



# Prestidigitator Press

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Logan Pritchett Ring 29  
8912 Stagecoach Road #11, Little Rock, AR 72210 (501) 455-6242  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of Every Month at Baptist Medical Center



Visit Ring 29 website [www.littlerockmagic.org](http://www.littlerockmagic.org)

January 2007



Arkansas' Tri Ring Gathering. Little Rock's Ring 29, Fort Smith's Ring 75, Searcy's Ring 308

## January Christmas Party on January 13<sup>th</sup>

There will not be a first Thursday of the month ring meeting due to the Christmas Party.

### January Christmas Party

Following tradition, the Ring 29 Christmas Party is held in January. Mark your calendars for **Saturday evening, January 13<sup>th</sup>**. It will be held at the same place it has been for several years at Salem United Methodist Church. Don Baer's mom and her team of outstanding cooks are working up a great menu. Cost is \$7.00 per person to cover the cost of food. Make plans to come and bring your family and friends. There is a great line-up of magic performers and there will be delicious food, door prizes, and great fellowship. Please call the

magic shop by Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> to tell how many will be attending. A map to the church can be found in this newsletter. You may also call the magic shop for directions 455-6242.

### Auction

**Ring 29 Annual Auction is Thursday, February 1. There will be both a regular auction and a silent auction. You may pick up auction sheets at the magic shop in mid January if you have items you wish to auction.**

### Calendar:

- January 13** – Christmas Party @ Salem United Methodist Church
- January 19** – Lonnie Chevie Lecture
- February 1** – Annual Auction
- March 1** – Ring 29 Close-up Competition
- April 5** – Mentalism
- May 3** – Silk and Cabaret Magic
- June 7** – Ring 29 Stage and Platform Competition

Got Magic News? Email Gerry Bailey: [clown1941@hotmail.com](mailto:clown1941@hotmail.com)  
Newsletter Ed. Tyler Vodehnal

## Lecture

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 19, 2007. The lecture will begin at 6:45pm and is set for UAMS Reynolds Center. Lonnie Chevie is coming to Little Rock to lecture. He calls his lecture "The Outlaw Magic Lecture". His tricks and routines have appeared in the *Linking Ring* and *Genii* magazines. He has two DVD's on the market "Wanted" and "Captured". He focuses little on cards but on basic sleight of hand for the average magician. Some of the tricks to be taught during the lecture include: String'em Up, a gypsy thread effect; The Thull, a clever silk vanish; Grampa's Dollar, a visual bill change; Clean Thru, a series of impromptu tricks with a borrowed dollar bill; and a variety of other routines from Lonnie's personal repertoire. There will also be a collection of tips, tricks and routines for close-up and stand-up performance. Check out his webpage at [Outlawmagic.com](http://Outlawmagic.com)

### Directions to the Reynolds Center for January 19th Lecture:

From West Little Rock: Take 630 east to exit 3A, "Cedar/Pine Street" Exit, and stay in the left lane. Continue to the second light, Pine Street. Turn left into the middle lane. Go over the interstate to the very first light, 7<sup>th</sup> street. Turn left onto Seventh Street and stay in the right lane. Continue to the first light, Cedar Street. If you look, across the intersection, you will see the Marquis for the Reynolds Center to your right. Continue across the intersection (stay on 7<sup>th</sup>) to the next Intersection, Jack Stephens Drive. Turn right onto Jack Stephens. Immediately turn right into the entrance to the parking lot for the Reynolds Center. Park in the lot and enter the Reynolds Center on the parking lot level. Take the elevator down to the ground floor. The meeting is in the Jo Ellen Ford Auditorium.

### ♥ *December Meeting:*

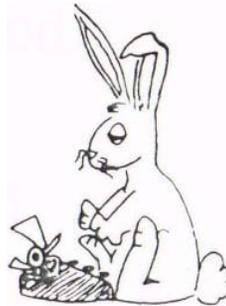
Twenty-five members of Ring 29 and their families attended the Holiday party held at Mr. Magic. Thanks to all of our wonderful performers and the Henson family for the wonderful magic and fun. Please see the Ring Report in the Linking Ring for full details.



