

IBM.  
RING #29

November 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



## Next meeting is Wed., Nov. 4 in Hot Springs

### NEXT MEETINGS:

- **Next Wednesday, Nov. 4**  
**Theatre of Magic**  
Hot Springs  
Caravan leaves at 6 pm

## Bits & Pieces

✓ **LAST MONTH:** We had 32 people at the **Michael Close** lecture. It was a good turn-out and a good time. The lecture was almost three hours long and everyone really got their money's worth!

✓ **Tom Burgoon** will be at The Comedy Club February 2-7, 1999. Mark your calendars now. Our members have always enjoyed him when he's been in town.

✓ **Steve and Carol Bender** have offered to come to Little Rock to lecture to our Ring in February or March. They are only doing a four-lecture tour so we would be quite fortunate to be included. These are the **Ickle Pickle** people. Want to see them? Let any Ring officer know your opinion.

✓ **Ed** has been performing in Raleigh, NC and **Derrick** in Montgomery, AL, for a food product company.

✓ **Damon & Penny** performed in Lufkin, TX to great reviews recently. It looks like this engagement will lead to other opportunities.

✓ **Randal & Ed** will be at the Ozark Theater in Ozark at 7 pm, Nov. 20 to perform a full stage show. Admission is only \$5. Why not drive up and see them?

✓ **Pam Medrez** spent the summer performing at picnics, birthday parties and at WorldFest in Little Rock. Pam is staying busy and hopes everyone else is, too.

✓ **Derrick** was featured in the *Maumelle Monitor* newspaper recently, with a picture pulling a rock from his nose. Derrick's mother was also shown, with a singing chorus. What a talented family!

✓ Tickets for the "Wizard Mickey" are still for sale at Mr. Magic for \$1 each. The drawing will be held about Dec. 15. All proceeds will go toward our Ring's hospitality room during the IBM Convention.

The next meeting of IBM Ring #29 will be one day earlier than usual, in an unusual place. Pay attention and read on...

It will be **next Wednesday, Nov. 4**, at **Maxwell Blade's Theatre of Magic in Hot Springs**. We will have a regular Ring meeting at 7 pm, followed by Blade's full show.

Last year we did the same thing, having a car caravan to Hot Springs, and had a great crowd. We'll do it again. We assume many members will want to ride with someone else, or drive and take others. So meet at the "**Mr. Magic**" parking lot at 6 pm. We should be back at the store by 10:30.

✓ **Bob Owens** recently saw the Bart Rockett Show in Eureka Springs. How about a report, Bob? What did you think?

✓ **Brett Daniels** at the Gold Strike Casino in Tunica, has added the Houdini Water Torture Cell to his show. Jim went over to see the show for the second time recently.

✓ **Randall** thanks **Derrick & Ed** for informing him about the "Magic and Beyond" taping. This is a major magic project that Randall and Ed are involved in that will probably be shown worldwide.

✓ **Christmas Party** Chairman **Dan** is working on details to make this year's the best ever. The tentative date is **Sat., Jan 9th** at the Otter Creek Center (same as last year). Mark your calendars. Details to follow.

## Welcome new members

**Ring 29** has had a rash of new members recently and we're proud to introduce them to you here. Welcome all.

**Penny Springer**, is from N. Little Rock  
**Mike Funtenatto**, Hot Springs Village  
**Rich Dama**, is from Maumelle  
**Garland Trice** is from Pine Bluff

## Lucille Johnson dies

**Lucille Johnson**, wife of our ring's only lifetime member, Henry Johnson, died recently. This was a shock to all of our club members. Our Ring sent flowers to the funeral. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. We received a nice thank-you note from Dr. Johnson.

To make sure you aren't left behind, call Mr. Magic at (501) 455-6242 to say you are going and want a ride or are willing to drive. The discounted cost for the show will be only \$5. Let's all support live magic in our area.

