



Magicians I Have Known

by Ian Adair

Murray

Long before I knew about Murray's, long well established magical career, I was writing to him at his Magic Mart in Blackpool. Here was a place not only magicians would make a beeline to when in the vicinity, but many show business personalities.

I was fifteen and looking for a magic table. I had purchased one from Max Andrews Vampire Magic, London, that of a Chinese design, but now wanted something different and Murray had it. He sent it to me and said, "Send the money when you can," a gesture I shall always remember. I soon got to know Murray and how famous he was in the days when magic shows were touring.

His real name was Leo Norman Maurien Stuart Carrington-Walters, and it was no surprise that he used Murray for short. He was born in Australia, and played in theaters all over the world with his full evening show. He devised many of his own stunts, mainly escapology. In fact, Murray must be acknowledged as being the person who coined the word 'escapologists.' In the past, Houdini and others used billings such as 'Escape Artiste.' At one time he would be handcuffed to a railway track with a train approaching and would always escape. During the 1970's and into the 80's, I made annual visits to Blackpool as a holiday, staying at the Stuart Hotel, the first

headquarter hotel of the Blackpool Magicians' Club's annual convention. Here I would visit him at his shop and chat about magic, often buying this and that. He always stocked unusual and interesting items. On occasions Murray and his charming wife Marion would join me at the Stuart for dinner. Murray attended many conventions during his time, in particular the British Ring convention. There I would meet up with him again and again.

He was a particular visitor (as a magic dealer) at the S.A.M.S. convention and being as attendant I would break my journey in Kendal to join him with his friend Bob Batey (Karlisle) at his Rainbow Hotel where we would stay overnight.

I own several posters of Murray and his signed book, a biography of his life written by Val Andrews.

Just before his death I met him for the last time at one of the Blackpool conventions. He was confined to a wheelchair, in very poor health, lost his wife Marion and now living in a Care Home. One could hardly imagine that here was a man who once was involved in dangerous and energetic stunts of the kind we will never see again.



Meeting Date November 3 Rope Magic

November's meeting will be the first Thursday in the month. Meeting time will be at 7pm at Artistic Blends coffee house. In December we will be having our annual Christmas Party. That will be on Thursday December 1st. We will have a gift exchange \$15-\$20 range.

New officers for 2006

this is a contact list for your 2006 officers. It is a work in progress and should be complete by the December newsletter.

John Miller, President
972 570 5358

Larry Blevins, Exec VP Programs
972 641 2544

Mark Miertschin, VP Flashpaper
972 977 8905

Billy Godfrey, VP Website
Randy Keck, Secretary

817 691 2039

Earl Warren, Treasure

Daniel Rosales, Sgt of Arms

Bob Utter, Historian

Upcoming magical events:

November 5/6 Calvacade of Magic,
Oklahoma City

November 10 Mark Wilson lecture

November 13 Houston Magic
Auction

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

"The Holiday Season is here, and I hope filled with cheer, and may Santa fill your stocking with those things that are dear, like magic tricks, books, thumb tips, books, card decks, books, silks, books - well I could go on for a year, but have no fear, I'm gonna quit right here....."

What's in store for you under the new administration? Well, the first event is the Mark Wilson lecture on Thursday the 10th of November. A 'free' member special for just being a member of the FW Magic Club. Mark started here in the Dallas area with his well known "The Magic Land of Alakazam" on TV. For non-members the cost will be a bargain at \$25.00.. Actually thanks for this goes to the previous administration. .

Since this is not on a regular meeting night we will still have our regular meeting on the 3rd of November at the Coffee House. Further information will be forthcoming.

Then the big event for the Season will be the Christmas Party on our meeting night, December 1st... We are putting a lot of work on this to make it a fun event for you. It will be with the Season and fun and busy and food will be served.. So to be a part of this, GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN RIGHT NOW.. We have to have a head count to know how many to prepare for. If you don't reserve you won't get to eat.. This is an 'OPEN' meeting at 'no cost' to members. Another Club member benefit. Guests, family members and visitors are welcome but will have a \$10.00 per person charge. A number of activities are being planned for the occasion.