**Don Baer**

♠ *Blast From the Past – Have we seen this before?*

### *Elwood' Rabbit Rites*



*Carefully edited by*

*Van Cleve*

I notice that people who look the worst in a tuxedo always want to do a Majic Act.

At Majic Conventions, the Majicians have better looking tuxedos than the waiters — except for the Dove Stains.

You know you've been doing your old Majic Act too long when the audience says the patter along with

you. But it IS handy when you start forgetting the words!

A Majician is a person who makes Something out of Nothing; Nothing out of Something; and a big mess on the floor when he does the RICE BOWLS and WINTERTIME IN CHINA! RIDLE

ANSER: Stull Watch

RIDLE: What does Mr. Stull do

at a Majic Show?

*Your Friend*

*Elwood*



**James Kinsey and Randall Eller**

## Magic Matters

### ♣ *Monthly Bio:*



**Pam Medrez**

While she calls herself Mommy magic, Pam does more than MAGIC. It all started in 1990 when Her Daughter, Sonya, was going to have her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sonya wanted to have a party with all her friends. Pam started checking about entertainment and found it would be very expensive. Not wanting to disappoint her daughter she bought material, Clown makeup, books, and balloons. She sent her husband and fifteen kids

to McDonalds for refreshments to get the party started. She then appeared in clown costume, did some magic purchased from Mr. Magic, and made some balloon animals. Her performance lead to her first paying gig from a lady that saw her perform at McDonalds, it was booked and off she went. Her children then started calling her Mommy Magic and this started her career in magic and her name.

As he does with most new magicians, Jim Henson invited Pam to a Ring 29 meeting. There she met the members of Ring 29 and will always remember the magic of Derrick Rose and Jon Bucher. Pam credits the ring and Jim Henson with her continuing in magic even when she got discouraged.

Pam also has another venue of entertainment in Ventriloquism. Her first puppet, (could not call it a dummy, I have seen them perform) Stanley got the ball rolling and she has added 3 more to her family. There is Patriotic Annie, Norton T. Snicknerdoodle, and Hancock. Pam says that they all are developing personalities of their own.

Pam is the ever professional entertainer in both magic and Ventriloquism. She Loves to make people laugh, considers kids her favorite audience for magic, and particularly likes doing the Bandana (Banana) Trick.

Pam credits the IBM Ring 29 female Magician of the Year award as the big turning point in her life. This gave her the courage to focus on the audience and strive to become a well rounded entertainer. Her favorite entertainers are Bubba Sikes and Derrick Rose. Pam also enjoys the time she shares with her daughters Vanessa, Sonya, and Kelly.

Thanks Pam for sharing your talent with us.

Gerry Bailey  
Sec. Ring 29.



**Scott Davis with assistant Brandy Warf**

♦ Ring 29 members: **Gerry Bailey, Ron Stevens, Don Thompson, Dane Dover, Jeff O'Connell, Jim and Brenda Henson, Christy Henson, Mike Curtis, Bill and Ruth Pitts, Larry Bean, and John Patterson** attended the Arkansas Tri Ring meeting in Russellville in November. Nearly thirty people were in attendance. There were nine performers from the three rings: 29, 75, and 308. Another Tri-ring meeting will be scheduled in the spring.

♣ **Lisa Bolin** performed at a Christmas party for a church group in mid December. Particular favorites were sponge balls and magical musical chairs.

♥ **Chris Westfall** "*Las Vegas ... Adult Disneyland*"

One of the few places in this country that you can go to see a good magic show on a regular basis is, yup, you guessed it, Las Vegas. (Others are Branson, Mo; Hot Springs, AR; Beverly, Ma; and the Magic Castle in Hollywood) And if you go, be sure to check with Jim Henson for a rundown on the shows. Magic Magazine offers a posting, but I wonder about accuracy— when I called the hotel where Steve Dacri was listed, I was told that he had not been there for two years.

