

FACING THE FACTS

★★★★★ WITH



BILL LARSEN

Thanks to the Holden Magic Shops for favoring me with Bill Nord's Diablo Slate, a satanically clever piece of wonder working equipment. The Holden ads are much too modest in their claims for the item and the purchaser will be more than rewarded for his three dollar and fifty cent investment.

I hear it told that "Unbelievable" the new card miracle by Jones and Shields was one of the hits of the Abbott Get Together at Colon. So great is the effect that Percy's available supply was exhausted soon after George Boston made his first demonstration. However, I am informed that all the Abbott stores now have stocks on hand and can make immediate delivery. Shields and Jones gave me a pre-publication copy and I like to present it as a super poker playing display.

Card tricks wherein no one is compelled to select cards appeal to me as being the best. Hence, were I presenting Merv Taylor's beautiful card sword I'd have poker hands called out and spear a royal flush. Surely, in an audience of a dozen people or more, this hand could be called. Or, have someone planted to do it just in case.

The Taylor Card Sword can also be used for catching a silk handkerchief so, why not a card silk, depicting the chosen pasteboard?

At a recent S.A.M. No.22 Auction several pieces of apparatus changed hands which would make most collectors drool. Bill Taylor contributed a Hindu Crystal Clock which was promptly purchased by Claude Leaf. And Dolf Rudin parted with a nest of boxes made by Hofsinzer. Donald Holmes apparatus brought prices that should be a compliment of the Holmes workmanship and Buddy Hughes emerged from the auction the proud possessor of a hot ball-- which some dealer should market again.

The Orben Poll continues to bring letters, pro and con, Chief criticism seems to be that it doesn't cover all magicians. But more than 3000 Genii purchasers, had the chance to fill in the questionnaire, and the majority of these did not bother to do so. The Poll is based only on the answers of those who were sufficiently interested to reply. Naturally, it cannot be judged as an accurate poll of all magicians but the facts that it has brought out have been most interesting and should be helpful. We do not agree with all the conclusions but we did send in our poll, and we find the results most interesting. Our pages are open to answers to these articles..if you do not agree, let us know why and we'll be happy to publish it and give YOUR side of the question.

The Golden Gate Magic Company has new copy this month which deserves your attention. Tom Dethlefsen, proprietor, reports excellent sales on Cube-A-Libre, the great block transposition effect, and for my money this is grade A program material.

Speaking of program material, do you join me in having a preference for tricks which can be set up at home, packed, and used at the place of performance

without further resetting? Cube-A-Libre is such a trick. So are Chamber's Neck-Scape, Holden's Diablo Slate (takes one second to set), Taylor's Card Sword, Shields and Jones Unbelievable, all advertised in this issue, plus such favorites as the Egg Bag, many versions of the cut and restored rope, Albenice Serpent Silk, the Linking Rings, Die Box, Blue Phantom, Chinese Sticks, Wobensmith's Afghan Bands, Wrist Guillotine and Disecto.

I suppose every magician owns, for surely every dealer sells, a silk cabby of some sort. But I'll wager you've never used it as effectively as it is described in Kaplan's The Fine Art of Magic. Here it becomes real magic. Kaplan also presents the finest Nest of Boxes routine, in the same book, that I have ever come across. If I could have but ten books on magic the Kaplan book would be one of them. Annemann's Practical Mental Effects would be another. Jean Hugard's Modern Magic Manual a third. I'm not sure about the other seven. If I could cheat, a little, I'd take a bound file of the Jinx as the fourth, a bound file of the Phoenix as the fifth and a bound file of Hugard's Monthly as the sixth. That leaves four selections still open. Any, or all, of these prestidigitatorial printings may be obtained from dealers whose ads appear in Genii.

I regularly get to see the many items which Abbott advertises in these pages, thanks to the close proximity of the Abbott Hollywood Store. Right now Yogi Hyp is a great tie in with Orson Welles picture Black Magic. I have it and feel that it is the greatest thing of it's kind. Last week I obtained the past ten copies of Goodliffè's weekly magazine Abracadabra, from Abbotts, and I'm amazed to note the improvement since its inception several years ago. Henceforth I shall be a regular subscriber. Thanks, George Boston, for telling me.

MAGIFAX: Virgil and Julie deep in the study of Spanish with a South American tour in mind....Ray Muse representing the S.A.M. in a corner stone laying ceremony for the new Plummer Fark auditorium.... Augustus Rapp, still at it after more than fifty years in the magic circle....Mike Zens reports all well on the Wisconsin front....The Devano Rising Cards, marketed by almost all dealers, bear the Genii seal of approval... Thanks, George Johnson, for "Magic of the Ancients", the reading of which I thoroughly enjoyed....And, tonight, I saw Aldini demonstrate Coke-Go, long featured by the Hollywood Magic Company. In Al's hands it is feature material, well worth the two fifty for which it sells.

Brain Echo, a five dollar seller by Reilly, has my vote for the best book test I have ever seen. Without the benefit of practice or rehearsal, I fooled Bascom

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