

I.B.M**RING #29****NOVEMBER 1993**

MAGIC MUSINGS

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring #29

1917 N. Grant, Little Rock, ARKANSAS 72207 • (501) 666-8735

Meeting 1st Thursday of every month, CARTI, St. Vincent's Hospital



Our own Fred Hartman to perform this Thursday.

BRIEFS

Coming events:

November 4 -- Regular meeting

Fred Hartman performance

November 2 -- Regular meeting

Possible lecture, to be discussed
and voted on at Nov. meeting

January, 1994 -- Christmas Party

(Or should it be New Year's?)

● Magical People ●

✓ Randal Eller is back from his magic tour
in the Northwest.✓ Mike Strobel is in California and we
hope he gets to stop by the Magic Castle.✓ Mary Ann Campbell talked to a group
of trainers last Monday at the Holiday Inn
West on using magic in training.✓ Mike Jones has opened a magic store in
Searcy (where he lives): "The Magic Trunk."
Stop in when you're up that way.✓ One of our members -- Anonymous
Magician -- did some neat things recently
but we can't tell you about them because he
(or she) did not give Jim or Dennis a call.

If you want to perform this holiday season, tell Jim Henson

Jim Henson tells us that he has already
received several telephone calls asking for
the names of performing magicians who are
available for parties in the next two months.
From now until the first of the year, it is the
biggest party season of the year.Jim says he only has five or six names on
his list of performing magicians and they are
getting all his referrals.If you are interested in being added to the
list, call Jim now or tell him at our meeting
next Thursday.

Any magical news?

If you have news, call Jim or Dennis
and we'll include it in this newsletter.Call Dennis at 374-1500 or mail to:
1701 Broadway, Little Rock 72206The regular November meeting of Ring #
29 will be this coming Thursday -- Novem-
ber 4 -- at the usual place: the CARTI
auditorium on the east side of St. Vincent's
Hospital. Look for the propped-open door at
the northeast corner.The featured performer will be our own
Fred Hartman of Hot Springs. Since he
raises pigeons and uses them in his act -- and
since relatively few magicians use them --Fred will demonstrate how to work with
these gentle creatures.Fred -- who is retired -- is assisted in his
magic performances by his wife, Nora. He
performs parttime and calls his act "It's Magic
by Hartman."On his data sheet he lists as his specific
magic skills: dove magic, close-up, stage,
and show illusions. Also, among his per-
forming specialties: doves, zombie, adult
and kid shows.He doesn't have a "favorite" magic trick.
("They're all my favorites") but he does list
dove great Lance Burton as his magic "hero."Hartman got started in magic in 1939
through a member of the Hollywood, Cali-
fornia Magician Club.He's a native of Omaha, Nebraska and
attended college at the University of South-
ern California.Is Fred serious about magic? We hear he
was a curtained stage in his home and he also
manufactures magic apparatuses.In addition to the Hartman performance,
November's program will include photos of
and a description by Dennis Schick of his
recent visit to the Ken Klosterman Magic
Museum in Cincinnati. See article on back.You are invited
to attend a special
Halloween meeting
of the
Northeast Arkansas
Magic ClubSunday, October 31, 2 pm
307 Main, Newport
Sam Boyce's Law Building
and Magic MuseumCall Mr. Magic (666-8735)
if you'd like to carpool.

NOVEMBER RING #29 MEETING:

Thursday, November 4

7:30 pm -- CARTI

**Fred & Nora Hartman
"Pigeon Possibilities"**

How about meeting out of town sometime?

Yes, it's more convenient for most
of our members to hold our meetings
in Little Rock. But some of our
members do drive in from out of
town, so perhaps it would not be hard
to imagine holding one or two of our
meetings out of the city.

How about carpooling some month

to Newport and meet in Sam Boyce's
museum? Or how about going over
to Hot Springs and take a first-hand
look at Fred Hartman's curtained stage
(and more of his magic)?Someone's got to say "Great idea!
Let's do it!"

Any takers? Speak up!

Dick Zimmerman drew 35 to October lecture meeting

Dick Zimmerman's "Think Creative" lecture in October drew one of the largest crowds of the year -- three dozen. The advance publicity touted his program.

Even though several people had seen most of his tricks before (his lecture notes are dated 1973), most had not seen his lecture so it was fresh to them.

Of particular value to aspiring magicians was his advice on creativity. Ten tips he offered were to make your magic:

- ✓ ORIGINAL. fresh, novel.
 - ✓ MYSTIFYING. Much magic doesn't really fool most people. The more they really are fooled the better.
 - ✓ SHORT. Leave them wanting more. Few people complain an act is too short.
 - ✓ EASY TO UNDERSTAND. Keep what you're doing simple and clear.
 - ✓ EASY TO REMEMBER and describe. Magic which is complicated and takes lots of explanation is usually boring.
 - ✓ WORK WITH ANY AUDIENCE. Should be adaptable and widely appealing.
 - ✓ UNCONTRIVED. Don't include meaningless explanations, motions, etc. Don't force it.
 - ✓ VISUAL APPEAL. We live in a visual world. Go for the visual, color, splash.
 - ✓ EMOTIONAL APPEAL. Work in those strong human emotions: sex, comedy, danger, cute (pigeons), etc.
 - ✓ CAPTIVATING. It's hard to describe what captivates a person or an entire audience (floating lightbulb; dancing handkerchief, etc.), but look for it.
- He went on to demonstrate many of his own tricks -- or adaptations of others -- including his favorite -- "The Dancing Ring."

