

**IBM.**  
RING #29

**August 1998**

# 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, Baptist Medical Center



## August 6 is next meeting, on "Classics of Magic"

### NEXT MEETINGS:

- **Thursday, August 6, 7 pm**  
**Regular monthly meeting**  
Baptist Medical Center  
Lower level, behind cafeteria  
(Come eat with us at 6:30.)

## Bits & Pieces

✓ Member **Dan Block** is running for the City Council in Hot Springs. We wish him luck on his political quest. Dan also is performing at the Hot Springs Library for the Summer Reading Program. Dan and **Fred Hartman** performed recently for the Arkansas Poultry Federation.

✓ **Scott Davis** is working at the Brick-house Grill in downtown Hot Springs. It is located at Spencer's Corner, upstairs from the Brau Haus, right next to the Theatre of Magic. He's doing walk-around magic on Fridays and Saturdays from 6:30 to 8. The food is great and moderately priced. Scott says he accepts big tips.

✓ We are still waiting for a full report from **Randall and Ed's** performance in Hollywood. Speak up, guys.

✓ **Don Thompson** says that the annual ring picnic will be held Sept. 19th at Burns Park. We'll have all details in next month's newsletter. For now, mark your calendars and plan to be there.

✓ **Don Baer, Ron Banks, Margaret LeClair and Jim Henson** performed at **Camp Aldersgate Medical Camps** this year. Don did a great job as M.C. and the kids loved the shows. Thanks to all of you for representing our ring so well!

✓ The members who performed at the Children's Hospital with Bill and Dan Hecke are to be commended for their work, too. More on this in the next newsletter.

✓ The IBM convention in Los Angeles had a terrific response to Little Rock, and 165 people preregistered. Sheryl from the Little Rock Convention Bureau was there and gave a great report. We'll have her speak to us in the near future. Who all from Arkansas went to the convention?

The regular monthly meeting of Ring 29 will be at the regular time (**7 pm** on the first Thursday of the month) at the regular place (Baptist Medical Center). The date falls on **August 6**.

The theme for the month is "**Classics of Magic**." We want every magician who comes to dig out one of their "Golden Oldies," one of those classics which we don't see much because we're bored or tired of them or just assume everyone knows them.

We expect to see some ring tricks, some thumb tip tricks and, of course, some card tricks. Won't it be fun to see some oldies but goodies?

### Recent ring activities:

At the **July ring meeting July 9**, two dozen members enjoyed the slight-of-hand theme. **Greg Gillis** lectured on a torn and restores card routine before the performances. New officers were installed. Thanks to **Mike Curtis** for leading the ceremony and to **Bill Fulton** for making the arrangements.

The **Aldo Colombini** lecture July 13 had a small turnout (15) but everyone had a great time. We all need to work harder on supporting these lectures so we can at least break even on them.

### More bits and pieces

✓ **Maxwell Blade's** Theater of Magic in Hot Springs has added a few extra shows to the schedule, and some extra performers. We'll tell you more next issue.

✓ **Damon** is doing matinee shows on Saturdays and Sundays at the Theatre of Magic in Hot Springs, at 2 pm. Our ring is planning to caravan over on August 23 to take in the show. RSVP to Jim Henson if you want to go.

✓ If you want to have a meeting in Hot Springs for Maxwell's show, please let Jim or any Board member know. We did it last year and had a great time.

✓ **Damon** was on Daybreak on Channel 7 this past Wednesday morning, and was the featured performer at The Comedy House that same night.

Before the performances start, Damon will lecture on our theme. So grab a guest and/or a prospective member and join in the fun for a look back on some classic magic.

(When we say "classic," we're not talking about old PEOPLE. We're talking about old TRICKS, which have been around for many years.)

### IMPORTANT!

Anyone who has performed at a charitable or organizational function during the 1997-98 year, please write the details (group, place, # people present, etc.) on the enclosed sheet, or call Dan at (501) 455-2777. We really need this information, so please help and respond ASAP.

## Caravan to Daniels show in Tunica was a big hit

Wow! Some 64 people went to the Gold Strike Casino in Mississippi on the 12th to see the Brett Daniels Show. Another 15 people from the Memphis area met us there.

Thanks to all who went. When we ban together we can get lower prices and other special deals which we couldn't get individually.

After the show Brett sat on the steps and visited with the group and even gave a brief tour back stage.

Of course the magic show took our main attention. But the great buffet took a close second. Several members mumbled something about going on a diet. Maybe Brett can make it (excess fat) disappear.

Oh yes. It was a great show!

## WHERE IS YOUR NEWS?

### Dues are now past due

June 30 was the deadline to pay 1998-99 Ring dues. They are now \$20. Treasurer James Kinsey will provide a receipt if you want one.

# Member of the month: Magic Musings newsletter editor Dennis Schick

**Dennis Schick** is this month's member in the spotlight. As you know, he is the founder and editor of this newsletter. He started it in **April 1993** and hasn't missed an issue since.

Dennis has been Executive Director of the **Arkansas Press Association (APA)** since May 1979. This is his 20th year with that organization.

