



I.B.M. Ring 29

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JUNE 2002

# MAGIC MUSINGS

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring #29

8912 Stagecoach Road, #7, Little Rock, ARkansas 72209 • (501) 455-6242

Meets 1st Thursday of every month, Baptist Medical Center

## No regular meeting; two lectures June 10 & 22; banquet on June 18.

There is too much going on in June so there will **NOT** be a regular meeting this month (normally on the first Thursday)!

Instead, one of the most anticipated lectures in the history of our club will be held **Monday, June 10.**

### NEXT MEETING:

- **Monday, June 10, 7 pm**  
Baptist Medical Center  
John Calvert lecture

### BITS & PIECES

● **LAST MONTH** some 42 members attended the Bill Palmer lecture May 2. Many members said they really enjoyed the lecture and took away lots of new skills.

● **PAST RING 29** president **Ralph Bird** died May 10th. He was a retired Lutheran minister living in Hardy but often stayed with his daughter in Little Rock. He attended the last two Ring 29 Christmas parties. He loved magic and used it as object lessons at church. He liked to hang out at the magic store and regularly ran into people who remembered him. Our prayers and sympathy go out to his family.

● **HERE'S AN UPDATE** on two members of the Ring 29 family:

• **J.C. HENSON**, Jim's dad, who works in Mr. Magic off and on has recovered from his fainting spell and even came in to work.

• **BRENDA HENSON** continues to improve and is slowly regaining her strength.

● **LOOKING FOR A** neat gift? How about one of the cookbooks edited by Penni Springer. A few are still available at Mr. Magic. The price has been dropped to \$5 each. Buy several at this price.

● **ANYONE INTERESTED** in attending this year's IBM Convention in San Diego July 2-6 can get all the information from Jim at Mr. Magic. Is anyone from Ring 29 going? Please let Jim know.

● **PAUL CARLON** will be teaching a Magic & Illusion class at Pulaski Academy, for grades 4-6, June 24-28, from 9:30 to 10:30 am. If you know of someone who

That is the lecture by the legendary **John Calvert**. It will be held at 7 pm at Sheffield Auditorium at the Baptist Medical Center. The auditorium is on the first floor, just down the hall North of the main entrance.

Cost is only \$8 for members and \$12 for non-members. All tickets will be sold at the door. Please try to have the right change.

See the enclosed flyer for more information about John Calvert. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see a famous magician.

### IBM President to entertain, install at banquet, June 18

Is is official: entertainment for the Ring 29 Installation Banquet for 2002-03 will be none other than International IBM president **Bob Escher** of Louisville, Kentucky. Those who met and saw Bob in action in Eureka Springs can vouch for his skill. He has agreed to bring and perform his mind-boggling torn and restored playing card illusion.

The banquet will be held at **6:30 pm, Tues., June 18** at **Brown's Country Kitchen** in Benton, the same location as last year. We will partake of one of the longest buffets in the nation and eat together in a private room. **NOTE:** we cannot have the room until **6:30**, so if you come early and want to go ahead and eat, you'll have to do it in the general dining area.

Bob also will install the officers, a high honor for them. The Broken Wand Ceremony will be conducted by **Bob Owen** and **Wells Autrey**, in memory of the late **Col. Frank Seymour**.

Because of limited seating, **you must call Mr. Magic at 455-6242 and make a reservation. Do it right now!**

**Enclosed is a trick called "Donkey Puzzle." It is a gift from Jim Henson to all members, as a thanks for your support. (Try to do it before looking at the solution. Don't cheat!) Have fun with it!**

### Triple header of magic in June. Make all three!

Wow! We have three great opportunities for you this month. Don't miss any of them!

• **June 10:** John Calvert lecture. He is a legend. (See lead article at left);

• **June 18:** Annual Installation and Awards Banquet, featuring the International IBM President, **Bob Escher** (see box at left);

• **June 22:** Doc Dixon lecture and Maxwell magic show in Hot Springs (see below). How's that for a June magic fix?

### Ballot is enclosed

If you are a member of Ring 29, there is a **ballot enclosed** to vote for officers and board members for 2002-03.

