



Centennial Anniversary
1921-2021

The Flash Paper

June 2021

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Prez Sez

When we first started discussing the concept of this month's gimmick, the Power Band Bracelet, I was immediately reminded of Lulu Hurst, the first Georgia Wonder, who was born in 1869 in Polk County, Georgia. By age 15 she was famous for her demonstrations of mysterious

abilities and feats of strength. Her vaudeville act was soon in demand throughout Georgia and the entire country.

I ran across her act when I read her autobiography where she explained the great secret of her marvelous power. In her book she explained the science of it all and made, in her own words, "an ABSOLUTE SCIENTIFIC DEMONSTRATION of each one of the tests separately, so that anyone can accomplish them." A copy of her autobiography can be found in the *Digital Library of Georgia*. Many of the feats she performed could easily be adapted in developing routines using the Power Bracelet.

I also rummaged through my Dream Drawer and pulled out my Tear/No Tear Pad. It was one of those props that I liked the idea of it, but never quiet found a presentation I liked – until now. I am looking forward to using it, along with some of Stewart James' Quick Hypnotic Tricks which is a collection of pseudo hypnosis stunts you can find on Lybrary.com. Have fun with this one.

As to Coming Attractions, this month we have the Zoom Cross Pollinating Lecture from Fort Worth at 7pm on

June 21. We are putting together a Road Trip to U.S. Toy Magic Shop July 10, and National Magic Week activities with a special gathering for October to celebrate our 100 years – by which time we anticipate we will be physically gathering and Live Streaming. Lots to look forward to, see you online until we meet in person.

OMS Junior Magicians



Our OMS Junior Magicians group is growing again. In the last month we added 3 new members as we explore the tricks in the Discover Magic Green Wand course as well as related effects in Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic. So far, we have learned a trick similar to Tel-A-Vision, how to do

a lightning calculation effect, one of the phases out of the Professor's Nightmare routine, and a nifty little version of Mental Epic that uses the game Rock, Paper, Scissors as its premise. Looking forward to a productive summer.

- Steve Nespor

2021 OMS Officers

- President** – Steve Nespor omahamagician55@gmail.com
- Vice President** – Jered Schaugaard... jered.incredible@gmail.com
- Secretary** – Patrice Fisher patricekfisher@yahoo.com
- Treasurer** – Bob Gehringer gehringer@cox.net
- Sgt-at-Arms** – Amjad Alawimari mrwho.magic@gmail.com
- Executive Director** - Dave Arch dave@sandler.com



What's In Your Pockets?

For our **May monthly meeting** we asked members to reveal "What's in your pockets?" Are there certain items you always carry when you head out the door? Do you have a trick always ready for a bit of impromptu magic? Is there a favorite effect that works well on Zoom family gatherings?

Members could either name the effect without performing or share a short routine. Many performed and everyone joined in the discussion.



David Fox introduced his invited guest – **Grant Davis**. We hope Grant had a good time joining our soiree. David always provides some insight about magic and can be counted upon to show us what

he has been practicing. He showed us a handling of a bottom deal he learned from a magician he met at a truck stop. The stranger seemed fascinating because he has spent time learning various handlings from card cheats he has met as he has travelled across the country. David also showed us a couple of ways to use his marketed effect **Punch'd**. It is a device that allows a magician to mark cards in a fool-proof manner. Check out Penguin Magic for more information and other ways to use this really cool tactile tool.

Jared Schaugarad showed us a simple, powerful bent coin routine. He never fails to delight our group with his dexterity and smooth presentation. After showing us the trick, he shared some important subtleties he employs. Jared is another member who has consistently been gracious with showing us the inside his bag of tricks and sharing his expertise.

Dave Arch shared a couple of 2 in the hand, 1 in the pocket type routines, including a nice use of **Greg Wilson's FreaKey**. Two distinctly different house keys switch places repeatedly and mysteriously in this routine. It is a perfect trick to carry on your key chain and have it with you every time you leave the house!

John Sheibal showed us the Muscle Pass. This is a highly skillful move a magician can use to make a coin seemingly "jump" from one hand to another with only a subtle muscle movement of the palm. One can only imagine the amount of practice and bruises on John's hand in order to perfect this move!



