

IBM.
RING #29

March 1999

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



Murder Mystery set for March 4 meeting at the IMAX

NEXT MEETING:

• **Thursday, March 4**
Murder Magical Mystery
7 pm IMAX Theater
Roosevelt Road near airport

Bits & Pieces

✓ **LAST MONTH:** The Ring Annual Auction raised over \$300, thanks mostly to **Dr. Henry Johnson** for donating so many illusions to the auction. He donated all the proceeds to the club. Thanks also to everyone who attended and participated.

✓ **GREAT CLUB PHOTO:** Wow! What a great turnout for our club photo in front of the State Capitol on Sunday, Feb. 7. Some 45 members came on relatively short notice. If you would like a copy of the photo, they are only \$7 each. Contact photographer James Kinsey at 834-7456.

✓ **GOSEE 'EM:** Mike Funtenatto and Damon will perform at Jessieville High on May 5 at 7 pm. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. All proceeds will go to the Troop 7 Boy Scout Troop.

✓ **BIO OF THE MONTH:** On the back of this page is a short bio sketch of club member **Paul Carlon**. It's a nice chance to get to know Paul a little better.

✓ Speaking of profiles, we would like more of you to give us a biographical sketch of yourself to run in a future newsletter. Please get it to Jim or Dennis.

✓ **DO YOU HAVE A WEB PAGE?** We would like to compile a complete list of web pages of club members. If you have one, please send it to Jim at Mr. Magic, or fax it to Dennis at (501) 374-7509. It would be very helpful to have a club directory.

✓ **BRETT'S NEW SHOW:** Jim and Brenda Henson are going over to Tunica shortly to see **Brett Daniel's** new show, which opened Feb. 20. We understand it is entirely new, except for one illusion. We expect a review when you get back, Jim.

The regular Ring 29 meeting for March will be something very special -- a **Murder Mystery with lots of Magic**. And, in keeping with today's popular buzzword -- interactive -- **YOU** can get involved.

First, the details: It all begins at **7 pm** at a special location, the **IMAX Theater** near the airport, on Roosevelt Road. Actually, we'll be downstairs in the Library Conference Room. Call Jim Henson if you need help in understanding how to get to the IMAX.

Be sure to stop by the snack bar near the theater and library entrances. In fact, why not go out early and see the show at 6 pm and/or visit the neat gift store.

Our own **Damon Reinbold** is directing the

Still time to sell ads for program

Thanks to everyone who has sold ads so far in the IBM convention program. We have gotten a great start, but there is still time to sell more ads.

As an incentive, the Ring board has agreed to give a \$5 rebate for each business card ad purchased by members. Contact Dan Hecke at 455-2777 immediately to reserve space. Ads cost \$25 each.

And how about the ring going over for another group visit later in the Spring? If at least 30 people go, there is a reduced cost and a free full buffet dinner. Such a deal! Over 60 went the last time.

✓ On **May 6** the AARP group at First Baptist Church in Pulaski Heights needs a **20-30-minute magic show**. If you would be willing to fill this request, please call Jim Henson immediately. Dr. Hughes has done the gig before and recommends it.

production. He'll select several audience members to be in the play, so say yes if you are asked.

Now the neat part. Not only will there be lots of magic as part of the mystery, but all the people who figure out who the murderer is will have their names put in a hat. Those who are drawn will receive nice prizes.

The name of the mystery: **"Who Killed the Masked Magician?"**

The cost will be only \$5 per person, to help raise funds for the convention. Thanks to **Bob Means** for arranging for the facility.

More bits and pieces

• Kudos to **Rebecca Roberts** for her efforts in putting together the tornado relief show at Cabot High, Feb. 5. Members performing were **Damon, Ed, Don, Randall, Eric, Derrick, Mark & Rebecca**.

See the nice article on the back of this page from the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

• If you are interested in participating in one of the convention contests, be sure to come to the March meeting. Information on contests will be available then.

• A committee is being formed to develop standards for nominations and selection of Ring 29 Life Members. More later.

• **Miss Arkansas** has signed on to help promote the IBM convention in Little Rock. She will help with advertising, too.

• **Jim Henson** lectured to Ring 16 in Memphis March 1, about how to build a successful Ring, and about the international IBM convention in Little Rock in July.

• **Summer Henson** is engaged and will marry Scott Conger in Florida June 5.

How about a seminar or series on Gospel Magic? Interested? Contact Jim or Dennis.

by Dennis Schick, club newsletter editor

Recently my son decided to change careers. After many years of working for Channel 7, he began working parttime for St. James Methodist Church. Now he's getting ready to go fulltime.

