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Prestidigitator Press

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Logan Pritchett Ring 29
8912 Stagecoach Road #11, Little Rock, AR 72210 (501) 455-6242
Meets 1st Thursday of Every Month at Jo Ellen Ford Auditorium at
UAMS

Visit Ring 29 website www.littlerockmagic.org



January 2008



January 12th is the Annual Ring 29 Christmas Party at Salem UMC

♣ **Calendar:**

January 12th – Annual Ring 29 Christmas Party
February 5th – Joshua Jay Lecutre
February 7th – Mystery Bag Meeting
March - Auction

Christmas Party

January 12 is the day! Our Annual Ring 29 Christmas Party will be held on Saturday evening, January 12th, at Salem United Methodist Church beginning at

6:30pm (same place as the last few years). Family and Friends are invited to attend this magical event. Cost is \$7.00 per person which will pay for a great meal provided by the wonderful cooking staff at the church (same great cooking staff as the past few years). There will be magical entertainment after the meal. Make plans for you and your family to attend! Please call Mr. Magic at 501-455-6242 by Tuesday, January 8th to RSVP. (If you need directions to the church, please call the magic shop)



Annual Auction

February always seems to be a crazy weather month for us here in Arkansas. So the annual auction will be moved to March to avoid possible postponements due to bad weather (like last year). The auction will now take place at the March meeting. So dust off your old magic boxes and get your magic ready to auction on Thursday, March 6.

Got Magic News? Email newsletter Ed. Tyler Vodehnal:
Tyler1407@hotmail.com

Magical Memories

Funny Memory from **Pam Medrez**

When I first started practicing vent, I was always wondering how I would know if and when I would be ready to perform in public. Here's how I knew.... I was taking a shower one afternoon and was practicing my skit with my character Norton T. Snickerdoodle. I was really into rehearsing my skit in the shower when I heard a voice coming from the bathroom doorway "What the Blank Blank is going on?" Well, my husband, who almost never comes home for lunch, threw back the shower curtain, and I hollered back "Close that curtain, me and Norton are practicing our vent skit". He just walked away scratching his head. We both had a big laugh over that one.

♥ Ring Report:

"I once bought my kids a set of batteries for Christmas with a note on it saying, toys not included." - *Bernard Manning*

On December 6th, 2007, thirty-three member, friends and family of Ring 29 met for the annual holiday party at Mr. Magic and Novelties. The Henson family provided wonderful food and cheer for the evenings activities. And on top of that, nine different magicians performed amazing feats of holiday magic to the delight of all present.

Christy Henson served as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening as well as performing three delightful tricks. She performed a Chimney Silk Box routine, a Rudolf Color changing nose routine that left Christy with a red nose, and a magically painted Christmas Tree production. Don Baer came next and amazed the audience with

the use of his Santa's closet with Santa silks that allowed Santa to change into his tradition holiday garb. Don also had the audience rolling with laughter with his multi-colored wands.

Jo Jones really got the crowd in the holiday spirit by producing Christmas tree decorations from a Square Circle. And Mark Lowman followed Jo with a Penny for Your Thoughts routine and a Choice Box routine. And Sid Salaman performed a wonderful bit of card magic with his Sid's Sophistication Selection routine.

Michael Wilkinson continued the evening with a Steel Sheet Penetration. Territorial Vice-President Larry Bean performed a musical rendition of 3 Card Monte to the tune of Beverly Hillbillies. Ed Magic showed off his latest invention known as the Box of Destiny. And Jim Henson finished off the night with a Santa and Rudolf Change Bag production and a Big Santa Silk finale. Needless to say, everyone in attendance left full of holiday cheer. Happy Holidays everyone!

♠ Blast from the Past:

Elwood Rabbit Rites ©

Carefully edited by Van Clove



I bought me a set of Al Baker RICE BOWLS ... but I can't find any Al Baker RICE. Would a RICE SILK do just as well?

I saw a majician who could make his toes disappear. He calls his act FEETS OF MAJIC!

