## the generations

By Alice Collins

Milton Kort is a magic man from the ip of his head to the bottom of his toes. He speaks of magic things and pends hour after hour in his magic

But Kort, with his tiny handlebar

But Kort, with his tiny handlebar mustache and rapid-fire speech accom-panied by chuckies, isn't an inhabitant of the world of "Allee in Wonderland." Instead, be lives a normal life, in a normal house, on a normal street. He is 65, married, has two grown daughters and some grandchildren, and he works as a pharmacist in the professional building at Sinal Hospital in Detroit.

MAGIC IS his lifelong hobby — a hobby that's taken over a large part of his home and his time.

"Come in, let me show you some of my proudest possessions," he said as he led the way down the stairs of his Birmingham home and into his magic environment.

The first room with about 1

vironment.

The first room, with shelves from floor to ceiling, holds thousands of knick-knacks and art, all relating to his

Mick-knacks and art, all relating to his hobby.

Who wall is a certificate of Kort's membership in the Inner Magic Circle with 172 members it's the most prestigious group of magicians in the world, according to Kort.

He pulled his "own personal magic and" out of a leather case. "This was made for me in India," he said. The wand has a skull, make and his initiats. After a tour of the first room, he led he way through a laundry room to a closed door with "Kort's Kave" written on it.

"Enter," he said, opening the door, magazines and a card catalog for his library.

These basement rooms appear to

hold everything ever written about magic. Kort himself has written two books and is writing a third.

IN THE CENTER of the room is a black card table and chairs, just right for performing his favorite kind of magie — "sleight-o'thand right there under the nose of the person watching. Close-up magic is the epitome, so close they can touch."

You won't see Kort's name on theater or night-tub marquees or on national TV — he's not in show business and never wanted to be. "Show business is glamprous and the appliause is the greatest," he said, "but

"Show business is glamorous and the appliance is the greatest." he said, "but I only wanted magic to be a hobby, not my life's work. One main reason is I never wanted to travel." I would much rather stay here and teach the kids."

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Kort is known by magicians all over the world through correspondence.

He is best known here for teaching magic to youngsters. He's the master deep to the tell-twelve Mystics, a group of youngsters 10 to 18 years old who meet monthly at the Tel-Twelve Mail in Southfield.

KROBT SAID he was "born in Detroit

who meet monthly at the Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield.

KORT SAID he was "born in Detroit at a very carly age." He was an only child and "a loner.

"When I was 8, I went to a neighborhood theater with my cousin to see a magleian. When we got home, my cousin showed me the only Irick he knew. He made a card disappear.

"From that point on I was hooked. I went to the library and looked up books about magle," he said, "I found one on modern magle and started to copy the whole thing in long hand."

Kort learned everything from books and practiced, usually by himself. He performed a private parties for mony when he was 18 and continued only long enough to pay his way through college.

"When I was in the army in World War II, I went around lecturing on how to cheat at cards. That's where I made my big mistake — I should have played cards instead of lecture, I could have made a million dollars."

If got involved with the Tel-Twelve Mystics because his granddaughter, Lori, wanted him to go with her when the club was being organized four years ago.

Lori soon quit going, but not Kort. The youngsters prize him as a teacher.

A YEAR AGO the "Mystles" put on their lirst show at the mall. It was a success. They put on another show last month with each of three performances drawing audiences of from 200-300 persons.

Milton Kort has been practicing magic for 57 years, and he enjoys teaching youngsters like Matt Jacobson the tricks of the trade. Here he demonstrates one of his favorite tricks in his library of his home.



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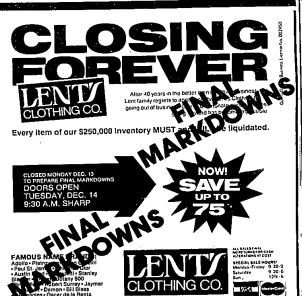
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