

January 2017 Meeting and Hein Lecture

Posted on [January 21, 2017](#) by [Dennis Phillips](#)

Ring Report Ring #170 “The Bev Bergeron Ring” January 2017 Meeting

President Craig Schwarz called the meeting to order. Bev Bergeron made an announcement that our groups are now incorporated which gives us some personal liability protection. The entire meeting was turned over to guest lecturer, Karl Hein. He opened with a torn and restored card, which was simple to construct and very effective.

Hein is known all over the world for his amazing card handling abilities and his naturally disarming performance style. He has performed over 100 lectures in more than 20 countries and has authored many instructional DVDs including “The Heinstein Shuffle”, “Heiny 500”, “Heinstein’s Dream”, “Heinsight”, “Hein’s Catch Up” and “The Heinous Collection”. He is a master at misdirection and of using his name creating the titles of his effects.

One quick and clever effect was “Give Me Five”. It was a production of a five dollar bill that instantly appeared when you asked an audience member to “Smack the palm of your hand!” The method was very simple and effective. There was “Breaking the Second Rule” – Karl’s entertaining Card Selection Routine where a spectator finds the cards with several amazing kicker endings. Karl will use this routine to discuss card selection, card control, false shuffles, revelations, multiple moments of amazement, routine construction and alternate presentations.

Another standout item from the lecture is Heiny 500, which is Karl Hein’s handling of Patrick Page’s Easy Money. He called it the World’s Best Close-up trick. In his hands the effect is polished, with a lot of extra subtleties and convincers added. He had an ending that Karl has tagged onto the end he calls Rainmaker – basically, instead of getting 5 one-dollar bills changing into hundred-dollar bills, the bills multiply into a huge fan of bills! It’s a very eye-popping and impressive ending to your standard Easy Money routine.

He also had a very effective and funny “Dollar Bill in Twinkie”. A signed dollar bill appeared inside a Twinkie which had been in full view all the time.

Dennis Phillips

**Dennis Deliberations ... Ring # 170
“The Bev Bergeron Ring”
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Verba volant, scripta manent -*Caius Titus*-

Thank you for again allowing me to be your Secretary for another year. For those of you who are a bit out of practice with your classic Latin, my epigraph says, “spoken words fly away, written words remain”.

There is a feeling of sadness as we realize that the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus is ending their long run and closing up this coming May, We also just lost the Cole Brothers Circus (also known as the Clyde Beatty Cole Brothers Circus) as well as The Big Apple Circus.

The American Circus came into being just about the time that railroad tracks linked the country together. The post-Civil War and industrialization brought some small prosperity and a demand for inexpensive entertainment. Through a series of mergers the Ringling Brothers became the largest traveling circuses and merged with co-owned Barnum and Bailey during World War One when the Flu pandemic and lack of labor made consolidating the best option. John Ringling became the Circus magnate and accrued a fortune. He bought real estate in Sarasota Florida and elsewhere as well as interests in railroads. In 1929, John Ringling bought the [American Circus Corporation](#), which consisted of the [Sells-Floto Circus](#), the [Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus](#), the [John Robinson Circus](#), the [Sparks Circus](#), [Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show](#), and the [Al G. Barnes Circus](#). The Great Depression lead to him losing all his fortune and control of the Circus in 1932. His nephew John Ringling North assumed management. The elderly John Ringling was able to keep his Florida mansion and some real estate. Ringling died in 1936. Under North’s management, the circus switched from tents to [air conditioned](#) venues in 1956. It was sold to the Felds in 1967, ending 80 years of Ringling family control of the enterprise. For more information see Bev Bergeron’s January 2017 (this month) column “Cutting up Jackpots”.

Kenneth Feld, who inherited the business from his father Irving, said that declining ticket sales was the reason. Some have said that Kenneth never really was a Circus fan but simply ran it as a family business. Another of the suggested reasons was the continuous legal assault by PETA on how they treated their performing animals. Recall

that recently Ringling said they would no longer carry elephants on the show. Some said that was a reason. But, Cirque du Soleil is doing fine without any animals.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cirque_du_Soleil

Of course Cirque had a great deal of Canadian Government Money and help to begin with. That is something that would not happen here in the United States. Generally Arts funding here is considered politically toxic.

