

**I.B.M.****RING #29****December 2000**

# 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



## No December meeting; Christmas party is January 13

### Board will meet Nov. 30

Because so many Ring 29 members are very busy in December -- some booked up most nights during the month -- it has been tradition that there is no December regular meeting. So go out and get all the bookings you can, while the demand is there.

But do mark your new 2001 calendars for the first meeting of the New Millennium -- the annual Christmas Party. It is set for Saturday, January 13, and will replace the regular meeting that month.

The party will be at the same place as last year, the Otter Creek Racquet Club. It will begin at 6:30 and the menu will be pot luck. We'll have full details in the January newsletter, including a map how to get there. For now, mark your calendar, and start practicing the trick you want to perform. Let's see all sorts of new Christmas gift tricks.

(Yes, it is still called a Christmas Party. There were suggestions to change the name, but a majority of ring members voted to retain the traditional name, and so it stays.)

### Your best recipes are needed NOW for Ring cookbook!

As announced last month, Ring member **Penny Springer** has agreed to produce a Ring 29 Cookbook, as a fundraiser for the club. Of the \$12 cost for the cookbook, \$2 will be donated to our ring.

If every ring member would contribute one or two recipes, there would be enough for a nice product.

Please type or print your recipes and proofread them to make sure a teaspoon is not misinterpreted as a tablespoon.

If you have questions, please call Penny at 834-9099. Mail recipes to her at 2011 Aztec Drive, #1502, North Little Rock, 72116.

Penny is doing her part. Now we need YOU to do YOUR part. Won't you please help? Right now?

### NEXT MEETING:

- **Saturday, January 13**  
**6:30 pm, Otter Creek**  
**Racquet Club**  
**"Christmas Party"**

### Board to meet November 30, Thursday, at Mr. Magic store.

The Ring 29 Board of Directors met Thursday evening at Mr. Magic. The major items on the agenda were (1) The Christmas party, (2) the public show scheduled for next Spring; and (3) programs for 2001. We'll have a report in the January newsletter.

### Henson gets retirement gift

At the November meeting, Dennis Schick made a surprise presentation to Jim Henson, commemorating Jim's recent retirement after 30 years as a fireman. Dennis bought a figurine showing fireman gear on a rack, and had it mounted and engraved from the Ring. Members are invited to share in the cost of the gift.

## BITS & PIECES

● **LAST MONTH** the theme was "Clowning and Magic" and three dozen folks listened to clown veteran **Don Baer**. **Don gave lots of tips and demonstrated many of his hundreds of props.**

● **BILL PITTS** will marry **Ruth Fonda** of Scotia, NY, in Troy, NY, at The Magic Club, on December 18. That is the I.B.M. Ring that is named after her. They'll live in Fort Smith so we should be able to see them from time to time. Congratulations.

● **MARGARET LECLAIR's** report about her attendance at the big magic seminar in Missouri continues this month. We ran out of space last month.

Margaret also performed at halftime of a UALR basketball game Nov. 25. She did her mailbag escape. Channel 7 filmed her act and we understand it will be shown at a later date. And everything worked great.

● **MARGARET THOMPSON** has written a first-hand report on her adventure attending The Magic Cruise Halloween week. It is on the back of this page.

● **CREEL MORGAN** is working every Tuesday night from 6-8 pm at Pizza Hut on Warden Road in North Little Rock. He also will play Santa Claus at the NLR library on Dec. 2nd. Go see him if you want anything for Christmas.

● **THANKS TO** Bill Fulton, Margaret LeClair, Damon, Creel, Dan Hecke and Rebecca, who performed at the Museum of Discovery Nov. 2nd for the Arkansas Teachers Association. They raised \$300 for the Ring. Good publicity for magic, too.

● **RING 708 IN SEARCY** is working on booking Martin Lewis for a lecture in the Spring. They will keep us posted so some of our members can attend.

● **MAXWELL BLADE** had our own "Smiley the Clown" perform for his son's birthday party recently. It's great when club members support each other.

● **THE HOT SPRINGS MALL SANTA** (Bill Webb), was made to appear at the mall by Maxwell on Nov. 17th. Maxwell started the show doing magic. Bill (Santa) had

breakfast with 31 kids at the mall on Nov. 18. Go see him if you are in Hot Springs, and remind him that you are a Ring 29 member. He will be there every day except Sundays, until Christmas.

● **BRETT DANIELS** is leaving the Gold Strike Casio Dec. 31, exactly four years after he opened there. He'll take a month off before resuming performing in other places. They'll have to dismantle his airplane to get it out. It was lifted in in one piece and they build the theater around it.

**Jim Henson** saw the show 16 times over those four years. He said during the past year it was obvious Brett had lost his enthusiasm and that the show got worse, little by little. Last weekend the 90-minute show was barely over an hour.

● **AT THE GOLD STRIKE** they will feature a variety of big name acts, including magic. We understand the Pendragons are already booked into the theater next Fall. We've been told the theatre is working on signing other magicians. Watch for details.

## My Halloween Magic Cruise

by Margaret Thompson

It was a week of amazement, excitement, fascination and lots of fun.

That was the Magic Cruise I took during Halloween Week and I wish every Ring 29 member could have been there with me.

The week featured seven of the top magicians in the country: Jon Racherbaumer, Dan Garrett, Daryl, Joe Harrison, Luciano, Glenn Geriardi and Dan Stapleton (who was also the cruise director). Also, Daryl's wife, Alicia, was with him and she also is a magician.

