

Ring Report Ring IBM #170- SAM #99 "The Bev and Alouise Bergeron"

December 29, 2021 | Archived Famulus



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

We have live meetings again.

Be kind and courteous. Masks are suggested but not required.

Mike Matson opened our December Holiday meeting.

The election for Board members gave us our 2022 officers and they are Mike Matson, President. Craig Fennessy, Vice President. Dennis Phillips, Secretary. Thom Parkin Treasurer. Sgt. at Arms, Ryan Steiner, and Director at Large, David Freeman. Our club historian is Phil Schwartz.

We followed the business meeting with our holiday party and entertainment. Our own Jacki Manna was the emcee and presented her great magic and ventriloquist act. She opened with a Skunky Monkey magic story of a lost and found tricky cartoon animal. Next was Jo Jo Bean, Jacki's dragon character with funny lines.

Jacki's expert ventriloquial skill was then on display with a vase that talked with a Genie inside. The Genie held on to a flower in the vase. She finished with Matilda, her senior lady friend, and her hilarious geriatric lines. Matilda had a name tag with the letters "GURAQT". She had a younger man say the letters to her, "Gee You Are A Cutie". She thanked him with a hilarious expression.

Following Jackie's acts were fun interactive games and contests. Jacki led those: separating M&Ms by teams, playing card soccer and card bowling. Club historian, Phil Schwartz had a series of Magic Trivia and "guess the magic history" games with prizes.

Three guest volunteers accepted the challenge to take a lunch sack of odd items and create a show using all the items. All three volunteers produced excellent routines and Jeremy Michaelson was able to use every item and finish as the top. Keith King and Ryan Stein also were awarded prizes.

Ravelli did a hilarious ventriloquism routine followed by the distribution of the gift exchange items. It was a fun evening for all of us and a big thank you to those who worked to make it a success: Jacki Manna, Mike Matson, Phil Schwartz and all who contributed food and gifts.

Dennis Phillips.



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

“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”

The Omicron variant of the COVID virus is said, by health officials, to be on the rise. Several months back I mentioned what pandemic biologists said about waves of variants and other pandemic concerns and how we entertainers

need to be aware of how this will impact our performances.

The bad news is that we have the Omicron variant rising. We may return to more anxiety and vigilance for a while. So far, the vaccinated seem to have far less severe illnesses and Intensive Care Units, locally, are not crammed.

The good news is that we now have vaccines and other therapeutic medicines and a better knowledge of COVID 19 and the promise of a new family of universal COVID vaccines that may not need boosters .

The other good news is that SARS 2 COVID 19 may be mutating into a far less lethal but more communicable disease, like the common cold, and may soon become just a nuisance.

Let’s hope that in 2022 we can get back toward a new normal with face-to-face , in-person performances.

As of this writing, our magic group will continue live activities until advised by most experts to do otherwise.

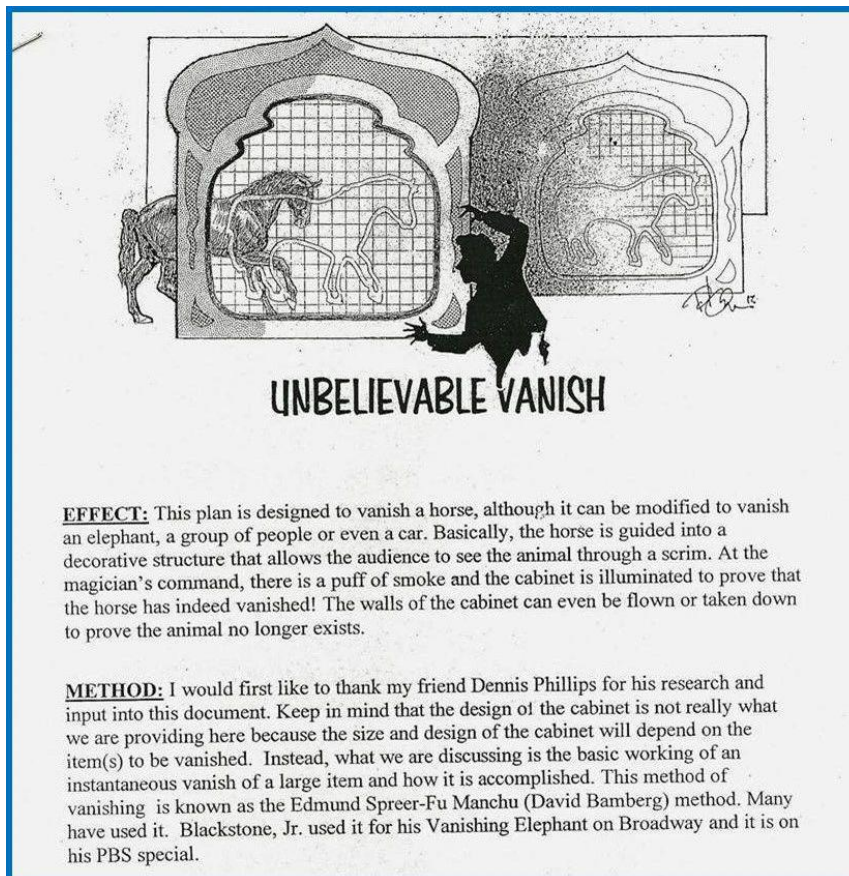
There is an entire free library of magic available online! No registration, just click and read. Bookmark this!

