

Ring Report Ring #170 “The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring” SAM #99

January 2, 2024 | Archived Famulus



Ring Report Ring #170 “The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring” SAM Assembly #99

December 2023

The December Meeting was our traditional holiday party and entertainment. The only official business was the annual elections. Nominated and elected as the 2004 officers were: David Freeman, President,

Craig Fennessey, Vice President, Jacki Manna, Treasurer, Dennis Phillips, Secretary, and Paul Thomey, Sargent At Arms. We thanked outgoing President Ryan Stiner for his 2 terms as President and Treasurer Tom Parkin for his many years of service as Treasurer.

Jackie Manna was the emcee and game leader for the evening with Phil Schwartz conducting the trivial contests. Jackie, a talented ventriloquist, also introduced Mathilda, the precious elderly lady with geriatric humor and they did a funny routine.

Ari Novick presented his great prediction in a bottle effect that he just performed nationwide on Penn and Teller’s on “Fool Us”. He was able to predict which toy animal and the number of rings on bottles in his carnival game. (See photo in my Deliberations)

Dennis Phillips had a special showing of his Flea Circus with guest stars, Flea-o-patra, Hercu-fleas and Flea-vil-can-evil. The show had music and Phillips, as Ringmaster, lead the fleas through classic circus stunts.


Game included which team of four could separate the M&Ms into individual colors.

Jackie concluded the fun with the annual gift exchange.

We thank all who made the Party a success.

Dennis Phillips

Professor Phillips
is
equal parts bluster and hucksterism that transports the audience back to the 1890's. The audience ends up cheering for fleas they'd normally want to kill.



Biting Entertainment for a cross-generational crowd, ranging from mesmerized kids to tattooed twenty-somethings to nostalgia-driven seniors...

See!

- Fleas push objects thousands of times their weight!
- A brave flea jump from a diving board into a tank of water!
- A flea walks across the high-wire and swing on a trapeze!
- A flea is shot out of a cannon and lands safely!


You have probably heard of a flea circus, but have you ever attended one? Bring the kids and avail yourself to this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. No bug spray allowed!

Dennis Phillips has been a real university and college faculty member. He carefully researched the details of historic Flea Circus acts. In an earlier time, real human fleas were harnessed with thin wire loops and used for amusement. In our time, theatrical technology, clever writing and hilarious humor are used for a fascinating and incredibly entertaining presentation that lasts from fifteen to 45 minutes. The performance is filled with captivating audience participation and a riveting storyline! You will laugh, you will wince, you will gasp and applaud!


Prof. Phillips' Fabulous Flea Circus
DENNIS PHILLIPS

E-Mail: dennisphillips4u@gmail.com

Prof. Phillips' Fabulous FLEA CIRCUS



You will never see anything like this again!
THE ROBIEST LITTLE SHOW ON EARTH!



THE WORLD'S ONLY 3 RING FLEA CIRCUS!

Ring 170- SAM 99 Board for 2024

Right to Left:

David Freeman, President

Dennis Phillips, Secretary

Jacki Manna, Treasurer

Craig Fennessey, Vice President

Not Present Paul Thomey Sergeant At Arms



Meeting policy:

Face masks, if you wear one, will not be ridiculed. We are understanding that some people may be immunocompromised. We also respect your personal choices.

Stay prepared, healthy, and informed about current Public Health issues and contagious outbreaks.

Be respectful of others and if you suspect you have any contagious illness , avoid group contact.

The CDC has issued a fresh call for Americans to mask-up this holiday season. The new advice was posted by the agency's director Dr. Mandy Cohen.

HV.1 accounted for about 30% of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. JN.1 was the second-most prevalent strain, making up about 21% of cases, followed by EG.5.

Scientists are closely monitoring JN.1, which has sparked some concern due to its rapid growth rate and large number of mutations. However, the new variant is closely related to a strain we've seen before.

