

I.B.M. Ring 29

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JUNE 2004

MAGIC MUSINGS

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring #29
8912 Stagecoach Road, #7, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209 • (501) 455-6242
Meets 1st Thursday of nearly every month, Baptist Medical Center



1 of 4

June 3 meeting to feature "Magic and Music!"

Next Thursday, June 3, the regular monthly meeting of Ring 29 will feature "Magic and Music." We hope everyone will bring some trick which incorporates music in some way.

The meeting will begin at 7 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium at Baptist Medical Center, our usual place.

Plan on performing one or more tricks and then explaining them to the audience. If you are experienced in using music, please take a few extra

minutes to pass on tips, do's and don'ts and anything else about music which will help our members.

Also at the meeting, election results will be announced. You can still vote but you must get your ballot to Mr. Magic before the June 3 meeting, or bring it with you to the meeting.

Installation will be in July with details to be announced in next month's newsletter.

Members in the News

- **Gerry Bailey** and his fiancée **Judy** will be married on June 25. All Ring 29 magicians have been invited. See the invitation enclosed.
- **David Mariner** is working and performing at Ruby Tuesday's in Bryant on Fridays or Saturdays, so go by and see him.
- **Andy Stirman** is staying busy performing at birthday parties
- **Theron Nunley** performed at the Conway Gifted and Talented Kid-to-Kid Conference recently. He will also be performing next month in Gunnison, Colo. at a library as well as at a conference in Estes Park.
- **Bill Fulton** will be in front of Tipton & Hurst on President Clinton Ave. in the Fortune Teller tent most of Riverfest.
- **Don Baer** is spending many of his Saturdays performing at Burger Kings around the state. You can also find him at Riverfest on Labor Day weekend at the ACXIOM KIDSTUFF STAGE at 10 a.m.
- Many of us are waiting for the new **Harry Potter** movie. On opening day, June 4, **Don Baer** will be performing 15 minutes before the showing of the movie at Breckenridge.
- There's a new face at Mr. Magic. **David Mariner** will be helping out at the magic shop on Tuesdays. Bob is still there on Mondays and Jim will be there Wednesdays-Saturdays. New time for Sat. - 10am-5pm.
- Channel 4 was at **Mr. Magic** doing a live feed from 5am- 7am on May 12th. Jim and

Christy performed with Mike Francis.

- **Scott Davis** appeared on Channel 7 earlier this week. He did several tricks and gag effects and amazed the host.

(Please let us know about such gigs as far in advance as possible so we can publicize them.)

CONVENTION NEWS

- ✓ The **International Brotherhood of Magicians Convention** will be in Cleveland, Ohio June 28-July 3. Scheduled are magicians: Jeff McBride, Ali Bongo, Mystina, John Carney, Murray Hatfield, Eugene Burger, plus many more.

Activities include: Youth workshops, spouse events, Magic Idol Contest, Strolling Olympics, Bonk! (new game show), Dealer Show, and Big 3 Events.

Who is planning to go from Ring 29? Please let us know so. Also, whoever goes, please take notes and plan on bringing back a report for the rest of us.

- ✓ **Invisible Lodge Konklave** in Fort Smith, Aug. 13-14. Carl Ballantine, John Calvert, Mark Wilson and Nani Darnell, Lee Grabel and possibly Lance Burton and David Copperfield -- as well as others -- are scheduled to be there. More details to come.

- ✓ **IBM Ring 29's Convention** will be September 24-26 in Hot Springs. **Bill Palmer**, **Danny Archer** and **Steve Bender** have been signed up to lecture so far. The convention committee met in May and are well on their way. More details will follow in next month's newsletter.

A New Magician

On May 20 at 4:24 p.m., my wife Laura gave birth to our first child Sylvia Maxine Cox. She was 5 pounds 15 ounces and 18 3/4 inches long. She has a full head of dark hair, and I'm convinced she is the most beautiful baby ever.

Mom and baby are doing well and are at home.

Lannie Cox



LAST MONTH

The May Ring 29 meeting was great. **Damon and Elizabeth** discussed hypnosis and answered questions. Damon hypnotized a couple of people to think they were on a plane eating fried chicken. Check your *Linking Ring Magazine* in a month or so for a detailed report on the meeting.

The going away reception for the Reinbolds May 15 at Mr. Magic brought out about 30 people.

Damon and Elizabeth have now moved to New Mexico. Their new address is:

Damon and Elizabeth Reinbold
6859 Camino Rojo
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507

We appreciate everything Damon and Elizabeth did for magic in Arkansas over the years. Damon helped coordinate our magic conventions in Hot Springs. He also conducted seances at the Theater of Magic for several years. Damon worked at Mr. Magic and never was too busy to help other magicians -- especially young magicians -- improve their magic. Drop them a line.

