

# The Chainletter

An e-newsletter by and for the escape community

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## Support Allan's Cause!

Thanks for taking the time to visit my JustGiving page.

Jake from The Doncaster Restraint Museum has challenged Allan Taylor, Chairman of The United Kingdom Escape Artists to wear handcuffs for 24 hours. These will be non standard cuffs and impossible to open without a key.

Allan will go about his daily duties and will be posting videos and photos throughout the day.

Being restrained for 24 hours will be tough, very uncomfortable and panic may set in, can he do it?

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/allan-james-taylor?fbclid=IwAR3hbfhc4neOPw4pPTTGAgQXAYPB0nGUvcYtLK4KSEO-4sny1Sfo9pJlG8>

I will be wearing Handcuffs for 24 hours for The Prince of Wales Hospice, Pontefract because They an awesome charity who are close to my heart.





# Helen Coghlan: 3-time fooler!

Season 7 - 2020

HELEN COGHLAN

Penn & Teller  
Fool Us

Season seven of Penn & Teller "Fool us" opened with an episode of magicians who had

already been on the show and won, twice before. This brought magician and Escape Artist Helen Coghlan back to Las Vegas from her home in Australia. Helen performed a very unusual escape in that she had Penn and Teller both examine and assemble the pieces of the cage he would be locked in.. How many escape artists have been that open and that fair with their audience?

Helen climbed into the cage and had the boys use two padlocks to keep the doorway shut



tight. Then out came the dancing boys. Most magicians are male, and they have showgirls to do productions numbers. Helen had the Las Vegas based male dance show "Thunder from Down Under," to both hold up a curtain around her cage, and dance to pass time and distract the audience from her work.

Soon the dancers retreated and the Curtain was dropped to the floor. Helen stood triumphantly on top of the still locked cage. Penn and Teller were invited back on stage to re-inspect the cage. No matter. They had been fooled. Helen received her third "FU" trophy for fooling Penn and Teller.



How did Helen get out of the cage? That will have to be her secret, although your editor has a pretty fair idea of what was going on while she was behind the curtain. Many of our readers may have their own ideas.

The bottom line is that first and foremost she was entertaining. Helen has a pleasing stage personality, and a very competent attitude. Second, she demonstrated the very important idea that "escape artistry" is still a viable form of magic and can be used successfully and to earn a living. I think that fact is probably important to all of us. Finally she won a third trophy. It is not easy to fool Penn and Teller, nor is it easy to fool the unseen staff of magicians that can talk to the stars through earbuds.



Great job Helen! And, it was fun!



"Wild about Harry"

John Cox' Houdini web site

[www.wildabouthoudini.com](http://www.wildabouthoudini.com)





# Learn to be an Escape Artist!

• It is finally here! Learn how to become an Escape Artist for only \$10. Find out how easy it is to escape from just about any binding. Contact me via Facebook or email to find out how... •



<https://Wolflock.wixsite.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Wolflock>



**The Magic Nook**  
[www.magicnook.com](http://www.magicnook.com)

"Do-It-Yourself" Magic for  
"Built-It-Myself" Magicians



## Escape Artist, Magician, Inventor, Honest Cheat: How Following His Passion Unlocked Terry Roses' Career

One of the perks of being a journalist, blogger or freelance writer is getting the opportunity to interview and get to know interesting people. They're all around us, actually, but since most of our day-to-day interactions tend to be superficial we never really discover the depths that we could discover if we'd make time to listen.



I met Terry Roses through my association with the late John Bushey, multi-faceted host of the KUMD radio program Highway 61 Revisited. In addition to being a teacher and Dylanophile, John was a master magician and a collector of Houdini memorabilia. His fascination with the escape artist also contributed to his becoming not only a collector of handcuffs and shackles, but of becoming an escape artist himself.

What I didn't know, until I'd known him several years, was that John's mentor in the escape and magic arts was Terry Roses.



A great tribute site to the amazing  
David De-Val



<http://www.daviddede-val.com/>



They say do what you love, and the rest will take care of itself. That's Terry Roses' career got its start.

Like many a youth (myself included), when Roses was in high school he became fascinated with Harry Houdini. Unlike many, he pursued his passion to the same degree as his idol/hero. He learned everything he could about escaping from handcuffs, ropes and other devices, and followed up with audacious demonstrations of his developing skills.



On one occasion, while in high school, he had himself locked up along with a dynamite bomb that would go off and kill him if he failed to escape in time.

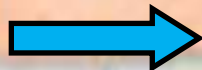
(You can be sure no school

would allow students to perform that trick today.)

Roses and his friend Bruce Liptak challenged the L.A. police to attempt to bind them



"with enough irons that they could not escape." The police accepted the challenge, and the young men succeeded in escaping as promised.