Here's the list of 300 public domain magic books put together by Rick Carruth and is definitely worth your time to peruse! <https://magicroadshow.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/public-domain-magic-books.pdf>

During this Holiday Season, here is a 1986 Dal Sanders commercial video with a showcase of magic.

The Unbelievable Vanish (The story behind the Paul Osborne/Dennis Phillips Plan)

If you are looking to vanish a large animal, a car, a group of people, a bus or a train then this is the plan for you! It explores the Edmund Spreer /Fu Manchu method of vanishing a large object. As a typical example we give you the vanishing horse, but this plan can be adapted to suit any situation. The basic effect is that the horse is guided into a decorative structure



that allows the audience to see the animal through a scrim. The outline on the scrim is of the horse. At the magician's command there is a puff of smoke, and the cabinet is illuminated to prove that the horse has indeed vanished! The walls of the cabinet can even be flown or taken down to prove the animal no longer exists. We give you a You Tube example as well as ideas to adapt the concept to work well with what you want to vanish.



This should explain the mechanism using two theatrical scrims and changing the lighting intensities on each. When lit inside they become almost transparent. When lit from the front, it obscures the darker interior.

Here is Lance Burton using the method to vanish a Corvette



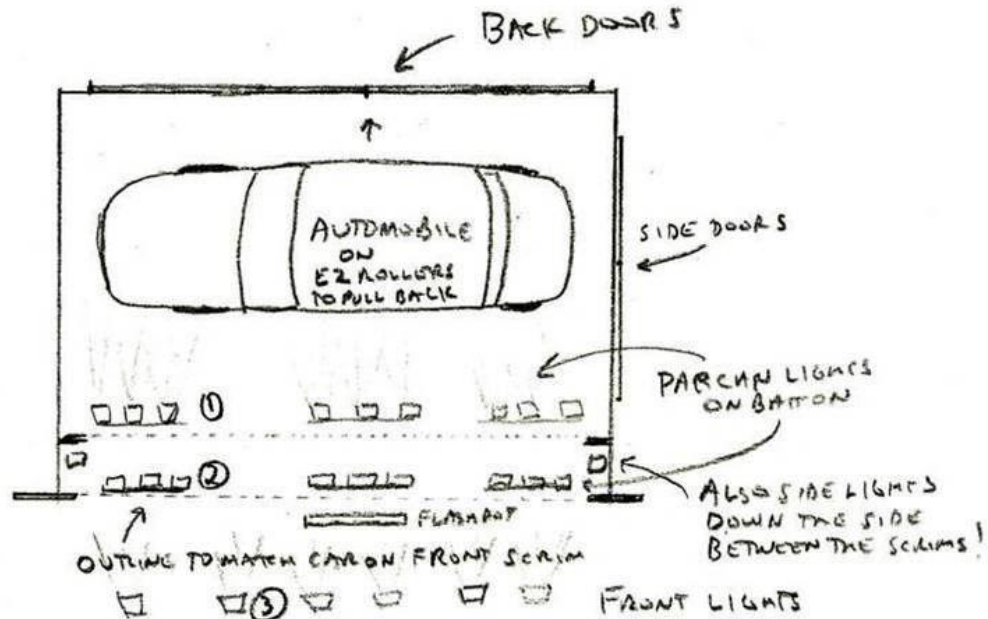
Spreer-Bamberg

- double-scrim method -

D. PHILLIPS 1985

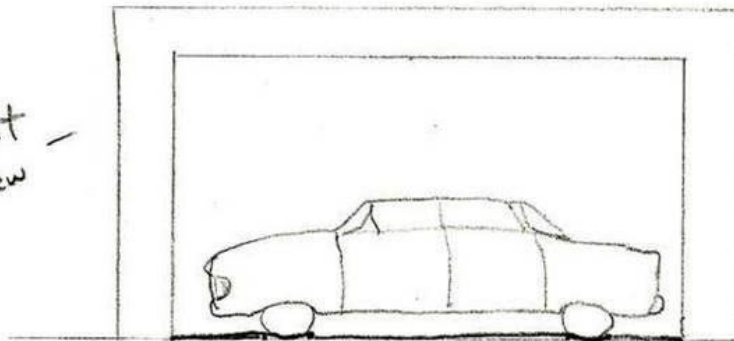
Top -
- View

NOT TO SCALE



AUDIENCE
HERE

Front -
- View



HARBOR FREIGHT
SELLS E-2 ROLLERS
FOR CARS

FOR A CAR VANISH YOU
WILL NEED A DRIVE
TRAIL OR HAVE THE
CAR IN PLACE AT THE
START

If you have some time over the holiday season, check out this extended history of magic!

https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2021/12/01/robocalls-evade-crackdowns-using-tactics-voicemail-call-lists/8819857002/?fbclid=IwAR0vr3EFuOYjU7q8MyGSEqKi5MQ-f2ZiwUxhI_4s7886rDLQi8RpquHTWPY

Just one more example of why the old “Boiler Room” Telephone Ticket sales method, that many of us used, is dead... The method was used to promote and sell illusion stage show tickets in small towns. It worked like this: A temporary small office with anywhere from 3 to 6 installed telephones and you have commissioned call operators selling blocks of tickets, along with ticket delivery people, who also “papered the town” with posters and window cards as well as collected checks from businesses. The sponsors were local Civic Clubs, Charities and fraternal groups agreeing to let their name be used in this fund-raising campaign.