Got magic news? Call Mr. Magic or send to newsletter editor Dennis Schick at dschick@arkansaspress.org

There's magic in Branson! Go and let us know!

Branson has been a good center of magic for several years, and it is no different this summer. We know of at least five (5) magic shows and there may be some magic in other shows which we don't know about. Here are the several magic shows we know about at this time. If you find out any new information, please let us know so we can pass it on in the July newsletter:

(1) **Brett Daniels'** "Magic and Beyond" is at the Grand Palace. Remember Brett was at the Gold Strike Casino in Tunica for a couple of years or so, and many of us went to see him. We even held a joint magic meeting there with the Memphis folks. We're glad he's back in the area. His big illusion is a remote-controlled car which instantly turns into a real one. He is a first-class magician and a nice guy. We who have seen him before highly recommend him.

(2) **Darren Romeo** is at the Welk Resort Theatre; limited engagement: June 15 - August 14. Go to sullivanshows.com or www.welkresortbranson.com

The Branson.com Web site says: "Siegfried & Roy present Darren Romeo, the star of the future. Performing illusions that dazzle the eye while singing songs that warm the heart, this is a one-of-a-kind magical performance. Come see for yourself why some say there is magic in his voice and music in his magic."

Mr. Magic has brochures on both of these shows.

(3) **Kirby Van Burch** is at the old Yakov Theater, now re-named the Kirby Van Burch Theater. (Yakov has moved to the Will Rogers Theater; Kirby's old magical palace theater is now the Musical Palace.)

Branson.com says: "See Kirby Van Burch, "Prince of Magic," perform his signature illusion, the appearance of a 35-foot Bell helicopter within an amazing four seconds, and the integration of his exotic animal family, including Branson's only Royal White Bengal Tiger, leopards and panthers, into his illusions."

www.starlite-entertainment.com The Branson.com site still says he is at the Remington Theater, where he was the past couple of years.

(4) **Hamner-Barber Magical Variety Show**, at The Victorian. Branson.com says: "This new production show features the award-winning illusions of The Hamners, as well as the vocal comedy of internationally-recognized ventriloquist Jim Barber.

"...The Hamners are famous for their

magical exotic bird act in which dozens of beautiful macaws, cockatoos and doves appear and fly above the audience. Grand scale illusions and musical pieces are also featured. ...They have been on NBC's 'World's Greatest Magic...."

This is a variety show, so probably only half of it is magic. But we have always marveled at what the husband-wife team do with their exotic birds and their act is one of a kind. And the comedian/ventriloquist is internationally-known, so it should be fun for the whole family.

(5) **Gleason Magic**. At the Branson Music Mall Theatre. This noon show will open June 17 for the rest of the summer.

Greg & Kristi Gleason have been a fixture in Las Vegas, and have been appearing at the MGM Grand and the Venetian Hotels there. We're told they have a Las Vegas-style show. By positioning themselves as an afternoon (noon) show allows more people to do something during the heat of the day, rather than just shop at the outlet malls.

They are not on the Music Hall Web site (bransonmallmusictheater.com)

• **Red Skelton: A Performance Tribute.** is at the Music City Centre. Go to: www.musiccentre.com Apparently he will be there only in April and May; and then come back for September-December shows.

This is not about magic, but it features one of the best magicians in the country, **Tom Mullica**. You may want a change of pace and go see Tom recreate all of Red's famous characters. It has received great reviews. It is a 10 am show, so you could see it and an afternoon and evening show as well.

If you go to see any of these shows, please take some notes and write up a review for the rest of us. In the same spirit, while you are on the road this Summer, do the same thing: watch for, go see and give us a report on where magic is being performed.

OK, now you can go to morning, noon, afternoon and evening magic shows. Talk about getting high on magic!

E-mail address change:

I'm in the Magic Club, but my email address has changed. Could you please update it for me in your system? Thanks!
Rich Meyers

meyersrichard@sbcglobal.net

COMING EVENTS:

June 3: Magic & Music meeting

June 25: Bailey magical wedding

June 29: I.B.M. Convention,
Cleveland

Aug. 13-14: 1st Invisible Lodge
Convention, Fort Smith

Sept. 24-26: Ring 29 Convention,
Hot Springs

Review of the Garrett lecture

by Jon Bucher

On Tuesday, May 18th, Dan Garrett gave a wonderful lecture in Searcy entitled "The Last Palindrome". It is so named because it is his 2002 lecture. The lecture was sponsored by Ring 308. Also attending the first half of the lecture was **Phil Wilmarth**, the Editor of *The Linking Ring* magazine. Phil was in Searcy to meet with and view a magic memorabilia collection by a professor at Harding University. It was fun to just banter a few words with him.

