

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

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

April 2023

Michael Matson filled in for President Ryan Stiner at the April meeting. We had 36 people attending.

The entire meeting was a lecture on restaurant magic by Greg Solomon. He has been working regularly at the Gators Dockside Family Restaurant in Ocala, Florida for 14 years. His day job is as a long time Public School Elementary Physical Education teacher, so you know he is an expert with children and families and that is his focus.

He began with his openers, a paper coil out of a crayon. It is a much better way to produce a mouth coil. He did a cute “heads or tails” game with a real tail falling from his palm. It followed with some coin slights and a giant coin and a sponge frog-in-his-throat.

Greg showed a clever Svengali based card trick that he uses to sell his usefulness to the restaurant. Each card has a competitive family restaurant, and he forces the name of restaurant.

He discussed what fee he charges and said that even if it was at the low end of the scale, working steadily means you have credibility and a place for future clients to come and see you work. The most important question a prospective client will ask is, “What have you done recently?” His response is, “Come see me every Tuesday and Thursday!”

Greg has created and adapted a lot of clever props, such as a small keychain Polaroid camera toy to reveal a card.

He concluded with an excellent Ring and Rope routine that plays big at the restaurant tableside.

Many magicians use restaurant magic and its visibility to give out business cards and build their client list for bigger shows.

Meeting policy:

Face masks, if you wear one, will not be ridiculed. We are respectful that some people may be immunocompromised.

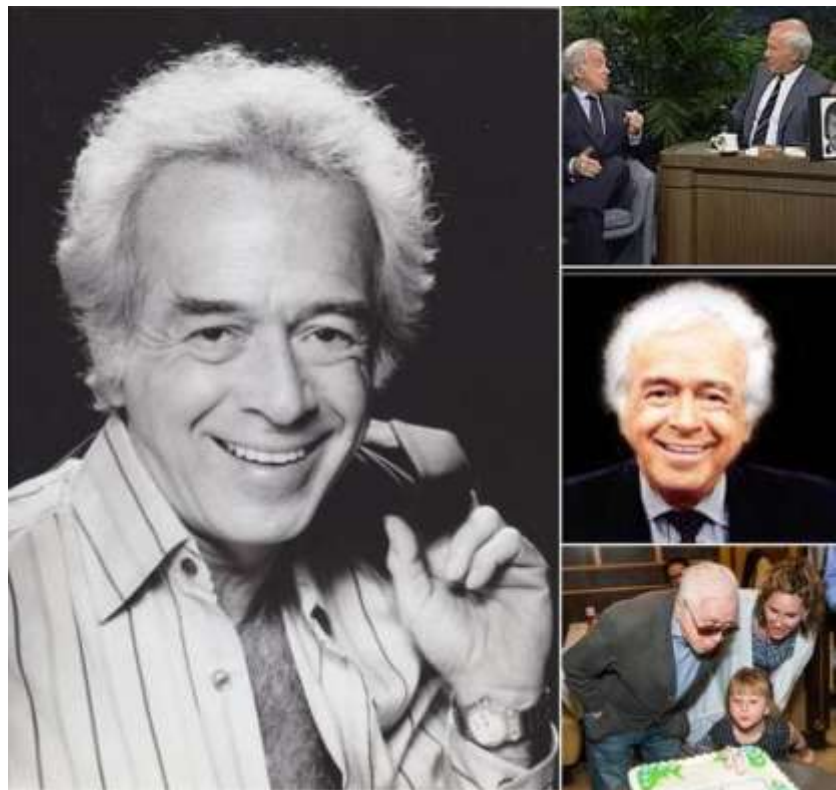
Stay prepared, healthy, and informed about current Public Health issues and contagious outbreaks.



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

“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”

We lost another icon of magic, Harry Lorrayne. He was almost 97.



I was just informed that Robert “Rob” Labby has died from Parkinson’s and Pneumonia in South Florida.

Rob and I worked together from 1981 until 1996 and he was my comic sidekick on my big illusion show and we also worked doing walk-around magic and other shows.

He appeared several times at Ring 170 events and was known in the Orlando Magic scene.

He appeared in the film, “Ernest Saves Christmas” and Network TV shows , commercial and in the late 1960s was Bozo the Clown on Houston and New Orleans TV stations.





Member Kevin Butler suggested this video. It is from Don Herbert's "Mr. Wizard" show from the 1960s.

It explains the science behind how magicians use mirrors.

He is an excellent explanation of Pepper's Ghost

A very interesting 1960s style Night Club Act.

AS VEGAS (AP) — Gloria Dea, touted as the first magician to perform on what would become the Las Vegas Strip in the early 1940s, has died. She was 100.

Dea died at her Las Vegas residence, said the director of clinical services for Valley Hospice, who was one of Dea's caretakers.



NEW YORK (AP) — The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus has been reimagined and reborn without animals as a high-octane family event with highwire tricks, soaring trapeze artists and bicycles leaping on trampolines.



The 75 performers from 18 countries will include performers on a triangular high wire 25 feet off the ground, crisscrossing flying trapeze artists, a spinning double wheel powered by acrobats and BMX trail bikes, unicycle riders and skateboarders doing flips and tricks.