This all came to an end at the turn of the 21st Century. First, the biggest destructive issue was that Walmart, and the Big Box Stores killed many local small-town businesses, and the local merchants were the mainstay of the “day room”.

These were sales of blocks of tickets as a charity donation to sponsor “the unfortunate kids and orphans” to see the show. Local merchants and businesses were far more likely to toss \$10 to \$50 in a combination sales bundle with tickets and an ad in the printed program. Walmart and the emerging shift in small town consumer retailing, killed all that. National chains were not local, and their excuse was, “Use the money you save, from shopping our cheaper prices, to make your own donation”. The whole American mindset shifted away from the focus on small town communities. This same situation killed many small town local radio broadcast stations and local newspapers.

The next problem was the actual death of the phone room mechanism itself.

The problems all began in the late 80s and telephone answering machines and then caller ID. That killed the “night rooms” or calling residences in high income zip codes to pitch family ticket passes to help the charity. Businesses started implementing screening voice mail and computer directed calls.

The mid 1990s was the end in all but the smallest “tall grass” rural towns. There simply was no way to sell tickets and generate any show demand. Couple that with 500 channel cable and satellite TV and emerging cell phones and even in rural places the travelling show became passe and no one cared. Even the Big 3 networks (Copperfield’s yearly TV Special mechanism) lost all their dominance.

I see nothing on the social or business horizon that can ever bring back the small-town traveling illusion show, as I did.

No more Ken Griffin, Stan Kramien, Phil Morris, Jerry Conklin, and Vince Carmen. I knew the method and worked it for 25 years...


RIP phone rooms and the shows, like mine, that they supported.

The Magical World of Fantasy®

Thrilling! Exciting!



Living Fairy Tales are presented through
Eye-startling costumes and Bewildering Illusions



Goldilocks meets the famous 3 Bears !



Meet Pete the Parrot and his Pirate Pals



Chinese Magic



Goldilocks appears



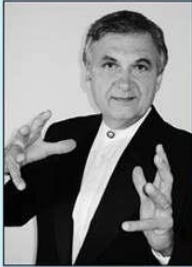
Chills and Comedy

YOU'LL NEVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE IT AGAIN!


Featuring!

America's Foremost Family Entertainer!