SEYMOUR DAVIS, the Majic Show Organist, sounds like a four-piece band ... he only knows four pieces. But he plays them pretty and with both hands ... at once, simultaneously, and at the same time — very nearly.

You cant shoot a SHELL COIN out of a BANG GUN. ■

I had a pack of packet tricks, but a pickpocket picked my packet pocket . . . and I dont ever want to have to tell you that again.

RIDLE

ANSER: A weller egg.

RIDLE: What do you call a sick egg that gets better?

Your Frend,

*Your Frend
Elwood*

Magic Matters

♥ Monthly Bio:

Paul Carlon

When Paul was seven or eight years old, he remembers that his preacher at church would perform magic every summer during VBS. Because of his interest in the magic, his dad taught him a few magic tricks. From there he was hooked. That is also when he began bugging the preacher's son to show him his dad's secrets. It worked! On more than one occasion, the preacher's son showed Paul his dad's giant footlocker full of magic and explained to him how all the magic worked. He once went home and constructed a homemade pull out of cardboard, a piece of wire and some elastic. He started looking for a way to buy his own magic tricks and found a Johnson Smith catalog and TV Magic. He also discovered that his school library had some magic books. He would check them out over and over. He remembers seeing shows at the mall or at school and going home and

inventing his own way to do the same effects. He says he even came up with a few original ideas that actually fooled people. By age nine, he had enough to perform his first show for his sisters and one of their friends.

Paul's dad taught him three tricks though he does not remember which actually was the first. One was how to snap a penny up his sleeve. When he finally mastered it, he remembers giving his third grade teacher his milk money one morning and shorting her one-cent. When she asked if he had another penny, he handed her one and snapped it up his sleeve just before she took it. It blew her away. He said he still has a lot of fun with that one. His dad also showed him how to cut a rubber band into two pieces and chew the ends together. He later discovered that his dad had taught him the cut and restored rope without knowing it. The other trick was how to flip dice like a Hot Rod and make the numbers change.

Paul says he always enjoyed illusions with live animals especially dove acts. His favorite to perform is his Time Travel illusion. It is his most requested at church youth rallies.

When asked about his greatest magical memories, he replied, "There's a bunch... Through the years, I've always had a trick or two handy, especially card tricks, which I'll perform for friends. Like a lot of other childhood hobbies, I packed many of the props away as I grew older and became more involved with school activities like band and track. Then I headed for UCA where I met and became good friends with a young lady named Lisa Bolin who reintroduced me to magic. She would tell me about all these magicians she knew in Little Rock. I have many good memories talking with Lisa about magic.

A couple of years later while working at the YMCA, I became friends with a short little guy named Randall Eller. I knew him a couple of months before I learned he was a magician. Randall

seemed to have a genuine interest in helping me. He told me about a new Magic Shop. So one day he and I drove to Benton where he introduced me to Jim Henson at his first little magic shop in a tiny little corner of a bike shop.

I remember going to Benton one weekend for a Magic Mania Convention. While eating lunch one day I, by accident, squirted Catsup all over the lady from Ickle Pickle. I don't remember her name but I do remember Randall Eller thought it was so funny that he lost control of himself and knocked his drink over and spilled it all over Scott Davis.

Another great memory is the time I was invited to Los Angeles for a magic workshop and the opportunity to perform at the Magic Castle. I got to hang out with several big names that week like Christopher Hart, Billy McComb and Carl Ballantine.

A special memory is the time I met Andre Kole. I had just left youth ministry and was moving into a new job. After introducing myself at a convention in Fort Smith, he invited me to breakfast where he encouraged me to stay in youth ministry through performing. He also gave me his blessing to use him as a professional reference if I had an interest in working with Family Life. He followed up a couple of weeks later by sending me a personal letter and several items to keep. I now perform at youth events every chance I get.

My favorite memory will always be when each of my kids first approached me and asked to perform in a show with me. Caleb was five and Makenzie was seven. I was really surprised at how well they both picked up the showmanship part of performing."

