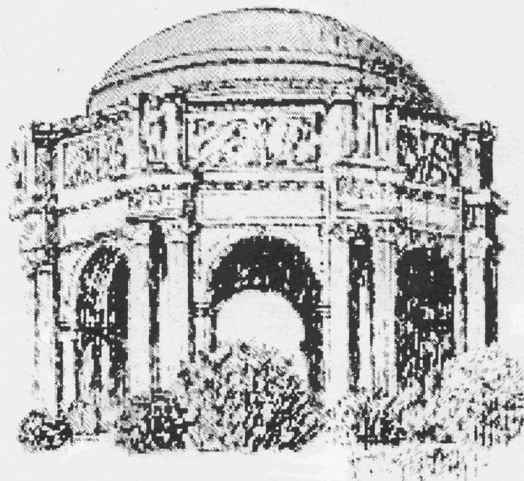


NEWSLETTER OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO
**BAY AREA
ACCORDION CLUB**



EDITORS: Marian Kelly
Dominic Palmisano

June, 1993

June Meeting

The June meeting took place the day after our Third Annual Picnic. By the looks of **Al Enos, Ted Varga, Ed Zaro, Jim Ragle, Isabelle** and **Ed Massolo** (just to mention a few in attendance), it was apparent that the picnic emptied their gas tanks. Nevertheless, we had 90 plus in attendance including **Laverne Traverso** who spends many hours readying our monthly newsletter for mailing, all sitting back in their chairs waiting to be lulled to sleep. Before starting, President **Peter Di Bono** announced that **Anthony Galla-Rini** will be honored at our August meeting. As a tribute three proteges of the Maestro will perform.

The entertainment opened with **Bob Delgado** performing "Waltz Allegro" by Charles Magnante and "Beautiful Days Waltz" by Pietro Diero. **Bob's** great style quickly put the crowd on the edge of their seats; he is an exciting accordionist!.. Eleven year old **Jan Schellenberger** came next. This young player was a former student of **Clyde Forsman** and is presently studying with **Peter DiBono**. **Jan** started with "Morning Has Broken", then "Alemande", and for an encore, "Nadia's Theme". He demonstrated excellent technique and execution while playing with feeling.

We're looking forward to watching him develop in the coming years.

New board member, **Algis Ratnikas**, followed with an original tune dedicated to the homeless called "There They Stand" and finished with a beautiful piece, Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherezade". Then the ever popular **Reno Pucci** stepped up on the stage with a borrowed accordion from **Bob Delgado**. What a difference a good accordion makes! **Reno** is always sporting an old \$100 special that needs a \$1000 worth of work. **Reno** delighted the audience with Pietro Deiro's "Lady of Spain", Anthony Galla-Rini's "La Sorella" and ended with an original called "High on Eiffel Tower". **Reno** is definitely a crowd-pleasing performer...

After intermission another new board member, **David Baioni**, charmed

cont. p. 6 

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:

To continue to receive
this newsletter,
please send us a \$20 check
for your
Annual Dues.
Find a form on Page 6.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

July 5, Monday. BAAC General Meeting, 7 PM, House of Parties, 22 Hillcrest, Daly City..

July 5-10, Monday - Saturday. Kimberley, British Columbia International Old Time Accordion Championships.

July 22, Thursday, 7:30 P.M. BAAC Board Meeting at Frank Montoro's.

July 25th -30th. Galla-Rini Accordion Camp, Silver Falls State Park, Oregon. See April BAAC Page for details.

August 1, Sunday. Jorgen Sundeqvist in concert at the Shoreline Community College, 16101 Greenwood Ave N., Seattle, 3 PM.

August 2, Monday. BAAC General Meeting. Gala evening with several guests honoring Anthony Galla-Rini. More next month.

August 28, 29, Cotati Accordion Festival, See article on p. 3.

September, third week. Button Box Accordion Camp. Lake Tahoe. Call Joe Smiell, 510-832-6938.

September 17-19. Northeast Squeeze-In, Washington, MA. Workshops, jam sessions, concert and contra dance. Call Accordion Connection, 603-224-5227.



Lou Soper

Heerrreeesss Lou....at the picnic, behind his accordion. He says he played until he realized it was dark and almost everyone had left. A couple hours before this picture was taken, Lou, a founder of BAAC and our President for our first two years, had been given a certificate of appreciation and a lifetime membership in our Club by incoming President Dominic Palmisano.

Did You Attend our Picnic??

Or did you worry about the cool, threatening weather and decide that Sunday, June 6th was *not* an appropriate day to be outdoors? If so, you were correct in that it *did* sprinkle a little bit, but not nearly enough to dampen our spirits. BAAC members and friends attended in numbers sufficient to cover the Elks' Club fee for their grounds and to add a bit of cash to our bank account. (Frank will provide a complete financial reporting for the past year in the July BAAC Page.)

