

Sleight of hand

A young entertainer is hooked on magic

By SHIRLEE IDEN

A doctor can't go out and simply buy himself a stethoscope and hang out a shingle. Neither can a magician.

A Southfield practitioner of the magical arts, Myron Zolkewski—known in

entertainment circles as "Zelini"—found that out a long time ago.

The youthful magician has been "making magic" for eight years and has logged three years as a performer.

"You have to work at it like any

other profession," Zolkewski said. "I make a living this way and also by trading in stocks and bonds. But with work, you can make a living as a magician."

The magician-stock trader also attends Wayne State University where he is a third year student in a criminal justice program.

He plans to continue towards a graduate degree. His goal is to work for the treasury department or the secret service.

Born in Dearborn, Zolkewski has lived in this area all his life. He was a teenager when he became influenced by Mark Wilson, a professional illusionist, and Mr. Houdini, a Southfield magician.

Zolkewski said he has more than 100 catalogs of tricks and other paraphernalia necessary to magicians.

"You have to keep right on top of what is available and what tricks and special effects you should or should not buy," he said.

ASK HIM about his best trick, and he'll tell you that he makes his assistant, Raye Michelle, float in the air, a feat called levitation.

"But my personal favorite is sleight of hand," he adds.

Zolkewski said he spent much of his time in high school concentrating on the latest tricks he was mastering and the newest equipment he needed, rather than on academics.

"I was never good at things like math anyhow," he said. "I constantly practice what I am trying to perfect."

As a performer, he has done his act in Toledo, Windsor, and all over the metropolitan area.

"Once I did my act on the ice in the Windsor Arena. But most jobs are for banquets, theater parties and at country clubs," he said.

Zolkewski said Gov. William Milliken saw his act at a dinner and sent him a letter.

"He said he remembered me and would keep me in mind for social functions," he said.

Zolkewski contends that a magic act can earn a living for the magician, but an area can only support "so many magicians."

"I work with five different agencies to get bookings and although I try to be different, my act is traditional," he said. "I don't do a disco magic act. I wear a tuxedo with tails and keep it like old time magic acts."

ZOLKEWSKI and his assistant do 30 minutes of various tricks including a Hindu rope trick, the levitation and lots of sleight of hand.

"I work with five birds," he said. "Also my assistant does have her own power and she does a floating ball trick. Usually, the audience thinks I have something to do with it, so I try to sit in the audience during her part."

As in other show biz acts, Zolkewski said, you have to have something unusual to get bookings.

"I try to use a lot of props that don't look like props and that people can relate to easily," he said. "I use cigarettes, the rope, cards, things like that. I use plastic records and make them change from black to red in color."

Despite the huge collection of catalogs of tricks and paraphernalia, his entire act fits into a suitcase magic table.

"I built it myself and designed the entire act by learning from the bad experiences we had," he said.

Most magicians have other means of earning a livelihood, he said.

"Larry Houdini is a full-time teacher and I know a couple who use their magic act in a marketing business," he said.

"I really do want to work for the secret service, but magic is enjoyable to me," he said. "It's possible to have fun with it while treating it as a business."



Zelini the magician, alias Myron Zolkewski of Southfield, likes sleight of hand best of all. Here, he shows one clay pipe, then two, three and four—all faster than the eye can follow. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

Risky diseases on rise

Cases of strep throat and scarlet fever reported to the Oakland County Division of Health from area schools are exceeding the number of cases reported this time last year. To date, 225 cases have been reported, compared to 143 cases at this time last year.

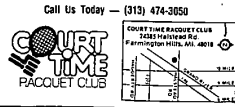
Strep throat and scarlet fever are caused by bacteria which is spread by

direct contact, such as touching or kissing someone who has a strep infection.

Strep throat is characterized by a sore throat, pain on swallowing and fever. Scarlet fever is a disease associated with skin rash, in addition to the above symptoms. Untreated cases can result in rheumatic fever, heart damage and hearing loss.

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CITY OF FARMINGTON NOTICE OF MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL TO REVIEW SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL

TO THE OWNERS OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LANDS:
Parcel Numbers: 28-126-002, 28-126-003, 28-126-004,
28-126-005, 28-126-006,
28-126-007, 28-126-008.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan, has prepared revised plans and specifications for street improvements on WHITTAKER STREET (from Grand River south approximately 600 feet) and a revised Special Assessment Roll to defray the cost of constructing said street improvements.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Farmington will meet at the City Hall in said city at 8:00 o'clock P.M. Eastern Standard Time, on Monday, April 16, 1979, to review the revised Special Assessment Roll and to hear all persons affected by said street improvement.

NEDEA VIANE, City Clerk

CITY OF FARMINGTON NOTICE OF MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL TO REVIEW SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL

TO THE OWNERS OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LANDS:
22-28-403-016; 22-28-403-017; 22-28-403-021;
22-28-403-023; 22-28-403-024.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan, has caused to be prepared a Special Assessment Roll to defray the cost of constructing street paving improvements on the following described street:

Said Special Assessment Roll is on file with the City Clerk and is available for public examination.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Farmington will meet at the City Hall in said city at 8:00 o'clock P.M. Eastern Standard Time, on Monday, April 16, 1979, for the purpose of reviewing said Special Assessment Roll and giving all interested persons an opportunity to be heard in connection therewith.

NEDEA VIANE, City Clerk

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**REGISTRATION
NOTICE
SPECIAL ELECTION
MAY 8, 1979**

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS:
CITY OF FARMINGTON, COUNTY OF OAKLAND
STATE OF MICHIGAN
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I WILL BE AT MY OFFICE
23600 LIBERTY STREET, FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN
MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1979 -- LAST DAY
FROM 8:00 A.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M.

the 30th day preceding said Election
As provided by Section 408, Act No. 118, Public Acts of 1964 as amended:
The name of no person but an **ACTUAL RESIDENT** of the precinct at the time of
registration, and entitled under the Constitution if remaining such resident, to vote at the
next election, shall be entered in the registration book.

The following Propositions will be voted on:
A. CREATION OF A DISTRICT LIBRARY AUTHORITY
Shall the Farmington Community Library be re-established as a district library authority
for a district including the City of Farmington and the City of Farmington Hills under
Section 2 (2) of Act No. 465 of the Public Acts of 1978?
B. AUTHORIZATION OF A PROPERTY TAX TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR OPERATIONS
OF A DISTRICT LIBRARY AUTHORITY
If the re-establishment of the Farmington Community Library as a district library authority
is approved, shall the Board of Trustees of the Farmington Community Library be
authorized to levy a tax to provide moneys for the operation of the library up to a
maximum of one and one-half (1.5) mills on each dollar (\$1.50 per \$1,000) of the
assessed valuation of property as finally equalized in the library district?

NEDEA VIANE, City Clerk

Published: March 29, 1979