APA is the oldest trade association in the state, having been founded in 1873. In fact, 1998 is the 125th Anniversary of APA. They are celebrating all year.

APA is a voluntary organization whose members are the 104 weekly and 33 daily newspapers in the state. The association does all the typical things associations do. They conduct two major conventions a year. In fact, they just finished their Summer Convention, in Eureka Springs, at which there were three major debates. You may have read about them in the newspaper.

In addition, they conduct a dozen or more seminars each year, on everything from newswriting and selling advertising to editorial writing and photography. They conduct two major contests among their members (news-editorial and advertising); lobby the state government (on such issues as the Freedom of Information Act, which concerns open meetings and open records); and

work with newspapers to keep them out of trouble (with the IRS, USPS, etc.) and help them be more profitable.

The APA produces a weekly newsletter, a quarterly magazine and an annual Directory.

In addition to APA, Dennis supervises two other corporations: Arkansas Press Services (APS) and the Arkansas Newspaper Foundation (ANF). APS is the for-profit sister to APA. It has a mailing service (news releases, press kits, photos, etc.); an advertising service (it places advertising in newspapers for ad agencies and advertisers); and a statewide classified advertising service.

The Foundation raises funds for journalism education projects, from scholarships and internships, to literacy, Kids Voting and Newspapers in Education (NIE).

APA is located at the corner of Broadway and 17th, a block from the Governor's Mansion. APA, APS and ANF have a staff of nine full-time and one part-timer.

## Was a teacher

Before joining APA, Dennis taught at several universities for 15 years: the University of Texas, Oklahoma State University, Southern Illinois University and Texas Christian University. He taught journalism, public relations and advertising. He continues to teach part-time at UALR at night (adver-

tising in the School of Business).

He has a B.S. in Journalism and English from TCU; a M.S. in advertising and marketing from the University of Illinois; and a Ph.D. in mass communication and marketing from Southern Illinois University.

## Getting started in magic

Like a lot of magicians, Dennis received a magic kit as a boy and played around with it for several years. But other interests took over and it wasn't until about 15 years ago when he was at a meeting in New Orleans that he rediscovered magic. He walked by a Magic Masters store, stopped and -- an hour later -- went away with \$75 worth of magic. He's been back at it ever since. He has quite an extensive magic book collection and has a special interest in the business of magic.

A native of Michigan, he was reared in the Midwest, graduating from high school in upstate New York (Cortland). He came to the Southwest in the Army in 1957 (with Elvis) and has been here ever since.

Dennis and his wife of 38 years -- Jan -- live in North Little Rock. They have three grown children: Leslie, a communications specialist at ALLTEL; Gregory, a master control operator at Channel 7 and parttime youth director at his church; and Tim, a producer at Jones Productions.

## Frank & Ernest

Bob Thaves



## Blondie

Dean Young & Denis Lebrun





## Press Release

# Melinda: The First Lady of Magic

**BRANSON, MO.** Melinda: First Lady of Magic, the world's most renowned female magician, will present her spectacular stage show at Melinda's Magical Mansion, one of Branson's premier theaters, beginning April 15, 1998. The 3,000-seat Magical Mansion was constructed in 1993 at a cost of over \$17 million dollars.

Melinda is the first and only female magician ever to have her own primetime television special. It appeared on CBS on May 30, 1997, entitled "Disney's Melinda, First Lady of Magic." The show received rave reviews such as these:

*The Los Angeles Times:*  
"Move over Copperfeld"

*TV Guide:* "The program is bursting with wardrobe changes and big budget production numbers . . . and there's no mistaking that [Melinda] can compete with the big boys of magic."

*New York Post:* Melinda is "virtually the only lady in magic.... Melinda's amazing feat--breaking the primetime gender barrier."

*United Feature Syndicate:* "Melinda's magic [is] sure to impress those who like their magic big."

In Melinda's live stage show in Branson, she will perform her most popular original illusions from her TV show and international tour, including the Winged Horse Vanish, where Melinda causes her winged dancing horse to instantly disappear. The Jet Appearance, in which Melinda causes a piloted jet with whining engines to



appear on stage; and Speeding Car Vanish, where a sports car vanishes at 100 miles per hour, live on stage. And in what is possibly the most terrifying illusion in magic today, Melinda will perform Drill, The Ultimate Nightmare, where she faces a giant industrial drill aimed right at her torso. Will she survive?

The show's finale features Melinda's trademark illusion entitled Fireflies: The Experience a heartfelt tribute to grandparents.

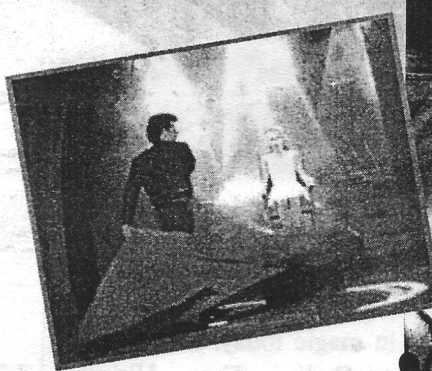
Melinda is also an accomplished dancer. She will be joined on stage by a large cast of dancers and magical assistants. Melinda's magic is underscored by a variety of styles of music including popular country, pop, rock and jazz songs.