Walter did a fantastic job with the planning and execution of our Third Annual Picnic, as we all knew he would. He had a little help, of course. Frank Montoro's hand was most evident, as Frank and Walter worked together for a couple months. Others who contributed their time to the picnic's success and whom we all thank were:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Rusty Bartoli | Evelyn Baulch |
| Jim Holliday | Leo & Ray Lembi |
| Esther Montoro | Dominic Palmisano |
| Joyce & Reno Pucci | Sylvia Rasmussen |
| Algis Ratnikas | Grace Rominello |
| Domenic Saso | Frank Schlotter |

Walter's raffle generated a great deal of enthusiasm. Items donated and raffled include:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Colombo & Sons | 2-microphones, metronome, tripod |
| Reali Carabinieri Italian | 2-1.75 liter bottles |
| Social Club | of Jim Beam |
| Lee Woodall | Original oil painting |
| Eino & Yvonne Huhtala | 1-3 pc. stereo set, 4 gallons wine |
| Tony Di Bono | Case of wine |
| Tony Addiego | 3-hand-made windmills |
| Floorcraft of S.F. | Area rug |
| Roy Lagomarsino | 2-lge cans olive oil |
| Walter & Laverne Traverso | 1-large handmade afghan, 2-handmade dolls |
| Vince Cirelli | Several music books |
| Sheila Gullmes | 1-wooden bear, ceramic eagle, cap & scarf |
| John Puppo | 1-accordion |
| Adam White | 1-accordion |
| Walter Traverso | 2-accordions |

In addition to all of *that*, there were donated door prizes:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Golden Age Travel Club, | 4 memberships |
| Westlake Lyons Restaurant | 2-dinners for 2 |
| Sharpe Park Restaurant, Pacifica | 1-dinner for 2 |
| Wig Palace, San Mateo | Turban |
| John Puppo, Sunnyvale | Dinner for 2 |
| Colombo & Sons | 6-discounts on merchandise /service; 1-metronome |
| Westlake Joe's | Dinner for 2 |
| Venice Pizza, Mission St. S.F. | Large Pizza |
| Pacific Agri-Products, S.F. | 4 turkeys or 12 fryers |
| House of Parties | 2-certificates for 25 finger sandwiches & hors d'oeuvres |
| John Gullmes | 1-haircut |
| Walter Traverso | 1-Chia-pet planter |

Those who braved the elements were glad they did. Now, we're wondering a bit about next year's picnic. If a rainy day brings out enough of a happy crowd to produce not only a great time but an excellent profit, what will happen at next year's picnic when they sun will undoubtedly grace us? Stay tuned!
M.K.

Send Letters to the Editor or any other message, picture, or news item to:

Marian Kelly
31 Aliso Way
Portola Valley, CA 94028

Deadline for each issue is the *second* Monday of the month.

COTATI '93

Coming up quickly is the 1993 edition of the Cotati Accordion Festival, on August 28th and 29th. For the uninitiated, Cotati is a town of 6,000 about 40 miles north of San Francisco, 6 miles south of Santa Rosa. The main N/S California freeway, 101, cuts right through it. Three years ago, two thoughtful fellows from Cotati, Jim Boggio and Clifton Buck-Kauffman, decided to put both Cotati and the accordion on the map. Jim contacted, negotiated with, and brought in accordionists both singly and in groups to play for seven hours both Saturday and Sunday. Clifton handled all the arrangements with the City of Cotati, from security and bathrooms to bales of hay for people to sit on. The enthusiastic crowds attending that first festival, convinced them that they had a tradition on their hands.

This year's festival will be bigger and better than ever. Although both Jim and Clifton are heavily involved, a committee of about 15 persons, including many from the City of Cotati and from the Sonoma County Cultural Arts Commission is handling the planning and execution of festival details to help ensure its successful future.

Changes this year include the closing of main Cotati streets and the addition of a third stage, this one in downtown Cotati, to accommodate the increasing requests from accordionists all over the country who want to be included in the happenings. Otherwise, the format will be similar to last year's plan.

Two stages will be set up in La Plaza Park, groups using the larger stage and soloists the smaller.

Each day will begin at 10:45 A.M. with an accordion parade through the Cotati streets. Bring your accordion and come early, then plan to spend a little time in the big Jam Tent, which was immensely popular last year. The first performance will start at 11:00 A.M.; festivities will wind down about 6 P.M.

Here are tentative schedules for the two days, arranged in approximate order of appearance:

Saturday, August 28th

Mike Kovack Long & the Caledonia
Zephyrs

Salut Matelot
Ramon Trujillo and his Mariachi
Jalisco

Merle Sanders
Motor Dude Zydeco
Andrea Thierry
Peter Di Bono
Those Darn Accordions!
Jim Boggio and the Sonoma Swamp
Dogs

Kevin Roach
Los Pinkys
Rudy Van Eikan
Peter Soave

Sunday, August 29th

Sev Garcia
Steve Balich Polka Band
Zydeco Flames

Marian Kelly
Those Darn Accordions!
Ken Olendorf
San Francisco Squeeze
Jim Boggio and the Sonoma
Swamp Dogs
Barbara Ann Martindale
Marko Bubalo Band
Michelle Gallandre
Chuck Berger
Peter Soave
Gator Beat

Last year we printed a list of nearby motels with prices and our recommendations for making your choices. We have not checked this year's prices, so will not include them here, but below is the list of accommodations with phone numbers, arranged in order of increasing cost:

Golden Penny Inn 6288 Redwood Drive, Rohnert Park, 94928. 707-584-1005. Pool.

