

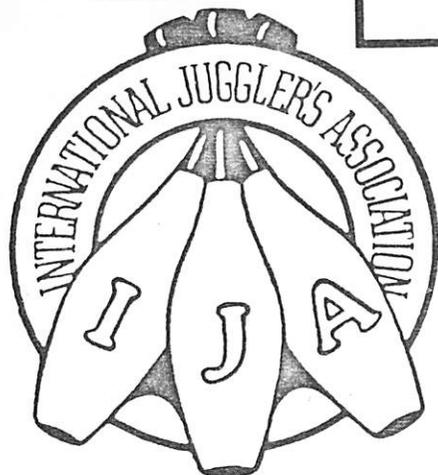
VOL. 25

This Issue in Memory of

SELMA BRAATZ

ERIC JOHNSON

No. 8



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST

1973

### BOBBY MAY SUFFERS HEART-ATTACK

JULY 19

MRS. BOBBY MAY—EMILY—WRITES:

"Rather sad news—Bobby May—in hospital—had a coronary.  
If friends wish to send cards—use home address:

BOBBY MAY, 1761 East 238th Street, Euclid, Ohio 44117

JULY 28

KEN BENGE WRITES:

"As you know Bobby May had a heart-attack. I flew up and saw him and he appears to be in good spirits—however, he's still in intensive care.

AUGUST 3

HOMER STACK REPORTS VIA TELEPHONE:

That Bobby May had had a heart-attack; did not know his condition.

AUGUST 8

HARRIET F. WALDRON—A FRIEND OF THE MAYS IN N.Y.C.—REPORTS:

That she believes Bobby May is expected to return home from the hospital Friday, August 10th.

[Judy and I and, I'm sure, all IJAers join in wishing you a speedy recovery, Bobby. —Editor]

### TOMMY CURTIN BECOMES A FATHER—AGAIN!

IT'S A(NOTHER) BOY!

He came into the world July 3, weighing 8 pounds 2 ounces and 20 inches long; His name—William Riddick Curtin.

[Welcome, William Riddick! Congratulations Mary and Tommy! —Ed.]

## WORLD'S GREATEST WOMAN JUGGLER SELMA BRAATZ, 89, WAS LAID TO REST SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

Your editor first learned of the death of Selma Braatz from Homer Stack while in San Francisco. My first day back in New York City was spent trying to learn further details.

Selma Braatz had been retired for some 35 years after a 35-year juggling career that began when she was 18. As she probably just celebrated her 89th birthday on June 30th she was probably born in 1884. She was very active in IJA for many years, but her name was dropped from the rolls in 1970.

I went to the address listed in the 1969 IJA Roster—720 West 181 Street; I walked the few steps past the RKO Coliseum Theatre on Broadway, where she may have performed, to find her name still listed in the building directory. Mr. Dunlap, the building superintendent handed me a slip of paper from which I copied the following:

Mrs. Selma Blecher-Braetz Apt. 60  
Cooks Funeral Home 117 West 72 St  
Sat. the 4th of Aug. 1973 8am to 10:30am

The funeral home refused to give me any information, not even the date on which she died.

A copy boy at the offices of *Variety* on 46th Street informed me that no one there had ever heard of a lady juggler, much less Selma Braatz and that neither the *New York Times* nor *Variety* had carried her obituary.

THE LATE JOE LAURIE, JR., OF *Variety*, WROTE IN HIS CLASSIC WORK (*Vaudeville*, New York: Holt, 1953 —page 24):

Selma Brattz (sic) was the greatest of the lady jugglers; she did stuff that only men were supposed to do.

IRONICALLY—VIOLET BEHAN HAD WRITTEN:

JULY 22

Had a nice note from Selma Braatz who was once the world's greatest woman juggler, she says she is 89 years old now, living alone in a New York apartment, taking care of herself, and is as well as can be expected.