Paul says he has a favorite card trick that he has always performed whenever there was a deck available, but he did not start performing actual shows until he was working at the YMCA. The kids at the Y would ask him to come to their birthday parties and the moms would offer him money. He said it did not take him long to realize that getting paid for something you like to do was pretty cool.

In 1992, he was chosen to help develop illusions, write music and travel full-time for four seasons with a popular children's drug prevention school program call Project ARK. The program received a "National Program of the Year" award and was featured on Good Morning America. Paul traveled for four school years averaging 250 shows each year across Arkansas. Also during the early 90's, Collin Cheesman became a regular part of his performances as a nerdy sidekick. Together, Collin and Paul developed a magic show/drama that played one summer at the Children's Museum that was located at the old Train Station. The museum started calling them Magic Fantastic, which is a name they still use at banquets and youth rallies.

In the fall of 2003, Bill Fulton, Richard Knoll, and Joey Williams invited Paul to help develop a public show. He pulled in Collin because of his theatre background. They started off as "Magic at the Public" and have since invited several area performers to be part of these public shows. They now call ourselves Arkansas Master's of Illusion. Paul says they have honored him by calling him director. He says it has been "...like Dancing With the Stars. Every one of us has improved so much because of the pressure we've put on ourselves to put on the perfect show. The group has expanded to include Jimmy Rhodes and Derrick Rose. You've got to be good to share the stage with those guys."

Paul met and married Lisa Spence from Mt. Pleasant, Arkansas 14 years ago. Together they have two children. They have a daughter Makenzie who is ten and a son Caleb who is five. They live in Benton.



♣ Kyle Hamsher has a new email address: either hamsher@sselive.com or LuckyCharm911@yahoo.com. He also recently got engaged. He proposed on Nov. 10th to Stacy, his long-time girlfriend, and the date is set for August 2nd. They will be getting married at Central Baptist_Church in North Little Rock. Congratulations to Kyle and Stacy.

♦ Randall Eller is staying busy this holiday season performing in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

♣ Bill Fulton had thyroid surgery on December 14th.

♦ Jimmy and Casey Rhodes wed on December 7th at Graceland. They have spent part of their honeymoon in Branson at some magic shows. Congratulations to them.

♥ Mary Ann Campbell graduated December 14 in Ames, IA receiving her doctorate. She got her Ph.D. in Family Finance from Iowa State University. Congratulations to Mary Ann on this great accomplishment.

♣ Pam Medrez performed at the Scholastic Book Fair at the end of November and performed at the Arkansas Skatium for Boxer Jermaine Taylor's kids on the 8th of December.



♣ Greetings one and all,

Well, I've been in Florida for exactly one month now and I can honestly say it is much different than life in Arkansas – there's the obvious: humid climate, palm trees, and birds that make cool noises; but on the latter it differs in that no one speaks English and I have only met two actual natives (i.e. people

who were actually born and raised in Florida; everyone else either moved here from up north or a completely different country). Other than that, things are going great! The new job is very busy but very fun! I'm getting to meet a lot of new and interesting people and getting to do what I love most!

So a couple weeks ago I decided to check out the local ring – Ring 150 here in Ft. Lauderdale. It took me forever to actually find their meeting place and time; but after consulting the internet, the Linking Ring, and a couple local magicians that I found through their website I was eventually able to find it. I waltzed in the room at the presumed meeting time; only to find I was an hour late and walked in right in the middle of the meeting (the meeting apparently started at 6:00, the Linking Ring said 7:00). Needless to say all eyes were on me. Their fearless leader, Dr. Mark Horowitz (some of you may know him) welcomed me and asked me to introduce myself. My original plan was to keep a low profile and just check out the venue, but now that I was on the spot I guess I had to spill the beans. I mentioned I was new in town and a once avid member of Ring 29 in Little Rock where I had lived all my life. Once welcomed, I was led to a remote table with the secretary where I had to fill out all my necessary information – very humbling.

