

T. A. O. M.

OFFICIAL ORGAN
Texas Association
of Magicians

San Antonio 6, Texas

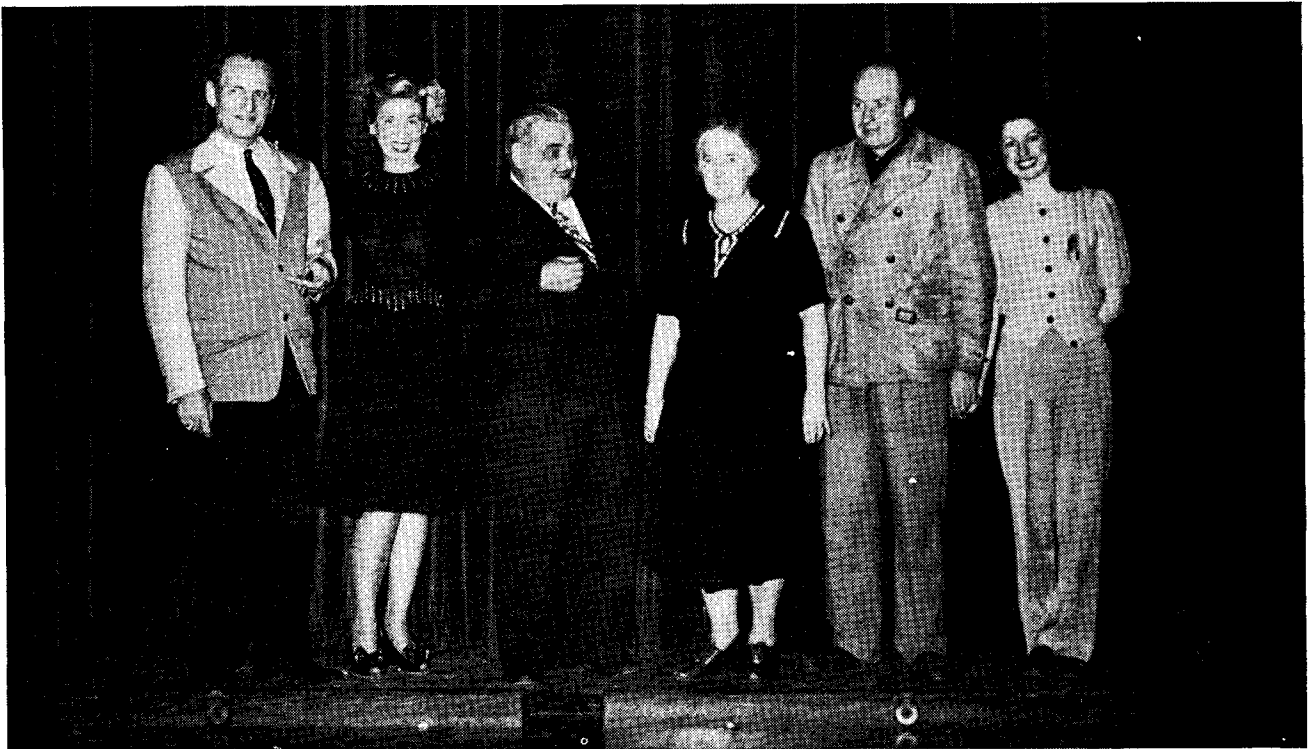
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VOL. 1—No. 3

JULY, 1947

--:-- ABOUT TEXAS --:--



At the recent Virgil Show in Houston the above was taken on the stage. Reading from left to right is King Felton, Hazel Felton, S. S. Henry, Lucille Henry, Virgil and Julie.

I first met King Felton in 1924 at Marshall, Mich. He was joining the Sharpsteen Show and the Reno Family, (Dottie Dot and Denny) were leaving the Sharpsteen Show. I was playing the local Theatre and Argus, Ed Reno's son-in-law and Bob Gysel were both working on my show. Denny Reno is not Ed Reno of Kankakee, Ill., but he did magic, mindreading and hypnotism. S. S. Henry was one of the first Vice-Presidents of the IBM, has toured the Orient with his big show, now in Houston and is a member of Ring 39.

M. S. Mahendra.

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Owing to your Secretary's trip to both SAM and IBM Conventions, Bulletin No. 3 has been delayed, but we have just received word that S. S. Henry will be at Fort Worth for the TAOM Conclave over Labor Day. He will present his world famed Sand Paintings which alone will be worth the trip. He has not attended a Magic Convention in many years and we fell sure he will present other features in addition to the Sand Pictures. But this is one thing for which he has been noted for, all over the World. Do not miss this feature.

