



The Flash Paper

March 2021

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Prez Sez

I had an opportunity to do a Blue and Gold Banquet this month. Deciding which physical distancing tricks to use was the easy part. Many of the effects that use an assistant can be

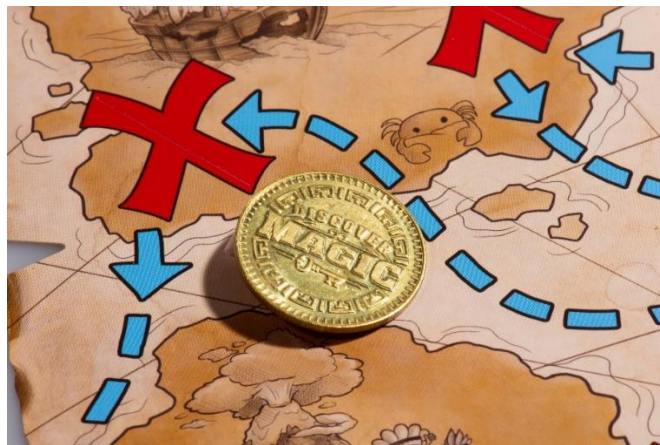
routined to make them work as a solo bit. The hard part for me was having to change my presentations to play without benefit of using the goofy facial expressions that I rely on. It all worked out in the end. The kids had fun, the adults enjoyed the reactions of the youngsters, and the client was pleased.

I'm thankful for the club members who helped me work through it and served as sounding boards along the way. To me that's one of the biggest advantages of being part of the OMS Club. Knowing a group of like-minded individuals, many of whom have more experience than I but are generous with their time and ideas. Here is to anticipating the day when we can do that in person. But until then, I look forward to seeing you online at our next OMS Zoom Club meeting.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank **Theron Christensen** for his series of thought-provoking articles the last few months. This month we have a feature article by **Bruce Jacoby**. - **Steve Nespor**



For March, our Junior Magicians are hard at work preparing their upcoming Zoom Magic Show for parents. This will be the culmination of what they have learned in the Discover Magic Orange Wand level.



Each student will perform one of the thirty tricks in this series. They have learned such things as *The Legendary Loops* (a trick credited to J. B. Bobo), the *Hocus Pocus Hanky*, a “devil's handkerchief” type effect and *The Incredible Mr. Sniffer*, a card location that employs a common party favor to create an instant puppet assistant.

We will let you know next month how it went.

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



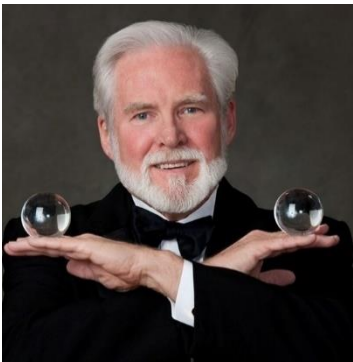
The Case of the Strolling Magician

For our February meeting we asked a few of our members experienced with performing strolling magic to show us their close-up bags, what they typically carry, and then show a few favorite effects.

THANK YOU to *Joe Cole, Steve Lindeman, Denny Rourke, Jered Schaugaard, David Fox, and Ryan Chandler* for sharing what they carry in their Close-up Bags and their go-to effects when working strolling magic gigs.

Joe Cole started the meeting by showing us the pad that he constructed to attach to tables in order to have a dedicated surface to work from and to maintain more distance during this pandemic and afterward for that matter.

Next, we were given a window into **Steve Lindeman's** strolling restaurant magic as he not only showed us his close-up bag, but also The Chicago Opener, Out to Lunch and Invisible card routines he performs.



Denny Rourke and his case



Denny Rourke had a very organized system for all of the items inside his brief case. While showing us his case, he also entertained us with his expertise in various types of card fanning and manipulation that are his specialties.

Jered Schaugaard has an emergency kit in his bag which includes a sewing kit, band aids and other supplies that can be useful when "The show must go on".

In addition, **Ryan Chandler** contributed to our meeting by showing us his custom-made leather vest that is worn under a coat and holsters various decks of cards. It was inspired by something Denny Rourke once said to him.

In essence Denny said that "magic just needs to flow out of you." The card vest was born!



Ryan Chandler / Old Market Magician and his card vest

Lots of conversation ensued after the show and tell. **David Fox** stayed around and shared some of his favorite mentalism effects.

We also took a few minutes at the beginning to conclude some official club business. Congratulations to **Patrice Fisher** who was voted to fill our vacant OMS Secretary position.

At the close of the meeting, **Bruce Jacoby** was magic and illusion show at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln, Nebraska.

As one of the attendees commented, "Thanks everyone for a fun and informative meeting." - **Patrice Fisher**





Three Lectures -Three Shows
Monday, March 15th
7 – 8:30 p.m.

