

PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



Jay Sankey hasn't got a suntan this summer. This 17-year-old Acton area resident hasn't been swimming or playing ball. He's been spending five or six hours a day sitting at his desk surrounded by mirrors and diet Pepsi practising magic.

A few weeks ago the Free Press carried a short feature on Jay. Readers found it so interesting I decided a more in-depth look at this interesting young man was needed.

Known as Conrad professionally, Jay is a dyed-in-the-wool sleight of hand illusionist who delights in deceiving the eyes.

He's a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (I.B.M.) of which there are 100,000 members around the world—a very strict organization, Jay says.

He has a library of 60 magic books and puts his knowledge into practice entertaining children and adults at various social functions.

Back to the kit

Jay got started in the business at the ripe old age of 12 after he went back for a second look at his toy magic set.

"Most boys get a magic kit when they're around 9 or 10 but they're boring and too much like work. I chucked mine out like everyone else did."

But something about Jay's set pulled him back to it. He went to a magic shop, bought a book or two and a deck of cards and started manipulating his hands.

"The hand is not quicker than the eye," he comments.

"But the hand can fool the eye. The best magic is done slowly. If I were to do it really quickly, people would feel they had been tricked. The hand can deceive the eye and mislead peoples' senses."

Jay prefers sleight of hand illusions with simple props such as cards or coins. He feels the large illusions are better for television.

"Most (tricks) are childishly simple, people give you more credit than you should have. The whole part of knocking down peoples' ideas."

Magic books are a great help, Jay feels, providing they are well written. Although expensive they are second best to actual teaching, Jay says, remarking that the few magic lessons he took cost him \$15 an hour.

He gets quite incensed over books in ordinary bookstores aimed at youngsters telling how cer-

tain popular magic tricks are performed. "That's a crime," he exclaims.

Closeup magic best

There are three reasons Jay prefers closeup magic to any other kind of activity.

"There's no substitute for good sleight of hand, people are more impressed with closeup work and no store can sell your trick."

"Closeup work" Jay continues "separates the laymen from the magicians and uses manipulatory skills."

Magic is a very creative art, Jay feels, as each magician usually gives a trick his own twist. The magic must fit a magician's personality.

The oldest illusion on record is the old cups and balls trick which pre-dates the Bible and probably goes back 4,000 years.

Jay has performed for many diverse groups including doing street magic—one of the most difficult types of magic. He was asked to fly to Ottawa for the National Capital Commission to do a children's show. He plans to get into entertaining in restaurants and conventions doing his closeup work for individuals and "getting a chance to meet people."

Magic complements his other ambition to be a writer when he's finished with college. Currently, Jay is a student going into grade 12 in Acton High School. He hopes to go to Ryerson for a B.A. in journalism.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Sankey, of R.R. 4, Acton, Jay has parental support in his endeavors. He says he comes from an artistic family. "We all do different things."

His mother is a landscape architect, his father has his own architectural business, 20-year-old brother Chris, a U. of T. student has his own student painting business and sister Gretchen, 16, is into the arts and sculpting.

The 75 acre family property supports sheep, chickens and various dogs and cats.

Jay is not your usual run-of-the-mill teenager. He possesses a gift of the gab that would shame my Irish grandmother. He's very easy to listen to and gives the appearance of being much older than his years.

Considerable travelling has matured this young man. He spent four months in Europe last fall and has been an exchange student in Quebec. Travelling doesn't seem to affect his schoolwork. Jay says he doesn't have any trouble keeping up and enjoys school.

A budding magician Jay may be and he probably has a way to go before he's another Doug Henning but he's got the charm and persuasiveness down pat. When you listen to Jay run through his patter you want to believe in magic.

I kind of like his "I make bunnies" button too.



Jay Sankey

Regional Plan — it's official

Ontario Housing Minister Claude Bennett has signed the Halton Official Plan which now gives the region a legal definition of how land can and cannot be used.