We have word that Bobo, Seymour Davis and Okito will also be there. Okito was the best act at both SAM and IBM Conventions. His manipulation of handkerchiefs alone is better than a dozen ordinary acts. Seymour Davis captured the top comedy honors at Pittsburgh IBM Convention. His act is the most outstanding comedy we have seen in years.

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

Your Editor would surely appreciate some assistance in getting out the Bulletin. While I do have material enough to edit copies for some time, we could use some ideas and suggestions for tricks. Also more news notes from spots in Texas other than Houston and San Antonio.

In order that we may get better acquainted, I would like to run a little story on some member of each Approved Club in Texas, in each issue of the Bulletin. We do not want this story about someone well known, as they get publicity at times in other publications, but it should be someone who may have an interesting trade or profession, someone that we do not know. For instance, here in San Antonio we have two safe and lock experts and both are members of TAOM. J. Ross Boles and Ted Blevins. In going over TAOM applications, I note that in Houston we have another safe expert, namely, George F. Hattz. I am sure that both Ross and Ted would like to know more about George Hattz, and there are surely others who have interesting stories that we would all like to hear about.

So please send me a story about someone you know, it need not be about magic, but pertaining to their profession. Or send in your own story and I will rewrite it if necessary, just jot down the main facts, and if you have a photo, we will run a cut. Do this right away, so we may have it for the next issue of the Bulletin.

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MAGICIANS HAVE MORE FUN THAN ANYBODY,

is the title of a very fine piece of publicity in the way of a feature story appearing in the Rotogravure section of the Houston Chronicle for April 27, 1947. A full page with three large photos in color accompany the article. And right at the top of the page in the center of the first photo is Frank Integrity Werner in top hat and all, pulling a string of sausages from what appears to be a small cup. To the right of him is Sidney Ham and on the left looking more "bewildered" than Integrity, is our old friend D. B. Gallagher. The next photo shows Mysterious Howard and Sigmar in Howard's Fun Shop. The bottom photo shows Frank Clauder levitating a cane, Bob Blau in center juggling balls and Julian Rasbury at the right looking on. All are staunch members of TAOM. This is a fine piece of publicity for magic and magicians of Houston especially. Several of the boys in Houston are mentioned in the article and if you write some of the boys there, you may be able to get a copy for your collection.

Texas has had a lot of magical activity this year so far, and many of our members have been able to see magic at its best. Virgil and his mammoth Show has played in Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston and many other Texas cities. I will not review his show here, as it was well covered in the LINKING RING. But I do wish to state, and I believe that all will agree who saw the show—"When you see Virgil, you have seen magic at its best." I have been associated with magic for a long time, but never before have I seen a magic show that has received almost 100% favorable comments. Most shows can be criticized somewhere, but Virgil's is beyond criticism. The only comment I have to make is—it should be playing legitimate theatres instead of school auditoriums, etc.

Then we have had Blackstone in two towns, so I have heard, El Paso for a matinee only and Wichita Falls.

The Willard Show

The Willard Show opened on May 1st at Shiner, Texas to a very good business, considering all of the handicaps owing to uncertainty as to opening date, billing, etc. M. S. Mahendra and Frank Rizzo were at the opening and it was amazing to see Willard again present two hours and five minutes of fast moving magic. In fact his opening show had more magic than a half dozen so called "two hour shows" put together.

To see the Valadon "Drum That Can't Be Beaten", was alone worth the trouble of driving 90 miles to see the opening. In the opinion of your Secretary his show was better than when we last saw it with Glen Pope in Louisiana last year, and this in spite of the fact that a great deal of the show was resurrected from discarded equipment from the Jim Willard and Tommy Willard Shows.

On May 2, the following evening, a complete change of program was presented and then on May third another complete change. Wonder how many of our so called "great" magicians could present a "really two hour show" for three nights in a row, and after being burned out as Willard was. Our hats are off to the Greatest Magician of all time, Willard The Wizard, a member of TAOM and a resident of Texas, a true Texan.

There is no doubt in our mind but that the Willard Show will again be the best magic show on the road. In fact it is now, from the showmanship standpoint, but with new settings and equipment, it will take its proper place in the Willard manner.

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NEW MEMBERS

Add the following to your roster in Bulletin No. 2.

