

I.B.M

RING #29

August 1995

MAGIC MUSINGS

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring #29

8912 Stagecoach Road, #7, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209 • (501) 455-6242

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



August 3 meeting to feature comedy.

NEXT MEETING:

✓ **Thursday, August 3**
7:30 pm, CARTI
Regular time and place.

● BITS & PIECES ●

● Scott Davis is performing at the Music Mountain Jamboree in Hot Springs again this summer. His magic blends in nicely with the music.

● Dan Block, Fred Hartman and Fred's wife Nora, put on a magic show for the Arkansas Poultry Association in July at the Hot Springs Convention Center. Dan performed his specialty, rope tricks; and Fred did the same, using his white doves. Dan made Nora disappear, but then Fred got excited and brought her back.

● Danny McDorman appears at the Comedy Club in Breckenridge Village now and then. Call Jim Henson to find out when he is scheduled to appear next.

● Smiley the Clown Magician, aka Bill Webb, is staying busy. Recently he performed for 67 children at the Garland County Library. Can you imagine performing with that many kids in one place? Good job, Smiley.

● Randal Eller and Scott Davis performed a stage show in Hot Springs for the Police Department recently. Jim Henson's family, Fred and Nora Hartman, Dan Block and Mike Harwood attended and had a good time. Ask Christy Henson what they did to her shoe!

The August 3 meeting of Ring #29 will take place at the regular time and place, **7:30 pm**, in the **CARTI auditorium**, at the east end of St. Vincent's Hospital.

The theme of the monthly meeting will be "**COMEDY**" -- comedy of all types, shapes and sizes. Silly comedy, fun comedy, dumb comedy. You name it. Bring your best comedy trick.

Let's talk about comedy routines, jokes you can use, stringing one joke on another, props, make-up and self-working comedy.

Program chairman Don Baer says it

will be a fun evening, but only if you get in the spirit and participate.

Also at the meeting:

✓ Pay your 1995-96 dues, which are due now. (\$10)

✓ New membership rosters should be ready to hand out.

✓ Membership cards for people who have paid their dues, will be given out.

✓ The annual Fall Picnic, tentatively planned for **September 23**, will be discussed. Please come with your ideas.

Elections held at July meeting

The following officers were elected at the July 6 meeting and take over immediately:

President: James Kinsey

VP/Programs: Don Baer

Secretary: Joe Farrer

Asst. Sec.: Theron Nunley

Treasurer: Mary Ann Campbell

Asst. Sec.: Lisa Bolin

Historian: Mike Curtis

Sgt. at Arms: Jim Henson

Newsletter: Dennis Schick

Dick Barry to lecture Oct. 7

California magician Dick Barry will bring his popular lecture to our club at 7:30 pm, **Saturday, October 7**. Mark your calendars now.

From San Clemente, he has been nominated seven (7) times for the parlor award at the Magic Castle. He has quite a resume:

- ✓ Performed for many years as in-house magician on several cruise ships
- ✓ Producer of large magic shows
- ✓ Consultant to Doug Henning
- ✓ Teacher and lecturer on magic
- ✓ Magic author. Latest book is "Magic with class."

✓ Magic inventor.

✓ Consultant to many celebrities

Magician Ron London says: "One of the best lectures we have had. No pipe dreams. Good routine material we can put to use."

Performing magicians wanted

The Northeast Arkansas Magic Club will perform a Halloween Benefit Magic Show for the Paragould Concerts Committee on **Saturday, October 21** in Paragould.

They are looking for magicians to perform on the show. If you are interested, contact Jim Henson as soon as possible. They need to finalize the details of the concert soon.

So what's going on in magic?

● The Northeast Arkansas Magic Club in Newport meets the last Sunday of each month, at 2 pm. It meets at attorney Sam Boyce's office. All magicians are welcome and invited.

● Also, the Searcy Magic Society -- Ring #308 -- meets the Second Monday every month, at 7 pm. The location moves around so call Jim Henson for the latest.

● There was a magic special on the Disney Channel on Wednesday this week. It was filmed at EuroDisney in 1993. If you'd like a

copy give a blank tape to Jim.

● This coming Saturday night, **July 29**, NBC will rerun the two-hour "World's Greatest Magic" special. Watch it, especially if you missed it earlier.

● If you're into magic books, check out either one of the new Books-A-Million stores in North Little Rock and Little Rock. Both have a dozen or more books., several from England. You'll have to look, primarily in the "Games" section (also the Games table)..

Wanted: Magic performer

CARTI needs a magician or clown to perform for 15 minutes at the St. Vincent Terrace for an awards luncheon **August 17**. If you can do it, please call Jim Henson immediately. We need to help CARTI since they let us use their auditorium.

VanBurch & Wellford



Kirby VanBurch
The Prince Of Magic

Philip Wellford
Emmy Award
Winning Comedian

Performing At

Branson's Magical Mansion

Shenandoah South Theatre

Conveniently located on Highway 248 and Shepherd of the Hills Expressway

1995 Show Schedule

APRIL							MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
									2	3	4	5	6
							7		9	10	11	12	13
							14		16	17	18	19	20
						29	21		23	24	25	26	27
30							28	29		31			
JUNE							JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3							1
4		6	7	8	9	10	2		4	5	6	7	8
11		13	14	15	16	17	9		11	12	13	14	15
18		20	21	22	23	24	16		18	19	20	21	22
25		27	28	29	30		23		25	26	27	28	29
AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6		8	9	10	11	12	3	4		6	7	8	9
13		15	16	17	18	19	10		12	13	14	15	16
20		22	23	24	25	26	17		19	20	21	22	23
27		29	30	31			24		26	27	28	29	30
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1		3	4	5	6	7							
8		10	11	12	13	14			8	9	10	11	
15		17	18	19	20	21	12		15	16	17	18	
22		24	25	26	27	28	19		22	23	24	25	
29		31					26		29	30			
DECEMBER													
S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
					1	2							
3			6	7	8	9							
10			13	14	15	16							
17			20	21	22	23							
31			27	28	29	30							

Memorial & Labor Day
Special Matinee, No 8 P.M.

