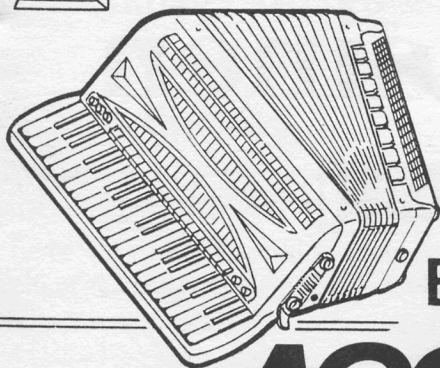


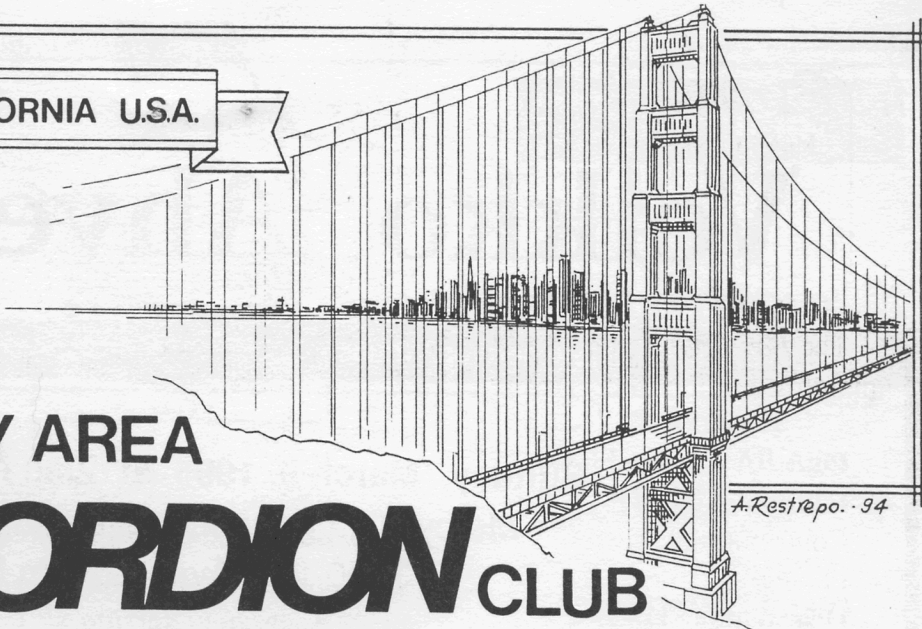
Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



BAY AREA

ACCORDION CLUB



February '95 General Meeting

A full agenda greeted the large turnout at our February meeting. President **Frank Montoro** conducted the business portion of the meeting with a discussion concerning the proposed change of site for our annual picnic. The Swiss Park in Newark had been recommended by the board based on cost and features. The proposal was presented to the membership, voted upon, and approved.

Joe Smiell told us about the upcoming **Veikko Ahvenainen** concert on Sunday, March 5th. He encouraged everyone to attend this event to hear one of the greatest accordionists in the world. **Veikko's** musical repertoire includes classic, folk music of Europe and America, and original compositions.

Algis Ratnikas spoke of the membership questionnaires that he is handing out at various functions. They will be used to structure our programs and meetings to meet the needs of the membership as well as to highlight unique individuals with interests and talents which can be utilized in the future.

Our MC **Domenic Saso** came forward to start the entertainment portion of the program. First came **Jim Firpo** performing spirited versions of *Indian Polka*,

Viva-La-Giga and *Bolero D'Amore*. **Jim** always looks relaxed playing up there, and he received much encouragement from all the members including his cheering section, comprised of **Curt Van Neck, Glenn McClelland, and Denny Huff**.

Tony Di Bono took the stage next saying that he would play one of his son's old accordions which had been treated to some new straps. **Tony** delighted everybody with both his delightful comments and his

cont. on p. 4



Tony Di Bono

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 1st, Wednesday, 7:30 PM. BAAC Board of Directors' Meeting at Ed Massolo's, 612 Lassen, So. San Francisco. All members welcome.

March 5th, Sunday, 2:30 PM. Veikko Ahvenainen concert, Mercy High School, 3250 19th Ave. across from Stonestown Shopping Center, San Francisco. Admission, \$10.