Magic makes Forbes cover

If you missed it, the September 27 issue of Forbes showed David Copperfield levitating above his motorcycle, with the headline: "Magic goes pop: Why David Copperfield is America's fastest-rising entertainer." He'll make \$26 million this year, says Forbes.

Inside is a five-page article on Copperfield, a brief history of magic, and other current popular magicians such as Siegfried and Roy (\$17 million this year), Penn and Teller and others.

Also in the issue is a nice two-page article on collecting magic: "Houdini's casket." It features the Ken Klosterman collection (see article at right).

Schick gets private showing of Klosterman Magic Collection and Museum

by C. Dennis Schick

Part 2 of 2

Last month I told you about the several visits I made to magic stores, and Haines House of Cards during a business trip to Cincinnati in September. But the highlight was the four hours I, a professional magician friend of mine -- Jania Taylor of Fort Wayne, Indiana -- and her father (who got her interested in magic) spent in the private magic museum of Ken Klosterman.

Jania read about the museum in "Magic" magazine and decided she would try to see it during her trip to perform at the National Newspaper Convention trade show (which I was attending).

Klosterman owns a large bakery, but is semi-retired, leaving day-to-day management to his son (and leaving himself with more time for his magic).

Arriving at his lovely country home, Ken proudly showed us two apparatuses he was currently restoring in his garage. They were Karl Germain's famous "Flower Growth" illusions from around 1897. He demonstrated both and explained that he specializes in collecting not just any old magic, but more particularly pieces owned and used by famous magicians. He believes Germain is the greatest magician of all time.

Descending into wonderland

To get to his museum, we descended a long staircase whose walls are lined with original magic posters. At the foot is a display case showing a variety of pieces which currently meet his fancy. He changes the display from time to time. We paused for him to demonstrate several pieces.

Entering an elevator he took us "down to the museum," somewhere beneath his home. He said we'd enjoy the longer route and opened one of two doors, to reveal a winding tunnel, much like a mine shaft.

Several yards into the tunnel we came across a huge, writhing rat caught in a trap -- the first hint of Ken's sense of humor.

Entrance into the museum proper is through a huge bank vault door -- complete with combination lock, sliding gate, etc.

The door opened to a fantastic room -- probably 15x15 -- filled with posters, display cases, antique furniture, magic apparatuses, etc. We were looking at a turn-of-the-century magic mecca. Where to start looking? When could we begin playing with all the great magic?

Like kids in a toy store, we wanted to see and do everything at once -- and so did Ken. Rightfully proud, he began showing us

selected features of the museum. After explaining the history of and demonstrating various pieces, he went over to one wall and "opened" a huge poster, revealing a door to another narrow room. Lining both walls were a dozen file cabinets, in which he had file folders for virtually every magician he had anything on.

Surprises from the mirror

Following a head-shaking demonstration of some of the thousands of articles, programs, clippings, etc., he moved to a beautiful piece of furniture and told Jania to recite the "mirror, mirror on the wall" saying. She did and the floor-length mirror opened to reveal another room, bigger than the first.

There were lighted display cases on all walls, with the most fantastic collection of every imaginable type of magic -- all neatly arranged and displayed for easy inspection. He had to demonstrate some of his favorites, of course, and we were spellbound.

In the middle of the room was a huge table which really was a rectangular box-like structure with marble top and in Egyptian art and design. Drawer after drawer underneath held antique magic posters from throughout the world. All will eventually be more readily available and displayed on huge vertical, sliding panels.

Open Sesame

He kept maneuvering us to one corner for some reason, and we soon learned why. He told Jania to strike a large Chinese gong and say a magic word, and one whole wall swung open, to reveal a private library of over 5,000 magic books. They're all on computer, cross-referenced in order to call up any subject, magician, effect, etc. and have a listing of where to find the requested topic.

Whew! We're through, right? Nope. He took us to yet another room -- complete with stage, curtains, lighting and sound and some 20 or so theatre seats. Behind the stage was yet another room with still more magic paraphernalia -- each with its own special story, its own fascinating history.

Magic time machine

Ken gave each of us a souvenir original coin commemorating our visit, and asked us to write a short piece in a special guestbook for magician visitors (which he binds into permanent books). We were honored.

I could go on for pages, but -- thankfully -- I took lots of photos to help remember everything we had seen. I am sad that relatively few people will ever get to see the magnificent collection, but happy that Jania invited me to be one of those few.