## Plans begin for us to host IBM national convention

With the 1999 IBM International Convention only nine months away, plans are picking up. Thus:

- Chairman **Damon** has been in touch with Channel 7, (ABC), to provide coverage of the convention, and also to do a special with our club members. A publicity stunt using the Governor and/or Miss Arkansas could be used to publicize the convention. We're also working on new ideas to get the public to know about the open shows. Give us any of your ideas.

- **Dan Hickey** needs four or five volunteers to help sell ads for the printed program for the convention. A large portion of the ad revenue will stay with our Ring. Call Dan at 455-2777 (home) or 920-7449 (work) or contact him at [magicdan@aristotle.net](mailto:magicdan@aristotle.net) if you can help, or want to buy an ad.

- **Registration forms** for the convention are still available at "Mr. Magic." The earlier you register the better seats you'll get for the shows. Don't procrastinate!

- We'll pass on reports from Bill Fulton and Damon as we receive them.

## Don't forget:

- Ring 308 in Searcy will hold its annual **Holiday of Lights Show** Nov. 21. Call Jim Henson for details. Why don't we get up a car caravan and go see it?

- "**Houdini/Believe**", a two-hour made-for-television movie is tentatively scheduled to show on TNT October 31st.

- **David Blaine, Street Magician**, has a new special to be aired on ABC later this year. Watch for details.

- "**The World's Greatest Magic 5**" will be shown Thanksgiving night.

- Does anyone have a tape of "The World's Greatest Magic 3?" Jim is missing his copy and wants another.

## More magic bits:

by Dennis Schick  
Magic Musings editor

■ According to an article in the *Northwest Arkansas Tribune* in Paragould, the **Greene County Magic Club** staged a return performance at the Paragould Housing Authority's Mini-rise early in the summer.

In addition to long-time club members Wylie Marvin and Tim "Elrod the Great" McGowan of Paragould, and Matt Hauck of Rector, the show marked the debut of new member Bill DeGroot of Donaphan, Mo.

McGowan and Marvin, together with the late Joe Floyd and others, formed the Northeast Arkansas Magic Club several years ago in Jonesboro. But it later moved to Newport so the Greene County Magic Club was formed, based in Paragould.

■ One of the headliners at this year's Tri-County Fair in Marvell was "**Dune Buggy**," the alter-ego of **Jim Russell** of Butler, Ga., according to an article in the *Phillips County Progress* in Helena.

Like many such entertainers, he combines clowning with magic and balloon sculpture.

Russell performs over 500 shows annually and entertains over 500,000 children each year. He is a retired Lt. Col. in the Army Reserve, and has been "clowning around" for 35 years. He went full-time clowning in 1978. He is an ambassador of Georgia Peanuts and a spokesman for the Georgia Peanut Commission.

■ **Derrick Rose** was the emcee for this year's annual show by the Top of the Rock Chorus, the woman's barbershop chorus in Little Rock. The theme of the Sept. 26 show was: "The Music, The Magic and You."

■ **Bob Sallee** writes a nostalgic column for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* called "Backward Glances." In his September 8 column, Sallee devoted it to **Col. Frank Seymour**, the veteran magician in Little Rock. Some of it talked about his magic tours, but most of the article was devoted to the cement statue of an old man, which leans up against a tree in front of his house at 5200 West 29th Street. The side door also has a full-length Queen of Hearts. Drive by.

■ Did you notice that comedian and juggler **Philip Wellford** has broken off from "The Prince of Magic," **Kirby Van Burch**, and now is headlining a morning show in Branson? Ironically, he is appearing (with a bunch of other performers) in **Melinda's Magical Mansion**, Kirby's old theater.

■ **Maxwell Blade** entertained members of the DeSoto Women's Club at its Dept. 9

meeting, according to the *La Villa News* in Hot Springs Village. The article said that "he made cards disappear and reappear, predicted accurately choices of colors and card choices before they were made, and amazed the audience with many other magical feats."

■ **David McNeal**, columnist for the *Eureka Springs Times-Echo*, wrote a column this summer on his visit to the **Bart Rockett Show**. His 21-inch column was favorable and he highly recommended it to readers.