JN.1 has one more mutation compared to its parent strain BA.2.86, which has more than 30 mutations that set it apart from the omicron XBB.1.5 variant. XBB.1.5 was the dominant strain for most of 2023 and it's the variant targeted in the updated COVID-19 vaccine.



Dennis Deliberations ... Ring # 170, Assembly #99

“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”

Professor Adam Grant from the University of Pennsylvania said this...

"The Learning process isn't finished when you acquire knowledge. It's complete when you consistently apply that knowledge.

Many people accumulate information. Far fewer use it to evolve and improve.

The ultimate test of growth is closing the gap between awareness and action."

Ari Novick on Penn and Teller's on “Fool Us” Season 10 Episode 4

and at our holiday party!



Congratulations to Ari. It was a great effect and fooled me.

Thank you for performing it for us at the Holiday Party.

MAGIC Palooza!
Presents

Florida Magic Collector's Conference 4



Martin Preston
'Ghost of John Calvert'



Tammy Calvert
Guest of Honor



Tim Wright
'Abbott's Memories'



Rick Heath
'Robert Orben'



Dean Carnegie
'Maro - Prince of Magic'



Jeffrey Alan
'Magic In Movies'



Todd Harris
'Builder's of Great Britain'



Bob Swadling
'Magic Tea Kettle'

For more info,
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our website
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 It's
FLORIDA...
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VACATION!

February 4th - 6th 2024

Holiday Inn Resort
Orlando - Lake Buena Vista
13351 SR 535, Orlando, FL 32821
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Five minutes from Walt Disney World

Conference Registration
Only **\$189.00**
Reserve your room NOW
Special Room Rate
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Itinerary is subject to change without notice.

It's the fourth Florida Magic Collector's & History Conference, Feb. 4-6.

Although just a few weeks away, you can register now at www.magic-palooza.com AND receive a full refund all the way up until Feb. 4. You won't see that at any other magic conference or convention.

Also...the first 30 registrations will receive a very cool John Calvert commemorative token and gimmicked case holder.

Monday evening will be our "Open Mic" show. All you have to do is perform one vintage trick. That's it! Not really a "contest" but....best presentation, judged by the audience, will receive a beautiful trophy.

Tuesday, at 6pm, will conclude the Conference with our Gala Show.

You will love the hotel....no parking or resort fee for our attendees AND...it's only 5 minutes from Disney World. PLUS...you can arrive or stay a couple days later at the same special room rate...just make sure you use the group code (MHY)

FREE Magicpalooza former Conference and Convention posters and vintage magic magazines for all attendees!

Huge Flea Market and Auction the first day, Sunday, Feb. 4....and our Vintage and Collectibles Dealers Room.

Spectacular vintage Lithograph art gallery that will dazzle you.

Did we say FULL REFUND if you decide you just can't make it?

Don't wait....register today! It's Florida...make it a vacation!

www.magic-palooza.com



NIELS SAYERS MAGIC & COMEDY

February 2, 2024, 8:00 P.M.

At the

Clemont Performing Arts Center

3700 S. Highway 27, Clermont, FL 34711

Featuring his signature multi award-winning Latin manipulation act combined with amazing illusions, hilarious comedy, music, and stylish Spanish accent, Niels Sayers' performance is one you will always remember! Niels presents a show full of miracles and surprises, along with his unique sense of humor. Performing since the age of eleven, his magic has taken him to the most beautiful theaters, nightclubs, corporate events, trade shows, cruise ships, theme parks, and conventions around the world.

Prepare to be amazed and come see Niels live and in action when he brings his exciting stage show to our Black Box Theater on February 2, 2024, at 8 p.m.! Tickets are available at www.clermontpac.com or by calling our Box Office at (352)394-4800.

I am not sure just what this “research” means. I suspect that most magicians are more personable and socially connected. That can do a lot for mental health.

The article is a good read. And makes some valid points.

