

I.B.M. Ring 29

Visit our Web:  
littlerockmagic.org

NOVEMBER 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

How about rabbit  
instead of turkey?



## November 7 is regular meeting: theme: "School magic."

The regular monthly meeting of Ring 29 will be held on the regular day (the first **Thursday, Nov. 7**), at the regular time (7 pm) at the regular place (Baptist Medical Center), behind the cafeteria.

The theme this month will be "**School Magic**." What this means is any trick, effect or illusion which could be used in a classroom, assembly or other educational facility, to make a point. It is "magic with a message." It is "teaching with magic." It is "object lesson" magic. You get the idea.

What we'd like everyone to do is to bring a trick which could be used to make a specific point in school. As you know,

many magicians speak to school assemblies on such things as "Just Say No to Drugs," "Reading is Cool," "Recycling" and "You Are Important" (self-esteem) messages.

Show us the trick and then tell how it could be used in schools.

Leading the discussion will be **Bill Fulton**, who uses magic in teaching. He'll give us some basic thoughts and tips, and then coordinate the demonstrations by members of teaching with magic. Please come prepared to participate....and learn. It would be helpful if you called Mr. Magic and confirmed that you will perform. We'll take others, too, but want to make sure we have enough.

**NEXT  
MEETING:  
Thursday,  
Nov. 7**

### THE MAGIC WAND

• **AT THIS TIME**, no Ring meeting will be held in December. But we will have a newsletter, so send in your news (bookings, tips, etc.).

• **THE HOLIDAY OF LIGHTS Magic Show** will be held in Searcy by Ring 308, **Saturday, Nov. 30** at 7:30 pm. Jim Henson plans to go if you want to hitch a ride.

• **THE RING 29 CHRISTMAS** Party is scheduled for **January 13**. Mark your calendars. More information in the December newsletter.

• **THE CLOWN CLUB** will get together **Sunday, Nov. 3** at 2 pm at Mr. Magic. The theme will be "Writing and Preparation of Clown Skits." Call 455-6242 that Friday or Saturday to confirm that it is still on.

• **MAXWELL'S THEATER** of Magic will be open Thanksgiving Weekend. Be sure to go and take all your visiting relatives. Call them to get details.

• **DANNY ARCHER** had a heart attack just before the convention and couldn't come. He called the other day and says he is fine. We may have him to lecture next Spring.

• **CHRISTY HENSON** sends her greetings from Czechoslovakia. She misses all the magic, and especially is sorry she missed the convention. Keep her in your prayers as she witnesses her faith in a difficult part of the world.

• **THIS SEASON** is busy for magicians; let us know of **your** bookings and what you have been up to, and we'll list them in December. **Happy Thanksgiving** to all. Hope to see you next Thursday.

## IBM Ring 29 does itself proud with highly successful first convention!

After a lot of hard work (and worry) by a lot of people, the first IBM Ring 29 regional magic convention came off without a hitch, Oct. 19-20. It was held at the Hot Springs Convention Center and the Austin Hotel.

With no previous history to know how many people would attend, the entire production was a mission of faith. But the confidence which the planning committee had -- lead by convention chairman **Jim Henson** -- paid off. And the outstanding contributions by a dozen or so people, along with a dozen or more volunteers, brought about an almost seamless event.

On this page we want to recognize some of the people who stepped forward and made the convention happen. On the back are summaries of what happened over two days, as well as a number of observations.

✓ **JIM HENSON** had the vision and drive to pull all the ingredients together to make it all happen;

✓ **DAN HECKE**, club president, joined arms with Jim and provided leadership throughout the planning process and the convention itself (and even performed);

✓ **DAMON REINBOLD** was our man in Hot Springs and did a terrific job as the Wizard at the Saturday banquet;

✓ **RICHARD KNOLL** was everywhere,

before, during and after the convention. Thank him for the tickets, the logo and a great poster. He also did a great job as stage manager.

