

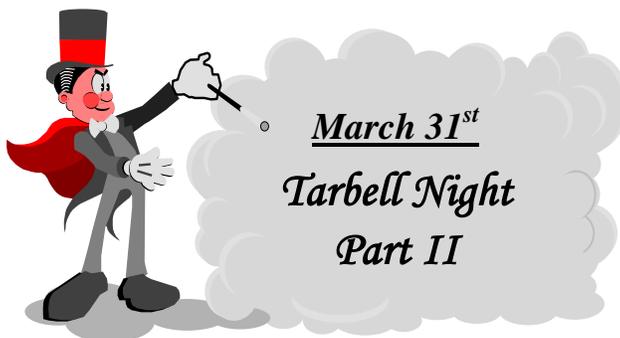
# THE SILENT MESSENGER

Published by I. B. M. Silent Mora Ring 122  
Boston, Massachusetts

Vol. 57, No. 7

March 2009

If you liked last month's an even bigger treat this compeers will spread a magic over **Ray's** Phase II of Tarbell Night, **Rob Kinslow, Jim Debbie O'Carroll, Steve Daryl Vanderburgh** and scheduled to show us some doctor prescribed in his



time the last Tarbeller completes her or his demonstration, we'll have seen eighteen effects from this now eight-volume collection, and that still leaves an abundance of things magical to explore within the pages. It's also material aplenty for Ring 122 Tarbell nights throughout this century, and hopefully beyond. For March, the recipe remains the same: plan your routines for ~ five to seven minutes, and include a short reference to the Tarbell volume and some explanation. There'll be a good cross-section of styles, subjects and faces to reflect upon by the time March fades into April – maybe even a few “foolers.” Part I was excellent; looking at the lineup for Part II pretty much ensures the same. We'd love to have you with us so please make every effort to join us on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Our business meeting will start at 7:30 followed by the balance of Tarbell.

meeting theme, you're in for month as ten additional bunch of Tarbell-inspired showroom. For March's **Dan Bybell, Al Ferraris, Loscutoff, Jared McNabb, Rogers, Marty Sasaki, Alan Wassilak** are more of what the good course of magic. By the

## March Notes

*It's Tarbell Night again in March as Part II completes our visit with this legendary compilation of magic and performing. A trip through Tarbell is the perfect lead-in to a visit with a living legend in April when John Calvert joins us. Come on out as we complete the two-part tribute to the Tarbell collection on March 31<sup>st</sup> at*

**Ray Goulet's Magic Art Studio**  
**137 Spring Street**  
**Watertown, MA**

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President: Rob Kinslow	45 Singletary Lane Sudbury, MA 01776 978-618-6609
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**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES AND INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN  
APRIL'S SILENT MESSENGER IS APRIL 15, 2009.**

## *From the Editor*

So weather-wise, February wasn't all that much better than January, and March came roaring in leonine-like, although it has also tossed a few tempting spring-like days our way. Perhaps we're actually close to the end of this winter. I guess we'll know for sure at our next get-together as March's exit coincides with our scheduled meeting date. Here's hoping that the lamb appears and we experience weather warmth to match our anticipated compeer warmth. I'd call it a plan.

Tarbell I was a pleasant affair and I expect much the same from Tarbell II. The Tarbell collection now consists of eight volumes and the content within those pages is almost inexhaustible, just what you'd want with you were you stranded on a desert isle. Imagine how busy the Professor and the rest of the castaways would've been had the collection washed ashore on their "tropic island nest." **Rob's** pre-meeting workshop on the Chinese Sticks added to the night. We had a nice pre-meeting turnout with good by-play and many bits of information exchanged. It's always more magical when our compeers gather to share and confer.

In working through the Tarbell piece that **Dan** assigned me, I took the time to browse several of the other volumes and chapters, something that I almost never seem to get around to anymore. It still amazes me to see how much is crammed into the collection. I bought a set for my son when he was younger and I recall telling him, that if it's magic, it's in Tarbell somewhere. The cross-reference in Volume Seven makes finding things a bit easier but it's most enjoyable to just pick up a volume or two and stroll through at random. You won't be disappointed; I've never been.