March 6th, Monday, 7:00 PM. BAAC General Meeting featuring Clyde Forsman, Don Gilbrook, Bob Berta, Mike Zampicini, and the duo of Ron Borelli and Dave Baioni. Donworth Hall, 22nd and Eucalyptus, San Francisco.

March 8th and 22nd, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM. BAAC Accordion Practice, House of Parties. Call Joe, 510-832-6938

March 13th, Monday. Fun Band Practice, 7:00 PM. House of Parties. Call Domenic, 415-587-7557.

March 18th, Saturday. Texas Accordion Association Convention (Dallas). Call Norman Seaton, 214-270-3791.

July 7th - 12th, American Accordionists' Association Festival, Houston at JW Marriott on Westheimer.. Reservations: 1-800-231-6058.

In Concert...

Veikko Ahvenainen

Finland's Premier Accordion Virtuoso

Sunday, March 5, 1995 at 2:30 P M

Mercy High School Auditorium

3250 19th Avenue, San Francisco



Veikko Ahvenainen

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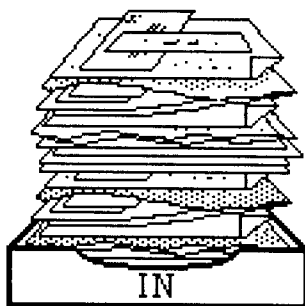


FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

SYNOPSIS

- Treasurer Algis Ratnikas reported \$7276 in the combined accounts.
- There was a long discussion about the merits of changing our picnic site to Swiss Park in Newark. Several Board members had visited the site and inspected it carefully; there were photos for the Board to examine. It was agreed that we recommend to the membership that the change be made because of the substantial cost differential (\$1100) and that the members vote at the February General Meeting.
- The Club will give strongly encourage all members to attend the Veikko Ahvenainen concert on March 5th. Joe Smiell will talk about the concert at the General meeting.
- No action was taken on AFNA's invitation to BAAC to attend their mid-August celebration in Los Angeles due to lack of specific information.
- Only one suggested logo has been received as an entrant in our logo contest announced in December. We hope there will be more submissions!
- Even though there is not yet a specific date for Myron Floren's concert, the committee will consider possible sites, will formulate an advertising plan, and will report back to the Board at the March meeting.
- Frank Panacci and Ed Massolo will play for the Northwest Accordion Club in May. They are the representatives chosen for the exchange which was initiated when Bonnie Birch played for us in October.
- The Program Committee reported enough performers for both February and March so that both meetings should be very successful. You will all recall that the Program Committee often has to work very hard to find enough members willing to play.

M.K.



February 10, 1995

Dear BAAC Board and Members

I again express my gratitude to the Board for offering to members the opportunity to sharpen their musical skills by participating in group playing. Nothing improves sight-reading and timing as well as playing under the leadership of Joe Smiell. We are all very fortunate that he is willing to share his time and talent to improve the level of playing in BAAC. This is a great gift to the Club. There is room for some more players. You will find yourself challenged in a very encouraging atmosphere. You will learn how each part is important whether you are playing 1st or 8th — it all works together to create a beautiful whole. You will find yourself having fun while learning a great deal about your accordion.

It was the dream of many years for me when BAAC launched this group. I have not been disappointed. At each meeting I find that I have learned more about music. If you are ready to improve your musical skills, come join us. The newsletter has the details about the bi-monthly meetings.

Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Mary Alice Eldon

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February General Meeting, cont.

great musical selections. He seemed to have great fun playing for this audience. His selections included *Over the Waves*,



Jim Firpo

Vieni Sul Mar, Il Strio, The Sheik of Araby, and Yes Sir, That's My Baby. The Shadow observed **Josephine Hornbrook** laughing at his outrageous antics!

Peter Di Bono's student **Jan Schallenberger** brought his trusty Giulietti up for renditions of *Carnival of Venice, Washington Post March*, and a folk song. **Jan** (pronounced **Yan**) is rapidly progressing up the skills ladder. He is developing a fine feeling for musical expression and his performance was first rate.



Marvin Thompson, Kitty Ragle, Jim Ragle

Next came **Jim Ragle** on electronic accordion, **Marvin Thompson** on clarinet, and **Kitty Ragle** on vocals. **Jim** spoke about his accordion and how he had lusted after it for a long time....finally buying it when the price came down. He said he was a little nervous but that his friends in the crowd had agreed to applaud even if he blew it. He didn't have much to worry about, though, as the trio performed its selection of numbers beautifully. I noted that the audience really enjoyed the arrangement of *Blue Skirt Waltz*.