✓ **JON BUCHER** coordinated the competitions, was show emcee, and did a whole lot of other stuff;

✓ **LARRY ROBERTS** provided lighting, sound and draping equipment which brought the convention to a high level of professionalism;

✓ **DENNIS SCHICK** created the two programs, took photos and did other stuff

✓ **JIMMY RHODES, Jr.** was volunteer chairman, emceed a show and performed. He seemed to be everywhere!

✓ **GERRY BAILEY** was the auctioneer and also performed.

✓ **BILL FULTON** was the official photographer, and helped in other ways;

✓ **ANDY STIRMAN** was the dealer liaison.

✓ **ELIZABETH MORLEN** helped with registration, name badges and donated a painting for a raffle.

✓ **SUSAN BUCHER** was indispensable at the registration desk.

✓ **OTHER MEMBERS** of the planning committee included **Lisa Bolen**, **Mike Curtis**, and lots of volunteers.

A deep bow and a standing ovation for **everyone who helped in any way.**

# Some thoughts on a successful magic convention:

By Dennis Schick

On October 19 and 20 I overdosed! **On magic!** For two whole days, if you **like** magic, you **loved** being at the Hot Springs Convention Center, attending the first annual magic convention of IBM Ring 29. (In the English and Journalism worlds, purists argue that there is no such things as a "first annual" since there may not be a second. But others of us counter-argue that if you **intend** to have a second one, it is OK. Besides, the Board has already voted to have a second convention. See article on page four.)

Anyway, here are some random observations and thoughts about the convention for you who were not there and for the archives:

- It takes **a lot of people** pitching in, to run a big event like this. In addition to the key people on page one, another dozen or more people helped in many other ways. Everyone who helped even a little contributed to the success of the event.

- There were no "big names" in magic, but we saw **plenty of good, solid magic**, both stage and close-up, and all the performers gave their best and were professional in every way. No one went away disappointed.

- The **facilities and people** at the Hot Springs Convention Center were wonderful, and the Board has voted to go back there next October. Octoberfest and the Hot Springs Film Festival were going on the same weekend, and helped contribute to 25-30 members of the general public coming to the Friday night show.

## LECTURE 1

- **Tom Yurisits and Janet** had a terrific two-table display of magic items, mostly their own creations. Many items were very expensive (such as the \$2500 "Light/Heavy Box"), but many items were affordable and they did a good business.

Tom's lecture emphasized birthday party magic, and he explained his philosophy and handling of each trick he demonstrated. Tricks included: Coke in bag; egg in bag; broken wand; domino card; sponge shapes (balls, cubes, rabbit, etc.); die box using a Rubic's Cube; Crayon tubes (instead of bottles); and a disappearing wand and an appearing live rabbit. He also showed his version and handling of Card Warp.

**Some of his advice:** Get kids involved: laughing and yelling out. Scan the audience for perfect kids matched to each trick: one shy, another animated, etc. Use motion for misdirection, even as small as wiggling your thumb. Don't wear a watch on stage; it is not professional and often it flashes light,

distracting the eye.

He believes strongly in having postcard-size promotion pieces, with his photo on one side and information on what he does and contact information on the other. He said these have brought him thousands of dollars in bookings, and that he wouldn't even think of not having them.

Tom performed on the public show, too: doing several escapes.

## LECTURE 2:

- **Diamond Jim Tyler** of Dallas had a one-table display with lots of neat stuff, but he had to leave early due to a family medical problem. His lecture emphasized card effects, but he also worked with coins, stones, invisible thread and a ring on string.

He performed Astonishment (a card appearing in a mint box); an animated card box (which opens itself); a dollar bill fold with a surprise message; and Pieces of Eight (coins in a crystal glass).

We all appreciated him giving out the instructions to "Paperweight," a neat but complicated trick in which the magician can usually tell exactly how many cards a person cuts off a deck. It uses the Si Stebbins System Order. Ask anyone who was there if you want a copy of it.