Tarbell was the first magic book I ever read. I couldn't afford to buy it back then but Lou Tannen, every young New York area magician's grandfather, let me read from them. I'd been spending everything I earned on buying "tricks" instead of acquiring magical knowledge, probably like most new magician wannabes. It was during my occasional opportunities to read Tarbell that I realized that, dollar-for-dollar, your best value comes from books (nowadays many would opt for video but you'll still get an argument about that from me). When you read, you're forced to think and interpret, using the words as a jumping off point for personalizing the effect. The description serves more as a tutorial than a cloning device. Plus, you get the benefit of instant review without having to stop and rewind. Video is excellent but it augments not trumps the written word. And the Tarbell collection is the "seven-no-trump" of magic writing.

Take the time to peruse almost any of the volumes and you'll find a lot of philosophy, history, psychology and background as well as tips on learning, presenting and entertaining with magic. There are even sections covering associated subjects (comedy, theater, business, etc.) It's as complete a compendium as you can find, and you can get all eight volumes for under \$200 – a modern day magic bargain.

A criticism often heard is that the material is dated and no longer "relevant." Granted, if you performed exactly as described, some of the presentations and a lot of the patter might not resonate with today's crowd, but the magic underlying the specific effect is absolutely valid for the performer who'll mold it into her/his style. It's dated in the same way that the Bible and *Casablanca* are dated – classic. It would be hard to imagine any innovative reader failing to come up with novel twists to the Tarbell content after spending even an hour in the chapters. Try it and I'm sure you'll be surprised at how imagination-provoking they are.

Harlan Tarbell died in 1960 but for me, he'll always be the guy who taught me what becoming a magician is all about. I'll bet there are a lot of others who share that feeling. Here's to you Harlan; ruminating on your wisdom has been a pleasure. Thanks, **Dan**, for prompting my rediscovery of an early love.

Al Ferraris  
41 Medway Street    aferraris@juno.com  
Norfolk, MA 02056    (508) 528-8523

A stylized, cursive signature of the name "Al" with a decorative flourish underneath.

## *Meeting Report*

**Rob Kinslow** began the meeting with a moment of silence in remembrance of our compeer **Joe Rheaume**. **Rob, Jim Canaday** and **John Cuddy** participated in **Joe's** Broken Wand Ceremony, conducted by the Rhode Island Society of Magicians.

The treasurer's and secretary's reports were accepted by the members. We held a second reading for **Jerry Schiowitz** and welcomed him as a member of Ring 122. We held a first reading for Ken Goldman and welcomed him as a provisional member of Ring 122. **Debbie O'Carroll** discussed the emails she received from potential lecturers. We'll appoint a new member to our Board of Governors to replace **Joe**.

The John Calvert Society of Young Magicians Assembly 29 has invited Ring 122 to attend their meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Burlington MMBA Learning Center in Burlington, Mass. at 7:00 PM.

**Lou Taris** made a motion that the lecture charge for members-in-good-standing be reduced to \$5.00. **Jim Canaday** seconded the motion and it was accepted by the members.

**David Penn** updated us on our kid's show on May 16<sup>th</sup> at Camp Evergreen. **David** will contact all the performers to get information for a press release.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

*Debbie O'Carroll*

## *Names in the News*

- Don't miss **Jim Canaday's**, Magic Portal website at <http://mysite.verizon.net/jhcanaday> -- there's always something interesting for you.
- And don't forget our good friends who can use a pick-me-up: **Marcelo Contento** at **P. O. Box 396, Watertown, MA 02471-0396** and **Anthony Murphy** at **11 Angel Road, North Reading, MA 01864**. Drop them a card to say hello and perk up their spirits.

## *Tarbell Time*

Eight compeers kicked off our two-meeting tribute to the genius of Harlan Tarbell in a reprise of Tarbell night. Our compeers, after being assigned routines from the Tarbell collection, brought the words to life in short presentations/explanations. Besides providing entertainment, their efforts were meant to inspire us to mine this treasure trove of magic in search of variations on the basic themes. They certainly accomplished that, and much more, in Part I of this Ring 122 favorite.

But the night actually began much earlier as **Rob Kinslow** hosted a pre-meeting workshop/discussion on the Chinese Sticks. **Rob** had a very nice cross-section of members in attendance as he led us through a pretty thorough look at these simple devices. Several compeers added comments based on their own experiences and **Ray** punctuated the dialog with some interesting pieces of history. Almost everyone had something to contribute and it was an excellent thirty minutes. Here are two performing suggestions that emerged for users of the sticks: hold the sticks as a slight "V" to enhance visibility; consider keeping one stick in the hand you use to pull down the tassel on the other stick – it'll help keep the strings at the proper length.