HON. FRITZ G. LANHAM	IBM 15
Woodley Park Towers, Washington, D. C.	
GUS RAMAGE	IBM 15
201 E. University, Waxahachie, Texas.	
DR. MAX L. MORELAND	IBM 18
1903 S. Hackberry St., San Antonio 3, Texas.	
HARRY F. WILLARD	IBM 18
314 Truax St., San Antonio, Texas.	
BOB CLARK	IBM 15
Box 207, Shamrock, Texas.	

This makes a total of 123 members. We should make an effort to secure more members before Fort Worth, so if you have any prospective members, let me know and I will send an application.

Ring 18, San Antonio has 33 members in TAOM. Next on the list is Ring 15 of Fort Worth with 32 members. Ring 39 of Houston follows with 20 members, with SAM 19 having 18. This of course makes a total of 38 from Houston, the largest representation of any city. SAM 13 of Dallas has 14 members and IBM 34 of Amarillo has 6 members.

In the Bulletin No. 2, we gave John Dunlop of Houston Ring 18 as his affiliation. This was a typographical error. His affiliation should be Ring 39.

We shall try to have a complete new roster made up for Bulletin No. 4 just ahead of the Fort Worth Convention. It will be alphabetically arranged and we will also try to have an occupation or business classification as well. As I now have an addressograph system, any changes in address or mistakes in address should be reported. Or any who object to business or occupation classification, please notify me accordingly,

(Continued on page 5)

Convention, and in some ways Pittsburgh was better. The SAM started on time, their night before party was not so good, Pittsburgh was terrible, but the shows that followed made up for it. Seymour Davis of Oklahoma City took top honors with his comedy piano act. He has added some improvements since last seen in Fort Worth, and now it really is a show stopper. Again Okito stole the show at Pittsburgh as he did in Chicago. The banquet was better than in Chicago and while the acts were not up to the standard maintained in Chicago, they were still plenty good. Arthur Buckley proved himself an A1 instructor and Dai Vernon gave his instruction classes as at Chicago, except that more was given and an extra charge made for this feature. Unfortunately enough time cannot be given to this at a Convention. I would rather see Dai when there is nothing else going on.

While both Conventions were on a larger scale than ever before, it is our opinion that they are too large to be enjoyed to the utmost. I believe that you will have a far better time in Fort Worth over Labor Day with a smaller attendance.

From Pittsburgh I went by train to Indianapolis where I visited with Doc Harad a few days, then rode with Dave and Polly Coleman to Albion, Indiana, a few miles from the Michigan line. By bus from there to Colon, then via N. Y. C. to Chicago. After a few days there left by the Alton to St. Louis and via Katy back to San Antonio arriving here July 1st. This accounts for the delay in Bulletin No. 3 reaching you.

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TAOM is indeed proud to list as its most esteemed member, Willard, The Wizard whose home is San Antonio, Texas. The following poem was written by G. E. Warrick of Ruston, La.

"ODE TO THE WIZARD"

A dedication to Harry F. Willard

While many eyes are gazing
right where the curtains part,
An anxious crowd is waiting
for the mystery show to start.
With music soft and tender
the drapes are drawn aside,
Revealing magic splendor
of beauty, grace and pride.
As if he came from space,
there the master stands,
To demonstrate his mysteries great
by his sleight of hand.
Right in his first patter,
"Watch me close!", he said.
He knew it wouldn't matter,
he'd stay two jumps ahead.
Pots of earth, a tube and screen,
it's nothing hidden there.
This, I mean is really keen,
'tis flowers from nowhere.
A basket, a pole and net
right out in open air,
Pidgeons now, you can bet
he really caught 'em there.
Three ducks, a box, a table bare,
I'm sure they'll never know,
When he apart, the box does tear,
just where the ducks do go.
Now, an act of penetration,

his thumbs are tied with hemp,
Puzzling all imagination,
for the thumbs belong to him.
The gem of magic skills,
the King of all the "ties",
An act so full of thrills,
'tis hard to believe your eyes.
With caution, now he starts,
he said he'd trust to luck,
He saved the girl in parts,
without injuring her too much.
A great mystery he can boast,
causing everyone to talk
About old Willard's ghosts,
and how he makes 'em walk.
And now, the great levitation,
the girl who floats on air,
Defying all gravitation
for nothing holds her there.
She floats at different heights,
and vanishes with a smile,
Then in the midst of brightest lights,
comes tripping down the aisle.
The cause is all a problem,
while every eye is keen,
As if done by goblins,
in some fairy's dream.
The way was dark and rough
while he was learning how,
And often brought disgust,
and sweat upon his brow.
Now, he's a master mystic,
he's played in many lands.
The art of making mystery
is art within his hands.
A magician within his heart,
a master in all that he shows,
Who both looks and acts the part,
no matter where he goes.
Once he mastered the magic art,
and he'll never throw it down,
For he learned by piece and part,
on the road from town to town.