[Magicians less prone to mental disorders than other artists, finds research | Psychology | The Guardian](#)

Magicians less prone to mental disorders than other artists, finds research

Aberystwyth University study first to show a creative group with lower scores on psychotic traits than general population



📷 'Magic is a very social, very caring group because we share secrets,' says performer Sara Crasson.

I guess my question is: "Who paid for this study"? Tannen's, Murphy's Magic, Abbotts et. al? (I am joking!)

Did they differentiate between amateur and professional?

This is from a 1950 magazine advertisement.

A private party parlor show.



Happy 87th Birthday to Dick Cavett



. A happy birthday to Dick Van Dyke on his 98th birthday.



Micky Hades died on Thursday, November 16, 2023. Born in Alberta, Canada , he was 97 years old.



Micky Hades was a fascinating figure. As the creator of Micky Hades International (MHI), which owned and operated magic shops in three major cities (Seattle, Vancouver, and Calgary), he has built an incredible collection of magic literature that took over an entire house — every room, from floor to ceiling. Still, Micky insists, “I’m not a collector. Once I got them, I couldn’t let them go.”

Throughout his life, he has built custom props for world famous magicians, performed many thousands of shows and has written volumes on the art of magic. I don’t think anyone would deny that Micky was a brilliant magic mind, a charming entertainer, and a truly wonderful storyteller.

Micky Hades was a man who embraced all aspects of magic: Performer, publisher, collector, manufacturer, inventor, author, editor and a pioneer of the art of magic. He was born of Ukrainian parentage on a farm in Alberta. He got started in magic when he saw the magician John C. Green. Micky had mundane jobs but realized magic is what he wanted to do so he studied and learned all he could on magic. He then joined a travelling sideshow which featured not only magic but also fire eating.

He then joined carnivals like Conklin Brothers Circus and then Clifford Entertainers Vaudeville circuit. Micky then quit show business for a while and went into Silk Screening and then went onto being a fire prevention Officer in the Army. Then for 13 months he worked in the Gold mines in Yellowknife Canada. There in the Artic climate he invented the

Micky Hades finger chopper 2000 feet below the surface of the ground. Imagine just how many of those he sold. Micky Hades enterprises became Micky Hades international and become a name recognized throughout the world of magic.

Micky was behind the TV Show, Dale Harney's Magic Palace and Micky brought in all the top guys in magic at that time. Blackstone, Al Goshman, Paul Harris, Martin Nash, Slydini.....

The Fabulous Ferco Brothers full illusion show



One of the great mysteries, to me, in the business of Illusions is why The Fercos never got greater fame and acclaim in the magic world.

In my opinion they should be up there, in magic world fame, with many of the long running large illusions shows.

It may be because the Fercos were always about “spectacle”, whereas Siegfried and Roy were about each having a unique personality and being “Masters of the Impossible”. The name, the titles, the labeling, and the pre-conceived expectations

for S&R’s show were superior.

I saw their 2000 show in Biloxi and talked to them. (This entire Grand Casino complex, where I was standing, was flattened and washed to sea in Hurricane Katrina. It was partly rebuilt)

What is sad is that The Fercos family preceded S&R!

The Fercos are originally from Czechoslovakia, they are sixth generation performers. The Fercos got their first big break while performing in Switzerland, where they were noticed by Fred Apcar (also Vince Carmen’s agent)

(a clever full body version of the Head Turning)



Fercos Brothers TV Show

See a montage of the giant stage show which they have been doing since the 1970s.



