

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

January 27, 2024 | Archived Famulus



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

January 2023

Our new President, David Freeman, brought the meeting to order and welcomed guest David-David from Kansas City and returning longtime member Gary Adams to the meeting.

President Freeman gave a “State of the Union” pep talk and explained his agenda for the coming year. We thank Ryan Stiner for his recent two terms as President. Some of David’s plans include forming some committees to manage our social media presence as well as fund-raising ideas since inflation has raised the monthly rental price for our meeting place. He also wants to explore attracting younger magicians to the group and more member participation with book reviews and mini lectures.

Our club magic historian, , Phil Schwartz, after a two-year pause in presentations, resumed his monthly “Magic History Moment” with his #100th lecture on an unusual magician or classic magic effect or magic event. Phil is a magic collector and history author, acclaimed

for his book, “The Ultimate Thayer” about Floyd Thayer and Thayer’s props. In the style of Paul Harvey’s “The Rest of the Story,” he teased with photos and descriptions and finally a rare statue of the English performer, Arthur Carlton Phelps, known as “Carlton, the Human Hairpin” (1880-1942) . He was enormously popular. Carlton was very thin and wore a high skull cap to further exaggerate his height and become a popular London comedy magician. As was culturally acceptable then, he used performers in his act that included a large giant and a midget. Carton did not invent the Die Box but his sucker sliding routine is what almost all magicians use today. Phil showed photos of Carlton and had a rare 24-inch-high statue.

President Freeman then gave us an enthusiastic book review on Piff the Magic Dragon’s new book. David noted the quality of the book's production and its humor, but also noted that it is not a standard "how to do tricks" book, but instead focuses on creative thinking in developing magical ideas. Piff is the popular novelty English act who performs dressed as a large green cartoon dragon.

The monthly meeting show began with Bob Swadling, our British master of magic and mechanics. He had two cards that magically changed when flipped in the air and a comedy coin-in-bottle routine. Bob also did a torn and then, in mid-air, instantly restored card. Mike Berlant’s quarter ended up in and out of a glass beer bottle. Dan Stapleton had a delightful adaptation of Steward James’ card effect “Miraskill”. Dan did not use cards but used jewels, a goblet of diamonds and a goblet of rubies. Val Swaddling randomly selected two jewels from the pile and put them in the goblets depending on red or clear and both. Dan’s prediction of how many of each in the goblets was perfect.

Adrian Lopez did some card wizardry. Notable was his ACAAN. A spectator chose a card, and it was the spectator’s chosen number. Dennis Phillips had a car key that vanished in the palm of his hand and a ballpoint pen that floated up from his palm and then vanished when covered by a paper napkin. He wanted to get the jump on David Copperfield latest mega illusion, so he made a “moon” disappear in a sliding sucker two-side box. He explained that he repurposed an old Pac Man vanish.

Greg Solomon made a hit with some funny signs, Dick Stoner’s “Grave Mistake”, a shrinking mansion and a wordy sign for a starving magician.

Steve Nelson wrapped up the show with a Triumph Card effect on steroids. With two assisting spectators, who knew the classic effect, he fooled them and made the magic happen.

Dennis Phillips



Magic Historian Phil Schwartz with a cartoon drawing of Carlton and his statue.

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### **Meeting policy and large public gatherings :**

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 crowded group contact.

*The United States is in the middle of a winter wave of COVID-19 driven by a heavily mutated, fast-spreading new variant called JN.1. The highly contagious omicron subvariant now accounts for over 85% of cases nationwide.*

*JN.1 is a direct offshoot of [BA.2.86](#), aka “[Pirola](#),” with an additional mutation that affects its ability to evade immunity. In December, JN.1 rapidly overtook other variants — including [HV.1](#) and [EG.5 or Eris](#) — to become the dominant strain in the U.S. and globally.*

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

**“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”**

## A Sense of Mystery

*The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental notion that stands at the cradle of true art and science.*

Albert Einstein, *Ideas and Opinions*

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**To all our magic friends, if you did not know, my wife Cindy died the day after Christmas.**