Dennis Phillips



He brings years of experience on stage and in broadcasting. Phillips has delighted millions with his special talents.



Dennis Phillips with Bob Keeshan, CBS Television's Captain Kangaroo

"The Magical World of Fantasy is being greeted by enthusiastic audiences of all ages. The show's cheerful cast, backed up by bright music and impressive wardrobe make this show, a show that will be remembered for a lifetime!"

What people are saying!

"As a leading Florida fund-raising promotion agency, Dennis Phillips has constantly delivered top-notch family entertainment for our campaigns"

-Ken Parker, The Martec Agency-

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"We were pleasantly surprised at how pleased the audiences were with The Magical World of Fantasy! The show exceeded all expectations !"


-John Bevis, Capital Jaycees-

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"My three children were thrilled with the show and honestly my husband and I had as much fun as they did! We want tickets for your return visit"

- Teri Frey-

Dennis Phillips




The Nation's Top Family Show !

From the moment the curtain opens you are whisked into a magical land of fairytales! The Three Bears sing and discover Goldilocks. Suddenly the magician appears and magically sends Goldilocks back home with a mysterious levitation and startling vanish!

The scenes that follow feature a haunted house, pirates on the loose, a trip to China and an American Flag-waving finale that will warm hearts.

All of this with audience participation and lots of comedy woven into a delightful stage show.



I get an e-mail from this performer at least once a week.

Click on his link : <https://www.mariothemagician.com/schoolshow>

He tours. He must know something a lot of us don't about booking shows.

37 can almost always be your magic number.

From an excellent PDF with many Math Magic ideas that I found online. http://www.mathematicalmagic.com/docs/mathsmagic_full.pdf

Street magicians like David Blaine often use this psychological trick. Ask your friend to quickly think of a two-digit number between 1 and 100, both digits odd and both digits different from each other. Concentrate, the answer is 37!

First up, this trick doesn't always work as it's not strictly mathematical! Of course in the TV shows they only show the time it did work. It's based on probability and a rather sneaky way of reducing your spectators' choice. If it goes wrong for you, hey, it's mind reading, it's supposed to be hard. You were just not tuned in properly...

You start by saying they can choose any two-digit number between 1 and 100. They will remember you giving them that 1-100 choice, it's called the *primacy effect in memory*, which means that you tend to remember the things at the start better. Two digits means 1-9 are eliminated instantly, but then you go on to say both digits must be odd. Now more than half the remaining possible numbers are gone too: all the even ones and all the ones that start with an even digit.

Then you say both digits must be different. This narrows it down even more. There are in fact very few numbers left that the spectator can choose from though they don't tend to notice this.

This is where the statistics comes in. When asked to give the number quickly, the vast majority of people will say 37. It may be that it is somewhere in the middle - 13 would be too small, 97 would be too big. It may be that the numbers 3 and 7, which themselves are the most common answers if you ask people to name a number between 1 and 10, just seem to come together. Whatever the reason there is an increased chance that you get the 37 you want.

This is a Jay Sankey effect called "Airtight" (signed card in balloon) and is strong magic!

Satan's Seat (An illusion that I built)

A throne-like seat sits atop a raised platform. The music builds to a frenzied cymbal clap. Suddenly, there is a puff of smoke at the foot of the throne and the magician appears, seated upon the throne.

Created by Tom Palmer in 1959 [born Timothy McGuire (1925-1991)]. His effect found new life in Lance Burton's Las Vegas Monte Carlo Show.

Here are some of the Paul Osborne versions with the Green Neiman-Marcus Santa Clause seat in the center. Paul considered Palmer, who also lived in Dallas, to be his mentor for illusion building.