I think the strong elements of Cirque are its unique rhythmic music, a loose theme making the whole show an extended drama.

In reality, little in the way of the format and structure had changed with Ringling since Richard Barstow was hired by John Ringling North to redo the visual look of the show into more of a Las Vegas Broadway Busby Berkley look in the late 50s.

<http://www.nytimes.com/1981/05/03/obituaries/richard-barstow-choreographer-for-the-barnum-bailey-circus.html>

The “feel” of the Ringling show was dated and most people went because it was both an inexpensive ticket price and a tradition. Your grandad took you, so you take your kids. The arena setting lacked the total feel of a mud show with no Side Show.

If you look, there is only Disney on Ice (Feld bought the old Ice Follies and licensed Disney characters). Other Ice Shows are European http://www.figure-skating-corner.com/php/fs_shows.php

I think that the only way for a Traditional Circus to work would be to be its on its own fixed destination location. It is a shame that “Circus World” ,here in Central Florida, did not work.

I has told many years ago by a Ringling old timer that John Ringling had considered buying the several acres of real estate in every city they played that could be used every years as the circus lot. This would eliminate having to find a lot every year. The plan was to pay taxes on the property. Recall that a lot is unimproved land and would have a low tax rate. The deal was to lease it for free to the city for the rest of the year to use as a park or for other non-circus events. For some off reason Ringling dod not want to bother with having the land as a non-money making asset on his books. If he would have gone the other way and bought 5 acres in every city, imagine the book value today!

Circo Tihanny is still very big in Central and Latin America, but they failed miserably a dozen years ago in trying to play the USA (New Orleans, Miami, Houston). Tihanny is a spectacular show with pure glamour. It is still very popular in Central and South America.

Some smaller Circuses will continue here in the United States as will Shrine Circuses but I think that the era of the big touring circus shows is over and probably electronics killed it with HDTV where you can watch anything sitting on your couch.

There has been a rumor that the Disney media empire would acquire the Ringling assets and revamp the label. That remains to be seen. I could envision a Mega cruise ship with a circus theme!

David Da Vinci (Dave Womach) , who lived for a while in Orlando, toured with one edition of the Circus. Several other graduates of the old Clown College and show workers are members of our Ring.

Some of you do-it-yourself types may enjoy making this “ordinary object” A Lota Jar.

This is an inexhaustible bottle that you can make for less than \$10 or maybe for nothing!

It does not look like a trick prop.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9c67l_9ZgM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V2xfRhWx-o>

This Chimp has more manners and is a better audience than the humans at the last walk-around gig that I did! At my last gig a few people told me to get lost.

Here are a couple of random observations (I am not generally supportive of all PETA ideas. I do believe in kindness because I am a human and capable of it)

But, we as sentient creatures, with over a hundred thousand — or is it a couple of million — years of Biologic Evolution plus an overlying cognitive veneer of at least 10,000 years of social and scientific development, coupled to 16-24 years of formal school — discovers he can fool an animal with a brain that’s still languishing back in the *Paleolithic Age*.... We seem to get joy out of doing it. I find that a bit funny, but cruel! Give the poor creature a banana after you realize you are torturing it. It has no idea how an i-Pad works.

We have one less pair of chromosomes than a chimp (and the Great Apes) . They have 24. We only have 23. When did our extra our extra chromosome go? Our Human Chromosome Number 2 seems to be 2 chimp chromosomes fused! Maybe that is why we have a different brain structure? We can understand a “magic” secret. They apparently cannot. Few people know the facts about our Chromosome Number Two

: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chromosome_2_\(human\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chromosome_2_(human)) Genetic biology may be suggesting why we can think and communicate abstract concepts like “magic”.

“Look, I can fool my DOG with a French Drop!” says the magician who can’t find a paying audience. Wait! You-Tube regularly gets hundreds of thousands of “hits” for stuff like this and it pays money! This gives a whole different meaning to the term, “Professional Magician”. Dennis