**To you who sent cards, and came to my home, thank you, from me and my family.**

# *Cynthia Jean Phillips*

**Died December 26, 2023**

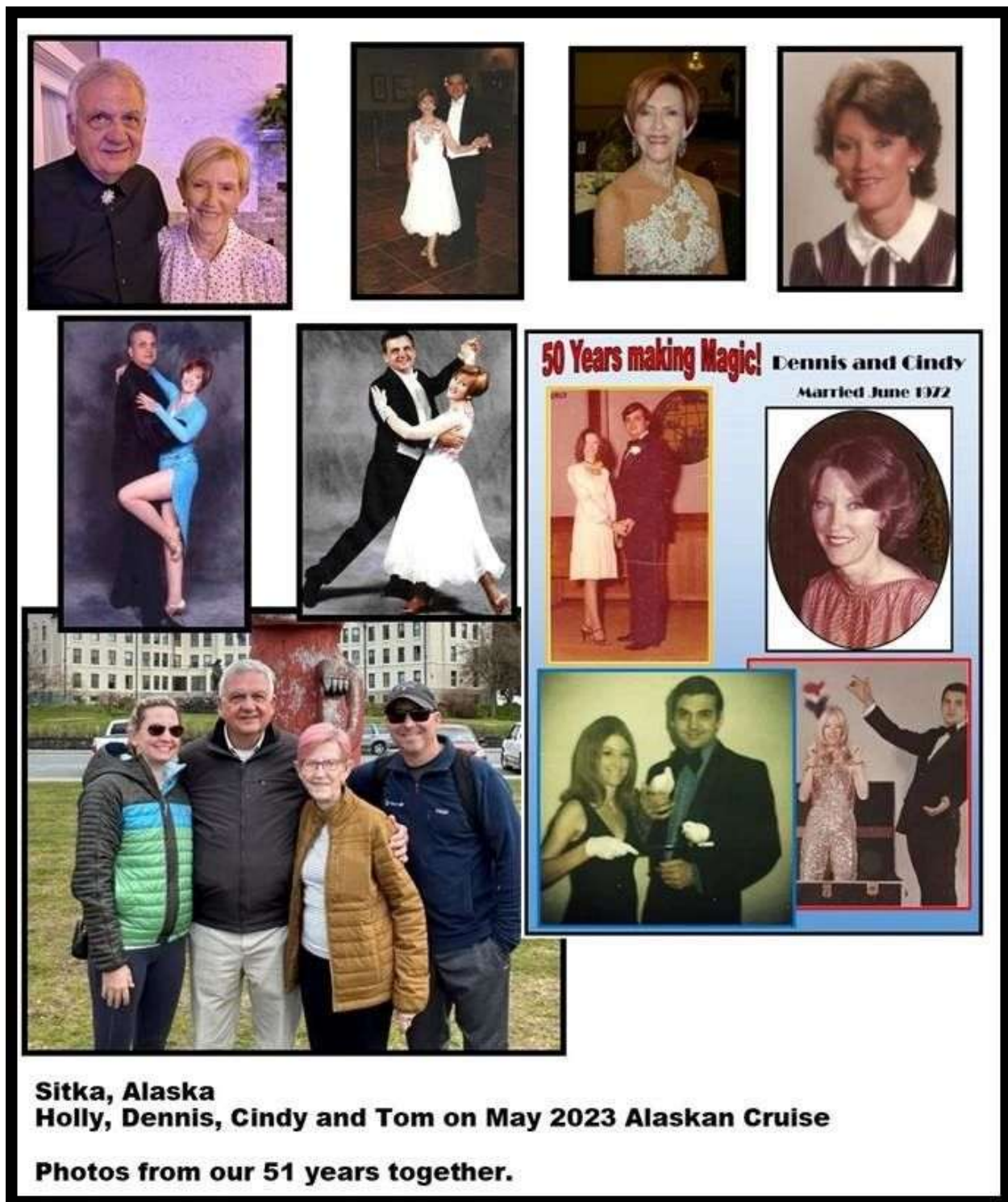


**Cindy passed away in the hospital from a stroke and heart problems. Her passing was sudden.**

**Her remaining family is husband, Dennis, married 51 years , and 3 children and a son-in-law.