The Houston IBM Ring #39 presents a Cross
Pollination Lecture for us on March 15th



**Scott
Hollingsworth**

Scott has been entertaining audiences for more than 50 years with magic. He was a pioneer in restaurant magic and wrote the first book on that subject, Cashing in with Close-Up. During his 27 years as resident magician and Entertainment Director at Magic Island, Houston’s 5-star dinner theater, he performed and perfected routines during literally tens of thousands of shows.



Scott Wells

Scott is no stranger to the Omaha Magical Society, he served as Vice President for our club under then-President Dave Arch in 1986 and was a co-founder of the Bill Morton I.B.M. Ring #259 in Lincoln, Nebraska. A Four-time winner of Houston’s “Magician of the Year”, Scott brings over four decades of professionalism to the stage



Jamie Salinas

Jamie is based out of the Houston, Texas area and is an award winner in the art of sleight of hand magic. His magic has been featured at the world-famous Magic Castle. Jamie has performed his magic for royalty, celebrities, as well as American and foreign presidents. He has been featured on American and foreign television as well.

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). Here's hoping your schedule allows you to attend.



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 gehringerr@cox.net

Sgt-at-Arms – Amjad Alawimari mrwho.magic@gmail.com



What's Your Magic Story by Patrice Fisher

Interview with Luis Villamonte

"Behind every good man is a good woman." That is certainly true for **Luis (Lou) Villamonte**, a long-time member of OMS. His wife, **Rogene**, has been his muse from day-one of their twenty-nine-year marriage. He credits her with giving him the confidence and full support to follow his dream of being a professional magician. She supported him behind the scenes, on stage as his assistant for his illusions such as The Mismade Lady, and when he needed an extra "sleight-of-hand."

For the first nine years of their marriage, Luis and Rogene performed over three-hundred main stage shows annually, and in one year they toured America across fourteen states. Those magic show earnings bought them their first home when their first born was on the way.



Lou will say that his greatest trick was raising eight children with Rogene. However, he has also taught many other students, several of whom went on to

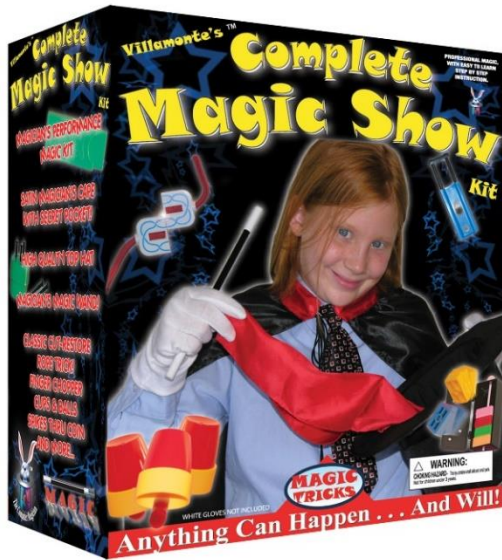
perform with him on stage. In fact, along with his son, **Vincent**, he taught and mentored **Chase Hasty**.



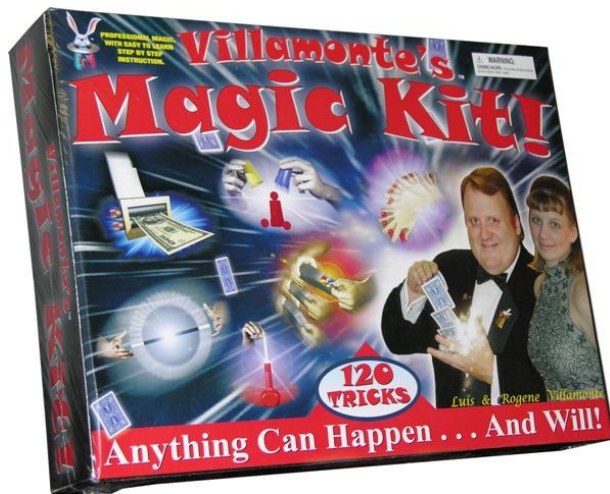
Vincent went on to win major competitions at the national and international levels. Chase lived with and learned magic from Luis starting at the age of thirteen. Interestingly, The Levitating Ladder illusion, invented by **Walter Blaney** and made famous by **David Copperfield**, was acquired by **Chase Hasty** to perform. After years of training with Lou and winning several major magic awards, Chase went on to be accepted at the Chavez School of Magic. From there Chase was booked into the Sandcastle in Guam.

In addition, Lou has served as a former president and charter member of the Lincoln Magic Club; formed the magic program for the first several years of Lincoln's Bright Lights summer enrichment classes for young people, and worked with the Society of American Magician's to develop SAM approved magic kits. For many years he gave back to his community by teaching a magic class for fourth and fifth graders.

