



Silent Mora-Ray Goulet
www.Ring122.com
Jan. 2017

THE SILENT MESSENGER

Yankee Gift Swap

Our December meeting ended 2016 in Ring 122's usual manner: with a Yankee Gift Swap. Before the gift swap, we traded stories about some new tricks and offers that we saw advertised for the holidays, and Bruce Fenton demonstrated a new purchase of his, The Jar by Kozmo.

When Kozmo lectured to our club a few years ago he showed us an early version of this trick that used a baby food jar that made us all chuckle when he revealed the work in this switching device. This original idea has been reworked into a larger, ordinary-looking jar that adults use around their homes for a variety of purposes— its transparency, commonness, and utility make it look incredibly innocent.

After some more conversation, we got down to the gift swap. This year there were many more good gifts than in years past—the Stinky Gooey Science Kit seems to have stopped making the rounds of our annual swap. Several good books, lecture note sets, and some good magic tricks were swapped more than others during the night, so there was plenty of action and good-natured rivalry in the club that night.

—Patrick Farenga

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 25, 2017, at 7:30 PM, 35 Summer St., Watertown, MA.

Theme: Show and tell (or just tell) us about your favorite tricks to perform for kids.

The President's Letter

The First Encounter

Many of you are well versed and accustomed to performing for children.

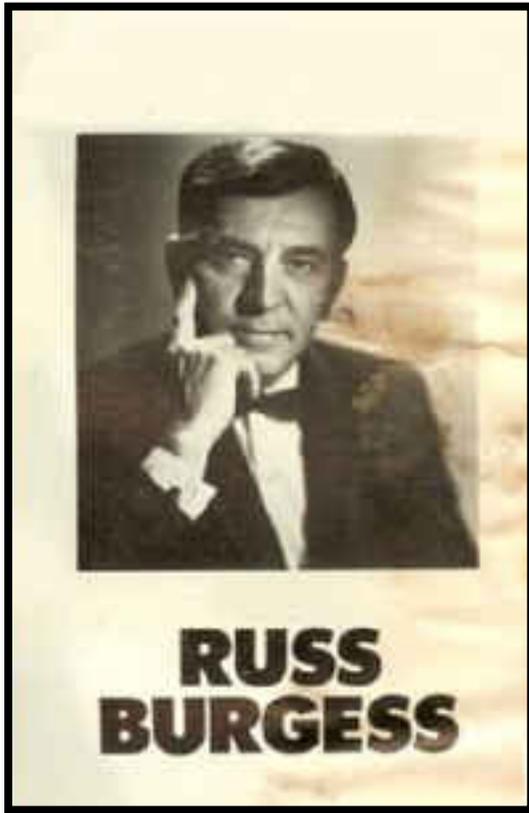
My experience is limited to the grandkids and their friends at birthdays and the fond recollections of the first magic shows that profoundly influenced me many, many years ago.

From the first grade, we always knew it would be a special day when a conglomeration of boxes, trunks, and tables were set up in the Library. That meant that The Great Gordini was about to lead us through a frenetic series of adventures that involved water coming out of someone's elbow into a funnel and cutout rabbits that were never where they were supposed to be. Gordini's energy was infectious and by the end of the show, the young audience was bouncing off the walls as if they had each consumed two pounds of chocolate.

My first encounter with a Big Time celebrity was at the Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet, a high-falutin' affair that required endless preparation. Haircut, shoes shined, badges properly stitched, very much like what I imagined a trip to Hollywood would entail. No matter how fast we ate the chicken and the ice cream with the red stuff in the middle, amid heated discussions about who had the best pinewood derby car, the speeches and awards seemed to drone on forever. The grown ups never understood that we were here for one reason only, Russ Burgess.

Finally he appeared from the back of the room, looking suave and resplendent in a black tuxedo and a neat row of live parakeets perched on each arm. The birds were quite athletic as they performed a variety of circus acts on a tabletop. One even rode a bicycle on a high wire! The second half of the show was pure magic and mystery. Where did the milk go? It should have leaked through the newspaper. There was one amazement after another and Russ Burgess always delivered. Each trick was more astonishing than the last, right up to the most amazing thing we had ever seen, The Razor Blade Trick. While my fellow Scouts sat motionless with their jaws in their laps, something primal stirred within me at that moment. I had to know how he tied all those razor blades together in his mouth without bloodshed. He obviously knew what he was doing—he was wearing a tux. But how?

After the show, I went up and told him how much I enjoyed it, all the while searching,



searching for some clue. He just smiled. The seed had been planted.

On the way home, I mistakenly announced my intention of learning this great secret, which Mom abruptly ended with a single word. After that, every trip to a magic shop was prefaced by the phrase; NO RAZOR BLADES! This continued until I was 27. But there was so much more to learn and I have those two great magicians to thank for giving me the great gift of curiosity.

Very few kids today would know what a razor blade is, and their parents would probably call a lawyer if you showed them. More complicated times make it more difficult to fool them now. Nonetheless, an entertainer of children still has a vital mission, to insert a few gentle question marks into their lives. It's good for their future. Don't you agree?

Note: Russ Burgess went on to become a successful mentalist and hypnotist and is a good friend of Ray Goulet. He lives in Ashburnham, MA.

—Bruce Fenton

Addendum

Bruce notes these items to be discussed at 7 PM prior to the Ring Meeting:

- Ann Goulet is in the hospital. We have no word on her condition as of press time (1/18/17).
- We need performers for our May 20th Benefit Show in Wellesley. This is an important event that will benefit Alzheimer's research and Ring 122 together. Shows such as this are an important source of funds for our lectures. . Please contact Gil Stubbs (gilstubbs@gmail.com) to join the show.
- Determine if we wish to continue with the Meetup.com subscription which is due (\$30).
- Book lecturers for the spring meetings.

2017 Ring 122 Meeting Schedule

Jan. 25: Members share their favorite children's show magic.

Feb. 22: Members perform an effect from Tarbel or The Linking Ring.

March 29: Walk-around magic teach-in by our members.

April 26: Lecture (TBA).

May 31: Lecture (TBA).

June 28: Teach-in (TBA).

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IBM RING 122, Silent Mora–Ray Goulet

Website: <http://www.ring122.com>

Meetings take place the last Wednesday of every month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown, 35 Church Street.

Ring 122 Officers for 2016

President: Bruce Fenton, galahad37@hotmail.com

1st Vice President: Kevin Butler, kevibutler@comcast.net

2nd Vice President: John Sanbonmatsu, js@wpi.edu

Treasurer: Daryl Vanderburgh, 508-655-8553 dvanderburgh8@gmail.com

Secretary: Debbie O'Carroll, 978-462-9954 debbie@debbieocarroll.com

Sergeant-at-arms: Bob Filene, bobfilene@alum.mit.edu

Board of Governors: Alan Wassilak, Pat Farenga, and Jerry Schiowitz.

The Silent Messenger is published every month except for July and August.

The deadline for submissions is the eighth of the month. Articles, inquiries, and letters can be emailed to the editor:

• Pat: pfarenga@comcast.net