The **deadline to mail to be received or to deliver** it to Mr. Magic is **6 pm, Thurs., June 6.**

### Don't miss the special lecture by Doc Dixon plus a full show on Saturday, June 22 in HS

If you've never seen a lecture presented by nationally known magician Doc Dixon, then on June 22nd you are in for a treat.

Maxwell Blade and Scott Davis have teamed up to present an exciting evening of magic performance and instruction. Come to Maxwell Blade's Theater of Magic in downtown Hot Springs on **Saturday, June 22nd** at 5:30 for a magic double-header. For one \$15 ticket price you'll be treated to **both** Doc Dixon's lecture **and** Maxwell Blade's two-hour Las Vegas-style illusion show.

The Doc Dixon Lecture is full of real world performing material done in Doc's work as a full time pro or in his social life as a "fool time" fun person. The material is original and not a rehash of routines you already have on your book shelf. In addition to the routines, universal performing concepts will be explored that will make you a better magician. For questions call Scott Davis at 501-517-7268 or by E-mail: **bookings@scottdavismagic.com**

(Continued on page two)

## Pay your 2002-03 dues by August 1 to save \$5

Dues will be due officially June 30. The cost is only \$15 if **paid before August 1**; \$20 thereafter. Paying your dues on time helps the board decide what lectures the club can afford. This year the dues are a bit higher because of the expected expense of putting on a convention.

## Reserve October 18-20 for the Ring 29 Hot Springs Magic Convention

The first Ring 29 magic convention, set for **Oct. 19-20** in Hot Springs, is moving right along and you will be called on shortly to be on one of the committees to help make it a big success.

The competition for a **name for the convention** has ended and the winner will be announced soon. Calls will be made soon to fill committees so they can begin their work.

Circle the dates on your calendars right now to avoid conflicts. Here are some of the details:

- **Where:** Hot Springs Convention Center
- **Hotel:** Austin Hotel, next door
- **Cost:** Both days (everyone will pay a registration fee. No comp registrations.)

(Prices include individual and immediate family -- spouse and children)

### Pre-registration:

- **Full convention:**
  - \$50 before June 30
  - \$60 June 30 - Sept. 1
  - \$75 Sept. 2 - Oct. 19
- **Single day:** \$40
- **Public show:** Saturday night: \$12.

Registration forms are available at Mr. Magic. Make checks out to Ring 29.

A tentative schedule has been approved:

### Friday, October 18:

Early bird activities to be announced

### Saturday, October 19:

- |           |                          |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| 8 am-4 pm | Lectures and close-up    |
| 5 pm      | Banquet. (\$20 extra)    |
| 8 pm      | Public show              |
| Midnight  | Tales of the Wizard Show |

### Sunday, October 20:

- |            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| 8 am       | Competitions    |
| 11:30-1 pm | Balloon lecture |
| 2 pm       | Show and awards |
| 4 pm       | Convention ends |

## Bits & Pieces continued

might be interested in taking this class, call Paul at 315-9040.

● **MAXWELL's** show started last weekend, and will run Tuesday through Saturday until Labor Day. Damon will warm up the audience at 7:45 each evening, and then perform his seance at 10:30 pm each night. Let's all go over and support Maxwell and friends. Tell everyone to go see him.

● **RANDALL** also will be back in Hot Springs this Summer, performing magic every night as part of the Music Mountain Jamboree show. And, on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons, he'll perform an all-magic show. Again, let's all support him. Why not go see him in the afternoon and Maxwell in the evening?

● **DON'T FORGET** Magic Weekend at the Museum of Discovery Sept. 21-22. This was a big success last year and we appreciate the opportunity to do it again. If you would like to perform, call **Bill Fulton** at 663-9380. It's a great chance for our club to spread the fun of magic to young people, and maybe even pick up some new members for our Junior Magic program.

● **MAGIC ON TV:** There were two disappointing specials on TV recently: David Blaine's stunt with minimal magic; and another magic expose' on the Fox channel. It's been a while since a good, real magic show has been on TV.

## COMING EVENTS:

Please mark your calendars for these dates, to avoid conflicts.