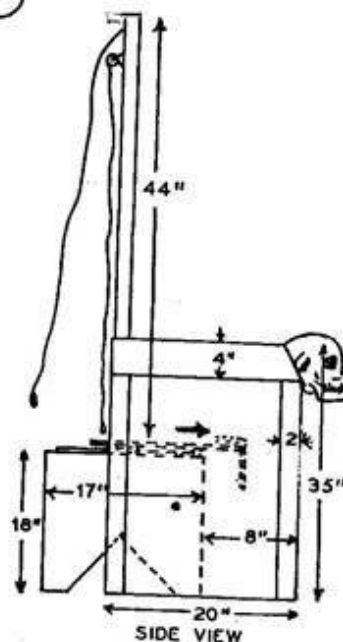
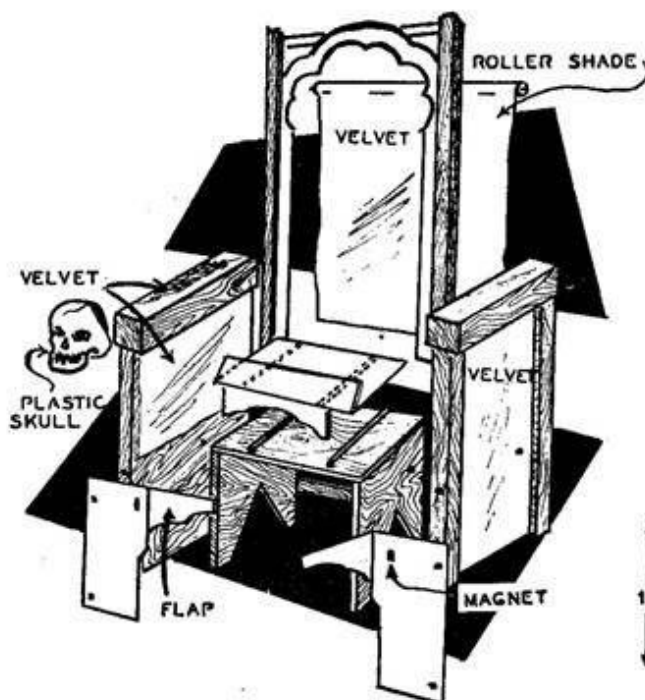


I visited Magic Inc. in Chicago in 1986, while at a costumer's convention in Rosemont, and talked with Francis and Jay Marshall. Behind the counter was what looked like a derelict, disheveled older thin man who was chain smoking. I stared at the magic contents in the counter and was met by his deep baritone voice that said "Hello". I told him that I was in town for a convention and had been standing in same spot a little less than 25 years before. He laughed and thrust out his hand and said, "I am Tom Palmer"! My heart skipped a beat and that was the beginning of us intermittently talking about magic building for about 2 hours. It was not enough time.

I told him that I had built his Satan's Seat from his plans in Top's Treasury of Illusions, published by Abbotts.

SATAN'S SEAT

BY TOM PALMER



SATAN'S SEAT

Magicians have long made their appearance from "empty" boxes, cabinets, giant books . . . but nothing seems so magical to the public as a flash appearance. After all, shouldn't the magician simply appear in a puff of smoke? However, most all flash appearances are performed in dim lights, against special back drops, and without a directed, definite focal point at which to appear. SATAN'S SEAT I hope fills the need for a different type of flash appearance in that it may be performed against a brick wall in full lights.

EFFECT . . .

The curtains part to disclose a throne-like seat atop a raised platform. Whisks of smoke rise from censers on either side as the music builds to a

frenzied thunder clap. Suddenly, there is a puff of smoke at the foot of the throne and the magician appears, seated upon the throne!

REQUIRED . . .

1. A riser or small platform.
2. Two incense bowls.
3. Satan's Seat Illusion.

CONSTRUCTION . . .

The throne is built around a rather sturdy bench which is made of three-fourth inch plywood. This bench measures 26 inches long, and 18 inches high, and 17 inches deep. Its front is open but there is a supporting brace across its back legs. Two roller drawer tracks are mounted on its top

He said that they had never used the revised plans that he sent. Apparently, Palmer discovered that the lap cloth cover should be split into two and be drawn into each arm,

rather than the single roller, as seen in the plan. He said that having no lap cloth rollers also worked. Paul Osborne said to me that often he just let the person appearing wad up the lap cloth and toss it between their legs because all the eyes are drawn to the torso.

