

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics  
Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:45 PM each month  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

JOHN HOPPER, President  
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July found us back on Zoom with ten members and five guests and friends of the Ring attending. We were happy to hear that our “check is in the mail” for the Winter Carnival, and that Terry Evanswood would be opening at his new theater sometime in early August. We also announced that the Magic Ranch is the only get-together still being planned in 2020 (October 9 & 10), and if the 2021 Winter Carnival is good to go by next March, Tom has talked to renowned family/children’s entertainer, Tim Hannig, who will be joining us.

Our theme this month was “Animal Magic,” but our President, John Hopper, opened by showing us a couple books that he has recently received in the mail from a mystery donor...including Trost’s fifth book in the series. Leave it to our Treasurer to come up with something to fit the theme even though there isn’t an animal anywhere in his home: he showed us a bizarre trick that he did when he was a kid on a farm to bring a fly back to life after they have been frozen. Much to Vorjohan’s utter surprise, this was written up in a minuscule entry in George Anderson’s “Magic Digest.” Then Tom followed with a trick he has just learned from Beam’s Semi Automatic #12 and showed a well-timed release of “Remaskable” that he got from Vanishing Inc.

Steve Jerden showed what we thought was a spring Rocky Raccoon...but it was actually a real coon-skin hat, but he had a spring skunk just for fun, too. Cayden Goodman talked briefly about the two-day Youth event that the I.B.M. had earlier in July, and he showed something he learned from it making coins appear and travel to a glass. Mike Stratman did his well-honed routine for Fraidy Cat Rabbit and even elicited laughs on Zoom (which is tough to do!). Bill Sturgis joked around with an appearing cat...his cat. Then he performed Danny Archer’s “In a Pig’s Eye” which got as many groans as it got laughs.

Bill Osburn produced a rabbit...with fangs, and placed it into a wringer machine to flatten it out (along with its attitude). He also showed the progress that he is making on his radio controlled “Ask Alexander” framed posters that he is putting out in very limited release. Cincinnati friend, and International Treasurer of the I.B.M., Chuck Arkin, shared a joke about 40 chickens, and then performed and taught another version of a card trick that he saw earlier in the meeting. Michael Messing found a good effect for Zoom as he did the Lazy Man’s Card Trick. And our Program Chairman once again pulled up the anchor as he showed us “how to make a cow appear” from an empty sack when he produced two iconic fast-food clam-shell boxes. Now that was a happy way to end our meeting.

Tom Vorjohan