Thanks, **Rob**. It was a good group session. There's actually very little in the magic literature (or video) realm on these beauties. Anyone out there think about writing something up? Now, on to the Tarbell magic.

First up was my nominee for the best themed routine of the evening as **Kevin Butler** reprised Ted Collins's Panama Rope Mystery (Volume 2, page 368). **Kevin** really took the routine to heart and wove the Panama part nicely throughout the effect, a cut and restored rope bit. He even donned a Panama hat (of sorts) and adopted a Spanish dialog (although heavily laced with Bostonian accent) in a cute and effective routine. This is my choice as most clever adaptation of the assigned Tarbell piece. Good job, **Kevin**.

**Lou Taris** stepped up next in what had to be the most straightforward presentation of the night. **Lou's** theme was various coin vanishes using paper devices (Volume 2, page 92) and that's what we got – no frills, deadpan delivery, wry humor, what you see is what you get. The essence was to cause a coin to disappear when folded up in a square of newspaper. **Lou** showed us three variations that were simple to construct and relatively easy to perform. They could be good utility moves in a larger coin routine. Thanks for the variety **Lou**. Try not to be so boisterous next time.

Card bits began when **David Penn** showed us Bob McAllister's Bet-a-Dollar Color Change (Volume 7, page 114). This was a two-deck effect wherein a selected card from deck one was supposed to lead to the discovery in a dollar-bill wrapped second deck, hence the name. Unfortunately, **David** showed us that even a Tarbell piece isn't always a sure thing so if you choose to do this one, don't up the ante by using a larger denomination bill. Nice effect, **David**. We're all human.

Sticking with cards, the mastermind behind the various Tarbell assignments, **Dan Bybell**, took his turn in the barrel with Al Baker's Twin Soul (Volume 1, page 229). This was a two-card prediction that used **Debbie O'Carroll** and **Rob Kinslow** as assistants. **Dan** made two predictions, then had **Debbie** and **Rob** randomly deal down to select their cards. After some by-play, **Dan** revealed **Rob's** selection but struggled a bit with **Debbie's**. Fortunately, he didn't bet even a dollar on this one so at 50%, he still managed to beat the odds and go home none the poorer. And neither did we. Thanks, **Dan**.

And even more cards as **Doug Rickenback** showed us his handling of mentalist Ted Annemann's Synthetic Sympathy (Volume 5, page 194). I was kind of hoping for the bullet catch here but this was a nice two-deck prediction – and it was completely successful! **Doug** had a crisp presentation, adding a number of quick, one-line posers to fill the time as the decks were handled and shuffled. My personal favorite was the oft pondered, "Why don't we ever read a headline saying, 'Psychic wins lottery'?" Who knows, but based upon your performance **Doug**, I hope you bought a ticket after our show.

Finally **Pat Farenga** closed out the cards and prediction themes with Ken Beale's Triple ESP Prediction (Volume 7, page 40). Tackling a triple prediction this evening had to be daunting but you'd never know it from **Pat's** smiling countenance. He confidently placed three ESP cards in front of three assistants, then after getting them to agree on a random number, used it to pull out three companion cards from a second deck. Oh yes, they matched perfectly. Nicely done, **Pat**. Follow **Doug** to the lottery counter.

**Jim Canaday** switched to ropes and knots with a potpourri from Volume 3, pp 96-103. **Jim** spun a nice storyline through the demonstration recalling his days as a boy scout while the twine he twiddled yielded a number of appearing and dissolving knots. Thanks **Jim**. That was a lot of magic from a short piece of rope.

Closing the evening was **Dave Tolstrup** showing us a selection of silk effects from Volume 1, pp 382-388. Knots suddenly appeared, mysteriously faded away, and even jumped around on the multicolored hanks. **Dave** even showed us one that had to be made of space-age fabric as it completely melted through a rope and even **Dave's** arm. Maybe it came from Roswell. At any rate, you were terrific **Dave**, maybe even a little "other-worldly." Can you do that with a puppet?

So, our initial eight-man lineup did a commendable job with their Tarbell selections. Our follow-up ten (we threw in a DH for March) in our Tarbell double header will surely do their best to make it an enjoyment sweep. Personally, I think our compeer nights provide the best magical entertainment value. It's nice to see the pros in lectures, but it's hard to beat the enthusiasm of a bunch of folks from Ring 122 – even **Lou**. Thanks to each.

