

Legerdemain Digest

RING 313 - THE JOHN FEDKO RING

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

APRIL 27, 2010 IS IMPROMPTU MAGIC NIGHT!

Oh, you do magic? They may ask. Why yes, I do. Show us something... Sound familiar?

Well then, you should not miss our next general meeting on IMPROMPTU MAGIC. YOU are invited to demo ANYTHING that can be performed at a moment's notice, anywhere, anytime using any type of props (such as cards, coins, hats, toothpicks, straws, sugar packets, dirt...you get the idea). What "on-the-spot" magic do you perform for your family, friends, coworkers, and strangers when they find out you do magic.

PAST EVENTS

By: Philip Henderson

Abridged version. Full article in the Linking Ring

On Tuesday, March 30, 2010, 40 Ring members and guests gathered for an evening of **Magical Mysteries with Money**. Kevin Brown broke the ice by performing a standing coins across effect using 3-half dollars. This effect was inspired by Mark Leveridge. Treasurer Gary Meier stepped up next to perform a Hoping Half effect that he says is always popular as an impromptu effect with children. Long-time member Richard Zucker performed an effect using pennies. Next up John Fedko knelt to the floor to demonstrate a Matrix and then a Reverse Matrix. He closed his performance with a Chinatown Half using a Tango® coin. Ring Member SUDS advanced to the stage with his "Matrix by Magic" gimmicked coin assembly.

Next, long time member Eric Grae took over the stage. He removed his wallet and showed us several blank sheets of paper cut the same size as currency. Grae told us this wallet had "Polaroid" properties. When he used the wallet according to instructions, Grae manufactured money right on the spot. Without effort, he used the blank paper to produce dollar bills, then five-dollar bills, and finally Canadian currency.

Scott Boeger advanced to the stage and pulled a thick wad of bills from his pocket. He quickly showed us that all he had was singles, then, with a flick of the wrist, the singles turned to double-sawbucks. We were "Extremely Burned 2.0" by Boeger's demonstration of his magical technique. Ron Porter was next on stage. He performed a coin trick using "imaginary coins." Porter asked a spectator to examine his imaginary quarter, nickel, and penny as he held them up for inspection. When Porter tossed the coins, the spectator correctly guessed which coins Porter held. The magic began as Porter opened his palms to reveal actual coins produced magically.

Sammy Ruiz approached the stage to demonstrate a Paul Harris trick involving playing cards and a dollar bill. The "freely chosen card" penetrated the dollar bill. Ruiz slid the bill up and down and then snatched it away with an audible tearing sound. Sammy then demonstrated that no dollar bill was harmed during the magical demonstration—the bill remained whole without a tear. Ruiz continued with a Larry Jennings illusion. Steve Longacre strolled forward and showed us his wife's credit card. Longacre informed us that she only let him have the card because it was already spent to the limit. However, Longacre noticed that there was still some "Green Stuff" left in the card if you treated it magically. Longacre was able to produce a dollar bill from the middle of the credit card. [Green Stuff is a commercial item developed many years ago by fellow Ring member, Dick Barry of *Magic With Class*.]

Ron Porter returned to the stage to perform an illusion using a poker chip, and four coins. Under Porter's magical control the coins and casino poker chip flowed across the table seeming to have a life of their own. Porter's trick was of his own invention, that he discovered while playing with coins. This illusion is heavy on *sleight-of-hand*. It is very magical for magicians and lay audiences alike.

President Kevin Brown closed the evening with an invention on a Jeff McBride trick resembling "The Miser's Dream." Brown has been playing with various incantations of the misers dream; this one is a winner.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Dick Barry

By: Philip Henderson

As I pulled up to Dick Barry's home, I spotted a 1918 Model "T" Ford parked in front. The vintage truck, a 1918 Ford Depot Hack, bore a sign identifying the vehicle as the property of magician Dick Barry. Dick gave me a ride around the neighborhood in this wonderful truck after our interview. This was my first ride in a Model "T." I was pleasantly surprised at how smoothly the vehicle moved around the hills of San Clemente.

The 1918 Model "T" is a recent acquisition for Dick; however, this is not his first experience owning a vintage Ford. As a teenager in Ohio, Dick purchased a 1928 Model "A" Ford for \$50.00, against his mother's orders. Now, sixty years later, he obtained this Model "T" that he found on EBay. Dick has named the car "Jennie", after Harry Houdini's vanishing elephant trick from his grand illusion show in 1918.

Dick was born and raised in Medina, Ohio, about 30 miles south of Cleveland. Medina is famous throughout the world for manufacturing bee-

keepers supplies and honey products. Dick's grandfather was a world renown beekeeper, however, Dick did not inherit his grandfather's love for bees; instead, Dick began performing simple magic tricks when he was about 8-years old. He continued with magic until high school. After high school, Dick worked in Ohio as a bus driver. When a friend told him about a trip his family was planning to California, Dick joined them, never expecting to spend the rest of his life in sunny California.