New Year's Eve 9:30 P.M.
New Year's Bash
Tickets \$35⁰⁰

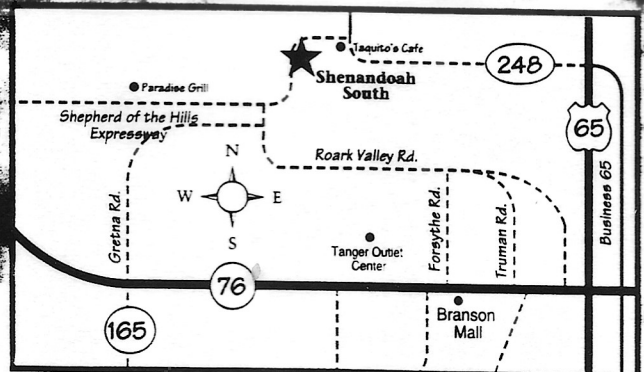
2:00

417-336-3986

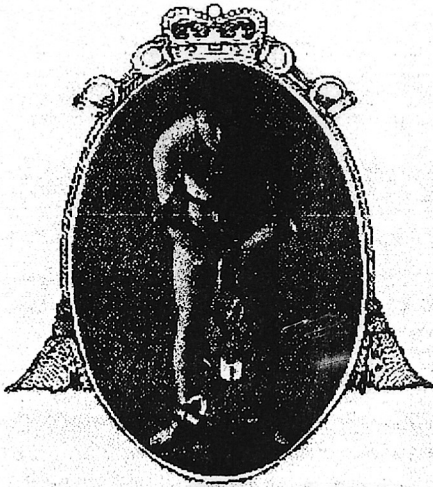
1-800-492-4196

Adults \$19⁰⁰ Children \$13⁰⁰

Call For Group Rates



For tickets to any of your favorite Branson shows,
call Branson Hotline at 1-800-523-7589 or stop by one
of our ticket outlets, Downtown or Tanger Outlet Center.



Harry Houdini By Harry Houdini

London, 1910

Episode 1

My birth occurred April 6th, 1874, in the small town of Appleton, in the State of Wisconsin, U.S.A. My father, the Rev. Dr. Mayer Samuel Weiss, at that time received an annual salary of \$750 (£150). Some of the leading actors in the congregation, ~~thinking~~ he had grown too old to hold his position, supplanted him for a younger man, and one morning my father awoke to find himself thrown upon the world, his long locks of hair having silvered in service, with seven children to feed, without a position, and without any visible means of support.

We thereon moved to Milwaukee, Wis., where such hardships and hunger became our lot that the less said on the subject the better.

October 28, 1883, was the date of my first appearance before an audience. I appeared as a contortionist and trapeze performer, being advertised by the manager, Jack Hoeffler (now proprietor and manager of a circuit of theatres in the Middle West of the United States), as "Ehrich, The Prince of the Air."

Later in life I worked at a number of trades, such as locksmith, electrical driller, photographer, cutter, etc., etc.: but I prefer to pass rapidly by those hard and cruel years when I rarely had the bare necessities of life and speak of the time when I first started to do handcuff tricks -- the tricks which eventually brought me to the notice of the world.

One day whilst working as an apprentice in a locksmith's close by the police station, one of the young bloods of the town was arrested for some trivial offense. He tried to open his handcuffs with some keys he had on his person, and in the attempt broke off one of the keys in the lock of the handcuff. He was brought to the shop to have the cuff opened or cut off his wrist, and this incident, trivial as it may seem, in after years changed my entire career.

While the master locksmith was trying to open the handcuff the whistle blew for the dinner hour. Being a loyal union man, and incidentally, perhaps, having a sharpened appetite, he called me to his side and said, "Harry, get a hack-saw and cut off this handcuff," and then went out with the police officer to dine.

I tried to cut off the cuff, but the steel was too hard, and after breaking half-a-dozen saw-blades, the thought struck me to attempt to pick the lock. I succeeded in doing it, and the very manner in which I then picked the lock of the handcuff contained the basic principle which I employed in opening handcuffs all over the world. *Not with a duplicate key*, which seems to have been the only way others had of duplicating my performance.

The year 1893 found me as an actor! I played the part of an old man in a play entitled "My Uncle." During rehearsal I seemed unable to remember a single line, in fact would have spoiled the entire rehearsal had I not been allowed to read my part from the script. Notwithstanding this, the show opened up in a small town near St. Louis, Mo., and strange to relate, I was the only one who knew his part perfectly! The show was such a success that the only way possible for me to get back to St. Louis was to deposit my trick trunk as security for railroad fares.

It was while in St. Louis that I formulated the basis of the method for performing my packing-case escape, and it happened in this wise: The winter was a bitterly cold one, and I had no money with which to purchase wood to start a fire to warm my room. So seeing a discarded packing-case in front of one of the large drygoods' shops, I thought I would take it home for firewood. I knew I would make myself too conspicuous by carrying so large a case through the streets, and further knew that no police officer would permit me to break it apart in so crowded a thoroughfare, so I conceived a method of taking it noiselessly apart, and used this same method when I presented the packing-case mystery for the first time in Essen Rhur, Germany.