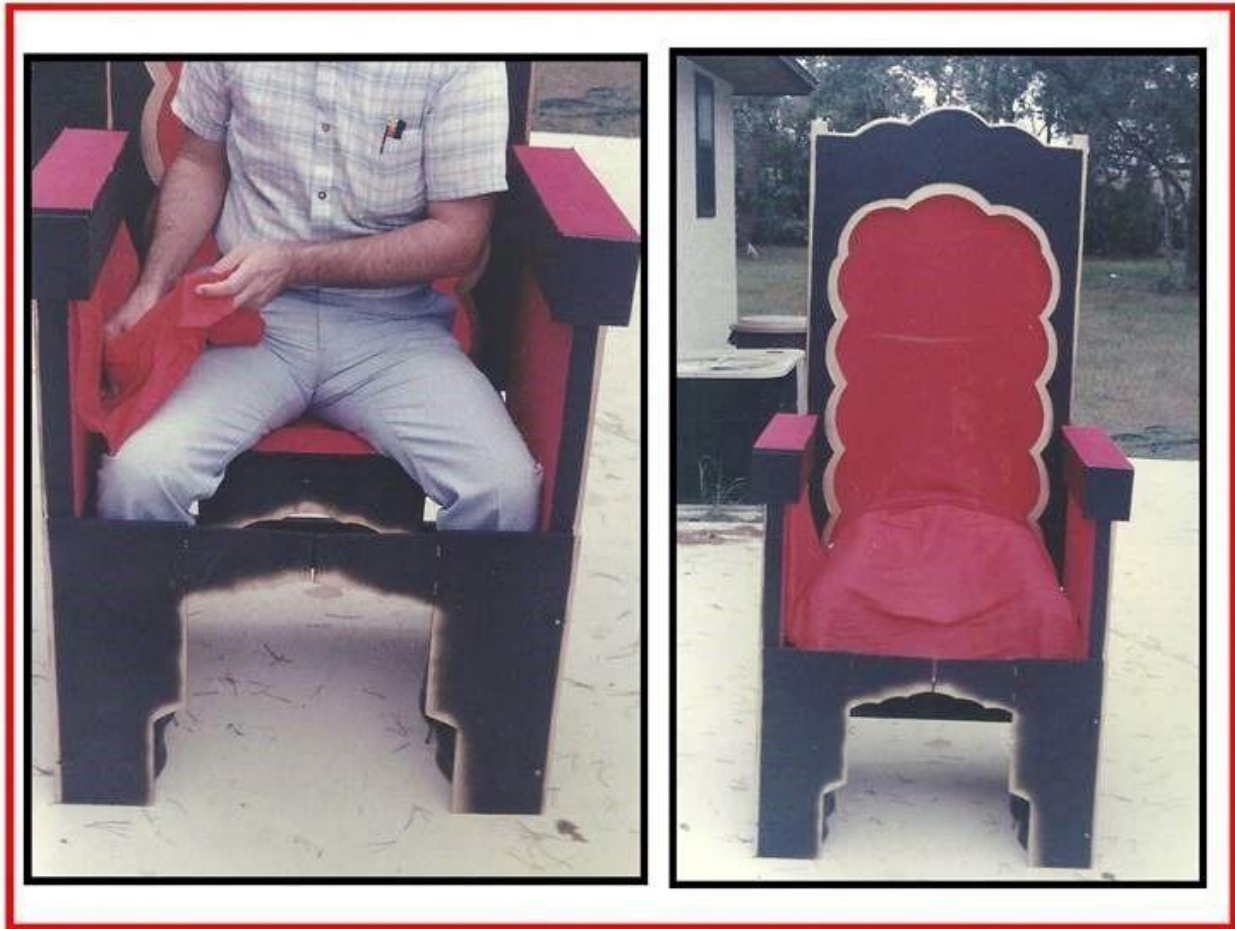
Palmer's other tip for me was using pins and rings to instantly release the roller blinds by moving our body forward in the seat during the appearance. I did incorporate those into my version, as seen in the photos.

My final version can be seen in the left photograph. The riser-platform was eventually painted. It was the travel crate getting double duty in the show. We turned it upside down and covered it with a colored cloth for the performance.

I am in the right photograph, in 1987, taking a break from building. It was a posed photo that I sent to Paul Osborne since we had a private joke about T Squares.



In the left picture, you can see me pulling the lap cloth out of the arm and in the seating position for appearance. The right photo is me sitting in the chair ready for appearance.



The photo on the left is a view looking out the throne from the back. You can see the upright torso roller blind with the two cord retainers on each side, so it does not freewheel when being released. Also, seen is the very back hanging cloth that fills in the back when the roller blind goes up.

On the right, you can see the top removed from the right armrest and the roller blind for the lap, inside.



Here are the “Palmer Pins” that pull through the holes and release the pins on the rings that are threaded on the cords, that activate the roller blinds. You can see the front and back views.



My best to all for a Happy and Healthy 2022.

Dennis Phillips