Today, Luis owns a thriving computer business that he started in 1995 at his kitchen table. He continued his love of teaching kids by launching a website business known as www.MagicKits.com. Luis has created and designed magic kits for kids, and he also caters to experienced magicians. The site also carries items for collectors of magic. This website is the only one that is endorsed by the Society of American Magicians!



Magician's Ten Card Warm-Up



Screen shot from the video

You can still catch an occasional show headlining **Luis** and **Rogene Villamonte** at venues close to home, but nowadays their other business endeavors and being part of an active family take up most of their time.

While Luis talked about connecting with an audience, as almost an aside, he said something that every magician must master. "You must have command of your voice and body to direct an audience first, before you misdirect them

The magician takes the audience backstage to show how they sensitize their fingers even to the point of being able to tell the difference between the front and back of a playing card by touch alone. This one's easy but its method is elegant.

Check out our website:
<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



Mike Super Brings Super to Lied Center by Bruce Jacobi

Magician, **Mike Super**, brought his show to the Lied Center in Lincoln, Nebraska on Saturday, February 20, 2021. This was the Lied Center's first show following a closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They had all attendees wear a face mask and arranged seating with social distancing. Mike also wore a mask while close to volunteers or while in the audience. With all of this said, Mike performed a great show (in fact, Mike did two shoes on this day)!



Bruce and Lori at the Lied Center

The show contained some very well-known tricks to magicians, and he did an amazing job entertaining the audience. Mike has made appearances on both *America's Got Talent* and *Fool Us* in the last few years, which has definitely helped perfect his performing skills.

Mike opened his show with Gene Anderson's *Newspaper Tear*, a trick I personally love. He followed that with a bill transposition, during which he changed an audience member's bill to a one-dollar bill and then changed it back. One of his well-known tricks involves his childhood friend, Desmond, who helps Mike with his spirit slates. Desmond then breaks a glass pitcher, just like he did with Heidi Klum on AGT. He also did some PK with an audience member using his zombie doll. The audience member was Erik Gustafson from Lincoln, who was made famous by winning an episode on ABC's *Holey Moley* miniature golf competition.

Mike changed pace during the show with a close-up camera for his version of McDonald's Aces card trick. I really enjoyed it from my third-row seats. His story with it was a little different but his handling was flawless! Mike used Walter Blaney's ladder levitation with a female from the audience, an illusion I've always loved. When I see this illusion it always reminds me about the opportunity to meet the inventor at AbraCorndabra a couple of years ago. Mike followed it with a large audience participation trick next. He did a lottery prediction with several volunteers that were selected with some large balloons released into the crowd.

The show was coming to an end when Mike made a grey Hyundai appear after volunteers selected the color and make of the car. The show closed with an inspired *Snowstorm* effect, based on a Christmas snow.



Mike Super performed at the Lied Center in Lincoln

Here are a couple of observations from a magician's perspective...I'm guessing that Mike probably had not had many shows prior to these, but it is nice to hear that even professionals sometimes have sound issues. Whether they were his team's or the crew from the Lied, he did a great job getting through them. He also did a great job handling the chore of using a mask for the volunteers. Sometimes being a magician can take away from some of the "magic" during a show, and I did see some things that muggles would not see, but only because I knew what I needed to watch for. Overall, I would say it was a SUPER magic show by Mike Super! I also want to thank the Omaha Magical Society for the tickets to this performance. My wife and I had a great date at the show! - **Bruce Jacobi**



Thought Power

Negative Thinking

You won't do very well at this.

Take your pen or pencil and put the point of it inside one of the "tracks" of this border.

Then time yourself as you take your pen or pencil and go completely around the border - coming back to where you started.

You may pass over the other track, but you are not allowed to jump onto the other track.

Your time won't be very good. You might even give up!

Positive Thinking

You'll do great at this.

Take your pen or pencil and put the point of it inside one of the "tracks" of this border.

Then time yourself as you take your pen or pencil and go completely around the border - coming back to where you started.

You may pass over the other track, but you are not allowed to jump onto the other track.

Your time will be excellent! You'll feel quite successful!



Joe Cole's Schedule

- Sunday:** 6 to 8pm **Good Life Bar & Grill**
20231 Manderson St, Elkhorn, NE
- Monday:** 6 to 8pm **Good Life Bar & Grill**
180th and Pacific
- Wednesday:** 6 to 8pm **Good Life Bar & Grill**
96th & Highway 370
- Thursday:** 7 to 9pm **Upstream Brewery Downtown**
You can also see my schedule here:

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

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13405 Marinda ST.
Omaha, NE 68144