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A THOUGHTREADER'S THOUGHTS

In glancing through the Billboard we note the following "ad"—"King Houdini and his Calypso Parliament". Three records have been made by "King Houdini", evidently a colored musician. Wonder how he adopted the name of Houdini?

Two good laughs during Virgil's stay in San Antonio. Dave Coleman, Jimmie Richardson and I drove to Seguin to see Virgil's show the day before he opened in San Antonio. We were seated in the High School Auditorium right in the front row. Virgil was backstage getting ready. The School Principle came to me and said, "We are ready to start whenever you are."—In San Antonio while doing the Linking Rings, Virgil comes down the rundown with three rings linked together, hands them to Dave Coleman and says—"Let's see you unlink these!"

One of the best pocket tricks in years, is the Passe Pasee Nickles and Pennies.

Edgar Russell newest member of Ring 18, won first prize of \$75 in recent "The Best Years of Our Life", contest conducted by the Interstate Circuit during the showing of the picture.

PATTER FOR THE VANISHING PENNY

The Vanishing Penny as brought out by Carl Brema & Son and which retails for \$1.50 is a nice item. However when demonstrating it, I have found that the hole in the penny makes it suspicious unless a reason is given for the hole, so I use the following patter.

"For years before the advent of the Atomic Bomb we magicians have known of uranium and atomic power. However we always called it Ostagoozlum fluid. Ostagoozlum is in reality a by product of uranium. In fact it is every where, in the air, in the ground, and in water. All you have to do is take a pin wave the point through the air until you collect a tiny bit of Ostagoozlum fluid. In fact it is such a tiny bit that one millionth of a speck that you could put on this pin point would do the work for me that I wish. I have here a brass cup, this is the cup that holds the tiny bit of Ostagoozlum fluid, here are three pennies. You know the strange part about Ostagoozlum fluid? Well it will not effect any metal except copper. That is unless you let it remain for a long time on any other metal. Now then we shall place these three pennies in the Ostagoozlum Cup. wave the pin point through the air, collect a tiny bit of Ostagoozlum Fluid on it, very carefully insert just a teeny weenie bit in this hole, shove the pin point down and you will note that it has actually caused one penny to VANISH. The only thing is that you must be very careful and run the pin thru the hole, so as to remove every bit of Ostagoozlum Fluid, otherwise it might cause some coins in my pocket to disappear, were I to leave the cup in my pocket".

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THE DR. SILKINI SPOOK SHOW

Billed as the "Asylum of Horrors" this spook show played the Majestic Theatre in San Antonio, Friday and Saturday, March 21-22nd. Midnight show only. Dave Coleman wrote and told me that if I wanted to see how much an audience could be pushed around and made to like it, to be sure and catch the show. I have seen many such shows, in fact did one myself, but I have yet failed to see a good one. However, they seem to always draw an immense crowd and evidently the public likes to be bamboozled.

Charlene, brother of Paco Miller, W. E. James of Fort Worth and Charlene's wife and myself went down to the Majestic at 11 P. M., but there were thousands of people lined up along the sidewalks for blocks waiting to get in, so we gave up. But after thinking it over I went back at 12 just to see what happened and found they were still selling tickets at \$1 per head. The Majestic had been sold out completely by 9 P. M. so they sold tickets to the Aztec, almost filled this house, run a terrible picture that I would pay gladly \$1 NOT TO SEE. After the picture had been run, an announcement was made that due to the large crowd that would be disappointed in not seeing the show, it was decided to put the overflow in the Aztec, then after the stage show is over at the Majestic all in the Aztec would go to the Majestic and the stage show would be repeated. There is a large enough crowd to almost fill the Majestic second time. This second show started about 2 A. M.

Dave said—"He uses stooges and more stooges," he was right. Without stooges it would be a total flop. He opens with two bowls of water from table, a man made up like a gorilla from a Frame. The gorilla (?) grabs one of the stooges and of course this

scars the committee of women who have been lined up along each side of the stage.