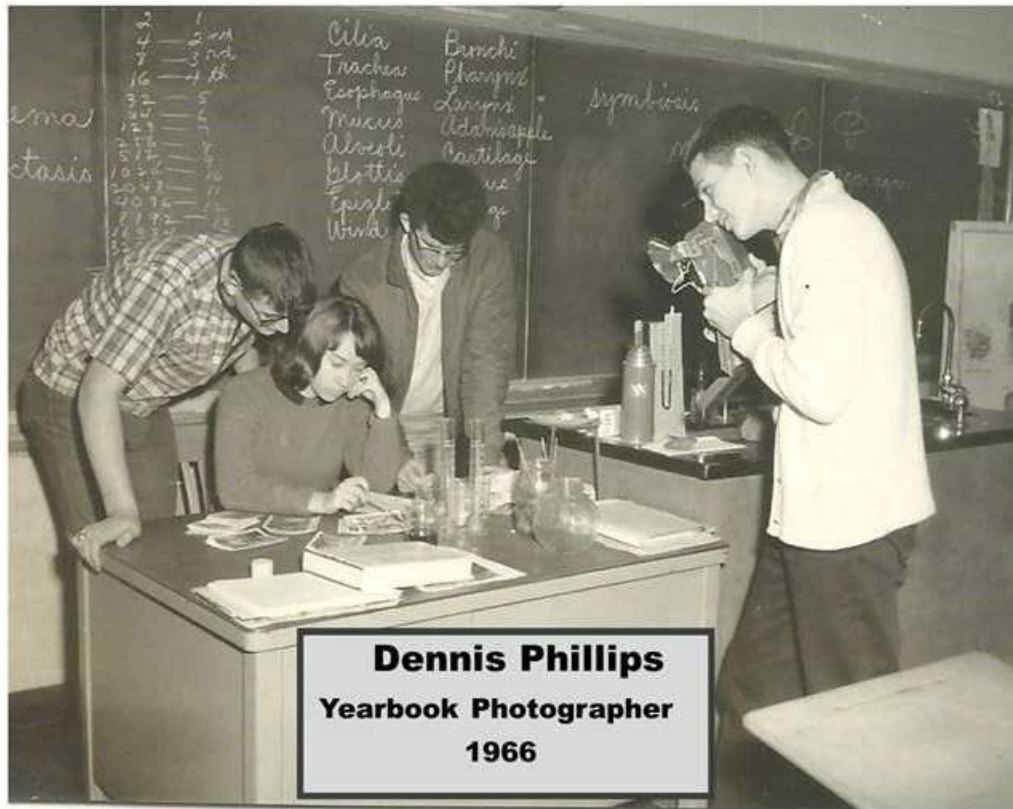


I built my first complicated illusions in high school shop class. My shop teacher was very accommodating and

also taught me to weld (Tig, Mig and Stick). Though I was in the “college bound academic track” and took calculus and physics, my electives were all

in Industrial Arts ,Home Economics, and photography. Home Economics was great for meeting girlfriends and sewing cloth props and costumes.

for my magic.



The standard Abbots Super X was too low for my 6 foot height, so I welded my own gimmick in High School shop class.



“Card values are linked to the cosmos” was a great line by the late mentalist ,Bob Cassidy.

Use this in your patter if you are a card man!

- 52 cards in the deck = 52 weeks in the year.
- 4 Suits = 4 seasons.
- 13 cards in each suit =13 weeks in each of the seasons (as well as the number of moons per year)
- 12 Court Cards (jacks, queens, kings) and 12 months.
- When added together
($1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10+11+12+13 = 91$)
 $\times 4 = 364$.
- Add the Joker = $1\frac{1}{4}$, making a total is $365\frac{1}{4}$ = Solar year.
- This oracle is actually the matrix of time/space delving deeply into Astrology, Numerology etc...

This is one of the few times that I have seen the classic Joe Carson, “Zombie” floating ball did not see the effect as a “ball on a stick”.

Tommy Wonder’s moves were stunning.

The original Al’s Magic Shop, which began life as the Oriental Curiosity Shop, was run by Al’s dad Macy.

This shop, two blocks from the White House on Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington, D.C. It was demolished in the 1980s to make way for National Place and a new Marriott.