I took a look around and soon realized I was the only fellow in the room under the age of 50, with the exception of *one* other fellow who looked to be a little over 30. Lucky for me, I happened to arrive right when the magic began; so I got to miss all the boring business stuff...darn. The theme for the evening was, "A trick I stole or saw on a DVD." -- basically you would perform a trick that either you saw someone else do (be it in/on a magic show or DVD) and had tweaked a bit to fit your style. As with most themes, some ventured out and just performed for the sake of performing. I was pleasantly surprised to see some very sharp magic presented and I was suddenly taken back to June of 1999 when I attended my first Ring 29 meeting at the ripe age of 14 -- here I was in a room full

of retired war veterans and hobbyists who shared my love of magic and didn't know a single soul; but was still antsy with anticipation of what I would learn from these folks.

As I stated before, there was a lot of great magic presented and I soon came to realize that Dr. Horowitz, the President and founder of the Ring, knew anything and everything about magic. Not only did I learn that he was

an avid magic collector, but he was also a very informed magic historian. In between performances he would enlighten the audience with the origin of the trick previously performed, who first performed it, and what they ate for dinner the night before. As performers were setting up and taking down, I would lean over to the Secretary with questions such as "Is there a local magic shop?" and "Do you guys have an annual auction?" Yes, there is a magic store; but no, they didn't have an auction. The Secretary took note of the idea and said he would mention it to the board; I proceeded to share our auction format, but he then suggested that all the items be donated...be looking for my display come February.

As fate would have it, the MC (Dr. Horowitz) asked me if I'd like to perform. As mentioned earlier, I wanted to keep a low profile initially; but at the same time I wanted to establish myself as a performer; so I jumped at the opportunity. Being as I did not bring any magic apparatus along with me; I asked to borrow a deck but was sure to inform the gentleman that I would not be returning it. Being as the theme for the evening was "Tricks that I stole", I decided to perform Scott Davis's "Card to Mouth"! Before you lynch me, allow me to clarify. Prior to my departure for the coast, Scott offered me the rights to his routine (one-liners and all) as long as I promised never to perform it in Arkansas...that plus a routine of *mine* (which for the time being will go unnamed).

Before I began the routine, I took a little bit of time to introduce myself a little more in depth. I shared how long I had been involved in magic and my recent employment at Mr. Magic & Novelty -- the largest magic store in the country (ding!). Before I could go on, Dr. Horowitz stopped me and asked, "Did you work for the Hensons?" I replied affirmatively and he then proceeded to speak very highly of Christy and Jim and how I worked for some of the best two people in magic. I enthusiastically concurred, as we all would agree.

Back to the routine. I brought a gentleman up who had previously performed that evening (this coincidentally was the aforementioned young man who was the only other fellow under 50). As I began the routine complete with some of Scott's material as well

as some of my own – along with a little Gerry Bailey (an elderly gentleman mentioned that he graduated from the School of PsychoCeramics, I was quick to use Gerry's bit on

'crackpots') – I soon began to hear once again the all-too-familiar deep chuckles of the club's long time members...I was then taken back to my primitive years when my eardrum was filled with the approving laughs of the likes Damon Reinbold, Dan Hecke, and Derrick Rose to name a few.

As the routine progressed, my volunteer began to chime in with a few gags of his own...statements such as, "I'm gonna' use all these lines." and the mimed gestured of writing on a pad of paper provoked me to rebuttal, "Oh don't do that, then everyone will think you're ME!" Needless to say I was pretty proud of myself for coming up with that on the spot! As the routine ended, I returned to my seat and received many congratulatory remarks from the club members.

When the meeting adjourned, many approached me with welcoming regards and questions inquiring my performance history. I was sure to plug Scott in the origin of the routine I just performed and was then invited to join some of the club members for dinner after the meeting. Dr. Horowitz spoke up and said, "Hey, I know we normally go to Denny's, but there's a new place in town some of the club members would like to check out if no one is opposed." I must admit I was very relieved -- not that I don't like Denny's, but I just knew it wouldn't be the same going to the establishment without being able to cut up with Scott Davis and Dr. Chris in the corner.