- **June 6** No regular meeting
- June 10 John Calvert Lecture
- June 18 Installation Banquet, Brown's
- June 22 Doc Dixon Lecture, Hot Springs
- July 11 Regular meeting: close-up
- Aug. 1 Regular meeting: ethics
- Sept. 14 Annual Ring Picnic
- Sept. 17 Dick Berry Lecture
- Sept. 21 **Magic Days**,  
-22 Museum of Discovery
- Oct. 3 Regular meeting: comedy
- Oct. 19 **Ring 29 Convention**, Hot  
-20 Springs Convention Center
- Nov. 7 Regular meeting: school magic
- Dec. 5 Board planning meeting

## Magic in Branson

We understand there are three magic shows in Branson this season, and there may be magic acts as part of other shows. If you see any of them, please write a review and send it to us so we can all benefit.

Editor Dennis Schick will be in Branson for a couple of days this week and will try to see at least a couple of the shows. Here are the three shows we know about:

### ✓ **KIRBY VAN BURCH:**

He's back, this time at the Remington Theater, a huge, beautiful theater right on the strip. Numbers we have are (417) 337-7140 or 1-800-MAGIC. The theater Web page is [www.remingtontheatre.com](http://www.remingtontheatre.com) He opened Feb. 1 and the show runs through Oct. 20.

You may recall he bought and remodeled a theater into a "magic palace," but then something happened and he left town. But now he's back at the Remington. It's not very intimate but it's a great theater.

### ✓ **BART ROCKET:**

Bart took over Kirby's theater last year, but this year he is at the Americana Theater. His number is (417) 335-4900. His Web site is [www.sullivanshows.com](http://www.sullivanshows.com)

His one-page flyer says "limited engagement" and his calendar shows dates from May 20 through September 2. You recall he performed in Eureka Springs for a couple of years before taking over Kirby's palace.

### ✓ **THE WORLD OF MAGIC:**

This is the name for the show at The Magical Palace, the place which Kirby remodeled as his "permanent" home. The brochure doesn't mention any specific magician names, but shows photos of lots of so-called "big" illusions.

We just noticed on the brochure that there is a line which says: "Bart Rockett and David Thomas Present" and then says "The World of Magic," so Rockett is involved in that production, too. Some ticket sales person said the current magician is John Paul and his wife.

If you go to Branson and see these or any other magic, please pass it on so we can tell our members about it.

The music has stopped. Now let's all change theaters (like musical chairs)!

## Scott Davis and Sherri will wed June 1st in Hot Springs

One of the most active magicians in Ring 29 -- Scott Davis -- is getting married Saturday, June 1. But we're not losing a magician, we're gaining another magician -- Sherri.

The wedding will be at 2 pm at the 2nd Baptist Church in Hot Springs. It's at 600 Garland Ave., a block past the Dairy Queen. All Ring 29 members are invited to attend. Congrats.

# John Calvert

in  
**The Ghost of the  
Elephant's  
Graveyard**

by John Booth

Condensed and edited from  
Linking Ring February 2002

An immaculate white palace on wheels drew up to the curb in front of my home a few weeks ago. Out stepped a tall, erect, and internationally famous 90-year-old driver, John Calvert and his diminutive, smiling, young Eurasian wife, Tammy.

With admiration and wonder, I have watched his career almost 65 years since we first met in Shreveport, Louisiana. He climbed touring his illusion show upward into the nation's foremost show houses. Then on into Hollywood's studios as a motion picture actor, and finally a career as a globe girdling illusionist.

Calvert's career began as the curtain was ringing down on illusion's Golden Age of Thurston, Carter, Nicola, and Raymond. He was, and is, a remarkable surviving manifestation of a showmanly tradition in threading the far reaches of the globe with an American full-evening show.

