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Mooney sophomore Kathy Curtis magically appears from a doll house which had been demonstrated as being empty.

A Day of Magic at Mooney

By JOAN M. SMITH

Visions of the great masters of magic, Houdini and Blackstone, were created for the Cardinal Mooney students during an assembly on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

They were treated to the wonders of illusion through the professional expertise of a Mooney graduate (class of '70), Frank Puff who bills himself as "The New Living Houdini."

"Houdini" took his audience on a journey through the art of magic. His performance included the puzzling "mystic door" act. There was a segment where he thrust a knife through a suit coat volunteered by a student and when the knife was withdrawn there wasn't a sign of a tear in the material. Then there was the "doll house illusion" where from an empty model house not only did a black cat, appropriately named "Blackstone" appear, but Mercy sophomore Kathy Curtis popped out.

Kathy herself is an ardent participant in the world of magic as she and her 13-year-old brother perform magic shows for birthday parties, hospital and nursing home benefits.

In fact, that is how Puff spent his early magic days by performing for school functions and community benefits.

"When I was 10 years old," he stated, "I saw the movie 'Houdini' with Tony Curtis, and that's when I really got into magic."

To turn this interest into an accomplished fact Puff had to

contact other magicians who were willing to share their knowledge. According to Puff this is the only way you can learn the craft, "and I learned from the best," he declared, "Dante, Norman Sehm, and Reveen."

He achieved professional status five years ago and now has his own company. The last two years they have been on a road tour, and shortly will leave for a two year tour through the South where they will perform at State fairs and county carnivals.

His one goal is to take a full illusion show to Europe. He was dubious about doing TV because in his estimation television has overplayed the magic variety shows.

His day consists of five to six hours of solid practice which shows in the way he performs and the way he produces an atmosphere of anxious expectation so necessary for the performing of magic.

His favorite act is the straight jacket escape . . . and it certainly pleased the Mooney audience. They sat spellbound as "Houdini" after being thoroughly trussed into a straight jacket proceeded to release himself, within minutes, from the confining garment. To highlight the suspense this action took place to the background music of the "Jaws" theme.

"The New Living Houdini" received a standing ovation and as he came back stage he beamed, "I've been working five years to get here, and it's really super. You know you've made it when your peers accept you."



Escape artist Frank Puff encourages Mooney students to lace straightjacket as securely and as complicatedly as possible. The students were only too happy to oblige, but their efforts were to no avail as "Houdini" soon had it removed. Willing assistants are Thomas Metzger, Michael Agostinelli, and Kirk Wagner.



Kathy and "Blackstone"

Photo by Ben Susso

Students Join Language Group

A dozen Nazareth Academy students have enrolled this year as members of the Student Affiliate Group of the State Association of Foreign Language Teachers.

They are Italian III students, Joyce Pastore, Jo Corraizza, Mary Jane Petruzzi, Chris Srokosz, Lorraine Rizzo; Spanish III student Joanne Wilkin; and Italian II students Anne Rosati, Roxanne LaDuca, Mary Rose Dispensa, Candy Hogan, Rose Giarratano, and Sue Finewood.

Students publish their own monthly Newsletter, participate in regional meetings, and enter contests sponsored by the group.

Members are busy now preparing their poster or decal entries for a Bicentennial contest — reflecting their heritage in some theme related to their study of a foreign language.



Winner's Circle

RapAround weekly will run a photo of a group of students taken somewhere in the diocese. One person will be circled and if that person brings the clipping to the Courier-Journal before noon of the Tuesday following publication date, he or she will receive \$5. This week's photo was taken at Cardinal Mooney during an assembly. The person circled above should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith Courier-Journal, by noon, Tuesday, Oct. 28 to receive \$5.

HOTLINE

It is the aim of RapAround to touch all of the bases. If we are missing any, please let Mrs. Joan M. Smith know your ideas. Drop her a line.

We need suggestions and invite criticism. From all indications, RapAround has gotten off to a successful start. We are pleased but need your help to keep it improving.