He asked me for magic ideas for a children's sermon a while back. I gave him the Holy Bible Coloring Book and it was a big hit. So I gave him a mirror box and patter for a message about the church is not just bricks and mortar (the box

but is the people who come and go. Great!

So now I keep looking for more gospel magic for him. And the thought occurred to me that there are dozens of people throughout the state who are using magic in church settings, or would like to. Wouldn't it be great to get them together for a day-long seminar or a series of evening seminars?

Your board is considering such an idea. If you would be interested in attending and/or teaching, please call Jim or Dennis.

GOT MAGIC NEWS? Call JIM at 455-6242 OR DENNIS at (374-1500).

Teen magician dreams of glory

Cabot girl, 15, aspires to turn sleight of hand into career after college

BY JAY MEISEL
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

CONWAY — Rebecca Lee Roberts slips a dove into a box.

She turns the box around, opens it and shows her audience that the dove is in the container.

She closes the box, waves her magic wand, turns the box around, opens it again, and the dove has turned into a rabbit.

"I like to know that people don't know exactly what I'm doing," Roberts said. "It's kind of like having the upper hand."

Even her parents don't know how the young magician performs her tricks.

Roberts, a 15-year-old Cabot High School senior who has performed magic tricks since she was 9, confides the secrets to her tricks only to Wanda Fincher of Conway, her aunt.

Roberts, who has gained the distinction of being one of the youngest — if not the youngest — magician to perform in Las Vegas, hopes to turn her passion into a profession after going to college.

It wasn't by design that she became a magician, Roberts said.

As a child, she competed in youth beauty pageants and had to develop a talent presentation.

Her first idea was to sing, she said.

"They told me never to sing again," she said after her first attempt.

So she decided to learn some magic tricks. Later, her interest in magic was solidified when she tried out for a part in a television pilot and was introduced to the producer's son, who was a magician.

"I want to be known as the greatest female magician," Roberts said.

Lots of magicians are known for particular tricks or use particular props in their acts. Roberts uses lots of animals.

One trick uses a box on a table draped with a tablecloth. She takes a rabbit and places it in the box. In a moment, she opens the box to reveal that the rabbit has disappeared.

When she removes the box from

the table, there is a lump underneath the tablecloth, which she removes to reveal a bird.

Like every magician, Roberts has known times when things don't go as planned.

During one performance, Roberts said, her bird died. She had to manually move its feathers so the audience would think it was still alive, she said.

Fincher often goes with her niece on out-of-town trips, helping her with transportation and helping set up some of the more elaborate magic tricks. Traveling with a menagerie isn't easy, either, Fincher said.

One time, Roberts' rabbit chewed a strip of wallpaper off a wall in a hotel bathroom, Fincher said. Since the rabbit couldn't suddenly disappear, "there was nothing we could do but confess," Fincher said.

One of Roberts' harder tricks involves a large box and an accomplice, who is placed into the box and chained, she said. Roberts lies on top of the box.

Then a curtain is closed, concealing Roberts atop the box. Moments later when the curtain is pulled back, the accomplice is atop the box, and Roberts is chained up inside.

Friends and family members are relentless in trying to get her to disclose her secrets, Roberts said, but like all good magicians, she refuses to do so.

Roberts also is active in the community. She volunteers her talents for fund-raisers and has worked at nonprofit agencies and hospitals. Within the past couple of weeks, she helped organize a fund-raiser for Arkansas tornado victims.

Paul Carlon: Member profile

Paul Carlon is our Ring member of the month. He and wife Lisa have a 2-year-old daughter, Makenzie. He is the youth minister at North Side Church of Christ in Benton.

He has had a 27-year interest in magic. For four years he performed drug program shows for the Arkansas Sheriff's Association, over 1,000 shows in all.

Paul is an inventor of illusions and performs mostly on stage himself.

He has been a major seller of ads in the IBM convention program. He took off work and focused on the task. (Thanks, Paul!)

Paul has performed for a number of celebrities, including Gov. Huckabee. Here are some of his favorite moments in magic:

- Attending a magic lecture series in Hollywood and performing at the Magic Castle;
- Flown by helicopter to perform at a school in Mississippi County;
- Getting to meet and visit with top magicians Mark Wilson, Christopher Hart, Paul Gertner, and others;

According to Collin Cheesman, Paul's magic partner, "Paul's love for magic entices audiences to want more and keeps me coming back... for free."

Say Hi to Paul at our next meeting.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette STEPHEN B. THORNTON
Rebecca Lee Roberts, 15, of Cabot displays some of her animal pals she uses in her magic shows. Roberts has performed since she was 9 and may be one of the youngest magicians ever to do Las Vegas.