## CHARTER MEMBER, ERIC JOHNSON, PASSED AWAY FRIDAY, JULY 13

VIOLET BEHAN WRITES:

JULY 15

I was advised that IJA member Eric Johnson of 2609 Humbolt Street Flint, Michigan 48504, passed away late Friday, July 13th. His niece, Marie Johnson advised me.

Eric was one of the Charter members of IJA.

Eric worked for General Motors for many years until he retired, but his hobby was juggling and balancing. He was a good friend of Harry Lind, my step-father. He was not married.

JUGGLE-IN REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

JULY 22—CALIFORNIA—JUGGLE-IN

REPORT BY HILLARY CARLIP

The Calif. Juggle-In was great. There were nine of us there but as the saying goes "quality—not quantity" from L.A. came Ira Mullin equipped with his Breenos—which are badminton rackets with pockets on the face (strings removed) and 3 big rubber balls are used, using the rackets as hands. Wally Straton an ex-IJAer [Wally reinstated at the Juggle-In.—Ed.] who is also a ventriloquist and did some pretty fancy one-arm handstands; new member Stephanie Leonard who is able to juggle five [balls] and has only been juggling 5 months; Bobby Sandler (he's joined!) flashing seven [balls] for his first time; [He flashed them 7 times.—Ed.] and I, doing a lot more since the convention—able to pass clubs now (thanks to Ken & Carol Bengé who sent me some!) From S.F. came Hovey Burgess, flashing 5 tennis rackets and using a tennis racket as a devil stick, Judy Burgess who helped teach quite a lot, Cecil MacKinnon who worked with passing clubs in spite of the wind and slept a bit; and Martin Gray doing continuous-over-the-foot jumps with the diabolo.

There was a lot of passing done. Judy, Stephanie and I got 10 & 11 ball lines together while Hovey and Bobby were doing ten passes apiece with ten balls between them. Stephanie and I were passing 8 balls out of juggling 4 each. There was a birthday party in the park so we got to eat cake and ice cream—pretty exciting!

*It might seem weird to read all this and not know anyone—I know it used to happen to me—but after the Convention it was so great to read these things about people I had met so—  
see you next year in Sarasota! —Hillary Carlip*