Dave Madsen talked about a color changing knives routine which can, of course, be a pocket go-to for pen knives and great for walk-around close-up performances.



Travis Nye from his **Spellbound Magic Shop** in Sioux Falls popped by to share an effect and show a few things in his shop that would be good pocket tricks. He showed us

several examples of props that had been discussed during the evening. Travis discussed and showed the **Sylvest Pitch**, which is **Dan Sylvester's** "inertia pass" for disappearing almost anything. This technique is available on video at the shop. **Travis Nye** also demonstrated some paddle moves with Bic Stic style pens.

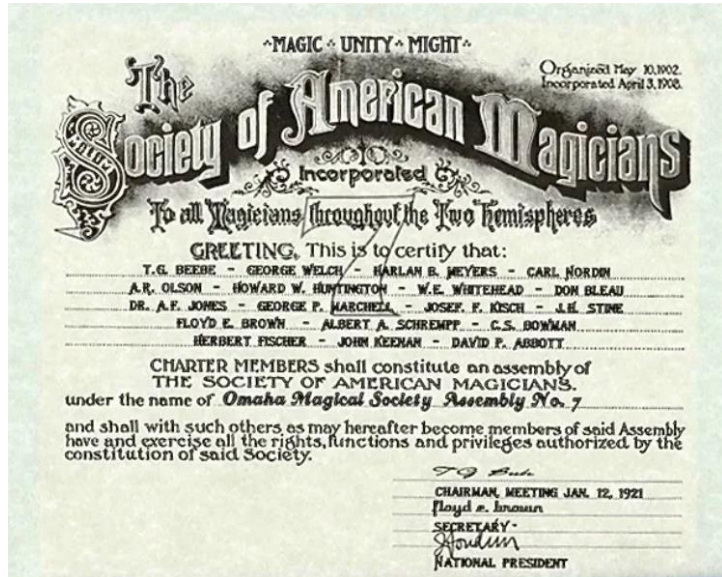
It was another enjoyable monthly get-together for our OMS members via ZOOM. As always, along with all of the effects shared, the discussions that ensued was insightful and so beneficial to the group. These shared learnings are invaluable in cultivating the camaraderie that is a big part of our club dynamic. Lots of participation and good humor made the night a real success. - **Patrice Fisher and Steve Nespor**





What's Our Magic Story? by Patrice Fisher

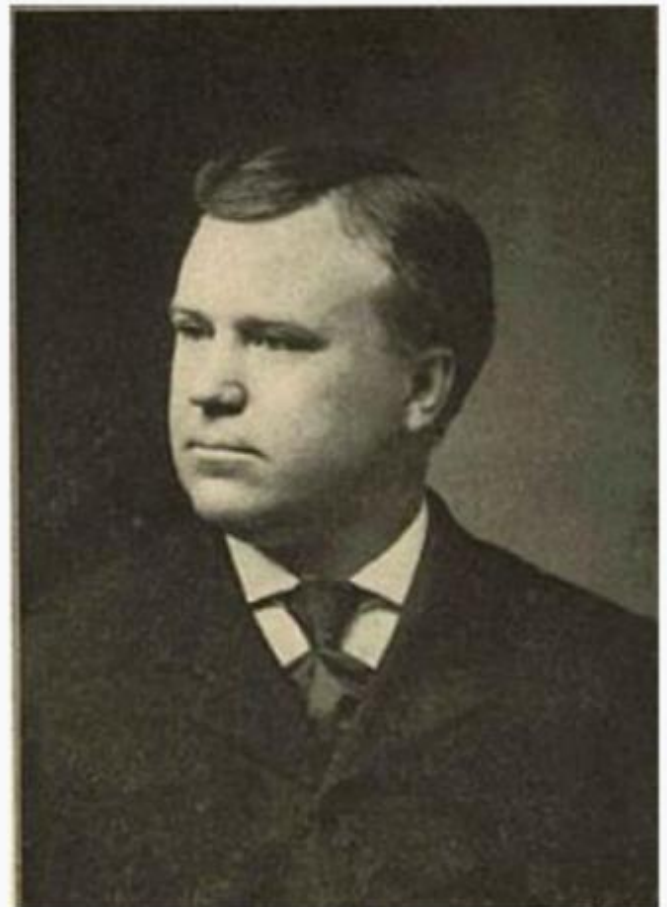
One could say that the great **Harry Houdini** was responsible for the formation of our Omaha Magical Society. As the first President of the Society of American Magicians (S.A.M.), Houdini promoted nationwide involvement and recognition. New York City was the parent association, established in 1902, becoming Assembly #1. Then came the San Francisco, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit and Baltimore magical societies. Omaha became Assembly #7 (or, as we refer to it, 007) with our Charter signed by Houdini on January 12, 1921.