Garrett was in good form, starting his lecture with the bare handed production of an egg; which he broke into a glass. His torn and restored dollar bill trick was excellent and easy to do. He fooled us with a sponge ball routine that DID NOT require a vanish. Just put one in his left hand and one in his right hand and ZAP, both were in the left hand. Very clean!

His torn and restored card with the torn corner for identification was very entertaining and a fooler for magicians as well as normal people. Garrett taught us some easy yet entertaining magic AND some finger flinging magic. He also gave credit to other magicians whose tricks had inspired his creations. He is very well read.

The most disappointing part of the lecture was the few magicians who came from other rings. This was a great opportunity to see a class magician and he should have received greater attention and support.

IBM needs you; you need IBM.

Join the International Brotherhood of Magicians! Receive *Linking Ring* Magazine at only \$3.33 a month and attend conventions at a discounted price. Applications can be picked up at Mr. Magic.

The monthly magazine is worth the cost all by itself. It is packed with interesting articles, tips, reviews of magic tricks, books and videos, Ring reports and lots of ads about the latest tricks and other items (which you can then go to Mr. Magic and buy).

Two for the price of one: a report on two national magic conventions

by Margaret LeClair:

Does anyone recall any of the following events?

✓ Dean Gunnarson suspended over Hoover Dam with nothing securing his feet;

✓ Bill Shirk performing a suspended straitjacket with a sack containing a live rattlesnake tied around his head and ice skates securing his feet;

✓ Michael Griffin being the only person to survive a public hanging using a genuine 13 knot hangman's noose;

✓ The living legend of Mario Manzini performing a suspended straitjacket over the Snake River Canyon just prior to Evel Kenievel's attempt to jump the same canyon?

These were just four of the people who attended the 24th Annual Antique Padlock Show and 2nd Annual Escape Artist Convention the 24th and 25th of April in Indianapolis, Indiana.

I was fortunate enough to attend this convention. Mario Manzini was the guest lecturer and gave a wonderful talk on how to present and put together an escape show or publicity stunts.

The collections of antique locks and handcuffs as well as modern items were worth the cost of the trip. I picked up a set of French Rivolier handcuffs and some Figure 8 shackles, two new additions to my ever-expanding collection. Look for these in future performances!

The thrill of the convention for me was the Saturday night show after the banquet. The performer for the evening was supposed to be Michael Griffin, but due to some unforeseen circumstances, he had to leave the convention early. Mark Cannon, the coordinator for the escape artist part of the convention, had less than 24 hours to put together a full length stage show.

He decided to go to a revue-type show and enlisted the aid of all the performers who were there. You would be surprised at how many people are into escapology but not into performing. Some agreed to be stagehands and others agreed to be performers. Mark vol-

unteered anything he had for anyone's disposal if they needed additional material for an act.

Mark enlisted my assistance in performing one of the acts during the show. I ended up doing my Melt-Thru Manacles routine. For anyone who has not seen this, this is a routine where it appears that a pair of handcuffs melt thru a mirror. The only problem with me performing this was that I was not prepared for a stage caliber performance. I was prepared only for an informal presentation amongst friends during the late night sessioning. I had no music and no mirror, two of the three things required by me for this routine. So, I rounded up a mirror, a stand for the mirror, and Sheila Cannon helped me pick out some music.

Instead of joining in on the Friday night jam session, Sheila and I worked together to put an act together very quickly. We almost missed out on the pizza that was our idea!

It was only later that I found out who exactly was on the bill for the night's performance. I ended up being on the bill with two of my idols in escapes -- Dean Gunnarson and Mario Manzini. Performing with those two onstage was more than a dream come true: it was a fantasy come true. Both were highly complimentary of my act.

It seems as though a lot of people liked my routine since it was so different from the other acts, which were basically feats of strength escapes. These compliments were not given directly to me, but many of my friends at the convention came up to me and said, "Do you know how many people told me they loved your routine?"

I was not able to visit with everyone as much as I would like, mainly due to the fact that I spent most of Saturday in my room rehearsing for the show.

This was the last year the escape artist convention will be held in conjunction with the lock show. It seems the coordinator for the lock show thought the escape convention had gotten too big for it to continue as a joint effort. So,

Mark Cannon had been making arrangements for next year's convention to be held near his home in Southern California, until an offer from Bill Shirk. Bill has agreed to fund the convention for next year if Mark and Sheila agree to keep it in Indianapolis. So, although details are not finalized, it appears as though the convention will once again be held in Indy!

If this convention was this exciting, I can't wait to see what next year brings!

Keep up with magic on TV

There are a number of ways to keep up with magic on television, and a couple made themselves known over the past week or so.

Dennis got an E-mail directly from a magic site. What follows is from that E-mail:

"Just a quick update and a few reminders for this week's listings.

