



He's a Chiropractor; Poof! Now he's a magician!

By Ted Tedford, Mountain Villager Correspondent

People used to pay to see Dr. Steve Taubman, but it wasn't a whole lot of fun. They still pay to see him, but now, they are having a barrel of fun. Taubman has given up his chiropractic practice for show biz and he, too, is having more fun than ever.

Taubman is the founder of The Entertainment Solution Inc. Planning a birthday party or an anniversary celebration? He can supply you with a whole evening (or afternoon) worth of entertainment. Having a prom or a Project Graduation party? He can dazzle you with his magic tricks or hypnotize you. His actors, storytellers, singers, jugglers, clowns, caricaturists, musicians, DJs and even a strolling violinist can keep an audience spellbound and glad they came. If you need entertainment for a party or a conference, he supplies everything.

The 42-year old chiropractor cum magician-hypnotist-show biz producer sold his 15-year old Williston chiropractic business in November 1996 to go into the entertainment business full time. But not without trying his magic skills first on family and friends and later on audiences young and old at restaurants and hotels for six years.

Taking the big step from a well-respected chiropractic practice to the unsteady world of show biz was not an easy decision, but it seemed inevitable. "I was ready for a new adventure," Taubman said over coffee one recent day at Chef's Corner restaurant in Williston, where he entertains diners at Friday lunch.

While he loved helping his patients become free of pain, his heart was moving in another direction. "This was just a whole lot more fun me," he said.

Magic's Fascination

Magic and show business weren't what he had in mind growing up, but it held such a fascination for him that he bought a book on magic "The Magic World of the Amazing Randi," in 1990. The first trick he learned was making a rubber band appear to pass completely through his fingers.

He practiced other tricks from that and other books and from watching magicians perform. He watched Marko the Magician ply his tricks at the Ground Round in South Burlington, went home and practiced some more. On a trip to Woodstock, NY, he bought a couple of magic tricks and practiced them. Completely hooked, he attended a magic convention on Cape Cod. "I bought \$450 worth of magic stuff," he said with a laugh.

His first gig was at Vermont Pub and Brewery in Burlington. He was a smash hit and it's been uphill ever since. Soon after forming his new entertainment company, his first show was at a Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce mixer at the Hampton Inn in Colchester.

Offering advice to an aspiring 8-year old magician, Joe Diaco and his younger brother Jacob from Underhill, Taubman told him: "Learn to do one thing well first and then move on to another. It's frustrating doing a trick over and over, but it's the only way magic can be perfected."

As his entertainment business grew, Taubman yearned to be able to hypnotize people. "I was always intrigued by Steve Bayner, the hypnotist at the (Champlain Valley) Fair," Taubman said. He studied under famed hypnotist Dr. Scott McFall in Bismark, North Dakota, a year ago, learning the skills of stage hypnosis. He also watched others hypnotize people and read avidly on the subject.

Graduation Entertainment

His hypnosis act has been part of recent Project Graduations, the all-night non-alcohol high school after-graduation parties. Entertainment Solutions did eight of them this year, including one in Keokuk, Iowa. Taubman says his hypnosis show is taped and then shown to the graduates after. "They become part of the show." he said.

Entertainment Solutions, "Dr. Steve Taubman, Hypnosis Extravaganza" was the entertainment at Essex High School's Project Graduation last month at Camp Hochelaga in South Hero

"He did an awesome job," said Mary Pat Ragosta, who organized the school's after graduation event. "My daughter came home (the next morning) and she couldn't stop talking about it," Ragosta said. "He's a super guy to work with." She said Entertainment Solutions supplied a DJ, Scott Lecours of Top Hat Entertainment, a magic show, a 14-foot video screen for videos and Taubman performed his hypnosis act. "His group entertained the graduates from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m!" she said.

Money Well Spent

"He pulled the whole night with us. It was the best money we could spend," Ragosta said of the \$2,700 fee. "It was worth every cent."

Project Graduations were begun years ago to prevent graduates from going to drinking parties and getting involved in accidents later Ragosta said she is thankful Taubman's Entertainment Solutions is available in this area. "They have them in big cities, but we had nothing here."

Lisa Billings, conference coordinator for the historic Equinox Hotel in Manchester, lauded Taubman's show. "My groups just love him," said Billings. She said he did his hypnosis act, walk-around magic and entertained children.

Show business may not pay as well as chiropractic, Taubman conceded, but it is a lot more fun. He loves performing for people, who, he said, "just don't have enough astonishment in their lives."

Watching Taubman perform his walk-around-magic tricks, making people laugh as he visits each table is reason enough for wishing him more joy and success.