**

**Our hearts are broken but comforted by knowing that she lived a full 81 years and loved and was loved by her family**

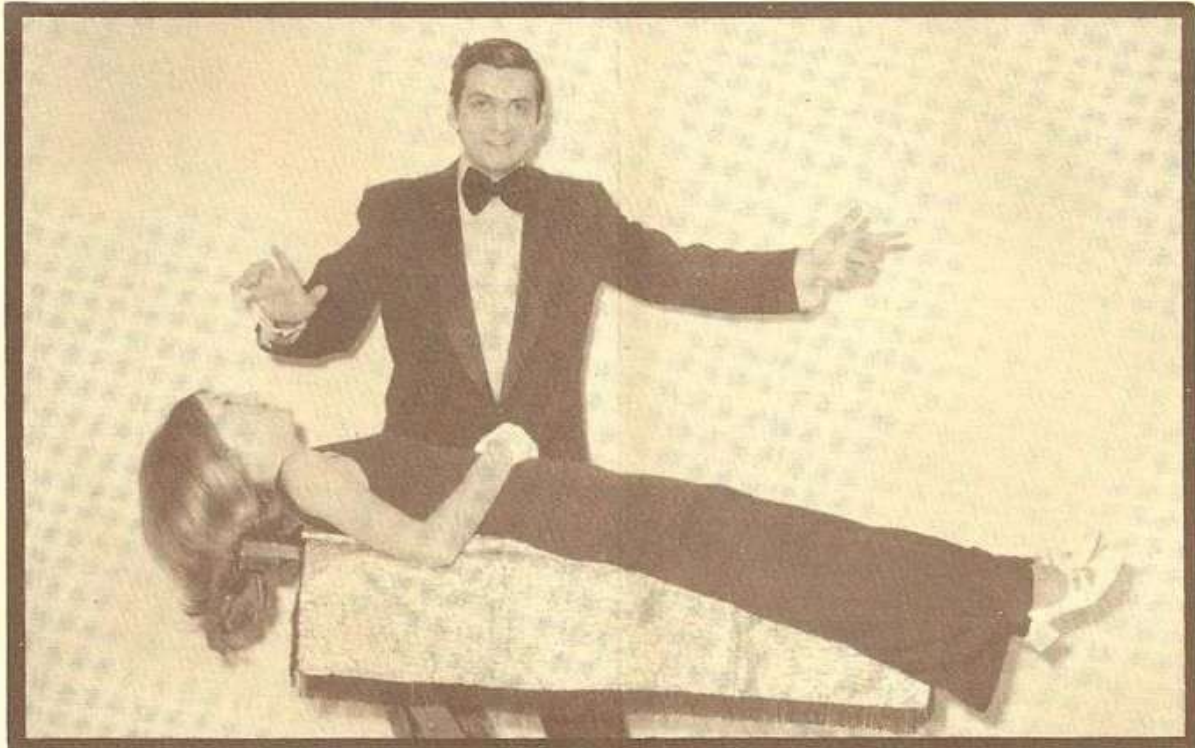




Cindy was an Elementary school teacher (Kindergarten) when I met her in Roanoke, Virginia in 1972.

I was working in Roanoke Television and Radio. We married and moved to Charlotte ,North Carolina.

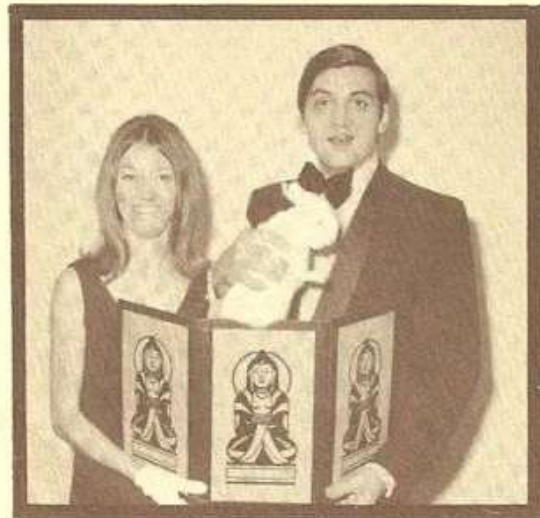
This is from our 1973 Magic brochure made in Charlotte. Cindy in the Spring of 1974 .