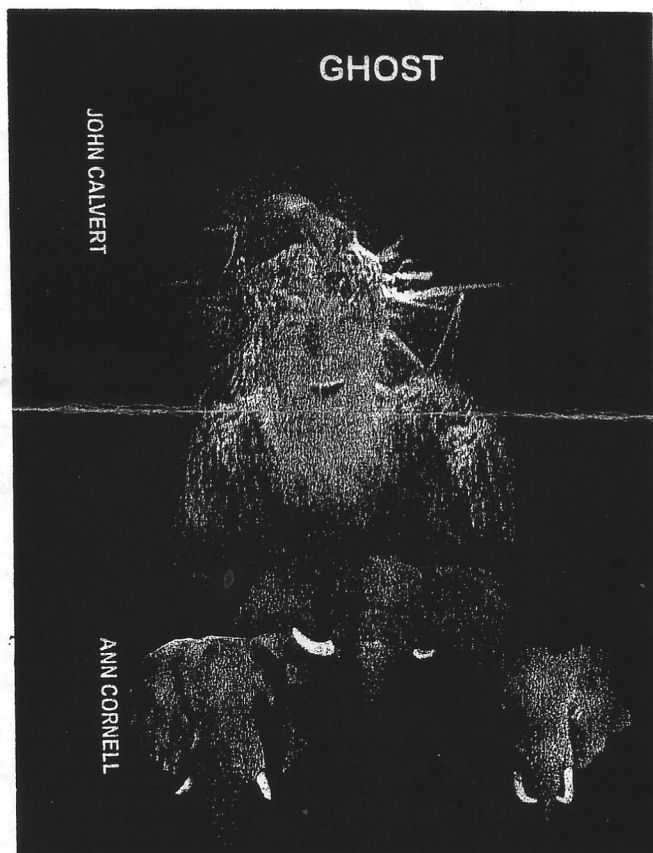
One of the items on his mind for dropping in on me, I believe, was simply to ask if I would write an article about "The Ghost of the Elephants' Graveyard" for publication. I was not surprised. We have kept in touch with each other across the intervening years even spending time together in London,

Honolulu, Chicago, and at the Magic Castle in Hollywood.

Inasmuch as "The Ghost of the Elephants' Graveyard" is actually a revised remake of "Dark Venture", a successful film of which Calvert was the writer, producer, and star about 1952, it behooves me to retrace his former career in the film industry.

He was welcomed into the Hollywood scene by no less a person than Elsa Maxwell, highly influential, syndicated Hearst newspaper columnist and party giver. She saw in him a future as a leading "heavy," a sort of suave, handsome "villain" type.

His first screen test was conducted by David Selznick, a major figure in the studios. Columbia Pictures signed him up to a seven year contract. It included a clause which permitted him to take twelve consecutive weeks off each year to play theatres with his illusion show. Studio executives saw this as building support for his film career.



John Calvert will lecture at Ring 29, at 7 pm, Monday, June 10 at Sheffield Auditorium, Baptist Medical Center. Do not miss this lecture. It will be your **ONLY** chance to ever see one of the giants in the magic community. Read more about him in the following two articles. And then plan on attending the lecture. Cost is only \$8 for Ring 29 members and \$12 for non-members. You'll be glad you attended.



## John Calvert

*A celebrity with a track record that will probably never be equalled . . . . .*

*A long list of motion pictures to his credit and undisputedly, the world's most internationally known magician.*

# CALVERT

## The Adventurer

John Calvert's career has been varied, exciting and daring. The stunts in his act attract the press and thousands of people wherever he goes. His celebrity canon shot received the biggest spread ever afforded to an artist in Atlantic City. An excellent marksman, his feats with a gun have been outstanding. Calvert the man is pilot, yachtsman and wild life conservator. On several occasions, however, it has taken more than a touch of magic, in fact, near miracles to save his life. He has survived two serious plane crashes. His speed-boat sank in the South China Sea and he swam 15 hours and 45 minutes in shark infested waters before he made it to safety. On a yachting trip from Taiwan to Japan, he fought off two gunboats using flares, skyrocketes and smoke bombs. In the Pacific, he rode out seven typhoons. In one, 200 mile winds dismasted his luxury yacht Sea Fox and carried his life boats away. Undaunted, Calvert has gone on to other adventures, attracting enthusiastic fans, young and old, wherever he goes.

"The drama of John Calvert's true adventures could never have been contrived in the minds of the most prolific adventure writers. From the first time I saw him, I became intensely interested in this most unusual man. Millions have seen John Calvert in person, around the world in theatres from Broadway to Tokyo. His is the longest running world touring stage spectacular in theatre history. I was compelled to write the incredible story of John Calvert, not a man of the past, far from it. He is alive and well as I write, planning and producing the most unusual magic spectacular ever conceived. His yacht at this very moment is primed and ready to go to any port or place in the world that might offer him a challenge."

Author William V. Rauscher  
From *John Calvert, Magic and Adventures Around the World*