



NEWSLETTER OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO

BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUB

Editors: Marian Kelly
 Dominic Palmisano

APRIL MEETING

What a meeting!! The attendance was wonderful, with many members and quite a few guests. We sometimes have to encourage you to strut your accordion stuff; not so this month! So much was happening, between music and some necessary business, that the meeting lasted much longer than usual. If this keeps up, perhaps we should consider starting at 6:30!

One of our favorite entertainers, **Dan Cooper**, started things off, playing and singing two brand new numbers, "Please Go Away And Let Me Sleep", and "Shanty in Old Shanty Town." He was followed by a surprise guest, **Big Lou** from Those Darn Accordions! who demonstrated her lovely, warm playing style with two highly listenable French tunes.

Then another surprise, a trio, looking like Barbary Coast regulars, **Lee Woodall**, **John Firpo**, and **Tony DiBono**. They were terrific, playing "La Campagnola," "Melody of Love," and "Beer Barrel" so competently that they sounded like one accordion.

Dennis Soscher told of his excursion to Castelfidardo, and demonstrated the computerized accordion he purchased there with a delightful arrangement of the theme from "Phantom of the Opera". Then he followed with two more songs which showed us a few of the instrument's many other possibilities. Nicely done, Denny!

A little business intervened. First, **Lou** introduced our Librarian, **Frank**

Montoro, who reminded the group that the contents of our Library were displayed in the back of the room for easy borrowing. **Frank** always welcomes additional Library donations.

Then **Walter** talked a bit about the picnic at the Elks' Club in Palo Alto on June 7th. (We'll have a location map in the May newsletter.) He wants to have lots of interest in the raffle, so he needs more items which can be included. His wife, **Laverne** has made a lovely afghan, and **Lee Woodall** has donated a beautiful framed painting of a clown with an accordion. Admission tickets for the event will be \$5.00 for anyone age 12 and above. **Walter** also needs volunteers to help during the event. Call him if you can help.

Barbara Lantz (wife of member **Ernest**) told us of the Swedish Music Festival being held at the San Mateo County Expo Center on May 30, 1992, which features several accordions. Admission is \$13/person.

Jim Boggio talked a bit of the bigger, finer, more sophisticated Second Annual Cotati Accordion Festival on August 29th and 30th, and asked for everyone's help and support.

Following intermission, **Dominic Palmisano**, representing the Nominating Committee, presented the Committee's proposed slate of officers and board members and called for additional nominations. These are detailed in an accompanying article on Page 3.

Reno Pucci and **Clyde Forsman** came

forward to introduce and demonstrate a diatonic concertina invented by Sir Charles Whetstone of London. A stuck key prevented a complete demo, but they will try again.

And *then* things really got moving! **Joe Smiell** played what he called peasant music in a most un-peasant way on an Austrian button-box. Actually, he didn't play *nearly enough* Peasant Music. While we were still sitting there mesmerized, he decided he was finished for the moment.

Nobody wanted to follow **Joe**, but **Jim Boggio** did mighty well with the challenge. **Jim** brought a terrific bass player, whose last name nobody caught but whose first name is **Chris**. What wonderful jazz they treated us to, making it appear effortless, with **Jim** tossing in his usual dose of crazy humor. As if that wasn't enough, then **Peter DiBono** joined them for one long, fun, capable rendition of "Blues in G."

After that, **Reno DiBono** upheld his end of the family with panache by rolling through three delightful up-tempo tunes, then inviting his friend **Roland** to join him for two more delightful jazz pieces.

Last, but not least, **Lou Soper** decisively closed the meeting by playing and singing in his inimitable style, several fine standards such as "Unforgettable," "Days of Wine and Roses," and "More". A most delightful evening!

Carol Benetti



Profile of DOMINIC PALMISANO

You know him as one of the founders of BAAC, first the editor and now a co-editor of the BAAC Page, member of our current Executive Board, Nominating Committee Chairman and strolling accordionist. He is a creative visionary with energy and ideas about how to increase the popularity of the accordion.

Since he was three years old, Dominic has been fascinated by accordions. At first his parents didn't take him seriously, but one fateful day, when he was seven, his Father took the determined little boy to the accordion store and said, "Look at all the accordions. We're going home with one today." So began his love affair with the instrument. However, the early practicing years did not go as planned. Dominic confesses that he was hard on accordion teachers such as John Pezzolo, Bud Segheri, and Dino Benetti who apparently felt that he wasn't doing enough of what they wanted him to do. So at age 14, he stopped playing.

That playing break lasted 18 years. He returned to the instrument as part of his recuperation from a serious automobile accident. To help while away the hours, he became a "closet accordionist," to use his term. Subsequently he even sold his motorcycle to buy a brand new Excelsior, and he has never looked back. He loves accordions so much that he now owns six of them.

Along with his music interest, Dominic earned a BA in business, worked as a bartender, waiter, and maitre d' for twenty years, even playing a few tunes while a waiter at Nathans, a fine Peninsula restaurant.

At forty, Dominic changed his line of work. He had always enjoyed children and decided to go back to S.F. State and work on a teaching

credential. He joined the teaching profession almost two years ago and now teaches eleventh and twelfth grade learning disabled students specializing in computer science at South San Francisco High School.

Dominic likes to play tunes which have a nostalgic quality. He plays with a passion he describes as "ballads which tug at the heart strings". He especially likes strolling or playing background music.

Always on the search for a new challenge, Dominic helped to organize the San Francisco Accordion Ensemble. Paul Pasquali asked him to play bass accordion with the group. Dominic soon realized it would not be easy since he, like most of us, is not as familiar reading bass clef as pianists are, but he accepted the challenge. A lot of hard work went into converting him to the instrument, but it has paid off handsomely as anyone who has heard the group will recognize.

We said earlier that Dominic is a visionary. His greatest hope is that our club will grow in stature to be recognized as an integral part of the Bay Area community's cultural life. To that we say, "Amen."

Frank Montoro

SYNOPSIS OF MARCH 25TH BOARD MEETING

- The Treasurer reported \$3727 in our checking account and \$1172 in savings.
- Members are all encouraged to consider what material might be published in the BAAC Page and to submit articles and/or ideas to Marian Kelly. Since we publish monthly, it is difficult to have enough good material.
- Walter reported in detail about our June 7th picnic. We voted to have new t-shirts available for sale there, and are in search of someone who can create an eye-catching design.
- Carol Benetti has donated some wonderful music to our Library.
- The Nominating Committee reported its selections to the Board. See article elsewhere in this issue.
- Marian Kelly, as BAAC's representative to the Cotati Festival, questioned the Board about what role BAAC should play during that weekend. No specific decisions were made.

REMINDERS

- May 4th.....General Meeting
- June 7th..... BAAC Picnic
- August 29th, 30th...Cotati Festival
- January 18th '93.....Lou Soper's Birthday

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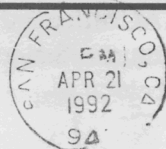
BAAC



48 POPE ST

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

94112



Frank Montoro
1448 Tarrytown St
San Mateo, CA 94403

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY

May 4, 1992

7:00PM

HOUSE OF PARTIES

22 HILLCREST DR.

DALY CITY

CALL DOMENIC SASO IF YOU

WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AT THE

NEXT MEETING..415-587-7557

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Lou Soper

Co-Conductor
Peter DiBono

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