FLOATING LADY



MIRACLE DOVE ACT



COMEDY

I had built this "thin sawing" illusion in Charlotte, NC .





I used no plans. I made a cardboard mockup to fit Cindy, and, like the Guy Jarrett technique, I kept making it smaller and smaller to exactly fit her.

She could still fit into it into her 60s!

These two photos are from 1976 when he had just moved to Orlando.

I left working full time in broadcasting in Charlotte, and we opened our costume



business (Allied Costumes, Winter Park) and she had a big role in that business until we sold it in 2009.

She let her hair go to natural light brown and styled it in a late 1980s style in the photo when she was age 47. It was taken

during our illusion show, at the Homer Hester Armory in Tampa in 1989

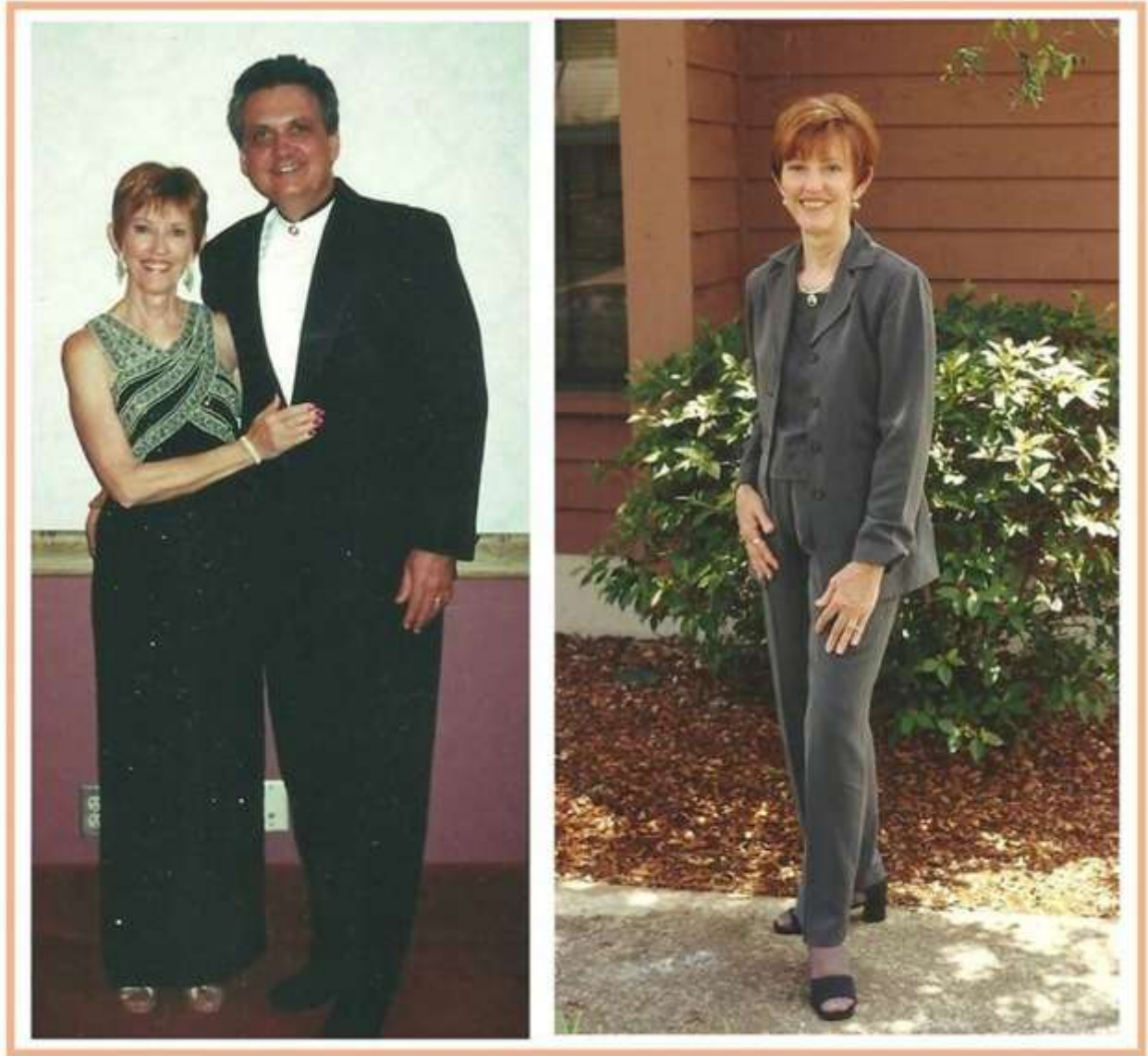




**Photos made during our time in Oviedo in the 1990s.**



**Here she is assisting my comedy sidekick, the late Rob Labby, with the tear apart dove box**



**Cindy and I did ballroom dancing. She was artistic and creative in all her work and especially in making costumes and puppets.**

**Here is “Captain Infinity”, a 3-legged space alien from my magic stage show. I was in the costume.**

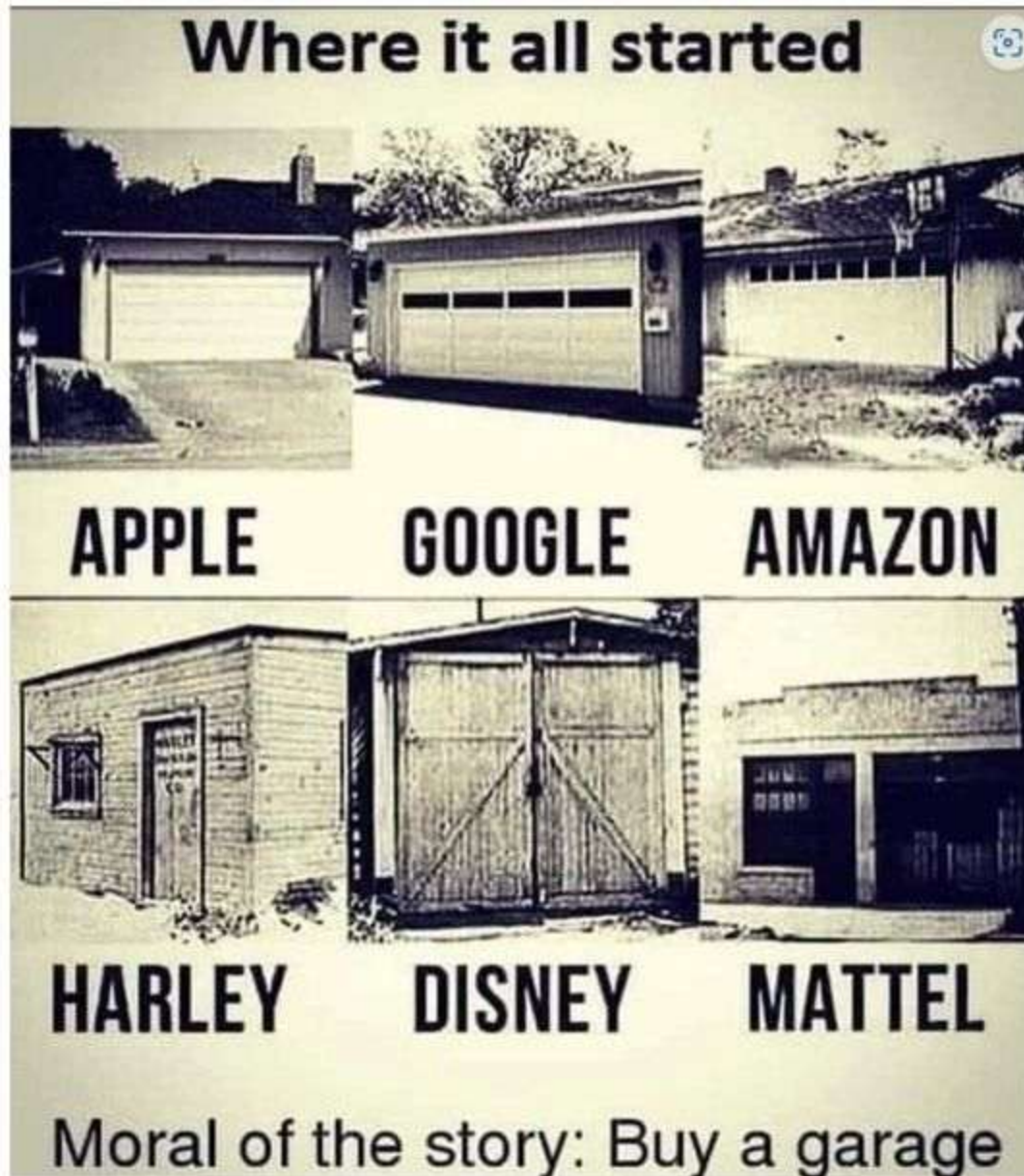


She was quiet and reserved. Everyone who knew her, liked her.