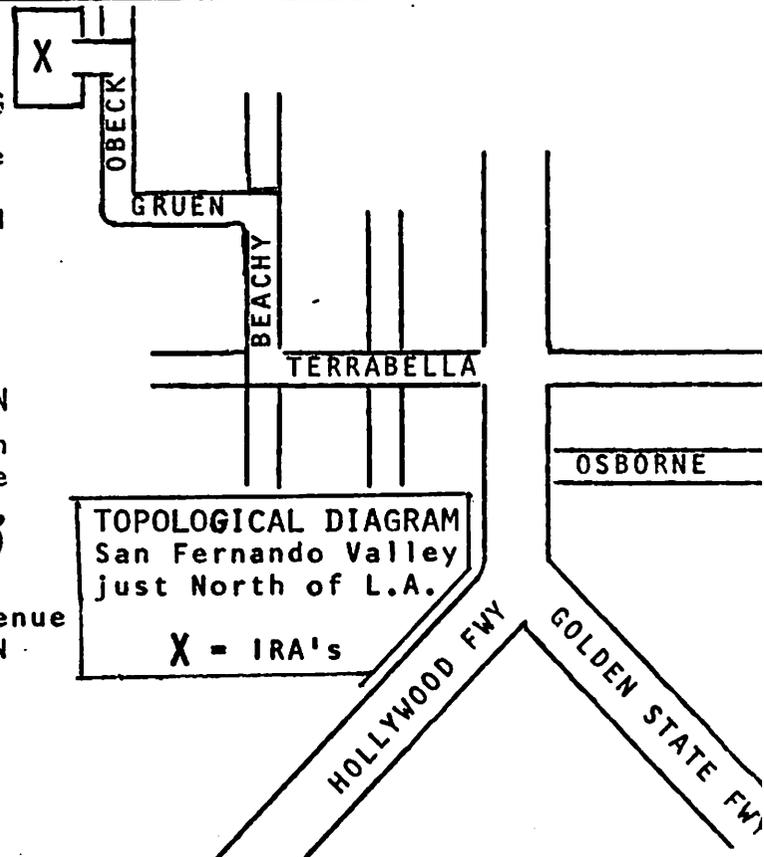
AUGUST 12—NEW YORK—JUGGLE-IN  
ANNOUNCEMENT BY JERRY GREENBERG

This Juggle-In is about to take place as this issue goes to press: Sun. 12:00 noon—near Sail Boat Pond at 5th Avenue/72nd Street Entrance.

AUGUST 26—CALIFORNIA—JUGGLE-IN  
ANNOUNCEMENT BY IRA MULLIN

Scheduled for 2:00 in the afternoon Sunday, August 26th at the residence of IRA MULLIN, 9719 Obeck Avenue, Arleta, California 91331 (899-5851)

1. off on TERRABELLA Street
2. down two streets to BEACHY Avenue
3. right on BEACHY—left on GRUEN
4. right on OBECK Avenue

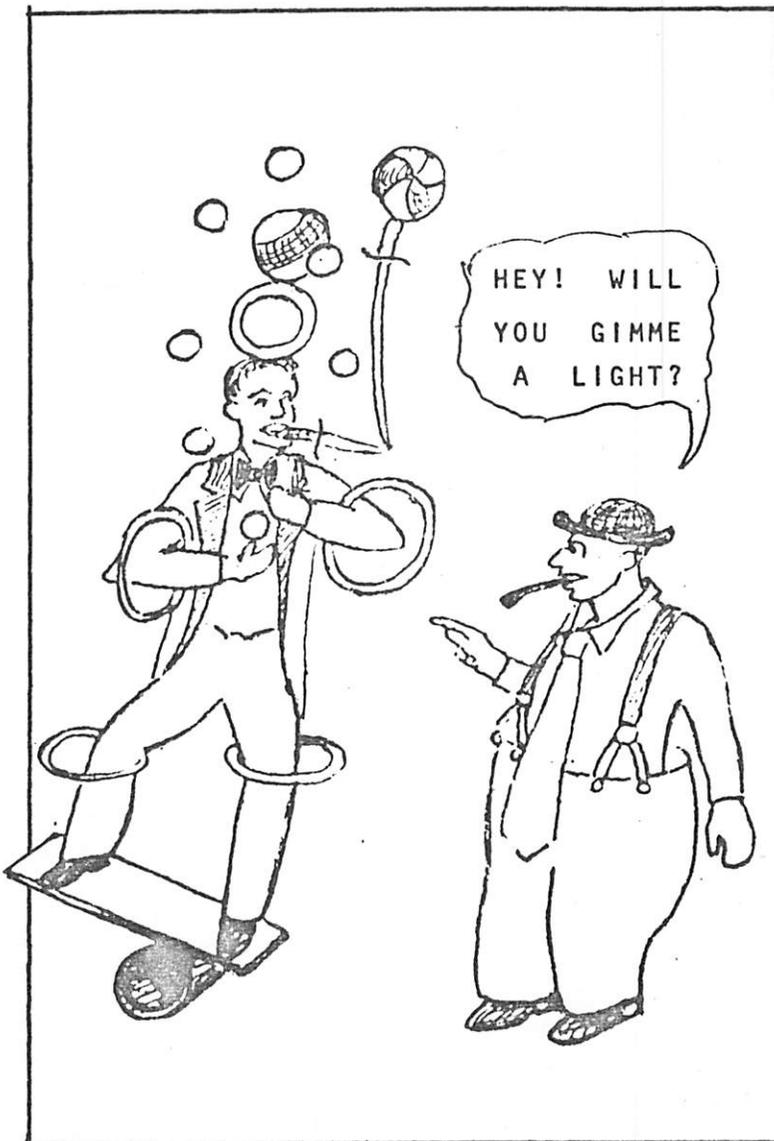


## THE ROLY POLY

BY HAMILTON FLOYD

Sorry I missed the 1973 Convention. I'm still trying to digest some of the ideas I picked up at the 1972 Convention. And that might interest those who would like to learn some new tricks.