The next was 3 questions answered without being written, all three were so evidently asked by stooges that I doubt if hardly anyone in the audience would not realize that they were "phoney" questions.

Following this was the floating electric light bulb a Frankenstein Monster in person, again scaring the committee and those in the front seats, the dancing handkerchief from cabinet and this was about the best thing he did, although a far cry from Blackstone's presentation. He then used a Svengali Deck for some so called poker deals.

Then came the usual spook forms, skeletons, etc. accompanied by groaning sound effects while the theatre was darkened.

Closing the show, he announced the "fastest" thing the audience had ever seen. That he had been awarded a prize at the World's Magician's Convention. This turned out to be the substitution trunk.

Well he may think its the fastest thing in the World, but I am willing to bet that either Willard or Virgil would make the exchange three times while he is doing it once. The bad part is, that he uses no cabinet, just a cloth held in front, so all of the stagehands and anyone on the side can see the entire secret.

I do remember that he played Davenport during the IBM International Convention there, but I heard no favorable comment at that time. All who saw it said it was pretty bad. Of course he has improved since then and it would be good intertainment if it was not for the careless handling of the last mentioned effect. The public does seem to go for a scare program and I doubt if Elman or Kreisler in person would draw as many people. Its too bad but thats the way it is. In this day of such foolishness as "Open The Door Richard", etc., a real artist would starve to death.

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SAM AND IBM CONVENTIONS

Your Secretary attended both the SAM Convention in Chicago and the IBM Convention in Pittsburgh. I left San Antonio May 25th and joined Dr. Carl and Dorothy Moore of Austin and rode with them to Chicago. We stopped off a few minutes in Kankakee while en route to Chicago and visited with Ed Reno. While Ed is not as strong as he formerly was, he was in better health than I had imagined. He was very glad to see us and likes to have old friends call.

The highlight of both Conventions was Okito. He is by far the real master of magic and is a lesson for all magicians to who are fortunate enough to see him. To me, his handling of silks was better than seeing a whole show of magic.

For showmanship, finish and perfection in stage presentation my choice was Slyter and Tung Pin Soo. Frakson did not register with me as I thought he would. Everyone went "ga ga" over Kodell, who manipulated birds at the fingertips as one would billiard balls. It is a distinct novelty, but a far cry from real magic and mystery as is Okito's silk production. My prediction is that he will be forgotten in a few years.

From Chicago I went to Eagle River, Wisc. 35 miles North of Chicago where I visited with Judge Frank W. Carter, then rode with him and his family to Pittsburgh.

The IBM Convention was larger than the SAM in attendance. In some respects Chicago had the better

(Continued from page 2)

or if you have changed occupation or business since joining, please help to make such corrections. It will be interesting to see just what business our members are engaged in. It may be that some member will be anxious to correspond with another member when he finds out his business interests are the same.

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News From Amarillo

From H. H. Gaddis, Governor of Ring 34, I have a report of a very fine show up there on Saturday night Dec. 7, 1946 I had intended to try and be on hand for this show, but could not make it.

About thirty people were present and a lovely fried chicken dinner was served at Buck's Tavern out at the edge of the city of Amarillo. Ralph DeShong, Mrs. DeShong and Ralph, Jr., were guests of honor and after the dinner Ralph was handed a cigar a foot long and a telegram was read from Huntsville, Texas, from the inmates of the State Institution there expressing regrets they could not be with Ralph "as usual".

After dinner the party adjourned to the large and beautiful home of Charlie Fisk, a prominent banker of Amarillo and the magic show was on. The show was arranged by Harvey Gaddis and I am told by Ralph DeShong that he has a most pleasant "screwball" type of "emceeing" and performing and furnished plenty of laughs and interest throughout his appearances.

Harvey Gaddis opened the show with cane to silk, soft soap, silks and rabbit production and vanish, then introduced Orville Brasher who performed the Rising Cards, Card between glass plates and a good rope routine.

Next was Jim Dalton of Paducah, Texas who performed the Linking Rings, Half in Bottle, and a cut and restored rope.

Johnnie Sissom was next with mental magic, then Verne Hickerson with card tricks after which Ralph DeShong closed the show. I do not have a report on what Ralph DeShong did, but I know that he stopped the show as well as closing it.