The tour kicks off in Bossier City, Louisiana, from Sept 29-Oct. 1 and then goes to Ohio, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, Maryland, Michigan, Indiana and ends the year in Oklahoma. It restarts in 2024 in Florida, home to Feld Entertainment.

The show is a complete rethink of a modern circus. Feld Entertainment has been working on everything from how to integrate clowns, the branding, and the merchandise over the past four years.

“We knew we were going to come back. We didn’t know exactly how,” says Kenneth Feld, chair, and chief executive officer of Feld Entertainment. “It took us a long time to really delve in and take a look at Ringling in different ways. It became a re-imagination, a rethinking of how we were going to do it.”

The late great Fred Kaps.

Paul Daniels with His English 1985 Easter Special

Nani Darnel, the surviving half of the Mark Wilson Team
just had her 92nd Birthday.







Remembering local legend and ghost master, the late magician Harry Wise.

He was a Ring member and had an old house filled with magic on a back street in Sanford, Florida.



A delightful look back at Ralph Adams magic and illusions performed by his son.

You will see Ralph's Classic Dancing Handkerchiefs and clever creations.

Bing, the Microsoft search engine has a new AI feature.

I decided to enlist the aid of its Artificial Intelligence to answer a big question most magicians have!

Where does a magician find a job as a magician?



A great old effect from Mel Babcock, a classic builder

Looking for a classic Top Hat?

Here is the source for felt hats. Collapsible "Opera" Top hats can also be found on-line.

<https://tenthstreethats.com/collections/mens-designer-hats/products/scala-felt-derby-top-hat-mad-hatter?variant=14771608944738>



Jack Gwynn, the pioneer on big illusions on the nightclub floor.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eY9iKJM_PKc



Always safety first at a kid's show

“...Suddenly I felt that I was treading upon someone lying on the stairs and I cried in horror to those behind ‘Keep back, keep back! There’s someone down.’ It was no use, I passed slowly over and onwards with the mass and before long I passed over others without emotion...”



The Victoria Hall magic show for children ended in tragedy.

The Victoria Hall Disaster

On 16 June 1883, a children's variety show by traveling entertainers Mr. and Mrs. Fay was visiting Victoria Hall in Sunderland, England.

The traveling magic show, consisting of a variety of conjuring tricks and illusions, passed without incident, except when a puff of smoke from one of the tricks upset a few smaller children in the front row.

At the end of the show, an announcement was made that children with certain numbered tickets would be presented with a prize upon exit, as advertised.



Poster advertising the variety show at which the children died.

At the same time, entertainers began distributing gifts from the stage to the children in the stalls. Worried about missing out on the treats, many of the estimated 1,100 children in the gallery surged toward the staircase leading downstairs.

However, at the bottom of the staircase, the door opened inward and had been bolted so as to leave a gap only wide enough for one child to pass at a time. It is believed this was to ensure orderly checking of tickets.

With few accompanying adults to maintain order, the children surged down the stairs toward the door. Those at the front became trapped and were crushed to death by the weight of the crowd behind them.

Upon hearing the blood-curdling screams of their children being crushed, the parents in the auditorium realized what was happening and rushed to the door, but they could not open it fully as the bolt was on the children's side.

Parents could literally hear cracking of little bones, desperate gasps, nerve-racking moans and cries of their children being slowly crushed, as if by a giant press, to death just behind the door.

Thanks to the quick-thinking caretaker who, after failing to disentangle the pile-up, scrambled up another staircase and heroically diverted approximately 600 children to safety by another exit.

Meanwhile, other parents pulled the children one by one through the narrow gap, before one man wrenched the door off its hinges.



Sadly, it was too late for 183 children between the ages of 3 and 14, whose cause of death was found to be compressive asphyxia as a result of the stampede.

In his 1894 account, a survivor of the horrific ordeal, described the stampede and the realization that people were being crushed to death:

Soon we were most uncomfortably packed but still going down. Suddenly I felt that I was treading upon someone lying on the stairs and I cried in horror to those behind "Keep back, keep back! There's someone down." It was no use, I passed slowly over and onwards with the mass and before long I passed over others without emotion.

As expected, newspaper reports at the time triggered a national outrage and the resulting inquiry led to legislation that public entertainment venues be fitted with a minimum number of outward opening emergency exits,

which led to the invention of "push bar" emergency doors. This law still remains in force.

However, no one was ever prosecuted for the disaster and the person responsible for bolting the door was never identified.

The Victoria Hall Disaster Memorial in Mowbray Park

Queen Victoria sent a message of condolence to the grieving families and contributed to the disaster fund.

Donations sent from all over Britain totaled £5,000 (equivalent to \$750,000 in today's value) and were used for the children's funerals and a memorial in Mowbray Park.

The memorial, of a grieving mother holding a dead child, was later moved and gradually fell into disrepair, and was vandalized – it is hard to find the right words to describe those despicable psychopaths who disrespected the memory of people.

In 2002, the marble statue was restored and moved back to Mowbray Park with a protective canopy.

Meanwhile, the Victoria Hall remained in use until 1941 when it was destroyed by a World War II parachute bomb.

Like every human tragedy, this harrowing incident, too, taught us a few safety lessons that we take granted while using every day.

So, next time when you use the “push bar” doors swinging out, remember those innocent children died in Victoria Hall about 140 years ago.

The least we can do would be to honor their memory so that their sacrifice was not in vain.

Dennis