I was encouraged to try the Roly Poly, or *Bongo Board*. In making my own, I used a 1" x 12" board, 30" long. And a 12" length of 6" (I.D.) pipe. I tried plastic (PVC), but found it had gotten slightly out of round, just from its own weight. So I used iron pipe. It stays round. Its weight may slow the action a bit, but it's easier to learn that way. You can slow it even more if you roll it on a rubber mat. Then if you have a post or bar to hold on to, you can keep practicing until you don't need to hold on any more. In the cartoon below, the performer is on the Roly Poly I'm talking about.



When Juggling and Roly Poly are both so easy you hardly even think about it, then you can do them both together. But that seems to be kindergarten stuff for a lot of IJA members. I saw them doing some complicated and weird variations.



## NEW IDEA DEPARTMENT:

Do the gag shown here, and you might get a laugh.

BUT HERE'S A WAY YOU MIGHT BE A SENSATION!

Just give the guy a light, While you keep everything going.

YOU work out the details and let me know how you do it.

Hamilton (Ham) Floyd  
240 E. Rosewood Avenue  
San Antonio, Texas 78212

## THE WAY THE BALL BOUNCES

BY ROGER MONTANDON

With the current IJA membership of about 150 and dues at \$6.00 (family membership at \$7.00) it becomes evident that the slightly over \$900.00 coming in isn't enough to take care of what the Newsletter is presently doing, much less pay for any appreciable expansion.

Aside from a rich "angel" or raising dues, to both of which I would be opposed but for different reasons, I feel that there are only two other practical options left—~~increase~~ increase the membership to around the 300 level, raise income from advertising, or a combination of both.

The increase in membership is something that every member can help in accomplishing. If you know some former IJA members that have dropped out find out why and if they are still interested in juggling see if you can't rekindle their enthusiasm to the point of getting them reinstated. In addition to word of mouth promotion the practice Ken Bengé had of sending review copies to magic magazine reviewers should be continued and expanded to include all allied arts publications such as *Calliope* of the Clowns of America; ventriloquists' publications etc. Whenever funds are available occasional ads in such publications could be used.

I know IJA Newsletter has and does carry advertising occasionally but there has never been a real concerted effort to promote this feature. Two thoughts on this occur to me. 1. Appoint an advertising director whose duty would be to promote advertising and do the layout. 2. Have only two or at most three issues a year in which advertising appears—possibly the December issue which would catch season's greetings ads as well as items for Christmas giving etc., and the May issue (or the issue just before convention time). In many magazines the ads are the first section I check and most new members are looking for props, books and collectors' items.

The Clowns of America and their magazine, *Calliope*, is an example of what a dedicated and hard working group of officers combined with an excellent magazine can do. When I joined this group about three years ago I was number 665. Now they are approaching the 3,000 mark. Remember—a lot of jugglers clown and a lot of clowns juggle!

It's too early to tell whether my little sermonette in [the] July issue about deluging the editor with material has made an impression but perhaps one more comment on this subject is appropriate. Many members might feel that they can't write well enough to submit. Forget your modesty and send news, ideas and pictures and let the editor choose and edit if necessary—that's what we pay him for—or do we pay him?!

Jug Juggleson used to say his salary was 2150—21 hamburgers and 50 cents. At today's beef prices that sounds like a pretty good salary.

