

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

**Report of Meeting
December 6 and 9, 2015**

On Sunday, December 6, the Ring held its seasonal party. It afforded an opportunity for all members to perform to an audience of Ring members and their guests.

Our youngest member, fifteen year-old Davis West, presented a nice Four-Ace routine with flourishes to accent the several locations. Andrew Clarke assisted him by repeatedly shuffling the deck and losing the aces, which Davis was able to magically find.

John D'Amore asked Barry Mills and Joe Duck to examine two scarves. John repeatedly tied the scarves together and caused the knots to vanish, releasing the scarves, despite the knots having been examined by Larry Rohr and Janice Mills, Barry's wife. In the end Larry Lessner tied a knot on top of the one that John had tied. The knots vanished and the scarves came apart again.

Dan Dalton showed his skill with Losander's floating table. Amy Duck helped by holding corners of the table's cloth and lifting them to show the absence of any support. When the table came to rest on the floor, Dan removed the table's cloth and announced that he didn't think there was a greater trick as he produced a grater, the kitchen implement, from the cloth. Dan loves puns.

Andrew Clarke discussed his problems with the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department as he changed five one dollar bills into five \$100 bills.

Harry Gallant showed a packet of cards, asked for a number to be called, and counted cards to that number. A spectator read a prediction, which said "Jack." The card reached by the count was not a Jack, but "Jack" was written on its back, and the other cards had other names on them. This effect was a variant of "A Card Named Fred" (or some other name).

President Watt Hyer's friend, Marion Kolson, announced her effect, "Black Magic." She left the room so the group could select an object without her knowing the decision. On her return Watt named objects and Marion identified the one selected. Barry Mills wanted to see if Marion could repeat the effect if he named the objects. They repeated the experiment; and, again, Marion identified the chosen object!

Elmer Deffenbaugh said that, when he did kid parties, the hostess often asked him to delay his performance after the kids had assembled around him. He would then use a coin routine to fill the time and amuse the assembly while waiting for others. The routine consisted of productions, vanishes, transportations, and penetrations through the back of a hand and the knees, ending with the disappearance of the coin.

Davis West returned to show another effect. Sunny Lessner, Larry's wife, chose a card, showed it to the audience, and set it aside. Mike Kinnaird, whose eyes had been closed, named a card. It was not Sunny's. When Sunny's card was turned over, it was blank.

Larry Lessner asked Larry Rohr and Janice Mills to examine a card. Each returned their examined card to Larry, who waved the two in a circle. When the cards were examined, each now had a black swirl on its face. The pattern then disappeared, making the cards normal again. The effect was "Vortex."

Watt Hyer balanced a small hoop on the mouth of a soft drink bottle. He placed a pop corn kernel on the top of the hoop. He then struck the hoop, knocking it off the bottle. The kernel fell into the bottle. Watt called for volunteers to try this bar challenge. Surprisingly, those responding were able to duplicate Watt's actions. They knew the secret.

Watt also showed a disk with a swirl pattern on his phonograph's turntable. Spectators stared at the moving image and reported how it distorted their vision when they looked at another object. Watt's pattern was Jerry Andrus' "Trizonal Space Warper."

The Ring held its regular meeting on December 9. The scheduled theme, "Seasonal Magic," was suspended so Mike Hummer of Washington, DC, could demonstrate several items that he had for sale. Among the many items he showed were "Magic Lite," a "D-Lite" like item without a thumb tip; "Ultimate Gaff Deck," which contained the cards to perform "Twisted Sisters," "Wild Card," and "Million Dollar Aces"; and "Around the World Mind Reading," an effect similar to "A Card Named Fred," but which had the names of countries on the backs of the cards.