Look for our new website.. You can find it at:
www.fortworthmagiciansclub.org

You will find an ease of navigation, event information, directions to meeting place including map, calendar and other pending facts and Magic Community information for your use.. Here you will find future things in the happening. I would like to thank Bruce Chadwick for his help in making this a possibility.

Then in January the regular meeting will be held on the 5th if my calendar is right. Following that we will have Shawn Farquhar as a lecturer. Find the information on specifics coming. Happy Halloween, Tasty Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and may the Season be with you..

J.K. Miller

Member Profile: Mark Miertschin



In the immortal words of Eddie Murphy's character in the movie 48 Hours, "You better watch out there's a new Sheriff in town!" that's right you have a new editor of the "Flash Paper." I want to give our rag a little "umph," that's what I need you for. I want this to be about our members and for our members, not just a recap of what happened at the last meeting. I will and want to include just about anything (birthdays, anniversaries, show dates, etc...) One feature is this one, the member profile. We all have an interest in magic, but what other things do our members have in common. So to prove it isn't painful, I will begin with a little info about myself.

Family: Denise(w), Joshua(s), Amber (d), Melissa (d), Jerry(s).

Occupation: telephone man

Other Interests: Scuba diving, video editing, acting, flying, clowning and video games

Favorite Magic: Stage & Comedy
First Magic Book: Mark Wilson's complete course



Artistic Blends Coffee house

Directions:

From 35E

Head west on I-20 (Towards Hulen mall). Exit on Grandbury Rd, turn South ('Left') under the bridge and past the Panchos Mexican Buffet.

Turn 'Left' on Wonder Dr. and make a 'Right' into the first parking lot.

We are the old Wedgwood Theater.

New Member Roster

In an effort to get our current members as correct as possible, our Exec VP, Larry Blevins, has come up with a member profile. On the following pages you will find a copy. Please fill this out and get it back to any of the new officers. We are very aware that some do not want info about themselves spread about. You can fill out the form as completely as you want or not. This is just an effort to get information out to you as effeciantly as possible. If you want a copy of the Flashpaper in hard copy form, please note that on your member profile survey. Otherwise we will be distributing the Flaspaper via email.

**Fort Worth Magic Club
Membership Survey
October 2005**

Name: _____
Please Print (Last) (First) Middle

(Picture)

Occupation: _____

Performing/Stage Name: _____

When did your magical interest begin: _____
Date

Home Address: _____ , _____ , _____
City State Zip

E-mail Address: _____

Web site: _____

Phone: _____ , _____ , _____
Home Work Cell

Magical Classification: (select one)

- Full Time Professional
- Semiprofessional
- Amateur
- Historian
- Collector
- Other _____

Membership: (select all that apply)

- International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM)
- Texas Association of Magicians (TAOM)
- Society of American Magicians (SAM)
- Alliance of Illusionist
- Fort Worth (Ren Clark Ring 15)
- Dallas (Willard the Wizard Ring 174)
- Fellowship of Christian Magicians (FCM)
- Other: _____

Awards:

Identify: _____

Special Interest: (select one)

- Close-up (Cards, Coins, etc)**
- Street**
- Restaurant**
- Stand-up/ Parlor**
- Mentalism**
- Stage (Illusions)**
- Other** _____

Type Performance: (select one)

- Children**
- Comedy**
- Gambling**
- Bizarre**
- Animals (Doves, Rabbits, etc.)**
- Identify:** _____

Meeting Type: (select one)

- Lecture**
- Performance**
- Workshop**
- Teach a Trick**
- Identify:** _____

(Please include summary of magical experience to be included in club biography)

- I give my permission to include basic information on Fort Worth Magic Club web site:
Name, Contact information, picture, type shows**