

Magic

By Bill Sachs

WERNER C. DORNFIELD, while in Cincinnati recently for a convention date, phoned the Magic Desk to wax enthusiastically over the forthcoming combined convention of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Society of American Magicians to be held at the Sherman Hotel, Chicago, May 27-30. Dorny promises that it will be the largest and most interesting magic conclave ever held. "For many years efforts have been made to bring the two largest magic organizations together for convention," Dorny stated, "and now that it's come to pass the Windy City magi are pulling out all stops to make it the biggest thing that ever happened in magic. All activity will be held jointly, with the exception of the business meetings. A Chicago theater has been engaged for the various shows and the convention committee is now in the throes of whipping up an outstanding series of programs. Already six English magi have informed us that they will make the journey to Chicago for the combined convention." . . . **Mr. and Mrs. Reggie Lawrence (Mysterious Lawrence)** report that their 14-month-old son, **Lawrence Edward**, is now doing a flower and silk production with their novelty act. **Young Larry** has been doing an acrobatic turn with his dad since he was four months old. . . . **Lucille and Eddie Roberts** closed an extended stay at the Radio Club, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., February 19, and on the following day moved into the Whitehall, Palm Beach, Fla. . . . **Paul Egan**, one of the publishers of *The Aurora* (Ill.) Economist, scribbles under recent date: "**Becker, Man of Mystery**, recently put on a Friday the 13th jinx show at the Tivoli Theater, Aurora, and it proved to be more than had been bargained for when several women fainted during the performance and one of Becker's assistants fell into the orchestra pit and broke an arm. The small-time riot was soon quieted and the show went on to a successful close."

DEL BREECE winds up an eight-week stay at the Henry Grady Hotel, Atlanta, March 1, and heads back to Chicago. "There are plenty of magi in Atlanta," Breece type-writes, "more per capita than anywhere I know. However with only one regular show in town, there isn't much work to offer. In your column recently you mentioned that **Torrini** had launched a magic shop in Atlanta. Here's the dope on that. **Torrini**, of the magic act of **Torrini and Phyllis** and another magician by the name of **Dave McLaws** have the store. It is called **Torrini's Magic Shop** and is located in the Peachtree Arcade. In addition to the conventional magic, they have obtained the rights to act as selling agents for the famous **Asa G. Candler** collection of magic. It involves some \$50,000 worth of magic, including some of the larger illusions, **Blackstone** and **Lieut. Lee Allen Estes**, of the Kentucky State Police, purchased some of the Candler stuff when **Blackstone** recently appeared here. It's all **Conradi** and **Thayer**-made equipment—the best." . . . **Sir Keith**, Indianapolis magician, mentalist and sand artist, returned home February 17 after four weeks of sponsored dates in Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois. The next 60 days he will play sponsored dates thru Central and Southern Indiana. . . . **Tom Rainey** writes from Chicago: "Apparently **Abboitt's** alumni are in demand. **Duke Stern** is working a Harvester tour out of Indianapolis, and I am working for the same firm in Michigan, where magic is very popular. I don't believe in the 'old-school' magic but lean toward a casual presentation. I emcee the show which includes the **Pat Kelly Trio**, **Marge Ross**, and **Paul Aubrey**. We are booked thru **Attractions, Inc.** Did you know that **Paul Stadleman** and **Trudy** will soon be

Honeymoon Off For Miami Clubs

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Powell will go into **Ciro's**, which has been trying to get him all season. At the newly opened **Golden Shores Club**, where **Dean Murphy** and **Lois Lee** preemed Wednesday (22), the room was only half filled for the early show and practically empty for the later show. **Murphy** and **Miss Lee** have three-week contracts and the club will try to weather the storm and recoup part of the \$250,000 investment. Prior to the closing of its gaming room, the **Golden Shores** did capacity business every night. At **Sunny Isles**, where **Jose Curbelle** is the sole attraction, not a soul was in the main room the day after the close-down went into effect. The management is preparing to shutter for the season at the end of the week. The **Island Club** shut down Thursday (23) but here reopening would be a simple matter since the opening would merely mean taking the covers off the wheels.