Jim also gave out free copies of his photo and many people got autographs.

## LECTURE 3:

- **Robert Simone** of Alabama, had a large display of stage magic. He specializes in used apparatus and had many on display. A popular item was what he calls a "throw-away flash wand." He said you could get 75-100 hits out of one wand and then -- for only \$10 -- buy a new one. They use flash cotton and flash paper. He demonstrated them in his lecture and said they are a lot less trouble than more expensive brands.

Several times Robert used a term which he coined, which he says describes what magic should be: "**Imagination.**"

He likes "fire effects" and said he wishes more magicians would use them because they provide the excitement and drama which magic deserves. He demonstrated a pocket flasher and described how he often opens his act with D'Lites and then produces fire on the palm of his hand.

One of his tips: have children/parents fill out a data/referral form; it provides a nice mailing list. For doing so, people get a discount on their next party booking, and a free magic wand. It works for him.

He makes much of his own magic, especially out of other items, from junk to items

he sees in craft stores. A rising cobra trick uses an old electric antenna from a car; an ancient-looking trunk came from Hobby Lobby. Props don't have to be expensive. Use your imagination and creativity.

Ron uses a character of a swashbuckling pirate, and plays the part up in his shows. He used the character in his public show act.

## ANOTHER DEALER

- **Jimmy Dixon**, a magician from Senatobia, Mississippi, brought a new card deck which he has contracted to have made and distribute. It's a neat, timely effect which turns a blank deck (white), with red and blue backs, into a nice surprise, an American flag. He was selling them for only \$5 each and two for \$10. He did a brisk business. I wish I had bought several more to give to people who wanted one. (If you are interested in one, he is at Box 512, and his zip is 38668.)

Jimmy also performed on the Stage Show (see next page).

## CLOSE-UP SHOW

- Participants in the **Close-up Show** on Saturday included:

- **Dane Dover** (rubber bands, Uno cards/watch);

- **Scott Davis** (card effects);

- **Diamond Jim Tyler** (card tricks, psychic \$1 bill, prediction and a quarter in a sugar packet); and

- **Jon Bucher** (stacking die).

## THE BANQUET

People needed a place to eat dinner on Saturday, so it was natural to plan a sit-down affair, with a magic program. The special program was **Damon Reinbold's** popular "Tales of the Wizard." Helping him was assistant **Elizabeth Morlen**.

Damon wowed the audience of nearly 50 people with trick after trick which revolved around the wizard theme.

## THE PUBLIC SHOW

The Saturday night Public Show had a full-house of over 125 people. Over two dozen people were walk-ins, real members of the public. Emcee for the show was **Jon Bucher**, who did his typical top-notch and entertaining job. His between-act quips (Q-Card, Notes (music), etc.) drew the expected audience groans. The show highlights:

- ✓ **ANTHONY BAKER**, from Batesville, opened the show with an appearing cane, a disappearing/appearing silk with flash, and water to a confetti shower.

- ✓ **JIMMY RHODES** did a nice job as he performed a series of tricks, such as silk through neck, mouth pull, card cascade from mouth, wallet-to-carrying bag-to-bowl of

water, linking rings already linked, knots in silk to holes, and ropes on wand turning to multiple silks.

✓ **TOM YURISITS**, billed as the "Mad Hungarian", focused on escapes: belt, handcuffs and straitjacket. He involved members of the audience, for additional laughs.

✓ **RUTH PITTS** performed her popular linking rings routine, a salt-in-hand disappear/reappear, multiplying silks and flowers, a torn- and-restored tabloid newspaper effect; and finished with a very nice zombie ball routine.

✓ **SAM BOYCE** and company recreated his wonderful flower appearance act, with members of his family and friends. It filled the stage in glorious color, and just when you thought there couldn't be any more flowers, there were more. The act included pyrotechnics which was a nice touch in contrast to all the flowers. What a great opportunity for all of us to see magic from a by-gone era, from a true professional.