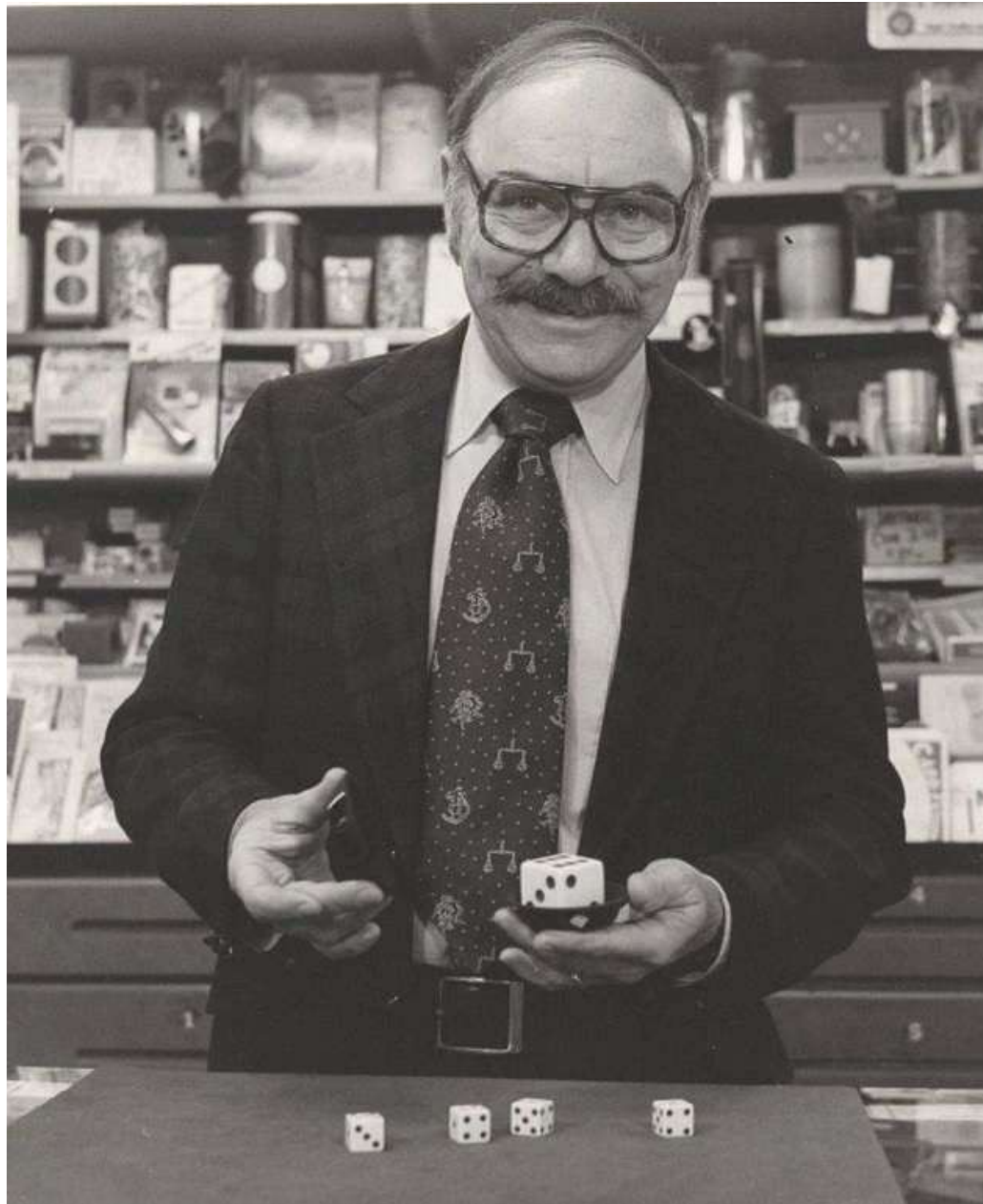
I was a frequent visitor in the last half of the 1960s. Local magician, a younger Eric Henning, is in the photo.