And that's the way the ball bounces!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS—CURRENT

NEW MEMBERS

BOBBY SANDLER —sponsored by HOVEY BURGESS  
8908 Devlin Pl.  
Los Angeles, California 90069

STEPHANIE LEONARD —sponsored by BOBBY SANDLER  
10372 Sunset Boulevard  
West Los Angeles, California 90024

REINSTATED MEMBER

WALLY STRATON  
1640 West Palais Road  
Anaheim, California 92802

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

MARTIN GRAY  
2401 Laurel Canyon Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90046

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

ROBERT P. BRITTON

DECEASED MEMBER

ERIC JOHNSON, July 13, 1973  
2609 Humbolt Street  
Flint, Michigan 48504

MEMBERSHIP NEWS—OLD

NEW MEMBER

JOAN HERZFELD  
150 Bronwood Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90049

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

PEARCE R. FOX  
309 Midland Avenue  
Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087



self-portrait  
business card  
of new member  
BOBBY SANDLER



[If you joined or reinstated and your name was not published in the MEMBERSHIP NEWS section of the Newsletter or if there is anything inaccurate about your most recently published listing please do as Joan Herzfeld and Pearce R. Fox have done—let me know. This will facilitate revision of the IJA Roster. —Editor]

## THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

## CALIFORNIA—IJAers AND OTHER JUGGLERS

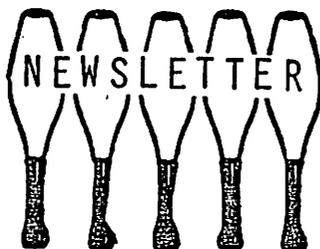
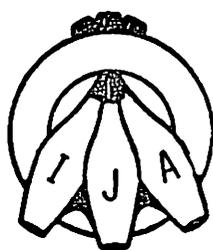
It was a great pleasure for Judy and me to have been able to get to visit so many IJAers on our recent trip to San Francisco: HILLARY CARLIP, MICHAEL CHRISTENSEN, MARTIN GRAY, STEPHANIE LEONARD, CECIL MacKINNON, IRA MULLIN, GAY W. NG, LARRY PISONI, BOBBY SANDLER, HOMER STACK and WALLY STRATON. We came very close to, but missed, IJAers Violet Behan and Stu Goldberg [Are you the same Stu Goldberg Tommy Curtin introduced me to at F.S.U. twelve years ago?]. We visited with non-members Dave, Joan, Merle and Peggy of the San Francisco Mime Troupe—all club passers; they along with Cecil, Michael, Larry, Judy, myself and another non-member, Don Forrest (who attended the '73 Convention) worked on a number of club formations including the "every-other octagon", which was done at the Convention. Also visited with Ray Jason, popular San Francisco Street Juggler. We visited (and juggled for) Gay Ng's Kung Fu club and saw Homer Stack's movies of great jugglers—such as Bobby May. Homer said he's never seen a better club juggler than Bobby May.

## BOBBY MAY

I MET BOBBY MAY, FOR THE FIRST TIME, IN JANUARY WHEN I SPENT THE MONTH IN CLEVELAND AS MATHER VISITING SCHOLAR AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY. WE SPENT A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER—THE HIGH POINTS IN MY CLASSES WERE WHEN HE WOULD COME TO THEM AND JUGGLE. BOBBY INSPIRED ME AS HE HAS MANY OTHER JUGGLERS; I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE KNOWN HIM ALL MY LIFE. ONCE AGAIN, MY HOPE FOR HIS SPEEDY RECOVERY,

## HOVEY BURGESS

I have known Hovey Burgess all my life. It's almost 19 years now since he explained the three-ball cascade to me. I also wish him a speedy recovery (from a recent operation); he's my father.

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SUBSCRIPTION BY IJA MEMBERSHIP.

PLEASE SEND NEWS ITEMS TO:

*Newsletter Editor*

HOVEY BURGESS

45 First Avenue, Apartment 5-K, New York, New York 10003 USA

SEND MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES TO:

*Secretary-Treasurer*

JUDY BURGESS