I wondered why Omaha showed an interest in magic with its small population compared to the other six big cities. Simply put, we were on the main vaudeville circuit and the conduit between eastern and western U.S. entertainment venues. Omaha was a natural stop for shows traveling across the country in those days. Although our city was small, comparatively speaking, we supported all sorts of entertainment venues and, as no surprise, many folks became excited about magic.

In those early days, Omaha was the home of quite a few inventors of magical illusions as well as performers. We can thank **John Keenan**, our secretary of twenty years beginning in 1935, for taking copious meetings minutes that form a foundational history of our club. He willed \$500 dollars for the club to establish a magic library. Over these many years, that donation was the beginning of a collection of more than 1200 books that recently found a permanent home at U.N.O.'s Research Library! We can thank several of our current members for housing and then helping to establish its new academic home that can be used by magicians and researchers nationwide at the university here in Omaha.

David Abbott



Cover of Sphinx (October 1906)

A well-known inventor and magician of note in Omaha was **David P. Abbott**. Abbott was a self-taught genius who immersed himself in Einstein's theories, physics, religion, mathematics and world culture. As a successful



businessman, Abbott built his home in Omaha to be a magician's dream performance destination. By invitation only, he and his wife performed magic in their very oversized parlor. It was rigged with "supernatural" devices for his mentalism illusions, like mechanical table rappers and other secrets that his wife operated for seances, mind reading and other tricks, such as the spirit slate-writing and his famous Talking Teakettle. It is



Picture from Wild About Harry June 30, 2012

reported that he successfully fooled famous magicians of the day, including Houdini. They were friends and collaborators until, in 1922, Houdini exposed Abbott's Talking Teakettle trick. He even corresponded with **Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle**, who was fascinated by the spirit world and was trying to prove that seances could be legitimate. He became famous as an authority on spiritualism. Abbott was a debunker who never claimed to be anything more than a trickster to his audiences.



Teller and Walter Graham from the OWH Jan. 2018.

A more current story about the brilliant **David Abbott** talks about the time when **Walter Graham**, one of our very notable OMS members, **Todd Karr**, and **Teller** (of **Penn and Teller**) set out to find the lost manuscript of pages of his many inventions and step-by-step instructions that Abbott had reportedly written before his death. An article written by Teller, entitled Inside the House of Mystery, A Detective Story, is worth the read. In the article, Teller describes their hunt for the many lost pages that would complete Walter Graham's years of research to find Abbott's book. Teller writes of visiting Abbott's home with Graham to discover his behind-the-scenes operation for his parlor shows and, in the meantime, actually finding the pages of Abbott's lost work! Walter Graham owned his own printing operation and published 700 copies of The Book of Secrets in 1977. In 2005, Teller and Karr published a 900-page opus called David P. Abbott's Book of Mystery.



Throughout our history, there have been many magicians and inventors of magic effects who were active club members. **Howard Westgate** invented and sold illusions to many dealers. The magician **Howard Huntington** was a show performer in clubs around the country and was famous for his Hydrostatic Glass illusion. **Pete Petrashek**, a well-known member, was our film librarian who transferred our extensive film library to video tape. He is well loved in our club for his years of active mentorship and as a practicing magician. Today's performers still use a variety of devices invented by **Reverend Hayden**, a physics professor at Creighton University.



