

Practice makes perfect says teenage magician

by Marilyn Lee
For 15-year-old Jeffrey Gold magic is much more than a gag. To the young magician, magic is a hobby which involves a great deal of time and effort, to say nothing of money. For the past two months Jeffrey has been staying on

Penetanguishene Bay at his grandmother's cottage. Jeffrey has been spending much of his time in the past five years working on and perfecting tricks which he knows will puzzle but please his friends and audiences. At that time, Mrs. Gold could not have imagined just how interested Jeffrey would become in the Mysterious pastime. His home town is Toronto where he attends Upper Canada College. He will be going into grade ten this year. For Jeffrey magic means belonging to a whole other world. Magic is not simply a couple of card tricks staged by a crafty entertainer. There are all kinds of organizations for magicians and there are always lectures and meetings being held," said Jeffrey. He is a member of the Society of Canadian Magicians which is based in Toronto. Jeffrey is a self-taught magician as are most magicians. He said the best way to learn how to do tricks well is by using books and following instructions that come with the various props needed to do the tricks. "But the only way to really learn how to do the tricks well is by spending lots of time practising them. Presentation is everything," said Jeffrey. Jeffrey left on Sunday to attend a "magic camp" in Long Island. The camp, which Jeffrey expects might be something of a "Las Vegas junket" is geared to the young magician who wants to improve his



Nothing up my sleeve

Fifteen-year-old Jeffrey Gold may have nothing up his sleeve but he certainly has a bag full of tricks which can please and puzzle even the most skeptical adults. Jeffrey has been doing magic tricks ever since he was a pre-teen with a broken leg. Staff photo

presentation of tricks. There will be lectures from world famous magicians. The camp is sponsored by one of the major prop makers and for this reason Jeffrey is skeptical about how genuine the camp may be. He said he thinks they are offering the camp in order to promote their products. "But I'm really looking forward to the camp. I have wanted to go to one for a long time but was never able to find one. We hit upon this one just by chance," said Jeffrey. When asked whether or not there would be any girls taking part in the camp in New York Jeffrey answered "unfortunately not."

"Magic," he said, "has always been thought of as a thing for men. I mean, all magicians were traditionally men but now there is one professional female magician. When women's lib takes over..."

When Jeffrey steps onto the stage or living room floor or whatever to give his performance he is dressed in a top hat and T-shirt which has a tuxedo drawn on it, complete with the bow tie and carnation.

He said he hopes to eventually get a tuxedo for his performances. Just a real silk hat costs about \$125.

So far, Jeffrey has given performances to children and adults, most of the time at private parties. This winter he is going to give performances each Saturday to children at Toronto's libraries.

He has been looking for chances this summer to give performances around the Penetanguishene and Midland area but so far has had no luck. Chances are people don't realize this young entertainer lives "just around the corner."

One morning however, Jeffrey did manage to befuddle the announcers and newsmen at CKMP radio.

"The audience plays a great part in the success of the show. If you have a good audience things usually turn out well," said Jeffrey.

But Jeffrey admits sometimes the tricks do backfire. "When a trick doesn't work, and it does happen, you just have to be as nonchalant as possible and excuse yourself gracefully," he said.

"Plans for the future? I'm not sure right now. I have four years of school left before I have to decide anything. I'm not going to make magic a profession, though," said Jeffrey.

But he does want to continue giving performances and entertaining people. Right now one of his greatest concerns is what he can call himself when he goes on stage.

"There are lots of possibilities with the name Gold, like 14 Karat. Pure Gold or whatever... I'm working on it."

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