

**International Brotherhood of Magicians
Ring 180, The Horace Bennett Ring
Richmond, VA**

**Meeting Report
April 2014**

President Watt Hyer opened the April 2014 meeting with announcements of lectures, meetings, and other events. College student Zack Gartrell thanked Larry Rohr for help preparing for a show in a local elementary school. He also thanked Barry Mills for help with a routine that got him into a talent show.

A discussion of tips led Elmer Deffenbaugh to present the idea of forcing the person, rather than the target. (E.g.: Knowing which card is preferred by several spectators, the performer causes the choice of the spectator who prefers the target card.) We also heard that the substance, "slush powder," is used as an agent to harden latex paint before disposing of it. It is available in bulk at some hardware stores.

Watt introduced the theme, "Animation and Levitation," by performing the "Self-Folding Dollar Bill," using a bill prepared for him by Larry Rohr with monofilament invisible thread from a seamstress' shop. (The thread is often found in pants cuffs.) Watt also performed "The Magic Mouse" or "Wonder Mouse" and referred to a carney pitch given to him by Elmer Deffenbaugh.

Larry Rohr performed a moving fork routine in which he used two loops, one in each hand, to cause the fork to move back and forth.

Bill Baber walked to the performance table and placed on it a plastic water bottle and a small, silk, pocket handkerchief. As he spoke of his offering, the handkerchief jumped into the air with a "pop!" He had used "A Little Jumpy" by Tom Burgoon. Bill then laid the bottle on its side and presented Ben Harris' "Aqua-Imp." In this effect the performer rolls a bottle back and forth. The bottle remains flat on the table; but, when a spectator rolls it back and forth and releases it, the bottle's bottom rises from the table. Unfortunately, despite Bill's having performed the routine successfully in other venues and testing it on another table in this venue, the effect did not go as planned. This led to a discussion of possible corrections to what might have gone wrong.

Lou Dean had two off-topic effects. First, he crumpled what appeared to be a piece of tissue into a ball and tossed it back and forth between his hands. The crumpled ball visually refolded itself into an origami crane. This was "Origamagic." Second, he spoke of the movie, "Mary Poppins." Just as Nanny Poppins was able to take a tall floor lamp from her travel bag, Lou removed from a small change purse, one by one, three 35-inch wands, blue, orange, and green. Lou then invited discussion of what should be done with the wands after producing them.

With the evening's performances completed, Watt called on Elmer Deffenbaugh to present recollections of the Ring and the person whose name it bears, Horace Bennett. Elmer mentioned many names from the Ring's past and their association with Horace. He noted that Horace knew magic dealers in England and Europe due to his World War II service there. He also cited Horace's several books and identified an especially effective routine in each one. Elmer noted that Horace wanted his writing and illustrations to be readily understood and, therefore, asked several people to review his drafts before submitting them for publication. Elmer suggested that, in Horace's routines that use salt, one should substitute white aquarium sand due to the corrosive effects of salt. At the conclusion of this presentation, Watt adjourned the meeting.

By William C. Baber
Secretary Ring 180