Dr. Tom Zepf
demonstrating at one
of our club meetings

And another physics professor at Creighton is Lifetime Member **Dr. Tom Zepf** who has produced Creighton's long running Haunted Physics Lab with many magical effects guided by the laws of physics. **Pat Hazel** is a nationally known magic comedian who became a working actor, comedy writer and warm-up act for **Jerry Seinfeld**. Probably the most well-known member of our society was **Johnny Carson**. In addition to being a local radio personality, he performed magic and ventriloquism semi-professionally in Omaha before going to California to host the Tonight Show.

The Omaha Magical Society continues to find success through the creativity and energy that makes us one of the largest and most active clubs in the nation. Many of our members have won prestigious awards including **Joe Cole** who has performed at the **Magic Castle**, and **Ryan Chandler** who was on **Penn and Teller's Fool Us**.



July 2016 cover of MUM featuring the 100th President of the Society of American Magicians, our own **Jeff Sikora**

The art of magic is shared by our very active members during special events, our monthly meetings, and through continued popularity of our junior magician classes.

Through the roaring twenties, the Great Depression, World War II and up to today's challenges with the 2019 Covid pandemic, our magic society has sustained and even grown. We have cultivated a rich history of providing various types of entertainment, mentoring, and camaraderie for our members for the past 100 years! **Happy Centennial Year, O.M.S.!**

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



NEW Magic Meeting Location?

When we start in-person meetings following Labor Day, the OMS board is leaning towards changing our monthly meeting location to **The Cross Training Center** here in [Omaha \(5030 N. 72nd Street\)](#).

You can see a few pictures of the meeting space below. On the third Monday of each month, we would simultaneously host a live meeting as well as broadcast the meeting over Zoom. There would be a host/MC for the folks who come out live to the meeting and one for those who choose to join via Zoom.



The social hall has both a stage and a ceiling-mounted projector for videos and close-up magic demonstrations and can project the Zoom screen for the whole room to see during our cross-pollination meetings with other clubs too. It also has a separate conference room with TV screens for the Junior Magicians.



The board wants to hear any questions and/or feedback from you before making a decision. Please either reach out to one of the board members (**Steve Nespov, Jered**

Blake, Patrice Fisher, Bob Gehringer, or Amjad Alawimari), or use the feedback form on our [website](#).



We're getting closer to getting back together in person! Yea! - **Dave Arch**.

Two Magic Road Trips

We're putting together two road trips in what remains of 2021. The first on Saturday, July 10, is south to the new location of the magic store at US Toy in Kansas City and the second will be north sometime this fall to the Spellbound Magic Store in Sioux Falls.

If you're interested in being part of the July day trip, please contact our Vice President **Jered Schaugaard** to get your name on the list or for more information.

Below you'll find some pictures of the newly relocated magic store in Kansas City.





OMS Power Band™ Released

In celebration of the club's one hundredth year . . . in this month's hard copy of The Flash Paper all OMS 2021 paid and life members receive one of the OMS Power Bands™ with instructions in the club's password-protected **online video library** for a three-phase routine seeming to demonstrate the uncanny capabilities of the band to stabilize the wearer's balance, flexibility, and strength.



Two new videos have been added to our club's online video library for the month of June.

Luis Villamonte's Favorite Card Force

Throughout his career, OMS member Luis Villamonte has consistently used a card force that has both been stress free for him and proven deceptive for his audiences. He shares that with us this month. . . and

The Rubber Band Through Deck

At the conclusion of his routine after putting the rubber band around his deck of cards, the spectators watch as the rubber band appears to pass through the magician's deck of cards



Club Member's Shows



Check out Ryan's upcoming shows.

<https://www.oldmarketmagician.com/shows>



Joe Cole's Schedule

<http://omahamagic.com/weekly-shows/>



The Fort Worth Magicians Club

The International Brotherhood of Magicians
Ring 15 – The Ron Clark Ring



Cross Pollination Meeting - **Fort Worth SAM #138** Monday, June 21 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

In just a few days (next Monday to be exact), we will have our next Cross Pollination event featuring **Bronson Chadwick, Jack McCoy, and Nikko Alignay** from Fort Worth SAM #138.

This will be our second for the year in what has become a popular series for the club. It will be a Zoom meeting. We will be able to gather in the church after this summer.

When ready to join, just click on this link <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108> (which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings).

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