As I write this I cannot but help reminiscing somewhat. Amarillo holds old memories. Before the war Doc Harad (also a member of TAOM) and I journeyed to Whichita Falls to visit with Ralph for the express purpose of paving the way to the organization of Ring 15 in Fort Worth and Ring 34 in Amarillo. We had been asked by the late John Snyder, Jr. International President of the IBM at that time to help organize IBM Rings in Texas.

Ralph drove us to Amarillo and the late Lum Humphrey staged a big dinner and show for us at that time. I know that Lum was missed by all present who knew him as well as Clarence Hammond, former resident of Amarillo, now in Arizona. Those boys in Amarillo sure showed us a wonderful time and I hope to get there again, and soon.

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News From Dallas

Bob White send news of a show held by the Dallas Magic Circle (SAM Assembly No. 13) on Friday, Feb. 21st at the Mercantile Bank Building of that city. It was open house, so friends as well as wives and children were there.

Marvin Fretch opened the show with a guitar, strumming a piece written especially for Ed Watkins, who is

a new papa. "Walking the Floor with Baby" was the tune and it was indeed a surprise to all present as many did not know Marv was a composer and an accomplished musician as well as a magician. Marv also emceed the show and from all reports did a fine job of it.

Bob White did the Diminishing Cards, Stop and Go, and the Die Box. Ross Smith and his son Ross, both candidates for the SAM each did a trick. Daddy Crofts, the oldest member of the Dallas Magic Circle followed with the Chinese Gong and a comic version of the rabbits, ending with the rabbit between two panes of glass.

Bobby White, the youngest magician in Dallas, (5½ years old) did a rope trick, a ball trick and wound up by pulling hankies, a dozen paper balls and a skunk out of a hat. I am told that Bobby shows promise of being a good magician, in fact he is now.

Carol Miller and his dummy "Skooter" entertained next and all were sorry when his act came to a close. Next was McAfee with a clever ring on a string trick, Earl Reeves did a couple of original tricks with a cigar box and a couple of hankies.

Earl Williams wowed the audience with a new version of the Card in the Balloon and the electric necktie. Royal Brin did some very nice mental work and very convincing too. Sky Mead presented Attaboy and did a splendid job of it. All proclaimed this a splendid show and they want more like it.

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News From Houston

We have received a lot of news from Frank Werner of Houston. It is impossible to print all of it at this time, so will just cover the high spots. Frank Werner gets around a lot and really sends me more news than anyone else in the TAOM.

Of course the big magical news of Houston is Virgil's appearance there the latter part of Jan. Owing to the fact that so many of the Houston boys have come to San Antonio so many times, I felt that some of us MUST attend the Virgil party in Houston. But it so happened that Tom Liberto and myself were the only ones able to go. We arrived in time for the Night Before Party held at a swanky eating place and almost all of the boys in Houston who belong to Ring 39 and Assembly 19 were on hand. We had a fine dinner and a grand show and every minute we were in Houston was taken up with parties and visiting, besides seeing once more the beautiful Virgil Show. We also visited with S. S. Henry once more. He is now building fine magical equipment and has more orders than he has time for.

Saw and visited with Sigmar, Cal Emmett, D. B. Gallagher, Wm. Montgomery, John Dunlop, Sid Ham, Chester Leroy and his father, The Great Chesterfield, old time ventriloquist, Tommy and Mrs. Bearden, Jim Bowling, Bob Blau, Frank Clauder, Leo Kaiser, Henry Schmidt a lot of others whose names I cannot recall at the moment and of course Frank Werner. I missed Glenn Davidson and King Felton. Since arriving back in San Antonio I learned that Justianini, the Spanish magician who at one time had a show almost as large as Thurston and toured Mexico, is now located in Houston and is running a Mexican picture theatre. Witsh I had known that while in Houston. Justianini and I are old friends, we played the same towns along the border together and visited a lot. Another reason why I'll be back to Houston soon.

The boys in Houston are working shows a lot, Bill Ballard, Leroy, Cal Emmett, Sigmar and Werner as well as others are all busy with dates.

Magician's Round Table Meetings in Houston are now held at Dee's Drive In, 2440 Houston Ave. Owner of the place is Dee Derrington who is also a member of Ring 39. Any magicians visiting in Houston over the week end will be able to meet the gang at Dee's Drive In on Saturdays from noon until about 3 P. M. You are cordially welcome to join in.

