

I.B.M

RING #29

JULY 1994

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



July meeting to feature election of officers

JULY RING #29 MEETING:

Saturday, July 7, 7:30

- ✓ **Election of officers**
- ✓ **Bring Wizard and/or Svengali trick to demonstrate**
- ✓ **Magic books show & tell**

June meeting canceled

They say, plan a picnic and it will rain. That it did -- in SPADES (pun intended!).

Arkansas was plagued by bad thunderstorms in June, and one hit the night of the Ring Picnic. So some quick telephoning canceled the affair and we didn't end up soaked around the pool.

The planned announcement from the nominating committee and the election of officers did not take place. They were postponed until the July meeting.

Bits and pieces:

● Magician **Bob Tankersley** has been busy in magic recently: ✓ In March he gave an hour-and-a-half lecture on using Magic in the Classroom, for youth ministers from Arkansas, Michigan and Tennessee; ✓ In May he performed for elementary schools in Arlington, Texas; And in June he performed at the Searcy Ring Inaugural Show, and gave two shows in Bradford, again using Biblical object lessons. In a nice letter he thanks everyone who has given him support as he develops and grows in magic.

● Over 130 people attended the charter meeting of Ring #308 at Searcy June 17. Actually, the meeting was a show, with lots of great magic performed.

● The Ring is still working on trying to get David Guinn to lecture here. Several of our members have referred to him from time to time regarding his expertise in children's and comedy magic.

● And we are still working on trying to attract the national I.B.M. Convention to Little Rock for their 1997 meeting. Are you willing to help land the affair?

- ✓ **Bring Wizard or Svengali tricks**
- ✓ **A Show-and-Tell Book Review**

Don't miss the July 7 meeting of Ring #29. It will be held at the regular time (7:30 pm), on the regular day (first Thursday the month) at the regular place (the CARTI auditorium, on the east side of St. Vincent's Infirmary Medical Center).

Since there was no meeting in June, the July meeting will feature both the election and installation of the new officers.

Proposed by the nominating committee is the following slate:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| President: | Danny Norman |
| V.P. | James Kinsey |
| Secretary | Dennis Schick |
| Asst. Sec. | Joe Ferrer |
| Treasurer | Mary Ann Campbell |
| Asst. Treas. | Lisa Bolin |
| Historian | Mike Curtis |
| Sgt. at Arms | Jim Henson |

The Nominating Committee is still looking for a volunteer programs person or even

a programs committee. Anyone interesting in serving in this position, please call Jim Henson right away.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor (and the nominator will be instantly vanished). There will be a immediately after the meeting.

The program for the evening will be a triple-header:

- Wizard and Svengali deck tricks
- A magic book show-and-tell
- New tricks members have learned

Bring your Wizard and/or Svengali decks and plan to perform your dumbest trick(s) using one or both. Let's all learn something new from these demonstrations.

Dennis Schick will show recent magic books he has acquired, plus some other magic memorabilia from a recent trip to Canada.

And we always want to hear of new magical adventures of our members, as well as see any new tricks they have bought and/or learned.

Hey! It's July 1 and dues (\$10) are due!

Local dues for Ring #29 are only \$10 and they are payable each July 1. So in order to keep in good standing, all local members should bring their dues to the July 7 meeting (which will already be six days late, but who's counting?).

We need your money to underwrite some of the costs of the club. So don't be a welcher. Pay up. (Or get a hex put on you.) And remember, you must be a member of I.B.M. national to be eligible to be a member of the Ring.

Dennis attended Kirby Van Burch Show

Dennis Schick and his wife Jan were driving back from Columbia, Missouri weekend before last, and Jan pulled off at Branson and surprised him by saying she was going to take him to that magic show he had been talking about, for Father's Day (the next Day). They bought tickets, found a place to stay, gulped down some supper, waited out a vicious thunderstorm and got to their seats with five minutes to spare.

🔮 LOOKING AHEAD:

● The August meeting also will be at the regular time and place, August 4. It will be an auction, with part of the proceeds (probably at least 10%) to go to the club.

So start digging through all your magic boxes, drawers and piles and get rid of those tricks you never use. Make some money for yourself and the club, and let someone else enjoy the tricks you don't use. Don't wait until the last minute. **Do it now!**

So what's with you?

We want your news!

● If you have news, call Jim or Dennis and we'll include it in this newsletter.

● **Call Dennis Schick at 374-1500 or mail to: 1701 Broadway, Little Rock 72206**

Two illusions which were not done when the large group from our Ring went up to see the show several weeks ago, were performed this time. It's a super show and all who have seen it should encourage their friends to go. Jim Henson says he's going again.

Copperfield Comes Into His Own

Greg Braxton
Los Angeles Times

LAS VEGAS — Not far from the madding crowds pushing their luck on casino slot machines and keno here is a large industrial warehouse with an unbelievably clean floor. The outside of the pink building describes it as a bra and girdle establishment, but the interior is filled with various large implements of destruction that have nothing to do with underwear.