During the program break, the club raffled off several accordion calendars. These featured various famous artists each month. It turned out that I won the very last one given out. This probably was the first time I ever won anything of any value....previous winnings in my life included a baby rooster (supposed to be a chicken) and a baby rabbit (my sister promptly took over ownership).

The second half of the program featured **Arnie Krenn** playing the new Concerto MIDI accordion which **Paul Pasquali** developed. **Arnie** is **Paul's** local distributor, and he did an excellent job of illustrating its capabilities. His selections included *Mariaka, Cold Heart, and Skaters Waltz*. I sat next to **Arnie** during the other performances. He was very nervous, but when he got on the stage, he didn't show it at all; his playing was wonderful. Many members won't play for the club due to "stage fright". **Arnie** proves that the best cure for stage fright is "just do it."

A special guest artist drove three hours to play for our club. When **Ricky Bez** took the stage with his \$30 Hero brand toy



Jan Schallenberger

accordion, the members were wondering what he could do with it. **Ricky's** delightful playing and very talented singing delighted everybody. He then borrowed **Tony Di Bono's** accordion for a few more numbers. Selections included *That's Amore* and *Run Away*. **Ricky** is a professional entertainer from up near Ukiah. He won over the crowd, and we hope he can see his way to making the long drive to perform for us again. When he returned the accordion, **Tony** remarked to much audience laughter that Tony's accordion had made him sound good!

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More February General Meeting.....

Members will recall that the January meeting featured **Reno Di Bono** in a



Arnie Krenn

surprise performance....the surprise was that **Reno** didn't know he would be asked to play. Playing with a borrowed accordion and no advance notice, he did very well. This month he had a chance to prepare for his performance. His playing of *Czardas*, *Maleguena*, and *Blue Moon* showed just what a terrific player **Reno** is! In particular, his arrangement of

Maleguena was fabulous.



Reno Di Bono

The final performance was by **Bart Beninco**. **Bart** is a professional musician who has incredible talent. He played a selection of tunes which included an outstanding arrangement of *Gitaneras* and one of my favorites, *The Syncopated Clock*. **Bart's** selection of tunes is always a treat as he selects numbers which showcase his talent while maintaining strong audience appeal.



Ricky Bez



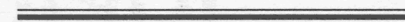
Bart Beninco

Representative from BAAC to the July AAA convention?

Do you recall the article in last month's newsletter describing the festivities which the American Accordionists' Association plans for Houston, Texas from July 7th to 12th? At its February meeting, BAAC's Board of Directors agreed to subsidize at least partially a BAAC member who wishes to represent us at that convention (exact amount of subsidy to be determined).

Our representative, who must know enough about our Club to participate actively in scheduled discussions, will become acquainted with officers from other Clubs and learn about their ideas and successes. Then that person will report back to us about the event, perhaps at our August General Meeting.

We encourage as many members as possible to attend the Festival. However, if you would care to attend as BAAC's representative, please call Frank Montoro (415) 574-4757, and let him know.



**More on Veikko's Concert
March 5th**

The Veikko Ahvenainen March 5th concert is being billed as Veikko and the Bay Area Accordion Ensemble. Well, folks, that's not quite the whole story. Veikko wanted to remember his wonderful friend, John Molinari, Sr., in this concert, so he has asked John Jr. to play a couple duets with him in John Sr.'s memory. Additionally, John Jr. will probably play something solo, and John Jr.'s son will participate as well, providing we can dredge up a piano for the third generation.

Sounds like a very complete can't-miss event! Mercy High, 2:30PM, Sunday, March 5th.

Be there!

**ACCORDION CLUB
MEETING...
Y'ALL COME!**

Steve Balich, President of the Golden State Accordianaires, our North Bay buddies, wants to invite all BAAC members to attend any or all of their meetings, which are held the second Tuesday of each month. Find them at Rosanna's Bakery, 1800 W. Texas St. in Fairfield. Steve says Rosanna gives them a big room, and that attendance is around 80! Way to go! Call Steve at 707-874-3494.