My trip to Las Vegas in November led me to Lance Burton's show at

the Monte Carlo and Penn & Teller's show at the Rio. Both were excellent – they have to be to survive in a market that includes several versions of the absolutely spectacular Cirque de Soleil. Lance Burton's show starts with his award winning manipulation routine, includes a number of illusions and culminates in his flying off in a sports car (wheels-up!)

Penn and Teller were not anywhere near as offensive as I had anticipated, but I was told that they alter the show depending upon the audience. I was with a large group, and perhaps they were on their best behavior? Opening with a great version of the Miser's Dream from a fish tank, the duo included mentalism, hand shadow puppetry/straight jacket escape routine, and closed with the Bullet Catch. Penn and Teller stayed to shake hands in the lobby. (Teller seems to know how to talk when he's off stage.)

Interestingly, the demos in the magic shops I visited were quite good ... the one in the Monte Carlo and Houdini's magic shop in particular were fronted by good solid performers. The difference in skill level between the magic demonstrators and the headliners wasn't as much as you would think ... the difference, I suppose, is in presentation, promotion, and people skills. At the Riviera, Carl Ballantine's son was behind the counter – as expected, he had some good stories to tell. The Vegas shops, however, cater to the tourist traffic, and can't hold a candle to Mr. Magic!

Magic in Las Vegas is great ... I just wish I'd had an afternoon off to see Mac King.

So, if you want to have your ear talked off, just ask me about my trip

♣ **Michael Wilkinson** will be appearing in a new movie due to be released in the spring of 2007. The movie is titled *Birthritis* and was filmed in parts of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas. Michael does not play a magician in the movie, but he will

be easily recognizable in his signature black outfit that he always wears when he is on stage performing illusions. In the movie a young woman (Meagan Dowd) is an insurance adjuster who is held captive in a small cabin by two country folks (Alex Moody and Linda Bowling) that can only be described as "crazy". Michael plays the part of Brett Younger, the woman's boyfriend. The movie is a thriller that keeps you on the edge of your seat with a surprise ending. It is appropriate for teenagers and adults and likely will be rated PG-13.  
<http://www.wilkinsonmagic.com/bir-thriteinfo.html>

♣ **Mark Warf** performed in mid December at Tyndale Park for the Wendy's Restaurant Christmas gathering.

♦ **Don Baer** has stayed busy performing through the holidays. He performed at a school show at Ida Burns Elementary School, and he performed for the Rivendale Christmas Party. He also spent three Saturdays at Park Plaza Mall doing balloons for kids waiting to see Santa Claus.

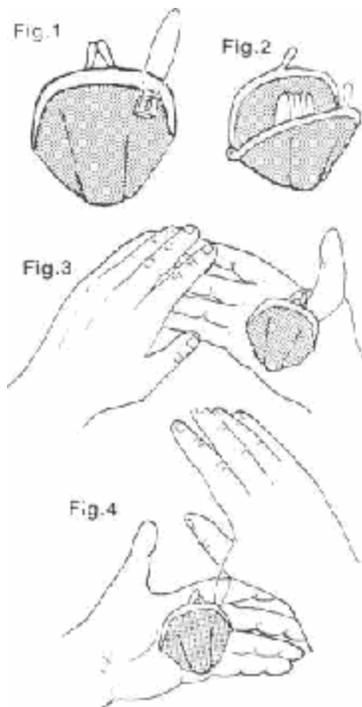
## Trick Time

### PURSE PRODUCTION

Effect: The performer casually shows the front and back of his hands, then proceeds to produce a change purse full of coins. No sleeve or body steals.