*A nice dose of Tarbell for a February evening. Thanks to **Kevin, Lou, David, Dan, Doug, Pat, Jim and Dave** for doling out the delightful portions. We saw some interesting bits of magic and some clever presentations. And let's not forget **Rob's** pre-meeting confab. But what else would you expect from Ring 122ers? New members **Ken Goldman** and **Jerry Schiowitz** won our raffle drawings, taking home videos featuring Paul Harris and some rope routines respectively. And thanks to **Gil Stubbs** for bringing some tasty chocolate chip cookies straight from his hospital show gig. We can use some volunteers for the second installment of Tarbell Night in March. It could be you.*

## ***Coming Events***

### March 28

This is very last minute but SYM 29 is putting on a magic show at Sharon High School (180 Pond Street, Sharon, MA) on Saturday, March 28 at 7:30. Tickets are \$10 (adults) \$6 (students and seniors) available at the door or via [sym29boston@aol.com](mailto:sym29boston@aol.com) or call 781-784-429. Proceeds go to the school's National Honor Society project benefitting orphaned children in South Africa. See the publicity poster below.

### April 10

SYM 29 invites us to join their monthly meeting at the MMBA Learning Center, 20 Blanchard Road, Burlington, MA. Directions can be found on the website: [sym29.webs.com](http://sym29.webs.com). If you attend the March 28 show, you can tell them how much you enjoyed it.

### April 28

A visit from a living legend. John Calvert at **Ray's**. Need I say more?

### May 16

The Ring 122 children's magic show at Camp Evergreen. More details to follow as the show fleshes out and plans get firmed up.

### May 16

At 8:00 PM at the Manhattan Center in midtown, New York City (311 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street, across from Penn Station - easy access by train and subway), SAM Parent Assembly 1 hosts the 100<sup>th</sup> annual salute to magic, the longest running annual magic show in U.S. history. The performers include Carl Ballantine, David Ben, Mike Caveney, Scott Interrante, The Pendragons, The Amazing Randi, Margaret Steele, Johnny and Pam Thompson, and many surprise guests. Tickets are \$75, available at <http://www.sampa1.com/salute.htm>. Group pricing is also available (Tom Klem; 212-725-5258)

### May 26

More lecture enjoyment in May as Bob Fitch comes to **Ray's** for a discussion on theatrical skills.

### June 30

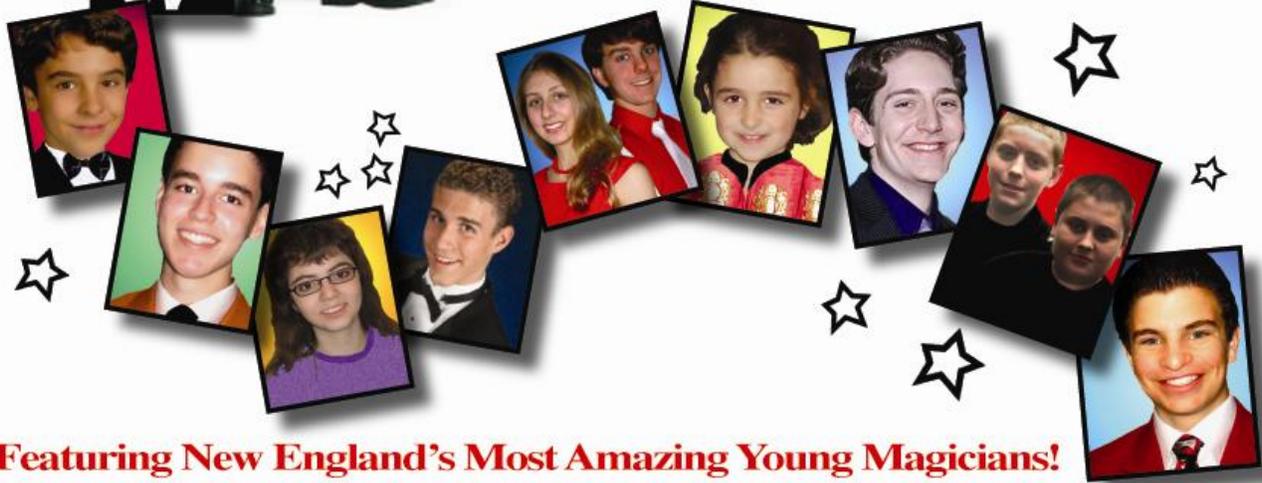
The year closes with a return of the rowdiness associated with T. H. E. GAME.

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**February and March 2009**

*Harlan Tarbell*

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