Near the center stands a massive Death Saw, its silver blades bearing no evidence of the man it has severed in half numerous times. Close by is a bed of tall, uninviting spikes that once sat hungrily under the same man as he dangled precariously above from burning ropes. A glass case contains a 500-pound spike that could pierce a person in two.

All around the warehouse, as if warily watching all comers, are the brooding eyes of David Copperfield, their hypnotic gaze topped by impossibly dense eyebrows as they stare from large billboards and posters advertising "The Magic of David Copperfield." The facility is the disguised headquarters where the magic profession's most prominent practitioner keeps his more elaborate illusions and a secluded bachelor lair for the rare occasions when he isn't on the road.

Even more eerie are the two rooms hidden in the bowels of the warehouse that are filled with the ghosts of wizards and conjurers past: Harry Houdini's Metamorphosis trunk, the first trunk ever used in the illusion of disappearances. The Chung Ling Soo rifle, believed to be the weapon used when the Chinese magician performed his famous bullet-catching trick one too many times. Dante's Spirit Cabinet. Maskelyne's Decapitated Princess Chair. Orson Welles' Buzzsaw Illusions. Hundreds of ancient volumes of witchcraft and magic.

In these rooms of mysteries and nightmares, David Copperfield finds solace and comfort.

"Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night and come in here, and I feel all right," the master magician said quietly, sitting in a chair amid the priceless collection. "I don't feel like it's ghostly. In fact, it's a rather peaceful place. And it makes me feel peaceful knowing I've carried on the tradition of the people here, and that I've become a part of a very

rich tapestry of artists who deserve a lot of respect."

As he spoke, several magicians honored in the rooms — Channing Pollock, Jack Kodell, Norm Nielsen — wandered with wide-eyed admiration through the collection, known as the International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

Copperfield calls it the world's largest repository of antiquarian books, magic, illusion and other works on magic. He bought much of it in 1991 from the Resolution Trust Corp., an agency appointed to clean up the nation's savings-and-loan debacle by selling some of the failed thrift companies' assets. The collection had been formed by Carl M. Rheuban, an amateur magician and former chairman of the now-defunct First Network Savings in Los Angeles. (The exhibits can be viewed only by guests of Copperfield and are not open to the public.)

While Pollock, Kodell and Nielsen, elder statesmen in the world of magic, marveled at the artifacts, it was clear from the chatty enthusiasm toward their host that they not only value Copperfield's respect for their craft but also are in awe that this 37-year-old multimillionaire with sculpted cheekbones, matinee-idol looks and a tan that would turn George Hamilton brown with envy has elevated magic to a mainstream popularity they never dreamed possible.

"Copperfield is the king," said Pollock, who used to produce doves out of nowhere in his appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show." "He's reached a much wider audience than any of us combined. I've never seen a magician that is so universally loved."

Indeed, no other magician has hosted high-rated annual network specials for 15 years. Or has made the Statue of Liberty, an airplane and a 70-ton train car from the Orient Express vanish in front of a live television audience. Or has escaped from an imploding building to appear moments later nearby in the middle of a solid sheet of steel. Or has appeared on the cover of *Forbes* as one of the world's richest entertainers.

And while prominent magicians such as the self-proclaimed "bad boys of magic," Penn & Teller, and the Las Vegas magic kings Siegfried & Roy have their own set of impressive tricks up their sleeves, even they

have never accomplished what many consider to be Copperfield's greatest feat, the trick that has gotten him a higher profile than any of his other spectacular illusions: getting engaged to German super-model Claudia Schiffer.

The coupling propelled Copperfield instantly into jet-set status: He was a recent cover boy for *Esquire* (along with veteran cover girl Schiffer, of course), and they have been photographed at the Academy Awards and many other paparazzi-heavy happenings. He presented an award Wednesday to singer Gloria Estefan at the World Music Awards in Monaco after performing 12 sold-out shows at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. In Monaco, he stayed with Schiffer at her home there as he filmed promos for an extensive European tour.

In the end, it's not the higher visibility but the magic that matters to Copperfield. He seems to be vying for the title of "the hardest-working magician in show business," playing more than 500 shows a year all over the world in addition to putting together his television specials. He wants not only to amaze the audience and overcome their preconceptions of what magic is but also to arouse them, make them fear for him, appreciate the art, even move them to tears.

"I want to involve audiences, make them feel for me. I want to make my shows romantic and passionate. It's a theatrical experience. Magic can do that."

Only a few hours after escorting the magicians through the archives, Copperfield pops up before an enthusiastic sold-out Caesars Palace audience to perform his brand of very theatrical magic. The show, titled "Beyond Imagination," contains elements that might make many a more traditional magician want to pull a hat over him. Influenced by the showmanship of his idols — Gene Kelly, Walt Disney, Fred Astaire, Steven Spielberg — Copperfield fills the performance with large-scale effects like a major rock concert.

Despite the extravagant scale of his illusions — "Beyond Imagination" costs millions, and Copperfield's elaborate sets and props require a separate jumbo jet to transport — touching the audience emotionally remains a primary goal of Copperfield's magic.

"It's important for the audience to put themselves in my position,"