Required: A small change purse, a small metal nut (of the nut and bolt variety), a short length of clear, nylon thread (the thinner the better), and four or more half dollars. Prepare by tying a short loop of thread through the nut. Determine the length by inserting the nut into the purse, closing the clasp with the loop hanging outside to one side of the clasp (Fig. 1), and inserting your thumb into the

loop so that the purse can hang freely against the palm of your hand. You have the proper length when the purse is totally out of sight with the back of your hand toward the audience (actually, I'd test it out using a mirror, why walk before you can crawl). Be prepared to do some adjusting before you are ready to proceed. Wedge the coins into the purse edgewise (Fig. 2). By placing the coins in this manner you need not worry about unwanted "talking." To produce the purse you will execute some standard, "hand-wipe" motions usually reserved for hankball manipulations. Loop the thread over your right thumb and you're ready to go.



Handling: I like to proceed by lacing my fingers together and cracking all of my knuckles simultaneously as if I'm limbering up. The backs of my hands are toward the audience. This bit of business can be dispensed with if one does not find it to one's liking. Show the palm of the left hand empty by brushing the fingers of the right hand across the palm, starting at the wrist and continuing upward until the tips of the fingers are just out of sight (Fig. 3). The

left hand is positioned fingers skyward as the brushing right fingers are pointing to your left. Simultaneously turn the left hand toward you as the right hand turns palm outward. Halfway through this move (as the left fingers begin to turn

right and the right fingers begin to turn upwards), the left fingers sweep across the fingers of the right hand and contact the hanging purse. Continue the wiping motion until the right palm faces out and the left palm faces in (Fig. 4). At this point, the purse hangs from the loop behind the left fingers as the right hand displays its empty palm to the audience.

Grip the purse in the left fingers as the right fingers dip in to grasp the purse and bring it into view. Display it momentarily in the right fingers then return it to the grip of the left fingertips.

Open the purse and remove the right hand as it simultaneously steals away the nut tied at the end of the loop of thread hanging from the right thumb. Ditch the gaff as you squeeze the purse to free the coins and rattle them by shaking the purse with your left hand. I simply place it in my right pocket as I remove or replace an item there.

Continue on with your favorite coin trick. Personally, I like doing "Coins to Purse" from the green book published by Magic Method called *Close-Up of the Damned*.

Comment: I like this idea, done properly, it should be a fast and baffling production. If you wear a vest, it occurs that it should be possible to steal the purse out of a vest pocket by hooking your thumb in the loop (much like a dove steal), perhaps as you place something down on the table to your right with your left hand. Your left arm would afford cover and the turn would permit your looking down and to the right so you can see both the table and your loop simultaneously. Also, consider using a Chinese coin, silk or other object in the purse on the loop instead of the nut and producing it from the purse. Thus, you have another effect and can simply put away the

produced item instead of having to "ditch" it. —PRW

## Ethics

The following question of ethics has been posed to the Ring 29 board. Chris Westfall has given a response. If you would like to submit comments relating to this topic or if you would like to pose another question, please email Christy at [cih0914@aol.com](mailto:cih0914@aol.com)

**Is it ethical for a magician to put information in advertisement or web page, which is untrue, or solely based upon a "kernel of truth?"**

The International Brotherhood of Magician's code of ethics states: "All members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians agree to discourage false or misleading statements in the advertising of effects, and literature, merchandise, or actions pertaining to the magical arts"

Within the context of a magician's *theatrical performance*, a certain amount of deception is necessary and expected. A magician who, during his show, displays an amulet "given him by a sorcerer" has crossed no ethical boundary. The audience interprets the statement within the context of the magical performance.

Off stage, however, the magician is expected to behave in the same manner as any ethical member of society. Which means that advertisements, web pages, and playbills should be accurate and truthful – in accordance with strict business ethics.

If, for example, a retailer were to advertise "Flat screen television set, this weekend only, one dollar!" and a visit to the store revealed that there was no such merchandise available (the ad was an outright lie); or that only one severely damaged flat screen TV was offered (the ad was technically correct – but only held a kernel of truth), all of us would feel cheated.