- Siegfried & Roy Update:

Father of the Pride is still scheduled to take the Friends spot on NBC this Fall season. Maria Shriver will be interviewing Siegfried & Roy. More details at the site.

A few new things this week on TV:

- Lance Burton on Leno
- Gerry McCambridge's special The Mentalist will finally air this Wednesday. He will also appear on the Today Show Wednesday as well.
- Penn & Teller Bull!

A new episode every Thursday and repeats throughout the week.

Got questions or comments, just drop us a line:

<http://magictv.org/contact>

Thanks and Enjoy the Show!

Magic Television

Second, Lannie Cox sent an E-mail the other day with mention of several television appearances of magic.

Third, scan through the TV guide in the Sunday newspaper when it comes.

You who are whizzes on the Internet probably know some great magic Web sites. How about sharing some of them with the rest of us?

More Bits and Pieces

• We noticed in the February Arkansas Honors section of *Arkansas Times*, that the back cover of the eight-page section featured our own **Theron S. Nunley, Jr.**

There was a photo of him with four children and a nice article about him as a member of the Arkansas Education Association, the sponsor of the ad.

The article begins: "Theron Nunley knows from experience that new ideas come in time. Forty years after he graduated from high school, Nunley discovered his path as a teacher. In that period, he had many careers. Since then, Nunley has not looked back. "Life is about learning," he says.

"I love to do magic. If the kids behave, I usually award them with a magic trick and they seem to really enjoy it. Everybody loves magic."

• **Dennis Schick**, editor of this magix newsletter, will retire at the end of the Summer, after 25 years as Executive Director of the Arkansas Press association. It is not certain what the actual date will be until his board of directors hires his replacement on June 18.

His wife, Jan, who has been APA Administrative Assistant for all those years, is also retiring, July 30.

Magic is included in Dennis' plans. Some of his projects include:

- ✓ Organizing and cataloguing his extensive magic book collection
- ✓ Doing the same for his magic tricks and other magic materials
- ✓ Writing one or two magic books
- ✓ Hanging out at Mr. Magic
- ✓ Learning and practicing some new magic tricks
- ✓ Getting caught up on reading magic books and articles
- ✓ Reinvigorating Project Magic for Ring 29

Of course he'll have to work these in around doing 25 years of house and garden work, honey-do projects, spending time with grandchildren, traveling, doing volunteer projects and all the other things which most of us don't have or take time to do.

Judith Ann Keeley and Gerry Dee Bailey

*invite you to share in the joy when they exchange marriage vows
and begin their new life together on
Friday, the 25th of June, 2004
at six o'clock in the evening
Trinity United Methodist Church
1101 North Mississippi
Little Rock, Arkansas 72207*

*Please RSVP to Gerry or Judy or The Magic Shop
by June 18*

Magic in the newspaper

The editor of this newspaper, receives all the newspapers in the state, so he is made aware of magic having been performed in various Arkansas cities. The following are some of those he has seen so far this year:

• March 12 there was a magic show at The Pentecostals of **Prescott**.

• Members of Ring 308 met with David Copperfield for a few minutes after one of his shows in mid-March;

• **Jamel** the Magician performed at **Star City's** first "StarDaze" in mid-April;

• The **Forrest City** Police Department hosted **Jim Princeton** for a show February 27.

• **Rocky Clements** presented a 90-minute magic show at the **Trumann** Recreations! Center Feb. 7. It was to raise funds by Friends for Brittany Martin, to buy a motorized lift.

• **Darryl Miller** presented a "Just Say No Magic Show" at the Taylor and Gandy Elementary Schools the end of November.

• Christian magician **Felix Snipes** of Atlanta, Ga. performed at Freeman Heights Baptist Church of **Berryville** in November. He also performed in Waldron.

• **Jimmy Rhodes** performed for the K-

4th grade classes of **Augusta** Elementary the end of November.

• Jimmy also appeared at a fund-raiser for the Augusta Legion the end of November. The article called it "...a most phenomenal magic show featuring nationally renowned magician Jimm Rhodes."

• The **Brian Brushwood** Bizarre Magic Show was given at the UA Community College at **Batesville** in November.

• "Poof, you're a magician" was the name for a magic workshop conducted by San Antonio magician **Joe Libby** in **Rogers** in October.

• "**Pickles**," a professional clown from Phoenix, read to children in the **Van Buren** Public Library in December. He is a cousin of the librarian.

• In January, **Larry Bean** of Paris and **Michael Leister**, of Van Buren, presented a magic show at the **Paris** High School Auditorium

• **O.L. Gunter**, from Sulphur, La., put on a magic show at the First Pentecostal Church in **Prescott** in March.

• **Wiz Wingo** performed an anti-drug show at Forest Heights in **Harrison** in October.

• **The Spencers** Theatre of Illusion was performed at Henderson State University in October.

Beetle Bailey



Mort Walker