New Members

- Mike Billo, San Francisco, CA*
- Mitch Clark, San Leandro, CA*
- Lou del Fante, San Francisco, CA*
- Bill & Irene Ferrari, Petaluma, CA*
- Ellen Karel, San Francisco, CA*
- Arnie Krenn, Mountain View, CA*
- Harry Liedtke, Menlo Park, CA*
- Bruno Mincin, San Francisco, CA*
- Catherine Morshead, Kentfield, CA*
- Ron Phillips, San Carlos, CA*
- Linda Rahman, Petaluma, CA*
- Lisa & Frank Robinson, Hollister, CA*
- Amil Samayoa, So. San Francisco, CA*

WHO'S PLAYING??

John Molinari at the Herbst Theater, San Francisco Sat. and Sun. Feb. 25th and 26th. He is accompanying Raquel Bitton in songs of Piaf, Legrand, Brel, and other composers. Call BASS or (415) 392-4400

WANTED:

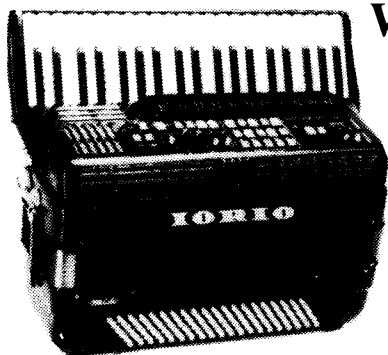
*Newsletter help.
Need backup photographer
and someone willing to writeup
general meetings occasionally.
Call Marian 415-854-1896*

A warm welcome to all! Please help us get to know you by introducing yourselves or playing for a meeting, or using the phone number on the back of this newsletter to make suggestions for improving our club!

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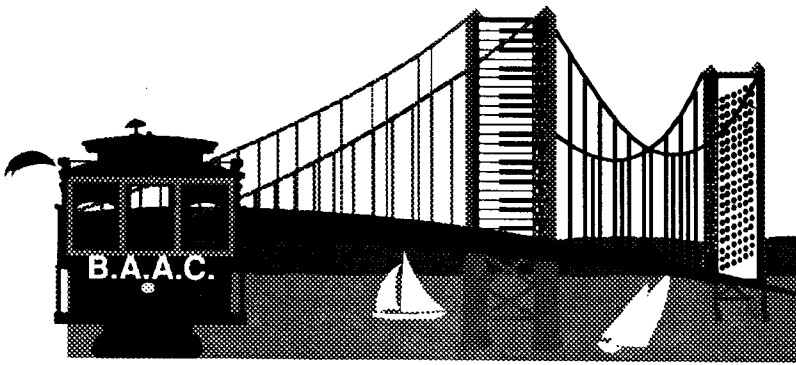
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BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUB

939 HARRISON ST. SAN FRANCISCO 94107 415-974-9210

February 12, 1995

Dear BAAC Members:

Many accordion club presidents and members are planning to attend the Houston Accordion Festival in July honoring Bill Palmer. They will be joined by teachers, performers, concert artists, accordion school directors, publishers, manufacturers, and folks who just love the accordion as well as by the presidents of the Accordion Federation of North America (AFNA) (Larry Pino), the Accordion Teachers Guild (ATG) (Kevin Friedrich), and the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) (Faithe Deffner). Undoubtedly, attendees at this festival will well represent the accordion's broad range of activities.

This presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a **Summit Meeting** with a many-sided discussion of our instrument with its achievements and problems, using common denominators to benefit the accordion of the 21st century, maximizing results of cooperative efforts when accordion groups work together, understanding and responding to our important need for a strong support system within the accordion community.

Members of accordion organizations like ours are being asked for possible questions or subjects. Ideas will then be distilled into three or four specific subjects for meaningful discussions. Prior to the July Summit, the organizers will publish interesting responses from members (together with brief biographical sketches), in a pamphlet which will become a basic tool of the Summit Meetings.

The Accordion Summit is a joint effort of the AAA, of AFNA and of ATG in collaboration with those accordion clubs who wish to join in this historic meeting. Each group will send its members a letter similar to this, explaining the Summit Meeting and asking for questions, subjects, or ideas for possible inclusion. Member input is vital for Accordion Summit success. Replies must be received **before March 12th** to be considered for the agenda.

To add your voice to the Accordion Summit Meeting, please send me your accordion-related questions or ideas. Use the form below or create your own format. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Frank Montoro, President, Bay Area Accordion Club

Here are some questions or subjects which I think should be discussed at the Accordion Summit Meeting in Houston July 7 - 12th: (Use additional paper if necessary.)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Your Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____

Return to Frank Montoro before March 12th.
 1448 Tarrytown
 San Mateo, CA 94402

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7:00 PM

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