✓ **BOB SIMONE** and **LADY KAY** (as he calls his wife) performed a long, complicated scenario featuring a princess, a lady-in-waiting and a hero. Included were magic beads and a dove of peace.

✓ **JON and SUSAN BUCHER** did their boy-meets-girl, boy-tries to impress-girl, boy-gets-girl routine, featuring half-a dozen or more nicely woven tricks into the story line. The audience enjoys it every time the Buchers do it. It's a nicely woven piece.

✓ To conclude the show, **ANTHONY BAKER** returned to allow a beautiful assistant to crawl through his body. The show started at 8 pm and ended at 10:15.

One spectator had asked Jim in the hall whether he should go to the Magic Show or go to the Bath House Show down the street. Of course Jim said he would have more fun at the Magic Show. Afterwards the man thanked Jim for suggesting the Magic Show since he really did enjoy it.

### STAGE COMPETITION

● For the **Junior Stage Competition**, **Reed Means** performed with ropes and rings. **Drew Roberts** did an impressive multiple liquids trick, pouring all from one milk carton. Drew was judged the winner.

● For the **Senior Stage Competition**, **Richard Knoll** and **Joey Williams** combined to do a flower appearance/disappearance, silks to dove, candle to silk to cane, dove appearance, wand-to-flower to bouquet, and ending with a dove flight.

● **Rebecca Lee Roberts** performed the hilarious Bandana Mail Order trick and even took a picture of the audience with her flash

camera, a cute gimmick "To show her mother she got a standing ovation;"

• **Sean Westbrook** performed as Stonehinge, and produced pretty girls from a box.

• **Tony Eady** appeared as a Hobo with a grocery cart and produced a sandwich and recycled an empty Coke can by making it fill up with liquid, then pulling the tab to a distinctive "whoosh!"

• **Jimmy Dixon** did a nice job with multiplying balls, numerous appearing card fans and an appearing/disappearing candle, with a switch to a silk.

• **Gerry Bailey** urged the audience to use their imagination, and turned a magic carpet into a bowl with water, then pulled live goldfish out of the air and, finally, made the bowl disappear.

• **Greg Maxwell**, from Pine Bluff, appeared as a bald-headed Monk, and assumed the character of Billy Bob Thornton in "Sling Blade," using balls in his routine.

• **Robert & Karen Simone** produced a drawn face on a pad which moved its mouth, a silk with a rabbit out of a chicken's mouth, played with a kid volunteer (head disappear, break-away wand) and created a Web of Rings.

• **Brett Boyer** (Huntsville, Alabama, formerly from Crossett), created a magic wand out of fire, used a wand rope and performed a hilarious routine using a boy from the audience with Brett's arms as the boy's, and the "boy" performed several magic tricks.

**Winner** of the Senior Stage Show was **Tony Eady** and his Hobo routine; and **Sean Westbrook** was second.

### CLOSE-UP COMPETITION:

In the **Junior Close-up Division**: **Joey Williams** performed some baffling coins-across effects and **Reed Means** linked and un-linked rubber bands.

Reed was judged the first place winner.

In the **Senior Close-up Division**, performers included:

• **Tony Eady**, who recycled an "empty" Coke can into a full one;

• **Jimmy Rhodes, Jr.** made a ring appear on a sword and disappeared a bill only to reappear in a cut-open orange;

• **Tyler Volehnal**, did a four-coin, four-card exchange; color changing knives; and a three daughters/dirty old man routine;

• **Dan Hecke** did a prediction trick of a card dealt from a pack; produced a crystal ball in which the image of a chosen card appeared; and did a cards and stones routine using ESP.

The winner of the competition was **Jimmy Rhodes, Jr.**, and second was **Dan**

**Hecke.**

### THE STAGE SHOW

Sunday afternoon's stage show was emceed by **Jimmy Rhodes, Jr.**, who did a splendid job with no more advance notice than he had. His ad libbing and banter entertained the audience between acts.

