all of the performers who took part in that show; we have an article about them and photos elsewhere in this newsletter. I also want to thank Belinda Kaesler for cutting through all of the red tape and paving the way for the club. It was also nice meeting the folks from Orange County, Riverside County and our own North County Rings who were our guests and took part in that meeting.

The board is meeting to discuss plans for our Holiday Party and Meeting set for Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. It is going to be difficult to top last year's party, but we think we have some great surprises in store for this year as well. I hope to have some information to release at our November meeting; there will, of course, be a full rundown of everything you need to know about the holiday party in next month's MagiCurrents.

In case you have some Ring business to discuss, our last Board of Directors meeting for 2007 will be November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place.

*Terry Lunceford*  
President Ring 76



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#### Territorial Vice President

Jeff Marcus\*

\*denotes Past Ring President

For information on membership or Ring events, contact Jack White, Ring 76 Secretary by e-mail [prestoone@cox.net](mailto:prestoone@cox.net) or by phone at 619-299-9037

## News

**Toni Perrine** was looking chipper following a heart episode and receiving a new pacemaker in early October. Toni says she is being forced to take life a little slower but expects to be back doing her shows by the Christmas holidays. Like the Eveready bunny of television commercial fame, she just keeps on going.

Ring 76 President **Terry Lunceford** was at the Magic Castle Swap Meet, October 13<sup>th</sup>, and spent time talking with the I.B.M. President **Phil Willmarth**, who was in Los Angeles for the taping of a special fund raiser for children that was produced by Phil & Robbie Willmarth's longtime friend **Gay Blackstone**. Terry found a very unique and rare set of gimmicked coins at one of the Swap Meet tables and asked **J.P. Jackson** to help identify them and put a value on the coins.



Terry Lunceford &  
Phil Willmarth

The October issue of Linking Ring magazine has a nice story accompanied with color photos of the Ring 76 Installation and Awards Banquet last July, on page 44. Featured is the special tribute to Ring 76 member and magic legend **Bob Elliott**. Meanwhile, A photograph of San Diego sleight-of-hand performer **J.C. Wagner** appears on page 15, of the October, Genii magazine,



promoting J.C.s new DVD which is titled "7 More Secrets" that is now available directly from J.C. at [www.jcwagnersmagic.com](http://www.jcwagnersmagic.com) or from your favorite dealer.

One of the most elite of magic conventions takes place in early November, "The L.A. Conference on Magic," at the Beverly Garland Hotel in North Hollywood; this convention is held every other year. This magic event is by invitation only and has room for just 250 attendees. This year a featured portion of the convention will be the presentation of the famous "Hooker Card Rise." One of the lucky non-attendees who was able to get a special ticket to see the "Hooker Card Rise" demonstration is former Ring 76 member **Sumit Dua**, who now lives in Los Angeles, and is about 6-months away from completing medical school. Sumit continues his interest in magic and is on his way to building a fine library of rare and important magic books.

**Joe Mystic** has been on the road doing a series of variety shows, in San Diego at the Al Bahr Temple, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, he appeared with **Veekey the Clown**, **Mark Bennett** from Las Vegas with his illusion show and a great old circus performer who at the age of 70 still does a sensational trampoline act. The day following the San Diego show, the entire unit moved to San Bernardino, for two more shows. The acts are all accompanied by a live music group. The programs are promoted through a

## Briefs

telephone sales campaign and the tickets are given to children and adults who might not otherwise be able to attend a live variety show.

The I.B.M.s Southern California Territorial Vice President, **Jeff Marcus**, will visit three cities in China, in November. Jeff will be making the trip for both business and pleasure and will of course do some magic and hopefully see a couple of Chinese magic shows while he is there. He is hoping to meet with the President of Ring 311 in Beijing during his visit to that city, extending greetings of goodwill from Ring 76 in San Diego.

The recent fires fanned by the Santa Ana winds caused tense moments for many members of Ring 76, some of our members had to take the clothes on their backs and a few meager possessions and evacuate their homes, leaving many lifelong treasures behind. **Jacques Lord** and his family lost everything, when their home in Rancho Bernardo burned to the ground. Others drove away from their front door not knowing what to expect when they returned. We are happy to report that no one else lost their property; however, the long hours of waiting and not knowing in the strange environment of an evacuation center took its toll. Those who returned to find minor damage or no damage at all must still go through a rebuilding period and of course the fear that it could happen all over again.

On November 10th, **Cameron the Hypnotist**, will present his full evening show at the Wien's Family Cellars in Temecula. Comedian **Tom McGillen** is also on the show. Cameron is conducting self-improvement seminars after using hypnosis to loose 170 pounds. He can be reached at 858-278-6557.

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## Coming Attractions

**Monday, November 12th, 7 p.m. "Free Magic Lecture" featuring Charles Gauci known as "The Magicians Magician." Don't miss this lecture! Our magic round table session will be rescheduled at a later date.**

**Tuesday, November 20th, Charger Blood Drive at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley. Ring 76 will have a booth in the activities room, with members doing close-up and stand-up magic throughout the day.**

**Monday, December 10th, Annual Ring 76 Holiday Party. This year's party will not be held at Jack's Magic Place. A location for this event is still being planned with announcement to be made in Nov.**

**Monday, January 14th, New members night and an opportunity for all members who want to perform their favorite trick, to do so.**

**Monday, November 19th, Last board of directors meeting for 2007, at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. 7 p.m. sharp. All members are invited to attend board meetings.**

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