**This site is well worth the time to study if you want to learn about lock picking**  
[www.lockpickguide.com](http://www.lockpickguide.com)

# Begging Box!

Your input  
is our output!

This is the part of The Chainletter where the editor begs for you to give him some material to publish. No idea what to write?



Well, How about...

- ◆ Your first escape.
- ◆ How did you learn to escape?
- ◆ Your creative process.
- ◆ Your last escape.
- ◆ Who is your hero? Why?
- ◆ What makes a good escape.
- ◆ Your escape bio.
- ◆ An escape you saw on TV.
- ◆ An escape you saw live.
- ◆ Anything escape related.



**If you are interested in occult escapology, you want S. Rob!**  
<https://www.srob.co.uk/>

**"Without a key"**  
For all your lockpicking needs  
[www.withoutakey.co.uk](http://www.withoutakey.co.uk)



By means of his magic and escape escapades, Terry Roses raised most of the money for his high school prom, which chose as its theme that year Lollipops and Roses, a tribute to Terry. According to Roses, he paid his way through college by breaking out of jails all over the West coast.



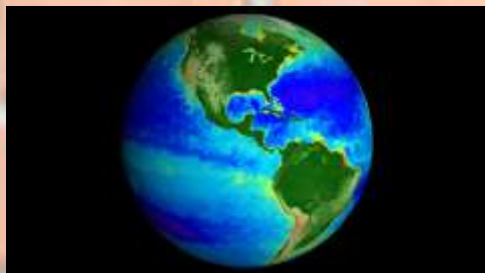
Like Houdini, he was much more than an escape artist. Magic, illusions and inventing new tricks opened doors for Terry Roses around the world.

Terry Roses, a Cloquet native, moved to Orange County, California when he was 15, where he lived until returning here to Duluth in 1975. Something he became fond of was entertaining high school students during all-



nighters that various schools held. When his young protégé John Bushey got bit by the magic arts bug, Bushey would follow this

same path, entertaining young people with his own bag of tricks. Together they travelled the world performing magic and rubbing shoulders with the today's greatest living magicians.



Besides escape tricks, another facet of Houdini's career was disproving mediums and revealing frauds. In this, Terry Roses has also emulated the great master magician. Terry's contemporary application of this was to become The Honest Cheat. Roses became an expert in identifying the ways gamblers cheat, and the variety of ways they mark cards, "load" dice, etc.

It was against this background that Roses began working with many of the largest casinos to eliminate fraud and catch cheats. By means of endless experimentation and research in his "laboratory of magic" Roses developed a low cost device for identifying marked cards called the Inspecta Card Scanner.



A recent visit to Roses studio gave opportunity to hear many new stories about this unassuming man whose pursuit of a passion led to a career that opened many unexpected doors.

It's been a privilege getting to know this clever, talented man.



**Have the lads at Guinness turned down your world record?**  
**Online World Records can help...**  
**Contact Fenyx Fyre**  
**info@fenyxfyre.ca**



# Good News

On August 15th at 7 pm Pacific Standard time. Ring 96, the local Long Beach California Chapter of the International Brotherhood of Magicians will be presenting a very rare and exciting lecture.

Helen and Arthur Coughlan will be presenting a lecture live from Australia via zoom.

## Lecture by...



**Helen & Arthur  
Coughlan**

As you read earlier in this issue, Helen Coughlan became the first magician to fool Penn and Teller three times.

Arthur Coughlan has had a long and exciting career in the world of designing and performing escapes. Among other things, Arthur was known for allowing full and untimed examination of his equipment, basically daring people to figure out how he made the escape. Arthur has also learned over the years how to make the best use of the press and media and use both to his advantage.

The last time I saw these two lecture was in 2009 in Ontario, California at the Cannon's last escape convention.

Don't miss this lecture, it is free to attend and I will be sending out more details in August.

# Bad News

How many of you have ever made a purchase from "The Magic Nook?" They have been advertised in every issue of "The Chainletter," from almost the first issue back in 2010. Professor Spellbinder has been a good friend to this publication in many ways, including writing articles about some of his wares.

Personally, I felt like I watched his escape artist, Whiz Kid Quafiki, grow up from a young teen to a man over the years.

Well, if you go to the Magic Nook today, you will see this note on the opening page...



We are slowly closing down The Magic Nook, some prices will begin to change..

I have no idea what the timeline is, but I will be very sorry to see The Magic Nook gone. I realize of course, that nothing lasts forever, but I personally have gained quite a bit from them over the years, and I hope some of you have too.

If you have never been to visit them, go now. At \$5 per effect, you really cannot go wrong. Even if you never build the effect you've bought, you will learn some of the concepts behind the magic.

If there is a way to save the magic nook, and all the brilliance it includes, I'd like to hear about it. If not, then lets all thank Jim and the Professor for all their great work.