Magician Seeking to Out-Houdini Houdini

by MARY ANN SCOTT
Staff Writer

Back from a successful state fair tour of escaping from handcuffs and a box constractor just as exploding gunpowder sends fans 10 feet into the air, Vestal magician Rick Dennis is busy booking a college tour for next year.

He will call the show, appropriately, "Houdini, Back From the Grave!" and will take partner, Scott Darling, of Glenwood Road, Vestal, for psychic and ESP acts. Darling is now serving in the Navy.

Young Dennis, 22, has been performing as magician, juggler, fire eater, sword swallowers and illusionist with the European Illusion Theatre, playing at state fairs this year. He also handled professional aspects of the show.

He and his wife, the former Pamela Schlueter, also have probably had a unique start to their marriage. Just five days after the wedding, Rick severed off his wife's hand in a giant gallusine, turned her into a giant black widow spider, severed through her with a 36-inch buzz saw blade, and cut out her middle and pushed it several feet from the rest of her body.

Pamela found herself, however, floating in the air.

A similar stunt is planned for next year.

Dennis' stunts also include performing 5,000 feet in the air in a strait jacket with the aid of a helicopter, with ropes holding him set out with safeguards, and says that he never uses safety devices in his shows.

For store promotions, Dennis also plans to include performing 5.069 feet above the ground, a record set by the Swiss in 1970, in a small dog and the five-foot exotic boa constrictor. And five furry tarantula spiders are on order from an exotic pet shop in Georgia for use in still another escape act.

His fire-eating routine nearly cost him his life when learning the technique years ago.

After putting his wife in a box, Vestal magician Rick Dennis places 12 "swords" through the sides of the container . . . and then, "Shazam!" the box is turned around and the audience finds that she is "transformed" into a rabbit (in the lower left corner of the photo at right). (Photos by Walt Adams)

Applicant Sought
for Recreation Post

Vestal residents interested in serving on the Vestal Recreation Commission may pick up applications at the town clerk's office in Vestal Town Hall.

Deadline for submitting applications will be 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3.

The recreation commission meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Members serve without pay.

Jaycees, Jaycees
Plan Joint Dinner

The Vestal Jaycees and Jaycees are hosting a joint membership dinner and meeting on Saturday, Nov. 21, at Twin Orchards Community Center. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a spaghetti dinner prepared by the Jaycees. There will be a short business meeting followed by entertainment.

All past presidents of both clubs have been invited to participate in the meeting. Chairwoman Romane Gross said, "We would like an opportunity to share ideas with all past members on projects which the organizations might do to help the Vestal community."

Breast Self-Exam
Program at JCC Mon.

On Monday, Nov. 21, the American Cancer Society and Jewish Community Center will sponsor a breast self-examination program.

Three programs will be held at the Jewish Community Center on Thursday at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The program will consist of a film, "Breast Cancer, Where We Are," followed by a talk and demonstration done with an anatomical model. Participants will also have the opportunity if they wish, to examine their own breasts with the aid of a qualified technician, registered nurses made available through the Cancer Society and the Health Committee of the Jewish Community Center. This part of the program is designed to give the participant actual training in the proper methods of breast self-examination.

National figures show that nearly 40 percent of all women are aware of breast self-examination, but only 30 percent actually make the process a monthly habit.

Breast cancer knows no economic or social class, and all women have the opportunity of early detection through the self-examination process. The American Cancer Society urges all women of Broome County to attend this life-saving program.

For further information call the American Cancer Society at 724-6471 or the Jewish Community Center at 724-2417.