• **Scott Davis** opened the show on the right note, with his special brand of humor, mostly with cards. I still get a kick out of seeing all those cards cascading out of his mouth. And the double-fold card in his mouth is another funny bit. Thanks for getting people laughing, Scott.

• **Dan Hecke** was next, using poker chips, a magic mirror penetration (from King Arthur, no less), and ye ole sword through the neck illusion. Nicely done, Dan.

• **Sean Westbrook**, performing as "Stonehinge", first performed a fascinating effect which he said he saw on the Ed Sullivan Show so many years ago, and which got him interested in magic. The bottles just kept coming and coming and the bit got funnier and funnier.

Then he changed the pace by performing his often-requested linking rings routine to the beautiful song, "Through the Eyes of Love." It's a real tear-jerker because he does it so well.

• **Jimmy Rhodes, Jr.** was talked into doing his strait jacket escape and he managed to roll around the stage enough to make us all tired. Oh yes, he got out.

• **Bill Pitts** used four historic jumbo cards in his part on the program, and it was fascinating to see that oldie but goodie.

• **Randal Eller** took time out of his busy schedule to entertain us with several effects, including a handkerchief through the microphone, a do-it-alone head twister, and an always entertaining guillotine bit.

### BALLOON FORUM

**A DEEP BOW** to **Tony Eady**, who is a mostly-self-taught balloonologist, who led a Balloon Forum during the lunch Sunday. About two dozen people attended, and many took Tony up on his willingness to teach how to make some basic figures.

He also passed on some tips to those who wanted to get started in ballooning. One of his main points is that a magician can greatly increase his or her tips by making balloon animals. They're always a big hit.

### THE AUCTION

The last event of the convention was a Magic Auction. Only about 20 people stayed around after a long weekend, and many people picked up some great bargains. But the Board has voted to have only one auc-

tion, at a regular Ring meeting, and not repeat it at future conventions.

A special thanks to **Gerry Bailey**, who volunteered his auctioneering skills. He kept the auction moving along and milked the last 50 cents out of nearly every bid. Sellers and buyers were all happy.

#### **OTHER THOUGHTS:**

- It was a cool, rainy weekend, but not enough bad weather to keep the crowds away. Saturday was the last day of Oktoberfest, so there were craft booths throughout the convention center; and a food court across the street, where many magicians ate lunch on Saturday.

- There were **two raffles** which ran during the convention. One set of tickets was to win an original magic-theme painting by **Elizabeth Morlen**. Another color of tickets was to win a convention tee-shirt, autographed by all the performers on the Public Show Saturday night.

- **Bill Pitts** brought slides of some of his magic poster collection, and showed them to a small audience, relating them to famous magicians and events. Thank you Bill, for sharing these rare artifacts.

All in all it was a terrific weekend of magic: at a terrific facility, with terrific vendors and terrific performers. **Thanks to all who came.** We'll see you next October.

## **Magic seen in the newspapers recently:**

The following are magic mentions in articles in recent Arkansas newspapers:

- Greenwood native Erin Nanney Adams is traveling with world-renowned magician **Gary Laramore** on his recent tours. Recent trips have been to Houston and Tucson. The Laramore show is scheduled to be in Fort Smith in May, 2003.

- **Brian Brushwood**, of Austin, brought his "Bizarre Magic" to Fort Smith Oct. 7. His act includes fire eating, escapes, breaking cinder blocks on his head, laying on a bed of nails, etc. How bizarre!

- As part of its **Independence Day Celebration** in July in Sulphur Springs, a magic Show was scheduled in the park.

- **Little Rock's Zoo Days** in June listed "magic shows" as part of the schedule. Anyone know who was there?

- A Magic Show was scheduled for the library in **Newport** in June.

- **Rocky and Lori Clements** presented their "Smoke and Mirrors" illusion show at St. Bernard's Auditorium in Jonesboro in July.