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News From Fort Worth

All the news I have from Fort Worth regarding meetings of Ring 15 has already been printed in the Linking Ring, so we will not try to cover the various shows, meetings, etc. Jesse James of Fort Worth was in San Antonio along about the 20th-21st of March and gave me a report of some happenings up there. We learn that a very fine party was held at Ren Clark's home for Virgil during his appearance at the Will Rodgers Auditorium there, also that Col. Marion Hardesty has a Government position in Washington, D. C. This means that TAOM will perhaps lose one of its best boosters and I know he will be missed at the Convention this Fall, as he is a hard worker and I am sure that Ren Clark has counted on the Col. taking over a large part of the work.

While I have no advance news of what will take place at Fort Worth, I know that it will be a grand Convention which will no doubt attract many "outside the State" magicians. Fort Worth has had the experience and after handling the IBM International Convention, they should know what not to do as well as the things that make a convention attractive and pleasant.

The next issue of the Bulletin will have news of what you may expect at our annual TAOM Conbention.

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The Fort Worth Conclave

While we do not have any definite information as to the Fort Worth Conclave which will take place August 30-31 and Sept. 1, we know that Ren Clark is arranging a swell program. The following committee has been appointed by Ren:

ENTERTAINMENT AND SHOWS

Lewis Zafran -----	Chairman
Frank Jones	Bobby Jewell

RECEPTION

Jesse James -----	Chairman
Sproesser Wynn	Ralph DeShong
Carl Chambliss	

FOOD

W. C. Stubblefield -----	Chairman
Jesse James	W. D. Barton

REGISTRATION

Fred King -----	Chairman
Dr. T. A. Tucker	Truet Gillentine
J. Earl Lawshe	

RESERVATIONS

John Justin -----	Chairman
Luther Adkins	

FINANCE

R. C. Martin -----	Chairman
Leo Pottishman	

LADIES COMMITTEE

Mrs. Fred King -----	Chairman
Bille Clark	Nina Zafran

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Clarence Dale

DEALERS COMMITTEE

Delbert Douglas

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Truett Gillentine -----	Chairman
Luther Adkins	

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News From San Antonio

Perhaps the biggest magic gathering in Texas, outside of a Convention, was held in San Antonio Jan. 25-26-27-28, when Ring 18 held a Four Day Fiesta of Magic especially for Willard The Wizard and Virgil who played the Alamo Heights School Auditorium on the last two days. A dinner at La Villita with a show followed by Willard and his Company, Frank Werner, Dave and Pauline Coleman, Sid Ham of Houston, Doc Moore and Herman Yerger of Austin, Herb Lehwald of San Antonio and others was attended by over 100, then a special open house at the Victory Room, Hotel Gunter, Sunday afternoon. Another special banquet at the Oak Hills Country Club Sunday evening, followed by Virgil's big Show climaxed this huge gathering which attracted Ren and Bille Clark of Fort Worth, Frank Werner, Henry Schmidt, Wm. E. Montgomery and son Billy, Sid Ham, and D. B. Gallagher from Houston, Herman and Emilie Yerger, Dr. Carl Moore and Dorothy, Milas Dyer, wife and party from Austin and Jimmie Richardson from Fort Worth. Plato and Jewel came through San Antonio, so stayed over for the party, so a large crowd of well known magicians were present. It was some party, as the boys who attended will tell you. As it was written up in the March Linking Ring we will not take up space describing it here.

Willard the Wizard has completed the work on his house trailer, and frankly we never thought that he would be capable of doing such a fine job. The frame work which was of steel was about all that was left of it, the tractor part was practically undamaged by the fire. So Harry recovered it with steel, he built all the furniture and cabinets out of aluminum, obtained from the discarded Army material, and it looks like a professional body builder had reconstructed it. Even the window frames had to be made, he could not obtain any. but they are covered with aluminum and look like a factory job. If he had all this work made in a body shop, it would have run into thousands of dollars. We in San Antonio are hoping that he will open the show near enough so that we may be able to see the complete show again.

Virgil and his Company drove back to San Antonio after the show in Houston on Friday night, for a special show at the Indoctination Center, near Kelly Field for a Saturday night show only, then back to Texas City in time for a matinee Monday. This was a gigantic task for so heavy a show, and the boys worked hard, but as the Army paid well for his special show, all were happy. The show was cut to 70 minutes and two performances were given. The first show was held 20 minutes for the General to attend. After the show. the General sent word back that he had seen Dante, but thought Virgil's show was better.