

Thursday, June 10, 1982 O&E

Zelini and Sabrina have a magic relationship

By Duane Stewart
special writer

ROMANCE LED TO a show-business partnership for 23-year-old Myron Zolkewsky and 19-year-old Julie Baur.

Abacadabra was the word that started their professional relationship. But it was a special word called Love that conjured their magic act, which they perform under the stage names Zelini and Sabrina.

Zolkewsky and Baur were Southfield residents before a recent move to Royal Oak. Zolkewsky has been doing magic since he was a kid. "I used to send away through the mail for stuff on magic," Zolkewsky said, remembering his younger days, when ads on the back of a comic book had a hypnotic effect.

"I'D OFTEN practice my sleight of hand in the classroom at school, when I was bored with the teacher. Some kids just doodle around when the teacher loses their attention. I would spend my time mastering the vanishing pen trick. Not to impress anybody. I was just bored and had to do something."

It was just a little over a year ago when Zolkewsky and Baur met. It was only natural that Baur would take an interest in her boyfriend's mysterious hobby.

"I would pick up some of the devices and read about how to do the trick, and then I'd start playing around," she said.

"Myron showed me how to do some of the magic. Eventually I got good

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— Myron Zolkewsky
magician

at it. Then we started developing a show."

For the last five years, Zolkewsky has been doing professional nightclub acts solo and with assistants. His first big appearance came before he was a professional, back in 1974 on the Bozo the Clown show. "I was 18 years old at the time. I entered an amateur magician contest on the Bozo the Clown show in Windsor. I didn't win, but it was great experience. The funny thing about it was that here I was in high school appearing on that kiddie show, thinking nobody from school would see me, but all my friends said, 'Hey, I saw you on the Bozo show.'" I was embarrassed being on the show, and yet my buddies were watching it."

ZELINI AND Sabrina started as a professional act in September 1982. They played a vaudeville show — at Elie's Supper Club in Clawson — consisting of a Jolson act, a comedy skit and a magic show. During the day, they have done less complex acts at nursery schools in the metro-Detroit area.

Their adult entertainment incor-

porates fire-eating, mind-reading, appearing and disappearing doves, rope tricks, working with animals, and a fabulous segment where Zelini makes Sabrina vanish from a box shish-kebabed by swords.

The magic act has appeared in cities including Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Toronto. One performance was used as part of the Super Bowl festivities in Cincinnati. Except for the nursery school shows, getting a contract in the Detroit area has proved difficult.

"Detroit just isn't into magic," Zolkewsky said. "There aren't any big revues like they might have in Las Vegas or other resort towns. Right now I'd say California and New York are the best places. Actually, anywhere but Detroit."

"I GUESS the reason it's so easy for us to land jobs out of state is because they want to see somebody new and fresh. They're tired of the local people. . . . Maybe if the economic situation gets better out here, there will be a bigger demand for magic."

Zolkewsky and Baur aren't full-time magicians just yet. Both are temporarily supporting themselves through jobs where money is conjured a little less easily than with the tap of a wand.

Zolkewsky runs a security guard agency in Southfield and Baur is a jack-of-all-trades, accepting a variety of positions, from ice cream vendor to cashier at a gas station.



MINDY SAUNDERS/staff photographer

Magic puts a dove in flight, as Myron Zolkewsky and Julie Baur practice their magic act.

'Myron showed me how to do some of the magic. Eventually I got good at it. Then he started developing a show.'

— Julie Baur
magic-show partner

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