

November 2000

Meeting 1st Thursday of every month, Baptist Medical Center

• Penny Springer is developing a
• cookbook, and \$2 of the \$12 cost will go
• to our Ring. Penny is looking for recipes
• to include. They need to be typed or
• printed. Any questions, call Penny at
• 834-9099. Vernon Hallum has already
• given her three recipes for her to consider.

October Ring Report

by Bill Fulton

The Ring voted to match Jim Henson's contribution of \$250 to our Junior Magicians Fund at our October meeting. This fund will be used to help our juniors (attend conventions and in general support the activities of the program).

Penni Springer would like to develop a Ring 29 cookbook as a ring activity. Member will supply Penni with ideas and she will produce the books. Please send your food ideas NOW to: Penni Springer
2011 Astec Dr - #1502 North Little Rock, AR 72116, (501) 834-9099

Scott Davis' new video is out and should be reviewed soon in the magic magazines. The Ring will be presenting a magical evening to our state teachers' conference in November.

The theme for the evening was "Your Favorite Effects." **Richard Knoll** started the performance that evening by showing us a newspaper fold and cut that produced a peace sign. **Pam Medrez** introduced us to "Handcock" the magical bird puppet she uses in her children's shows. **Jon Wofford** presented his version of "Color Monte."

Rebecca Roberts demonstrated her version of "Acrobatic Cards." **Tony Eady** did a beautiful UFO card routine. **Damon Reinbold** used the "Around the World Coloring Book" as a mind trip through the audience. **Theron Nunley** worked a color-changing paddle to change coloring according to what it was near.

Scott Davis did a very slick hip pocket style Mullica wallet effect with a signed card. **Robert Bedford** presented a Max Maven effect using mixed cards in envelopes that matched another set of cards and envelopes. **Greg Gillis** had us laughing on the floor with his "Silly Stick of Death in Your Sock Drawer." It was great performance.

Michael Rice for the Memphis Ring ended the evening with an invite to the Memphis Magic Auction Conference and several of his favorite effects (thumb cuffs escape, No Tear Newspaper, and Harry Anderson's Mismash Cards).

Our Ring caravaned to Memphis that weekend to attend to Memphis Mini Convention. We heard **Jon Bucher** and **Damon Reinbold** lecture on magic, and attended a very nice auction, and the Brett

The Workshop 2000

by Margaret LeClair

The Workshop 2000 in Missouri was an experience of a lifetime! To sum it up in one word, it was AWESOME! The talent included Shimada, Steve Bedwell, David Acer, Max Maven, Michael Finney, David Kaye, Simon Lovell, Tina Lennert and Mike Caveney. Surprise guests included Eugene Burger, Jay Marshall, John Carney and Tom Mullica. The opening night banquet was great. Again, I met up with some of my Internet chat buddies and enjoyed hanging around with them.

After the banquet there was a show, which included Acer doing his cups and balls routine using trash cans and basketballs, and the surprise load at the end was none other than Simon Lovell. Simon performed his strait-jacket routine again and it was as funny as before.

David Kay, also known as Silly Billy, debuted a new act he is working on: OG, the prehistoric magician. Even as a work in progress, it was good. After the show everyone had to leave the banquet hall so they could prepare for the first lecture by Steve Bedwell. He went into the explanation of his cut and restored rope routine. After he performed it on an unsuspecting audience member. It was funny!

After the lecture, Eugene Burger was scheduled to lecture. One of my friends, Sydney Storm, had saved me a seat close to the front. So when Eugene started walking in our direction, I thought he was going to say Hi to his friend, Sydney. But he looked at me and asked if I would come help him on stage. Working with him made the entire trip worth going. That was an experience I will always treasure, even though his lecture didn't start until midnight.

The next morning, the close-up shows started at 8:30 am. Most magicians around me agreed that magic should be illegal until noon. But the show went on.

On Friday, Silly Billy did one of his full-blown kid's shows. They bussed in about 100 children from area schools. Be sure to see this man perform if you can. His energy on stage is one I can only wish to have some day. I think the most important thing I got from his lecture was that it is not quite so important to actually do magic for children: it is to connect and interact with them. He stated that in a comedy club situation success is judged by laughs per minute. But in kid's show performing, it is judged by inter-

actions per minute.

In his break-out session, he talked about some of the major problems that occur in kids show performing. One thing he said is that one mistake that is often made is that the adults are left out of the show. If there is nothing there that can entertain the adults, chances are you will not receive any referrals from them -- the main way most magicians receive most of their bookings. He said that the magic climax is for the adults; getting TO that climax is for the children.

Now for Max Maven's lecture. I never laughed so hard during a lecture as I did during his. Max was in the middle of his lecture and he needed a couple of volunteers from the audience. Michael Finney was one of those chosen. So what does he do but take the mic from Max and say: "The first time I saw this man was in (wherever), and he scared the Sh** out of me." It went downhill from there. Max attempted to regain control of the lecture, but it never happened.

Another incident I have to tell you about. During Burger's lecture, Max was at a table selling items for Eugene. Many people asked Max for autographs and pictures, and he politely turned them down with the explanation that at that moment he was just one friend helping another friend, and that when it was all over he would sign autographs and have pictures taken.

David Acer's lecture was another funny moment. Does it sound like I had a lot of fun? David's lecture was one of the 8:30 am functions. There was less than a full room at the beginning of the lecture. So what did he do? He got on a cell phone and started calling the rooms of people who were not there. At one point Steve Bedwell and another person left the room, and came back with one man who was not fully dressed.

Simon's lecture followed David's. Most of it was a repeat of what he did at TAOM. However, one thing he did was teach everyone how to make his paper rose. If you don't know, I have a list of supplies. Ask me.

The breakout and learning sessions were very informative. Michael Finney taught everyone how to make the gimmicked card for his six-card repeat. His comment on this trick, however, was that it was one of the stupidist tricks around. He performs it in a top hat and cane, and that is the highlight of when he performs that routine. He performed it at the Saturday night show and, in spite of what he said, I enjoyed it.

NOTE: Part 2 of this report will appear in the December newsletter. Watch for it.