The signing of the plan was to have taken place July 16 with the Minister present at Halton Regional Headquarters, but it all fell through when problems related to population density in Oakville caused a development consortium to object.

Councillors had been asked to approve the plan with certain deletions but they would not. They asked Mr. Bennett to sign the plan as originally agreed to by all parties. Mr. Bennett would not sign the document and was forced to leave.

In the meantime, Mr. Bennett said he held a meeting with the primary objector, Westoak Trails Consortium, and as a result, "I was able to convince the objector that the modification already agreed to by the region dealt fairly with their concerns."

Planning Committee Chairman Roy Booth told

Regional Council last Wednesday that he had, as acting chairman, gone to Queen's Park with Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy and signed the plan with Mr. Bennett on Aug. 1.

He said there are still

some areas of deferral including the designation of some lands outside Acton and Georgetown. This was confirmed in a letter sent to the Region by Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Booth said that on the whole "we have the

plan signed and exactly the way we want it."

Councillor Bill Johnson rose at the end of Mr. Booth's announcement to say he did not appreciate an apology given to Mr. Bennett after July 16 by Mr. Booth and Councillor

Steve Toth. "No apology was due," Mr. Johnson said.

Mr. Toth said the apology was only a

"common courtesy" extended to Mr. Bennett for coming out to the region although nothing was accomplished.



At an informal ceremony in his Queen's Park office the Hon. Claude Bennett, Minister of Housing, Councillor Roy Booth, regional planning committee chairman, and Mayor Pete Pomeroy, acting regional chairman show the Halton Official Plan signed by the Minister, which now makes it a completed document.

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Another Actario early bird draw

The second Actario early bird draw will be held this weekend with the prizes awarded next Wednesday night.

In other Actario developments the blitzes of Glenlea and Bovis have been completed and ticket sellers have moved into the older parts of town now.

Two gourmet dinners for two will be the early bird draw prizes.

The lucky winners selected from among those who have purchased Actario tickets by the weekend will be chauffeured to Prospect Park where they will be greeted and served by a French waiter, a gourmet meal prepared by the superb cooks on the town hall restoration and Actario committees.

The four succulent meals will be enjoyed under a canopy by the romantic and scenic banks of the Fairy Lake. A strolling musician will serenade the diners. There will also be a wine steward on hand.

Actario promoters invite those not lucky enough to win these early bird draw prizes to drop by the park anyway with a picnic supper next Wednesday at 7 p.m.

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Limehouse

Approve craft shop

Halton Hills planning board has no objection to the conversion of a garage to an arts and craft shop on the Fifth Line near Limehouse, and will advise the Niagara Escarpment accordingly.

The decision last Wednesday overruled a staff recommendation to turn down the application claiming it is a commercial use, and does not fit into the category of a home occupation. The staff report stated new commercial uses, other than in the designated hamlets, need an amendment to the official Plan and Zoning bylaw. The report said the craft shop in the garage next to the house owned by Paul C. Nielsen, is not in the hamlet.

Approved severances

Applications for 231 land separations were made in Halton Hills from 1978 until July of this year.

From that total 159 or 69 per cent were approved, 56 were turned down, and 16 were deferred or held for resubmission.

Twenty-five landowners appealed the rejections of the severance, with only one granted by the Ontario Municipal Board to date. Thirteen were refused, five were withdrawn and six are still waiting to be heard.

The Niagara Escarp-

ment Commission appealed two decisions made by the Land Division Committee and won one at the OMB. The other is waiting for a hearing.

Nielsen thanked planning board for their consideration and remarked, "It warms the cockles of my heart to see this minuscule operation receive the same consideration as larger ones."

Councillor Roy Booth said it would be a small arts and craft shop only 12 by 21 feet, and pointed out Nielsen could set it up without any permission if articles made only on the property were sold. He put forward the motion to tell the NEC the Town is in favor of the project.

Councillor Harry Levy commented the rural setting seemed ideal for this business.

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This registration cannot commence until conditions set down by the regional planner have been fulfilled.

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