



NO. 12 APRIL 1991 — NEWSLETTER OF THE BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUB

## First Anniversary Picnic For Bay Area Area Accordion Club

A gala party for **BAAC** will be a wonderful picnic in celebration of our first year of great accordion playing. This will give us all the opportunity to get together for a great social event and share our mutual appreciation of the accordion and **BAAC**. **Walter Traverso** is in charge of this event and believe me, this is a very big task for anybody. **Walter** really needs plenty of help from many members. So we ask you to volunteer for the many different duties involved in a project of this magnitude.

### Some inside info

**Walter's** wife, **Laverne**, has knitted a beautiful afghan blanket—**Adam White** has donated a 120 bass accordion. These two items along with many more door prizes will be raffled off. All funds will be donated to **BAAC**. The picnic will be held at the **Elks Club** in **Palo Alto** and we must pay \$3 rental fee for each person. This is a marvelous facility and we will start somewhere around 10 A.M. continuing all afternoon. **Joe Smiell** will be selecting all the groups and individuals who will perform for us. We know **Joe** will do a great job in selecting many different styles of music to entertain us all afternoon. **Anthony Galli-Rini** and **Dolly**, his wife, will be our main guests.

## BAAC To Present The Art Van Damme Quintet In Concert This Spring

How lucky can we get? If you like the swing music a-la **Benny Goodman**, then you will really love the great sounds of the **Art Van Damme Quintet**. **Art** is very pleased with the opportunity to help our **BAAC Accordion Club** grow and prosper as he is one of the greatest promoters of the accordion. The Quintet will be appearing at the **Presidio's N.C.O. Club** from 4 P.M. to 7 P.M. on **Sunday, May 19th**. We will be overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge in a marvelous facility thanks to member **Roy Helsing**. **Art** is an honorary member of **BAAC** so let's all pay tribute to America's greatest swing accordionist and let him know how much the **Bay Area Accordion Club** appreciates him. We have a seating capacity for only 275 people so get your tickets early. Donations are \$10 and you can call **Walter** at 585-0144 or **Lou** at 487-2883 or **Frank** at 574-4757. Tickets will be available at the concert. What a bargain...

## Cotati Festival

The First Annual Accordion Festival will be held on **August 24 & 25** in **Cotati, CA**. This will be the largest gathering of lovers of the accordion in the Bay Area history. **Anthony Galli-Rini** will be the King of the Festival. **Jim Boggio** is our resident chairman. This is a must....See you in **Cotati**.

# EVENTS AT APRIL MEETING

Our meeting opened with the President leading the group with a Pledge of Allegiance and then introducing new members **MARY ANN DANIELS & GERRY DOWNS** and eight guests. Secretary, **RAE LEMBI**, made her report of the minutes of the March meeting. **DOMINIC SASO** then took over and began to introduce the music for the evening.

**DAN COOPER** played two original songs titled "Rocky the Cat and Beverly, the All Night Cheeseburger Queen." **DAN** really does a great job with his different songs and we enjoy his funny interpretations. **RENO DIBONO** then played "Pick Yourself Up," a fine jazz selection. He finished with Jobim's "Wave." This guy is one of our fine soloists and what a great sound he generates. Then brother, **PETER DIBONO** played Chopin's "Prelude in D Flat" and "Czardas." Wow—what technique! It's for sure we never get over-**DIBONO'D**.

Back to some club business. **LEO LEMBI**, member of the nominating committee, announced all the candidates, who were the recommendations of that committee, for the May elections of Officers and Board Members. They are: President, **LOU SOPER**; Vice President, **JOE SMIELL**; Secretary, **RAE LEMBI**; Financial Secretary, **CAROL BERNETTI**; and Treasurer, **MARIAN KELLY**. Board Members **PETER DIBONO**, **FRANK MONTORO**, **ALGIS RATNIKAS**, **RENO PUCCI**, and **EVELYN BAULCH**. Then **LEO LEMBI** asked for any other

nominations from the floor. There were no other nominations so motion was made to close nominations and seconded.

All members in attendance signed a sympathy card for **WALTER TRAVERSO**, whose brother had just passed away.