I also attended Rockett's show about the same time, and thought it was an entertaining, enjoyable show. It is not as polished as the Daniels or Van Burch shows, but still is good. One of the highlights of the show is Rockett's use of a huge tiger, a llama and a mountain lion, borrowed from Turpentine Creek, the wild animal refuge just south of the Rockett theater.

A big drawback to the Rockett Show, in my opinion, is that it is in a huge theater, the biggest one in Eureka Springs. Thus it isn't very intimate, even though the ticket people put everyone in the center section, down front. I was painfully aware throughout the show that the huge theater was 90% empty. In a theater of 300, for example, the show would work much better.

I will admit, however, that Bart has done a great job on remodeling the theater. But it's just too big for HIS show in THAT town. The upkeep must be expensive.

■ Jan and I were in Reno/Sparks last month at a convention, and I assumed there would be one or more magic shows in the area. No such luck. Las Vegas has a dozen or more so it doesn't make any sense that no magician has taken up residence in Reno.

So when we decided to stay a couple of extra days after the convention, and drive around Lake Tahoe, I was pleased to finally find a magic show, in South Lake Tahoe. It was at the Horizon Casino Resort, where it has been for three years.

The name of the show is "Phantasy II," and update of an earlier show. The star is **Tony Clark**, billed as Lake Tahoe's "Cabaret Performer of the Year."

He was the 1996 winner of the Merlin Award for Best Magician of the Year, given by the International Magicians Society, whatever that is.

He studied for a year with Slydini and dedicates a segment of his show to him.

A major benefit of the show is that it is in an intimate theater (probably 250 seats) and the audience is close to the stage. But that limits the size of illusions. The biggest (and closing effect) is the "Cage of Death," or "Spikes of Death," the same illusion which

Bart Rockett uses to close his show.

Some of his effects included Tubes Through Lady in Box; "Swords Through Girl in Basket;" "Slydini's Three-Ring Vanish;" a "Houdini Escape," "Slydini Card Tricks;" and a "Styrofoam to Light Bulb" transformation.

I talked with him after the show, told him about the IBM convention in Little Rock next year (he said he might come), and got an autographed photo of him which Jim has at the Mr. Magic shop.

■ **Damon** -- "The Wizard of Hot Springs" -- was on Channel 11 Friday morning, as part of their Halloween coverage. He was featured several times during the program.

■ If you have paid your dues and have not received your Ring membership card, call Jim Henson and he'll get it to you.

■ There was a short feature on **Randal Eller** on Channel 7 on September 2. It was about his continuing efforts to make a living fulltime as a magician. They showed some of his close-up magic, stage illusions, etc.

■ **MAGIC at the FAIR:** There were at least two magic shows at this year's **Arkansas State Fair**, September 9-18.

• **The Good Times Magic Show** returned from last year. **Dale Page**, is from Canada and has a nice stage set-up. He did a 20-minute show of children's magic, including pouring liquid into three stacked glasses; and color-changing balls in a tube. He doubled during the fair on a calliope, playing songs as he rode around the grounds.

• **J.J. Huggles the Clown** performed on his own stage near the management office entrance. His 20-minute show also was kid oriented, but with more kids involved. He gave prizes to participants.

• A third performer -- **Fred Anderson** -- was falsely advertised as a magician. He was a juggler, albeit a good one.

■ **FINALLY**, on the fourth "Breaking the Magicians' Code" TV program last Thursday night, the Masked Magician unmasked himself to be -- no surprise since it had been widely reported after the first show -- **Valentino**.

All four shows were generally poor, but did some damage to the magic industry. He used many tricks and illusions which are not even being used by magicians anymore. But some tricks are still main-stays of many magicians (such as the linking rings).

He said he did the shows to RAISE the status of magic, to push magicians to come up with new magic (which some have already done). He said he'll have his own magic special soon, which will include illusions never seen before on television.