At dinner, I had the opportunity to visit more in detail with some of the club's most active members. I met a gentleman who shared my newly-acquired interest in lock-picking (no, I'm not looking into doing escapes; yes, I have locked myself out of my apartment one too many times); he just happened to be an expert at the trade and offered his expertise on the subject whenever it was convenient for me. As everyone was leaving, I was informed that the club actually met on a *bi-monthly* basis and had many more active members during the "season" (that's when all the snowbirds fly south for the winter).

That following weekend I decided to pay a visit to the local magic shop – "The Wizard's Apprentice". Upon entering, I took a look around and was fairly impressed with the organization and selection they had to offer. I went in the shop looking to purchase a Vanishing Ketchup Bottle and asked the gentleman if I could see the one on display. He then informed me that he couldn't let me hold it but that I could read the box; I was quick to introduce myself as well as my all-too-brief employment with the largest magic store in the country. He said,

"Well, we probably have close to just as many items here!" I then replied with, "You have over 17,000?!" He was quick to stand down...with the defeated statement that they had just reached over 5,000.

I spent about a grand total of half an hour in the store when I soon realized that all the products were priced approximately 20% higher than Mr. Magic. I still wanted to get at least *something* though. The vanishing bottle didn't have a label, so I asked for a Malini Silk-to-Egg...out of stock. Bill tube? Out of stock. Unfortunately I must now resort to mail-ordering all my magic...from Jim!

Before I left the shop, I couldn't help but realize a young man (about 14 or 15 years of age) sitting in the corner reading a book on mentalism. A couple of laymen walked in the store and asked to see a trick; the young man jumped at the opportunity. As I watched this young man's presentation and his polished double-lifts and top-changes, I was reminded of myself at that age and how enthusiastic I was about magic. Now that I am in a new city in a new state; we now begin the reformation process of jump-starting the magic mobile and picking right up where I left off so few years ago.

So there you have it, my first month as a Floridian. I would also like to take this opportunity once again to thank all of you who have been a mentor to me when it was me reading in the corner of the magic shop. I definitely hope to see some of you at an upcoming convention and/or meeting when I may be home to visit; but for now I must get ready to go to the *first* meeting of *this* month tonight. Cheers.

Magically yours,

Kyle Hamsher



Trick Time

TORN AND RESTORED CARD FOR CHILDREN

Required: Alphabet deck with two "Y" cards, a matching blank facer, Card in Balloon apparatus and small Drawer Box.

Preparation: The Drawer Box is decorated as a First Aid Center or Hospital. The blank face card has printed on its face the words, "It's not here!" The duplicate "Y" card has a corner torn off and that small piece is placed in the front area of the Drawer Box (the part which will be opened when you show the rest of the card are gone). The Card in Balloon apparatus is set up with the "It's not here!" card in place to be disclosed when the balloon bursts.

Presentation: Force the "Y" card any way you know how. Do the standard "Please tell us what card you choose." "Why?" "Because I want to know. . .what letter did you choose?" "Why?" "Oh, I see, you choose the Y!" gag. Have the card torn into pieces

and place all the pieces in the large part of the Drawer Box. Tell the children that the doctor or nurse will put the card back together and send it to the balloon for a rest.

I tell the children that I don't know how long it will take to fix the card so when they want to check on it, just let me know. I go on with a few tricks and then go to the box and open it to see if the card is gone. When ready to finish the effect, open the box so that only one piece of the card may be seen. Work the balloon apparatus and the^T "It's not here" card will show.

During all this, you have had plenty of time to get the card where you want to discover it: On the back of the child, on your forehead, etc. Use a Jumbo deck if you wish.

This may sound foolish, but give it a try. You may be surprised at how well it plays with the children.