On arriving in California in 1956, Dick found work in Santa Monica as a bus driver. When he noticed that some police officers in California rode motorcycles, Dick thought that would be the job for him. Dick had owned a Whizzer ® motor bike as a 14-year old and later rode several different motorcycles in Ohio. After driving a bus for just about a year, Dick joined the Santa Monica Police Department where he worked for 30-years until he retired in 1987.

Dick held many positions

with the police department including working in the jail, on patrol, as a juvenile detective, and of course as a motorcycle officer for 8 years. In his assignment as a motorcycle officer, Dick often presented safety programs for young people. In 1970, Dick became the SMPD's "Officer Bill", a nickname used by some police departments who had School Resource Officers. This really was Dick's first step to becoming a semi-professional magician.

The first year as Officer Bill, Dick used materials passed on to him by the previous officer. In 1972, while on a vacation trip in San Francisco, Dick passed by a magic shop. Thinking there might be some tricks in the magic shop that he could employ as Officer Bill, Dick made several purchases. The magic bug bit Dick! He started using the magical tricks he found in the magic shop, and then sought out local magic shops. Dick discovered kindred spirits hanging out at Hollywood Magic and Joe Berg's Magic Shop. Some of the magicians he admired and observed included Dai Vernon, Tony Syldini and Charlie Miller. Before long, Dick auditioned at the Magic Castle to become a

paid performer. Dick has performed at the Magic Castle annually since 1976. Fellow magicians have nominated him as Best Parlor Magician of the Year seven times.

Dick's daytime employment as a police officer gave him a regular audience of schoolchildren. He "performed" daily before one of the most difficult audiences in the world, children. His audiences were small groups of 20 to 30-children ranging in age from five to 11-years old. Off duty, Dick performed many magic shows and eventually negotiated contracts to perform for six different cruise lines. This experience gave Dick an education on how real show business performers prepare and perform. He was able to use his vacation time from SMPD to work on the cruise ships from 1979 to 1992. If Dick was not working as a police officer, he was on a cruise ship in the South Pacific, the Caribbean, Alaska, or Mexico. By day, he was your local police officer, and by night a magician—a perfect mix for Dick Barry!

In the seventies, Doug Henning was the top magician on Television and Broadway. Through some clever advertising of his "Champagne Goldfish Miracle" Dick sold the idea to Henning. Doug Henning performed the Champagne Goldfish Miracle on national television. The "Miracle" became one of Dick's best selling effects and is still selling today.

Dick Barry, the magician, is never satisfied with his performance. He welcomes comments from audience members (and magicians) to improve his magic. Whenever Dick learns a trick, he searches for ways to adapt the trick to fit his personality. Instead of trying to copy someone, the path Dick prefers is find a way to make each illusion special for his own personality. Dick's three favorite tricks are classics that he has adapted to work with his personal performing style. One of Dick's signature effects is his version of Syldini's Knotted Silks, that he calls the "Left Handed Handkerchiefs." Another favorite trick is "Dick accidentally putting a knife through a spectator's coat. He obtained the right to "Lookin' Sharp", and then rewrote the routine. Eventually he designed and manufactured his own knives, which he sells commercially. Dick's third favorite trick is his "52—ON—1 Card Miracle." This is one of Dick's own creations. It is one of his best selling commercial magic items. Magicians throughout the world use

this in their performances. The Internet's Magic Café has given rave reviews to this piece.

When I asked Dick who are some of his favorite performers, he gave me a long list of outstanding performers. A few of his favorites are, in no order of importance: Lance Burton, Shimada, Johnny Thompson, Dai Vernon, Bruce Cervon, both Blackstone Jr. and Blackstone Sr., Johnny Ace Palmer, John Carney, and David Williamson. Dick told me that there are three performers that all magicians owe a debt to: Doug Henning, Mark Wilson, and Siegfried and Roy. These performers raised the awareness of the fun of watching magicians perform. Their successes have paved the way for all magicians.

(TO BE CONTINUED...)



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Newsletter Editor



Questions? Comments? Corrections? Ideas? Magical articles? E-mail the editor at Ring313.editor@gmail.com

Magic Calendar

Regular meetings are held at the Irvine Ranch Water District building, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.
Directions and a map are available at www.Ring313.org.

Tuesday, April 27	7 PM	Ring 313 Gen Mtg —Member Performance: Impromptu Magic
Saturday, May 8	2 PM	Ring 313 Junior's Mtg—Annie & Kent's in Santa Ana
Tuesday, May 11	7 PM	Ring 313 Lite Gathering at Knowlwood's, Irvine
Tuesday, May 25	7 PM	Ring 313 Gen Mtg — Nathan Kranzo

JUNE 19, 2010: Ring 313 Picnic @ Gary's Home

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