

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics

Meets 4th Thursday at 6:45 PM each month

Messiah Lutheran Church

6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

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We had thirteen members (one of those via Zoom) and one former member attending the June meeting. We are moving forward with a Buy/Swap/Sell event OPEN to other magic enthusiasts in the area or within driving distance and the magic-loving public nearby on Saturday, September 9 from 9 AM to 1 PM. It should be a full house with a lot of magic for sale! Meanwhile, we have five members attending the Pittsburgh I.B.M. convention, and a couple attending the SAM and TAOM. We were sad to announce the passing of a dear friend of ours and supporter of the Winter Carnival of Magic for many years: Ricky Boone.

Our theme for the magic tonight was “I Learned It from Tarbell” and it was a very popular one! Our Vice President, Michael Priestap, was standing in for our President and Program Chairman, Victor Agreda, and Michael opened with a challenge – bring any volume of the Tarbell set forward, and he would do a trick from it...and he did: he pulled a giant penny from the pages of Volume 5! He also produced a deck of cards and did a custom version of the Fred trick. Jim Stott did the Stamp Album that is explained in Lesson 46 found in Volume 4, and he “used some magic to get the stamps into the book.” Tom Raidy was one very well-dressed man complete with a tie and top hat as he brought page 335 from Volume 5 to life: “Judge Lynch’s Necktie Party” is a rope tie that took Tom’s tie from his neck to between the two ropes he escaped from! Well done!

Sherman Wires found a selected card as well as the four Aces, then used the Aces in a clean Matrix effect, and he concluded with his signature stretching of a signed card! Mike Stratman brought his 1947 copy of Volume 2 which was inscribed and signed in 1954 by Harlan Tarbell. Bill Sturgis walked us through several pieces (like the Dissolving Coin from Volume 1) and discussed how important Tarbell’s thoughts on magic theater and routining are still today. He also shared the two Spiritual Application books and the Tarbell Companion. Bill Osburn did a piece from Tarbell’s Treasures that he found with a very unique application of the 10-20 Force to find all four nines; he also explained it to the group.

Jack Wilson opened Volume 6 to find a trick he originally learned from *Magic Digest*, and he caused a silk tied around a rope to penetrate through a rope and also his arm. Tim Pressley also combined a rope and silks for a trick from Volume 4 (on page 357) called “Cords of Phantasia” using a wand and several smaller silks that melted off the rope. He also showed a new trick that arrived today: an ornate 3-D printed egg vase with both egg and ball. Former member, Caleb Bailey gave us a little history lesson about Tarbell (Caleb is a certified antique appraiser, and loves the back story!), then he did three variations of Threading the Needle. Roy Schubert did a mesmerizing mental effect that showed “our future is a combination of chance and choice” with multiple endings and a financial windfall.

John Gyllenhaal shared a couple more pieces about his three STEM shows he does (and did a lot via Zoom, too); one the kids love is a geometric illusion with seven rectangles that turn into eight. Michael Messing shared the Sankey “Wanderful” ropes he is using at the libraries this summer (Professor’s Nightmare with ropes that look like magic wands) and a Jim Klee field trick like the bookworm but with the Beatles! He also shared his library poster and a couple stories. To conclude almost two hours of magic, Tom Vorjohan discussed three tricks via Zoom using Jack Wilson at the meeting: he talked about Viper by Terry Lunceford and that it was inspired by Volume 4’s “Kolma-Tarbell ‘Snooty Snake.’” He also shared Tarbell’s Card on Necktie and how it became a marketed effect to pull a card from the sealed card box, and he concluded with the patriotic “Yankee Doodle Card” from page 120 – singing Yankee Doodle to find a chosen card. There are some gems in Tarbell, and this was a great night of sharing!

Tom Vorjohan