

# Magicians Gary Weimer and Dan Miller



work their  
magic

By **LORETTA COLEMAN**

*Somerset Magazine Correspondent*

"Magic is a science. Magic is an art." Magicians Gary Weimer and Dan Miller totally concur as they describe their magic shows, their friendship and their business.

Gary Weimer of the Rockwood area lives with his wife, Pam, and has two grown daughters and two grandchildren. Although he taught for 38 years at Rockwood School District, his love of magic has never waned since he was a child. The beginnings did not come from a happy event, as Gary, at age 6, was one of the last children in Somerset County to contract polio. He spent a time living at the then D.T. Watson Home for Crippled Children, which had a school and they also provided entertainment for the children. He recalls one particular Halloween, "A magician came in to do a show. I don't recall his name, but I was very interested in the magic but had no way to pursue it." He eventually found ads in magazines and comic books for magic catalogs. He ordered his and soon bought some magic kits and he and his cousin were on their way to a young magic career.

He considers himself lucky to know Jim Menser who was involved in organizing shows for the March of Dimes. "Because of that my cousin and I were able to perform shows on some rather large stages right from beginning." Gary continued doing magic throughout college and part time as he taught at Rockwood and retirement has enabled him to do even more now.

Dan Miller lives in Mann's Choice with his wife, Monika and also has two daughters and two grandchildren. Dan's magic career started out of magic catalogs as well. After seeing famous magicians on television. "I ordered my kits and props from catalogs and started doing shows in my backyard for the neighborhood kids." He laughs as he says, "I charged 25 cents admission." Dan's interest in magic continued through his teenage years and he acquired larger props. Unfortunately, the



*Submitted Photos  
Gary Weimer, left,  
and Dan Miller with  
one of their display  
at a wedding fair  
in Somerset.*



Submitted Photos  
Local magicians Dan Miller, left, and Gary Weimer.

Johnstown Flood wiped out his magic props and supplies and his magic career was on hiatus. Then during a trip to Myrtle Beach years later in 1988, he visited a magic store and bought a few things. He dabbled a bit and eventually attended a local show by the Laurel Highlands Magic Club and joined the club. That is where he met Gary Weimer. They both laugh as they say, "We became good friends, or at least pretend to be." This joking between these two friends gives you a little insight into how humor enters their show and the camaraderie they share in magic.

Currently, Dan and Gary work together doing family and gospel shows under the name of Double Deception Magic Shows. They do family shows, festivals, fairs and corporate shows. "The only difference between the family show and the gospel shows is that a faith centered message is included for the gospel version," Gary explained.

A more recent addition is wedding magic under the business name of TCP Wedding Magic. Dan relates, "Wedding magic is a big thing in Europe." Magicians are hired on an hourly basis to perform walk around magic entertaining guests, often while they wait for the bride and groom's arrival at the reception. Both Dan and Gary agree, "It entertains the guests while waiting and brings both sides of the family together. People that did not know each other previously share the magic experience together and soon everyone is talking. It is a nice addition to the special day that is not as expensive as one may think."

As Gary and Dan speak about their many shows, the Laurel Highlands Magic Club and their years of doing magic, it is apparent that magic came into their lives and helped shape who they are today. Dan relates, "It helped bring me out of my shell and has been a wonderful avenue for friendships and I am able to perform what I love." Gary agrees. "It is great to do something you love and meet people. I have seen and met entertainers I would never


had gotten to know before. It has also enabled me to continue learning." He laughs as he describes how the magic business has forced him to embrace social media and appreciate the positives in it. Gary also agrees that magic cured him of his shyness as he was bold enough to ask to do a magic assembly his final year of high school at Rockwood. It only seemed fitting then that he celebrate his retirement from Rockwood with a surprise magic show.

It has not all been what magic can do for Gary or Dan either. They both give back by being involved in the youth portion of the Laurel Highland Magic Club. They enjoy watching the kids who are serious about magic take it to new levels and watch them grow. Dan's advice for the kids is, "Practice. Enjoy it. Find a club to join to continue that interest, but mainly just have fun doing it." Gary states, "Most kids like the effect of magic but don't realize the work behind it. Remember it doesn't have to be perfect, but keep at it." Both Dan and Gary are hoping their grandchildren have an interest in magic. "I hope to add the grandchildren in the show once they become a little older," says Dan, while Gary's grandson already likes to do magic with his grandfather while visiting in California.

They also enjoy what they give to their audience through magic shows. Gary relates, "I love the reaction from the audience and that they forget everything else. It is like taking them on a little vacation." While Dan's reaction is, "It is the fun and mystery of it and taking them on a little journey where they can forget the bad things and get their minds of everyday life. I like seeing the smiles."

It is also apparent that Dan and Gary will be performing magic as long as life lets them and both agree that magic makes memories, for them as well as the audience. Both related fun stories of those memories. Dan had done a small personal show for a child and then, "I find out his dad saw me do those shows in my backyard as a kid." As a teacher Gary incorporated magic in the classroom too. "Students still come up to me saying they remember a particular magic trick. I did a lot of science demonstrations and no one remembers those, but they remember the magic."

As the future unwinds, both magicians look forward to more shows, bigger and better shows, and where magic will take them. They both laugh as they say they no longer get nervous for a large show. "We can handle 500 people and not be nervous. Now 501, we might get nervous then." It seems that humor and magic can add much to life. **SM**

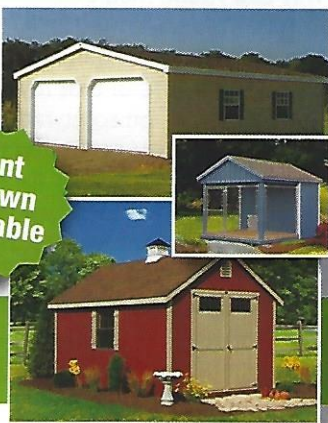


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