Comment: Nice plot and there are numerous ways to work it. Draw a red cross on a double envelope and substitute this for the Drawer Box. Eliminate the Card in Balloon apparatus by holdings one or three blown-up balloons in your hand. The message card can be rolled or folded up and inserted in a balloon or you

can use sleight of hand to apparently produce it ala Carney, Dingle or Mario.

The card can be stuck 'on your forehead with saliva (sorry, but it works . . . just 'moisten' the card out of sight of your audience, perhaps when you are looking around behind you to search for it), stuck under your glasses, shoved under your coat lapel or a kid's coat collar at the back. Or, steal a loop of cellophane tape, formed sticky side outwards, from behind your table or under your coat and stick the card anywhere.

As I said, it's the plot that counts! Put a LITTLE talcum powder in a balloon and cause it to pop via a thumb tack stuck through your tie, at the end of your wand, or through a plastic thumb tip (Karrell Fox idea), and talk about the bad guys/enemy blowing up the balloon that was carrying our hero back from the front line.

Use of alphabet cards makes the trick more meaningful to young kids (who certainly learn the alphabet before they learn to distinguish the various card suits), and the plot makes it interesting. They're used to imagination games and will play right along with you. Name the card for a popular G.I. Joe or other character and have fun!

-PRW

President's Corner

As a teacher, I have an unusual avenue of using magic to entertain children. I don't get paid for performing for dozens of kids, and sometimes the hecklers are worse than anywhere else (until I threaten to fail them ☺) But just like kids anywhere, when a magic trick comes out, all eyes are open and mouths are closed in anticipation of what is about to happen. I keep my school life and magic life very separate, but when I do perform in class, kids remember. During the preparation for their semester exams in December, I took a few tricks with me for a good 15 minute performance...unrelated to English or History (the subjects I teach to which I

usually make tricks relate). They, of course, were so excited when I performed for them and said I was a "cool" teacher (I'm sure that only lasted a short time due to the difficulty with my exams the following week) The interest in magic by youth is definitely there. I don't foresee any shortage of future magicians in the world. We definitely have a growing number of youth interest in magic here in Central Arkansas! If you haven't been to one of our Little Rock Junior Magic Club meetings, come by and see our future David Copperfields, Lance Burtons, Cris Angels, and even Penn and Tellers. Magic is definitely one of those art forms that cannot be compared to any other.

From me as well as the rest of the Henson's, we wish you all a very Magical Christmas and a very Happy New Year!
Christy cih0914@aol.com



Ring Ramblings

♥ 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

♣ International Brotherhood of Magicians applications can be picked up at the magic shop, or ask an officer at a ring meeting. All members who belong to Ring 29 must be an International Brotherhood of Magicians member. If you are an I.B.M. member, you should be receiving the *Linking Ring* every month,

and you should have an I.B.M. number.

♦ *Ring 29 January Birthdays:*

January – Magicians name

♠ *Ring 29 Magic Meeting Themes for 2007- 2008:*

January – Annual Ring 29

Christmas Party

February – Mystery Bag Night

March – Annual Ring 29 Auction

April - Close-Up Competition

May – Bizarre Magic

June – Stage Competition

♠ *Advertisements:*

* **Book:** Card Dupery by JK Hartman (reviewed in December *Magic Magazine*)

Cost is \$49.50

* **Book:** Scripting Magic by Pete McCabe and 26 other guys. The book teaches on deciding how to present a trick before performing it. It includes how to script a trick.

Cost is \$36.00

* **Book:** Transformations: Creating Magic Out of Tricks

Cost is \$36.00

* **Book:** Thurston and Dante The Written Word It is a two volume set and is now out of print.

Cost is \$150

* **Book:** Essential Stewart James (now back in stock)

Cost is \$31.50

* **DVD:** *The Classics* by George McBride

* **DVDs:** The new *Colombini*

* **Trick:** Colombini's new tricks are in stock

* **Trick:** The Art Pad Card Rise Trick - **Cost is \$72.00**

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