Melinda's show will also include a number of variety acts never before seen in Branson.

Among Melinda's many TV credits are appearances on *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Today Show*, and *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*, as well as featured appearances on NBC's *World's Greatest Magic I & II* and many others.

In addition, Melinda was ranked by *USA Today* as one of the Top Three Magicians in the World. Accompanying her on the list were David Copperfield and Siegfried and Roy.

**Magic!**



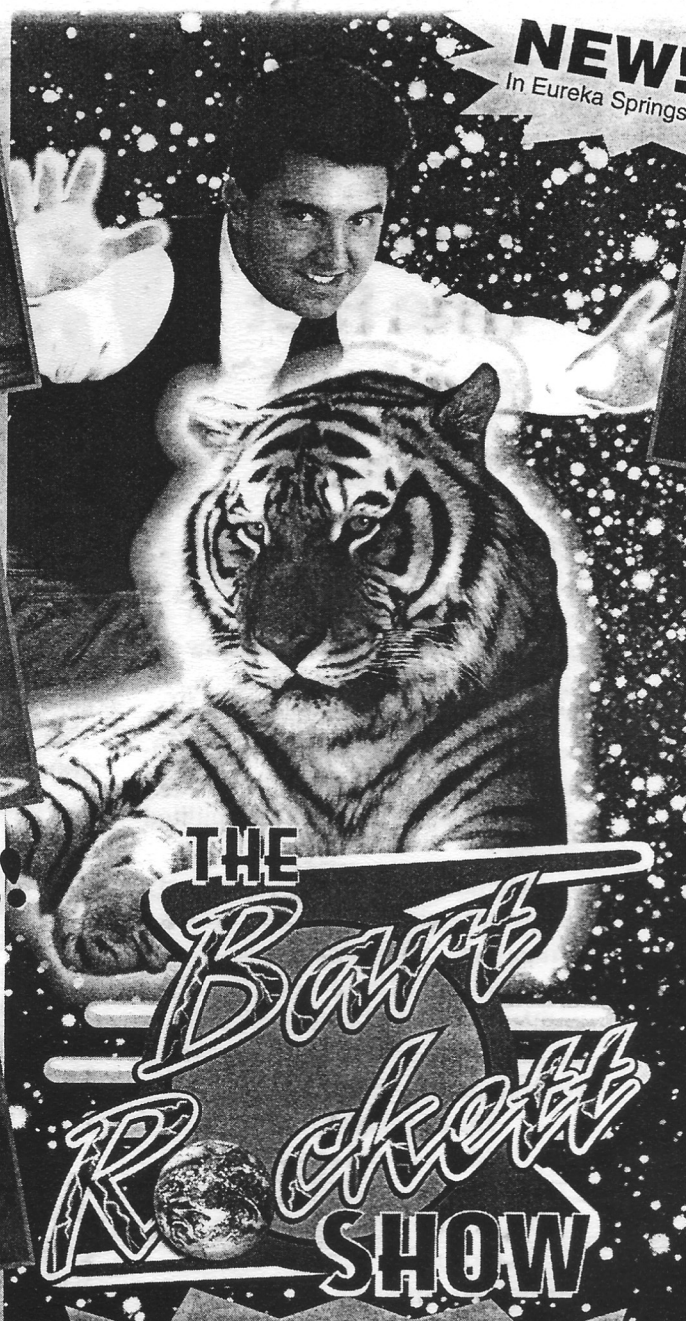
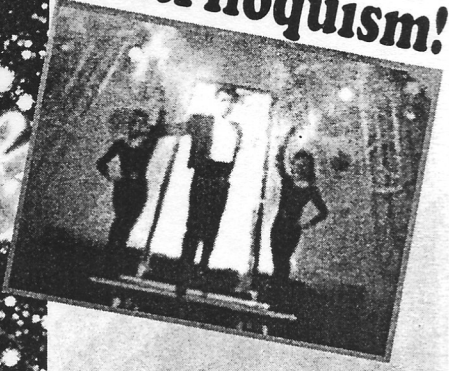
**Illusions!**



**Special Effects!**

**NEW!**  
In Eureka Springs

**Ventriloquism!**



The Bart Rockett Show has landed in Eureka Springs! Featuring magic and illusions, this million dollar production is loaded with lights, sound, and special effects!

- Live Exotic Animals
- Music
- Ventriloquism
- Family Fun!
- A Laser Light Show
- Dazzling Magic
- Mystifying Illusions
- Death Defying Escapes

Bart appears nightly in a newly renovated 1,000 seat theatre on Highway 23 South (near junction of Hwys 62 & 23), the largest theatre in Eureka Springs. Don't miss this chance to be amazed and entertained as world-class magic happens right before your eyes!

**MAGIC! • ILLUSIONS!  
LIVE EXOTIC ANIMALS!**

**Ticket Reservations  
501-253-0111**

**Family Entertainment!**