It was operated for years by the late Al Cohen, who was one of history’s greatest magic demonstrators.

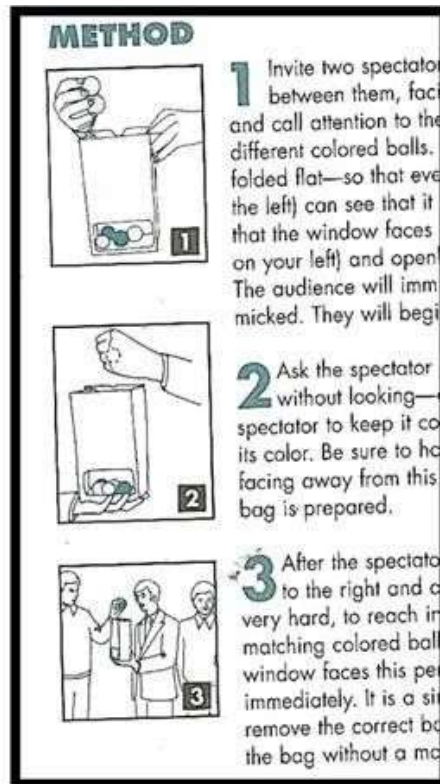
He was also known for his comedy magic convention act. He played “Pernell Zorch” an incompetent stage magician.

He had all sorts of elastic pulls hanging from the bottom of the back of his suit coat.



Ping Pong Prestidigitation: My addiction

This basic effect, without my finale, can be found in Mark Wilson's Course in Magic (small book) on page #332.



<https://vimeo.com/450301448>

Do not dismiss this as merely a stunt. It is an entertaining effect with a spectator, if played correctly.

These types of effects must never embarrass the volunteer and they must be softened so they see that their being fooled is natural and based on their limited knowledge of all that was shown to them. I do several of these types of effects like Slydini's "Paper Wads Over the Head" and Mike Caveny's version of "Powers of Darkness" using Coat Hangers.

I will say to the baffled volunteer, "The audience could see what was happening because I was tricky and did not show you everything. They will explain it to you or ask me after the show and I will completely show you. I am a magician and I still get fooled by a tricky trick".

With this effect, the problem is that it does not have a strong finish that should also fool the audience!

I created a strong ending where not only the volunteer, but the audience is fooled, and I act like I am also fooled!

In my routine I used a black gift bag from The Dollar Store (now \$1.25 Store) and cut a window out of one side and glued in a clear plastic sheet made from an ink-jet transparency sheet. My three-color ball set is from Party City. The motley multi-colored balls were made from white ping pong balls that I hand painted with acrylic paint from Hobby Lobby. The white divider is poster board, and it is taped with clear tape in the middle of the bottom so it can flip both ways and become a switching flap to open either side.

You begin by finding a volunteer to help you. Show the bag with the balls. Keep the window side toward you. In my set-up, I keep the flap closed with the multicolored balls. You explain that the volunteer is to take a ball but keep their hands closed so



they do not know, and you or the audience does not know. The volunteer reaches inside and selects a ball, and you secretly see the color that is taken, and you then take the same color and you both reveal them.

You repeat the action but this time you turn the bag, so the audience sees

what is happening. They will laugh but the volunteer will not know why.

I do this three times and make a false explanation that maybe the balls feel different and then admit that I was lying, and I show the volunteer the window and explain how everything was done so far.

Then, I say I will do it one more time, so the volunteer understands. I face the window toward me and flip the switch flap and force one of the multi-colored balls. I look at

the window while the volunteer is taking one and say, "You know now what I am doing". I take a multi-colored one also. At this point, the volunteer and the audience think that all is well.

Then I have the volunteer reveal the multicolored ball! This gets a laugh, and the volunteer is shocked. I then show that I also have a multi-colored ball!

I then say, "Now we are all confused and that is what real magic is supposed to do"



A Happy New Year to all!

Dennis