**TULIO ANGELINI**, chairman of the beginners committee, suggested that beginners should have the opportunity to be coached by our advanced players. We will try to do this before, during, and after each meeting. In an effort to get more beginners to play at our meetings, **LOU SOPER** strapped on a 12 Bass accordion and played the same way he did 50 years ago to demonstrate how he began. First he played "Whistle While You Work" with just single note melody. Then two Italian waltzes "Oh Marie" and "La Spagnola" using two note harmony. Then "Song of the Islands" using three note chords. The audience was delighted. **LOU** finished with "When The Saints Go Marching In" playing it as a Hymn, a March, a Dixieland, then Swing, and finished with Rock—using only five white keyboard notes. **JOE SMIELL** then emphasized how important beginners are to this club. **JOE** said "BAAC has the best group of people where beginners can perform as we have no ranks in this club."

**MARIO SANT**, a student of only 6 months, played "Flight of the Angels" and "Campagnola." **MARIAN KELLY** followed and dazzled us with "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You" and "On The Trail" from Ferde Grofe's *Grand Canyon Suite*.

A proposal was made by **PETER DIBONO** that **ERNST GLOE** be made an honorary member of BAAC. **MR. GLOE**, at age 80, is still inspiring accordionists and is a great credit to the accordion. Motion seconded and carried. So a grand welcome to our newest honorary member, **MR. ERNST GLOE**.

**PETER** also reported playing at the Bohemian Club for an accordion appreciation night with **GEORGE CERUTTI**, **JOHN MOLINARI, JR.** and **LOU SOPER**. It was called "Ocean Night" and was very successful.

**FRANK MONTORO** presented the final copies of by-laws and reported his playing at Longfellow school in San Francisco with **LOU SOPER** for two classes of students. The kids loved it. **FRANK** encouraged others to volunteer to do likewise.

**RENO DIBONO** then gave a very interesting lesson using the 1-4-5- & 1-6-2-5- chord patterns. **RENO** offered to help all members before the meetings. *Hint: Practice All Scales.*

Donations—**ED ZARO**, \$50 and **BILL DEMICHELIS**, \$150, for our performance fund. One great big Thank You.

New member **GERRY DOWNS** played "Maple Leaf Rag" and "Sabre Dance." **GINA AVOLA** played "Vita Veneciana" and "Sweet Georgia Brown." We closed the evening with **RENO PUCCI** playing "Tesoro Mio" and a great job with the "Sharpshooters March" and "Dream a Little Dream Of Me." Biggest surprise of the night—*No April Fool's Tricks.*

Attention all members: Bring your accordion to the May 6th meeting.

*Reno DiBono*



## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

April 3, 1991

Dear B.A.A.C. Members:

I've been writing the newsletter for the past year and have enjoyed it completely. Unfortunately, due to health problems and other considerations, it will not be possible for me to continue. I want to thank the many decent women and men that I've met during my association with the accordion club. I wish the very best to you all and hope to see you soon.

Respectfully,

Dominic Palmisano

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April 10, 1991

It is with deep regret we have lost the marvelous talent of our editor, Dominic Palmisano. His contribution to the Bay Area Accordion Club has been enormous. Since our beginning, he has untiringly published our monthly "Baac Page" newsletter and has done an excellent job in the growth and promotion of B.A.A.C.

It is the sincere wishes of all the members and officers of this club that Dominic will experience great health and we certainly wish him much success in his future endeavors. Thank you for all of your efforts and contributions to the Bay Area Accordion Club.

Sincerely,

Lou Soper,  
President, B.A.A.C.

## PROFILES OF AL ENOS AND WENZEL RASMUSSEN

Al Enos and Wenzel Rasmussen are two of the many helping hands that keep our club functioning. Several months ago when President Lou Soper asked for volunteers to man our bar, Al and Wenzel stepped forward and accepted the job. Al does the buying, Wenzel stores the supplies between meetings and both share in tending bar. Typical of good bartenders, they are both good conversationalists and interesting people.

Al started playing accordion some sixty years ago. Originally from San Leandro, he has made San Francisco his home for some time. He recalls his early experiences in music began when he joined a school drum corps. He has been doubling on drums ever since. Al, a member of the San Francisco Banjo Band for the past ten years, plays at the Crystal Springs Senior Center in San Bruno every Friday night.

He credits his father, who played a button accordion, with his early interest in music. Al studied with concert accordionist Michael Pariti and had his own band at one time. Beer gardens were popular then and Al played many a gig in those days.