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Speaking of Oviedo and the big 2 car garage that Cindy and I had...





Allied Costumes (ShowCrafters) , Cindy and my business started on a carport in 1975 on Harmon Avenue in Winter Park. The I-4 expansion recently gobbled up that house and lot.

This photo is Prop and illusion building in my home garage in 1994 in Oviedo, Florida.

Here was an audio-animated "Lady to Lion" that I built.





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A look back at Ralph Adams, an inspiration for the second Golden Age of Magic.

In 1969, I was attending the Abbott's Get Together and talking with the then unknown, Doug Henning. We watched Ralph's act together and Henning was impressed and later used Ralph's Dancing Hank method for his own version of the routine in his Broadway debut (1974) in "The Magic Show" at the Cort Theater.

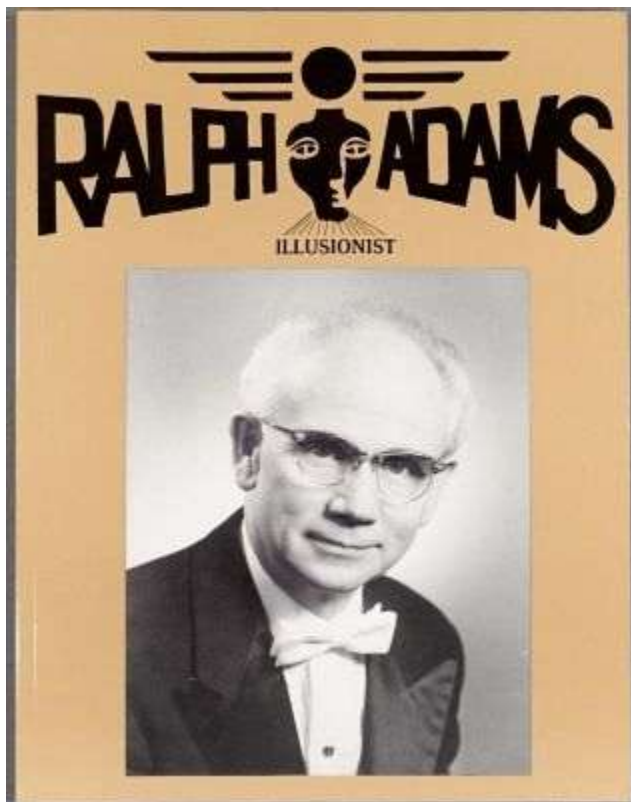
Ralph Adams (April 18, 1910 - July 8, 1998)

Adams made appearances on the television series Hollywood Palace and the Mike Douglas Shows the late 1960s just before the 2nd Golden Age of Illusions.

Adams worked hundreds of stages throughout the country in such prestigious entertainment palaces as Radio City Musical Hall in New York, The Astrodome in Texas .

He appeared for several seasons at Sea World in Ohio and played Las Vegas.

On his 85th birthday, Adams was honored by Lance Burton and David Copperfield during their show in Las Vegas.



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Morgan Wallen tickets: \$375  
John Cougar Mellencamp: \$900  
Adele: \$1456  
Taylor Swift: \$32,000  
Local Artists: \$10 and under (sometimes free)

If you can afford these ticket prices.....  
you can afford ticket prices for the locals,  
many of which, are your friends.

Just... sayin.

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“Powers of Darkness”

I have performed this for years.

The original idea was from Corinda and Magic Inc, in Chicago sold the little used manuscript.

Mike Caveney adapted it to coat hangers.

Note that it is important to have the right type and size of audience. (Preset by hanging the gimmicked coat hanger in the back of your coat collar)

Excellent complete version!

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Dennis