- Magician **Jim Princeton** presented a free magic show in Forrest City in August. His

## **Three Ring 29 members help with Renaissance Faire**

Ring 29 volunteers **Joey Williams**, **Dan Hecke**, and **Bill Fulton** worked the Renaissance Faire at the Highland Valley United Methodist Church in Little Rock on October 12. Bill Fulton and Dan Hecke, officers in the Ring, contacted the church two years ago about working with them. All proceeds from the Faire go to the church's missionary work.

**Dan Hecke** performed as "Ravenswood" the magician. Dan has been working in recent years to develop an act that fits the Renaissance period and this was a perfect venue for his performance and new look using his great make-up skills.

**Bill Fulton** performed as a fortune-telling wizard and sat in a hot tent all day reading ladies' palms. **Joey Williams** (one of our junior magicians) performed as the fortune teller's assistant and stood in front of the tent luring ladies into the tent by showing his fascinating coin magic using old coins from that period.

Congratulations to all three for representing Ring 29 and the magic community so well, and for donating their talents and sharing them with the public. It's good publicity for them and for magic. (We should have some **Ring cards** to hand out, too.)

theme emphasized just saying no to smoking and taking drugs

- The **Siloam Springs Aquatic Center** was the location for the city's July 4 Celebration, which featured magician **Steve Snediker** as part of the entertainment.

## **Ring Board meets to debrief on the convention**

The Ring 29 Board of Directors met Monday evening, Oct. 28 to debrief on the convention while it was still fresh in everyone's minds.

Several points were agreed upon:

- (1) The convention was an **overall success** and most everyone was very pleased with the outcome;
- (2) The convention was a **modest success financially**. There will be a small profit after all bills are paid and all money comes in.
- (3) We should **do it again!**

The board voted unanimously to have a **2nd Annual Convention** next year, probably in October in Hot Springs.

Some of the ways to improve on the convention which have been suggested by one or more people:

- **Start sessions later** (at 9 am, not 8:30)

## **BITS & PIECES**

- We saw in a July issue of *The New Yorker*, a listing for "**Ricky Jay: On the Stem**." The description said: "The master magician's tribute to the flimflammy and weird entertainments that have cropped up over the years along the length of Broadway. 'the stem that winds the watch' of New York City. Prepare to be happily hornswoggled." It was playing then at the Second Stage on W. 43rd Street. Call 2464422. Check it out.

- If you go to **Orlando**, don't expect much magic. There is too much other stuff to see and do and apparently magic shows aren't much in demand. **Dennis Schick** was there recently and did find magic in three places.

He and Jan went to see a **comedy magic show** at **WonderWorks** (a building which looks like it is upside down). It serves pizza and drinks as part of the admission.

Down the street there is another magic show, but it was dark the night we could go. Their ad does describe some big illusions.

And Downtown Disney (a shopping area) has a **Magic Masters shop**, next to the movie theater. It has lots of nice tricks, but it caters to tourists and everything is overpriced for impulse buyers.

Dennis looked in the Yellow Pages for Orlando and under "Magicians" and there were 18 listings. Apparently there **is** a demand for magicians for trade shows and corporate meetings, along with the common birthday parties. Five places are listed under "Magicians' Supplies."

When you're in another city, look at the Yellow Pages and check the local newspaper and magazines for magic.

- Have **more (2 or 3) sign-in places** at the registration desk to speed things up.

- Add a **front curtain** to the stage.

- **Arrange for a step** for people to get up and down from the stage.

- Try to arrange for **food and drinks** in the convention center.

- **Publicize** the convention more.

- **Print name badges on a computer** ahead of time with **person's city and state**.

- **Eliminate the auction.**

- Consider a **show card on an easel** for each performer, at least for the Public Show.

We need you who were there to give Board members **feedback** on how you think the convention could be even better. Please give us both the good and the not-so-good. The only way we can get better is to hear what **you** have to say. Please help.