He served three years in the army, first as a member of the Coast Artillery and later in the 97th Infantry. He spent the last three months of World War II in Czechoslovakia. Upon returning to civilian life, he became an upholsterer. Retired since 1976, Al is enjoying life. He is married and has two sons and three grandchildren and at age 79 leads a full and active life.

Wenzel was five years old when he began playing an older brother's accordion when the brother wasn't around. Eventually the accordion became his, and that was the beginning of his musical experiences.

Wenzel joined the Danish Merchant Marines when he was only fifteen years old. What better instrument to have aboard ship than a nice compact button accordion? He came to the United States two years later and made this country his home while continuing his sailing career. He saw plenty of action while on tankers in the North Atlantic and naval supply ships in the Pacific during World War II. He retired about five years ago after fifty years in the Merchant Marines. His only regret is it took the U.S. Congress forty-three years to recognize the valuable service the Merchant Marines performed before they were declared "War Veterans."

He says he mostly plays accordion for friends and members of the Danish Soldiers Club of Petaluma where he once lived. He is a self taught musician, and says he regrets that he never learned to read notes—that is, until now. Recently he bought a Yamaha keyboard and is taking lessons from a piano teacher near his Pacifica home. Wenzel says of himself, "Why not!! I'm only seventy."

He, too, is enjoying retirement with his wife, Sylvia. He has three step-sons, a step-daughter and four grandchildren to keep him busy along with his new found interest in learning to read music. Once again he has proven the old adage, "You're never too old to learn." Right on, Wenzel.

—Frank Montoro

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A concerned member asked, "What are the goals for B.A.A.C. for 1991?" In response, our number one objective is to play the accordion in schools for the children. Accordion students age 10-15 are becoming endangered species and it is up to us to reverse this trend. With drastic budget cuts in all school programs, now is the time to approach the schools, public or private, and "Showcase" the accordion at no cost to the schools. Let's expose the children to great accordion music. We ask all of our members to assist in this project. Number Two objective is to participate in as many festivals and fairs as possible. Playing our beloved accordion for the general public is fun for everybody, listeners and players. This club is founded with the "Three F's" philosophy: Fun-Friendship-Frivolity. Our Special projects will need the support of all members. On May 19th. it will be a great honor for us to pay tribute to the world's greatest swing accordionist and Honorary Member, Art Van Damme. On June 16th. we will celebrate our first anniversary with a picnic in Palo Alto at the Elks Club. On August 24 & 25, Cotati, Ca. is having a magnificent all-accordion festival which will be the accordion highlight of the year. Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini will be at our picnic and at the Cotati Festival. Cotati is located nine miles south of Santa Rosa on highway 101. So exciting new events are planned for B.A.A.C. Lou Soper

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

April 2, 1991

Mr. Frank Montoro & Mr. Lou Soper,

I would like to thank both of you for the accordion assembly program on March 22, 1991. I was very impressed. Your performances were carefully planned, professionally executed, and well received. Staff members, as well as students commented on the exemplary performance. Please accept my congratulations on a job well done. We look forward to having you perform at our school again in the future. Again, a hearty thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Martin,  
Principal Longfellow School, San Francisco

Hi Walter—Man, Lou Fanucchi must of been fantastic. I didn't know he was going to appear at B.A.A.C. I wrote to get acquainted with some name members in the past but thats all that came out of it. Since I don't attend meetings being so far away, guess they are all busy. Glad they printed the "Sharpshooters March". That is very interesting reading. Hope you are as busy as ever.

Sincerely,

John Barsuglia,  
Sacramento Music Conservatory.

### WANT ADS:

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Used 3 piece "Cordovox", Model 251, 4/5 reeds with musette. All working good, we need room!!! First \$350 takes it. Colombo & Sons, 1201 Andersen Drive, Suite O, San Rafael, Ca. 94901 (415) 457-2222

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For Sale: Used Leslie speaker for Cordvox in excellent condition. A steal at \$150. Call Lou at 415-487-2883.

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Needed—Member who has a Macintosh Computer to help us publish our monthly newsletter. Call Lou at 415-487-2883. Please help!!

### NEXT MEETING:

May 6- First Monday in May House of Parties  
22 Hillcrest Dr. Daly City 7:00 P.M.

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Please Note our new mailing address:  
B.A.A.C. 48 Pope,  
San Francisco, CA 94112