Wednesday night (22) **Governor Warren** sent a letter to all sheriffs, county solicitors and law enforcement officers thruout the State instructing them to "enforce the laws strictly, particularly those applicable to gambling."

From the present look of things, the season is over so far as gambling is concerned. In fact, for the horse books on the Beach it never really started.

2 A. M. Cafe Closing Sought for Boston

BOSTON, Feb. 25.—The committee on legal affairs of the Massachusetts Legislature is pondering a measure asking that the closing hour for liquor sales in clubs and cafes here be shifted from 1 to 2 a.m., while daylight saving time is in effect. Sponsor of the bill, **Rep. Louis Lobel (R.)**, of Brighton, told the committee the change would produce more revenue for the State and would be favored by night baseball fans.

Lobel contended that people coming to Boston on business often take an evening train back to New York, where cafes and clubs are open until 4 a.m., rather than stay in the Hub and be turned away after 1 a.m. **Myron W. Fowell**, chairman of the legislative committee of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, opposed the measure, saying it would encourage the use of alcohol.

EMA-ARA OPENS

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ings on agent vs. agent beefs. He asked that some definite clarification of the limits of this jurisdiction be inserted.

It was reported that **Joe Spencer**, Indianapolis, the only Indiana agent belonging to **EMA-ARA**, has been exonerated by the joint **ARA-AGVA** grievance committee of charges placed against him by **Bob Edwards**, Indianapolis **AGVA** rep. **Edwards** accused **Spencer** of (1) employing non-**AGVA** acts; (2) conduct not becoming an **AGVA** franchised agent; (3) attempting to discredit an **AGVA** member, and (4) an attempt to discredit an **AGVA** rep.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Commander **Fred Pittera**, executive director general of the **World Premier Trade and Travel Fair of Italy**, is organizing a **Variety Tent in Rome**, probably to operate out of the **Excelsior Hotel**. He was making arrangements this week with **Bob O'Donnell**, International Chief Barker.

three?" . . . **Bill Neff**, following his current two-week stand at the **Nixon Theater**, Pittsburgh, is set for a string of theater dates thru the **Middle West en route to Texas and Mexico**. He is set for the **Interstate houses in the Lone Star State**. **Anton Scibilia**, of the **Joe Hiller Agency**, Pittsburgh, is still piloting the **Neff** turn.

Burlesque

By UNO

JESSICA ROGERS closed February 23 at the **Park**, Youngstown, O., and opened the following day at the **Embassy**, Rochester, N. Y., thru **Dave Cohn**. Other recent **Cohn** bookings include **Tommy Raft**, Colonial Inn, Hallandale, Fla.; **Kasmir**, Gayety, Montreal, February 26; **Sen Lee Fu**, Cat and Fiddle, Cincinnati, February 27; **Anita Marie** and **Joe Chisolm**, Hawaiian Club, Albany, N. Y., February 27; **Jean Gemay**, Club 22, Miami; **June Allen**, Hollywood Club, Birmingham; **Trudy Wayne**, Embassy, Rochester, N. Y.; **Naomi**, Hawaiian Club, Albany, N. Y., March 6; **Lynn Sherwood**, Harmony Club, Pawtucket, R. I., and **Stinky Fields**, **Mac Dennison**, **Laura Bruce**, **Jai Leta** and **Johnny Ford**, Chanticleer Club, Baltimore. . . . **David King**, manager of the **Avenue**, Detroit, slated for demolition the end of March, will transfer shows to the long-closed **Gayety** there. . . . **Lucille Stratton**, set for an extended engagement by **Bobby Dumas** at the **Third Avenue Theater**, Portland, Ore. . . . **Jack Newman** added to the cast at the **Four-Star Follies**, Portland, and **Walter Hale** leaving the **Capitol** there for a **California vacash**. . . . **Isabelle Walsh** now booking talent for **San Juan**, Puerto Rico, and the **West Indies**.