Jon and I became friends before we even embarked on the ship at noon Saturday.

All the lectures and meetings for magicians were private, in the Neptune Theatre, and each lasted about an hour. The performances were for everyone on the cruise and were held in the Grand Lounge. There were about 100 magicians aboard the Enchanted Isle.

From 7 to 8 pm Saturday there was a welcome cocktail party for the magicians. At 10:15 Alicia performed a show.

Sunday at 10 am Dan Garrett gave a lecture. At noon some of the magicians did roving close-up magic at the tables. At 5:30 Daryl gave a lecture, demonstrating such tricks as Color-changing Knives, Bounce Across, Dicey Dots, Dish-a-Licious, Fusion Illusion, and others.

After his lecture I asked him to show me how to bounce a coffee cup off the floor, and he did. He also gave us the instructions to "All Tied Up." I hope to share this with you.

Monday at 6 pm a lecture was given by Jon. He showed a number of card tricks and one with money. He let me sit up front by him so I didn't miss anything. At 8:30 and 10:30 that night Dan Stapleton did his stage performances.

Tuesday at 10 am Paul Diamond gave a lecture on using reels as well as some card tricks. He stated that every magician should have at least two reels. At 10:40, Joe Harrison gave a lecture on card tricks, as well as other effects.

At 10:30 pm Tuesday we had a costume parade in the Grand Lounge. The midnight magic was a short dress performance by each of the magicians. I remember Glenn Geriardi did the reproducing of large magic wands. Joe Harrison did a number of acts with birds. His wife, Lisa, always assists

him. It was a great show.

Wednesday at 5 pm the first part of a lecture was given by Dan. He did a number of card tricks and let me help him do "The Piano." The second part of the lecture was by Glenn.

The Midnight Magic performance was given by 12 dressed magicians, including me. I was number eight. I did the Finger Tickle card trick. It went very well. Later, the gentleman who helped me wanted to buy the instructions of the trick which was in one of Dan's tapes.

Thursday morning the magicians had a History Quiz in the Grand Lounge. In answering questions that Dan asked, we found out that it pays to read your Linking Ring. I was on a team with Bill Pitts and Ruth.

At noon we had a group photo taken. Daryl, Luciano and several others did close-up magic roving the tables at lunch.

At 6 pm we had a private close-up show during which anyone could do their favorite trick. At 8:30 and 10:30 Dan did the stage shows. His performances Monday and Thursday were fascinating. This night two acts were his Butterfly Illusion, and his newest creation, The Human Deck of Cards.

Friday at 11 am we had a magic panel discussion. At 1:45 Dan did a close-up performance in the Grand Lounge. At 3 pm there was a magic teach-in for beginners, by Alicia. At 5 pm magicians who had them sold their books and tapes, and signed autographs. The 7 and 8:30 pm performances were given by Joe Harrison.

This covers most of the magic, but there was much more on the cruise. There were other shows, a great band, dancing, bingo, horse racing at sea, visiting ports, two formal nights, other games and five (5) meals a day, plus food available all the time.

To me the best treat was Dan Stapleton's magic. It is always fascinating. Maybe we can get him to come lecture to our Ring sometime.

**When YOU attend a magic show, seminar, conference, etc., why not take some notes and then write up a review of it to share with other Ring members? We all can't go to every such event, but we can enjoy them through the eyes of others.**

**Thanks to the two Margarets for sharing with the rest of us.**

## The Workshop 2000

Part 2

A continuation of the report about the last Missouri magic conference  
by Margaret LeClair

Michael Finney's lecture was hilarious, with a few moments of seriousness thrown in for good measure.

There were tips on marketing by Fred Walker. I had never heard of him, but he was full of a lot of relevant information on marketing yourself. The main point he stressed was that you are a performer second. You market yourself first! No matter how good your act is, if you don't have proper marketing, it won't matter.

Max Maven also conducted one of the breakout sessions. He basically talked about why we do what we do. He also spoke on what happens if we find out something we have been working on for months -- or even years -- just doesn't fit. He said that -- they use this term in other entertainment fields -- we must be willing to "kill our babies." If something doesn't work, walk away from it!

The Saturday night show was awesome. Shimada had me mesmerized every time he was on the stage. He performed his dove act, a manipulation act and his parasol act. I was able to visit with him a few minutes at the farewell party. I even spoke with him in Japanese. He is now an American citizen.

Jay Marshall introduced everyone to Lefty. Tina Lennert did her cleaning lady routine. Mike Caveney did a card routine using a bow and arrow. Max Maven did a mentalism routine, of course.

Murray was there and did his CD act. John Carney did his Mr. Mysto act, the same one he did at TAOM. Tom Burgoon did his comedy club routine and kept the audience laughing.

All in all, The Workshop was a great experience. I am fortunate that I was able to go. Since there was not a dealer's room, I walked around with a bunch of CDs. One purpose for me being there was to help a friend sell his CDs. I still have some available. The music is royalty free and I use it all the time in routines that require music.

I learned a lot of great magic. Some of it I quickly forgot, but some I will add to my shows and will perform at Ring meetings.

The Workshop director David Sandy said that this would be the last one -- as it was advertised to be in advance. But he did say that in the future there may be a reunion of Workshop attendees. That would be good.