The better business bureau would be inundated with complaints, the attorney general would be notified, and the retailer would soon be out of business.

Similarly, the magician who advertises that he has performed in London, Paris and Rome – suggesting Europe, but meaning Arkansas - has crossed an ethical boundary. So has the magician who makes false claims concerning his experience, abilities, previous clients, or awards. He will lose the trust of the community, and the reputations of ethical magicians will suffer.

This, of course, is one man's opinion. Your comments are welcomed.

Chris Westfall

## President's Corner

Christy Henson: I hope everyone is recovering from the busy holiday season. I hope yours was happy. There have been continuing questions over ethics in magic. As you have noticed in this newsletter, an issue in ethics has been addressed. Your opinions, comments, and other questions are welcome. Please email me at [cih0914@aol.com](mailto:cih0914@aol.com) with your thoughts. Christy Henson

## Ring Ramblings

♣ The Junior Magician Program is going well. The next meeting is scheduled for February. Time and place will be given in the February newsletter. If you know of a kid who is interested in magic, please have them contact the magic shop so their name can be added to the Junior Magician's newsletter list.

♥ *Reminders and information about meetings and lectures are sent out through email several times a month via the Ring 29 email address. If you are not receiving these emails, please contact James*

*Kinsey so he can add you.*  
[Jamesk39@swbell.net](mailto:Jamesk39@swbell.net)

♦ Calendars will be handed out at the Christmas Party showing Ring 29 activities for January and February. If you miss the meeting, you can pick up a calendar at the magic shop.

♠ International Brotherhood of Magicians applications can be picked up at the magic shop, or ask an officer at a ring meeting.

♣ The Ring 29 Close-up competition is scheduled for March 1, 2007. Begin getting a close-up performance together to compete. There will be a \$5 entry fee for seniors and \$2 entry fee for juniors. Any I.B.M. member is allowed to compete. Winners will receive a gift certificate to Mr. Magic and an award certificate. The Close-up performance must not exceed 7 minutes. Other information pertaining to the competition will be given in upcoming newsletters.

♥ **January Birthdays:**

January 19 – **Mike O'Donohoe**

♠ **Ring 29 Magic Meeting Themes for 2006- 2007:**

**January-** Christmas Party

**February-** Annual Auction

**March-** Ring 29 Close-Up Competition

**April-** Mentalism

**May-** Silk and Cabaret Magic

**June-** Ring 29 Platform and Stage Competition

♦ **Advertisements:**

Mr. Magic has a lot of old magic for sale. Which will be on sale around the end of February. If you have magic that you are interested in (excluding books) give Jim a call to see if it is available.



nvtech.com

Directions	Distance
<b>Total Est. Time: 17 minutes Total Est. Distance: 12.25 miles</b>	
<b>START</b> 1: Start out going NORTHEAST on STAGECOACH RD / AR-5 toward CRYSTAL VALLEY RD.	0.4 miles
 2: Merge onto I-430 S.	0.9 miles
 3: Merge onto I-30 W / US-67 S / US-70 W via EXIT 129B toward TEXARKANA.	8.2 miles
 4: Take EXIT 121 toward ALCOA ROAD.	0.1 miles
 5: Stay STRAIGHT to go onto I-30 W / I-30 W SERVICE RD / US-67 S / US-70 W.	0.2 miles
 6: Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto ramp.	0.1 miles
 7: Stay STRAIGHT to go onto ALCOA RD.	0.1 miles
 8: Turn LEFT onto AR-5.	0.2 miles
 9: Turn RIGHT onto SALEM RD.	1.5 miles
<b>END</b> 10: End at <b>1647 Salem Rd</b> Benton, AR 72019-8344, US	
<b>Total Est. Time: 17 minutes Total Est. Distance: 12.25 miles</b>	



**These directions are starting from Mr. Magic and going to Salem UMC. If you have any questions call Mr. Magic at 455-6242. See you at 6:30 p.m.**