WINNIE GARRETT opened at the **Emerald Room**, Milford, Conn., February 22 for two weeks; thence to the **State**, Canton, O., for a week starting March 10. . . . **Bob Miller**, assistant treasurer of the **Hudson**, Union City, N. J., passed out cigars February 11 to celebrate the birth of a son, **Robert Joseph**, to his wife, **Angelo**, formerly **Pat Paige**, at **Margaret Hay's Hospital**, Jersey City. . . . **Mel Bourne**, comic, who closed recently with **Eddie Lee** and **His Hoosier Ranch Hands**, has purchased **Cupid's Inn**, Indianapolis, and installed **N. B. Schwarz** as operator. . . . **Blaze Fury** moved last week from **Arthur Clamage's Avenue**, Detroit, to the **Alvin**, Minneapolis. . . . **Jerri Shenahan**, former **Jack Montgomery** parade girl at the **Hudson**, Union City, N. J., is now a **Boots McKenna** chorine at the **Latin Quarter**, Newport, Ky. . . . **The Walkers**, **Alfreda** and **Cy**, are vacationing at **Miami Beach**, Fla. . . . The **Hirst** unit principally by **Loney Lewis**, **Harry Bentley**, **Jess Mack**, **Jean Lee** and **Mildred Shorry** disbanded February 25 at the **Casino**, Boston. . . . **Pat Robbins** closed as featured strip in a **Hirst** unit and opens March 2 for two weeks at the **Palace**, Buffalo, recently changed to a stock policy. . . . **Leo Francis**, vet tab song-and-dance man, is now doing a single in **niteries** and **vaude**. His last tab show affiliation was with **Billie Purl's** "Passing Parade."

LEE ONWARD, UPWARD

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his futile efforts to be an actor. **Sight gags** are heavily in evidence as are **trick props** and **stunts** contrived for maximum laugh benefits. Using a show-within-a-show device, the script calls for a dream sequence in which the docile, puny **Lee** becomes the powerful, all-conquering hero. Much of the script is pure foolishness, but done so expertly by ex-burly comic **Lee** that lookers cannot help but like him. **Lee** is aided and abetted by **Carol Richards**, who plays the fem heart throb and doubles as thrush; **Billy Bakewell**, the hammy theatrical impresario, and **John Crawford**, theater doorman.

Plugs for **Victor** were short and sweet, pitching tele sets via still pix and live cut-in commercials.

No Need To Be Leery of Palace

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It was fear that **Palace** date might knock them out of any future jobs at the big chain houses because the ch'ns wouldn't play anybody who had been seen recently on the street. That objection has been knocked down by the acts now playing the **Paramount**, **Strand**, **Roxy** and **Music Hall**.

The other objection was money. It isn't a secret that the **Palace** with its 1,700-seat capacity, isn't compute with the hours in salary bids. In recent months, however, with the price sure coming down all over the country, the **Palace** dough isn't too far out line with that paid by competitors for standard acts. The four-figure attractions are still out of the **Palace** range, but as these come down they too may get offers.

It has also been shown that, instead of a **Palace** date hurting, it may actually help. Competitive bookers usually are too busy to make the showing dates around town to catch new acts. They usually catch them either in local cafes or at the **Palace**. The latter presents its eight acts with all the usual showmanlike trimmings given in the bigger houses. The acts work frequently to receptive audiences and get a better break in production than in the one-nighters in an act town.

Based on past performances, the act that takes a **Palace** date stands a better chance of getting caught by more potential buyers than in working the subway wheels. And if the act has anything it may oper at a top Broadway house almost immediately after finishing at the **Palace**.

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