Good Nite Inn 5040 Redwood Drive, Rohnert Park, 94928. 707-584-8180. Cable. Free coffee.

Motel 6 5135 Montero Way, Petaluma 94954 (at Penngrove Exit). 707-664-9090.

Best Western Inn 6500 Redwood Drive, Rohnert Park 94928. 707-584-7435. Pool, jacuzzi, cable. Nearby restaurants.

El Rancho Tropicana Resort Hotel 2200 Santa Rosa Ave, Santa Rosa 95407 (2 mi. south of Santa Rosa). 707-542-3655, 800-248-4747.

Quality Inn 5100 Montero Way, Petaluma 94954 (at Penngrove exit 3 mi. south of Cotati) 707-664-1155, 800-221-2222. Free Continental bkfst., pool/spa/sauna, refrigerators in rooms, ESPN.

Red Lion Hotel. One Red Lion Drive, Rohnert Park 94928. 707-584-lion, 800-541-1111. Spacious grounds, pool, spa, exercise room, golf course, two restaurants. Suites available.



Ed Mazzolo and Frank Panacci delighted the crowd at the Picnic with their wonderful arrangements of our favorites. What a great duo they are!

MUSIC WITH EIGHT WORDS

by Mort Herold

The secret of music memorization is contained in only eight words:

INTELLIGENT REPETITION
OVER A GENEROUS AMOUNT
OF TIME

This pearl of truth is not new; it has been applied instinctively by musicians throughout the ages. The elemental power of directed repetition over a period of time inevitably creates mastery of whatever is so learned.

There is a little poem which expresses this idea aptly for music:

*The rules of music are three
And all others are in vain.
The first and second are practice
And the third is practice again.*

To my knowledge, there has never been a more practical memory method than this for the memorization of music. Of course, the ability to analyze and understand the melodic line, form, and

structure will quicken the grasp and speed assimilation, but, in the end, it is primarily repetition and the use that creates lasting retention and recall.

But the trick is not to think of this process as "memorization" at all. Don't purposely "try" to memorize anything. Just play whatever music you want to learn – over and over, correctly and repeatedly – over a good period of time. And sooner or later you will find that the basic power of repetition alone will "memorize" the music for you.

The rhythm of life is repetition. The beat of a heart, the pulse of music, the repetition of night and day, work and play, birth and death, beginning and end. The cycle is endless, as history itself, repeats.

Do you want to remember this "eight word secret" to memorize music? Then just repeat it a few times now and then, and you'll remember it for a lifetime.

"INTELLIGENT REPETITION OVER A GENEROUS AMOUNT OF TIME"

Ed. Note. The above article is part of a package of information which Eddie Chavez copied and sent to Jim Holliday. More from this package later. Mort Herold is the author of "Memorizing Made Easy" and "You Can Have a Near-Perfect Memory".

Ed. Note #2. Eddie Chavez's doctor discovered some blockage in a heart artery and scheduled Eddie for single bypass surgery, according to the June issue of the TAA newsletter. Although Eddie is probably back bouncing around, should you wish to send him a get-well card, his home address is 9019 Hetherington, San Antonio, Texas 78240.

BAAC Board Meeting

May 18, 1993

Synopsis

- Treasurer Frank Montoro reported \$4,755 combined balance in checking plus savings. At the June board meeting, we will adopt a budget for the '93-'94 fiscal year.
- Plans for the picnic on June 6th were discussed in some detail. We will either purchase or rent a sound system for the event; \$200 was appropriated.
- Frank has located and will purchase a 1-year liability insurance policy to cover all BAAC sponsored events. Cost is \$652 annually.
- We now have 235 paid members.
- We print 280 copies of our newsletter, which includes about 25 comps, extras for use by the membership chairman and the editors.
- The Moose Lodge in Daly City is in the process of renovating its facilities. Peter Di Bono has investigated the location and reports that it would be an excellent location for our general meetings. Peter will negotiate with the Lodge.
- Peter presented a plan to honor Anthony Galla-Rini at our August general meeting which will include Jorgen Sundeqvist of Sweden as guest artist. More of this in our July newsletter.
- Marian Kelly discussed the Cotati festival. The group voted to donate \$1500 this year to the festival, which will include booth space, rental of a jam tent, and program advertising. Marian will coordinate the booth, at which we will again sell a wide variety of accordion tapes.

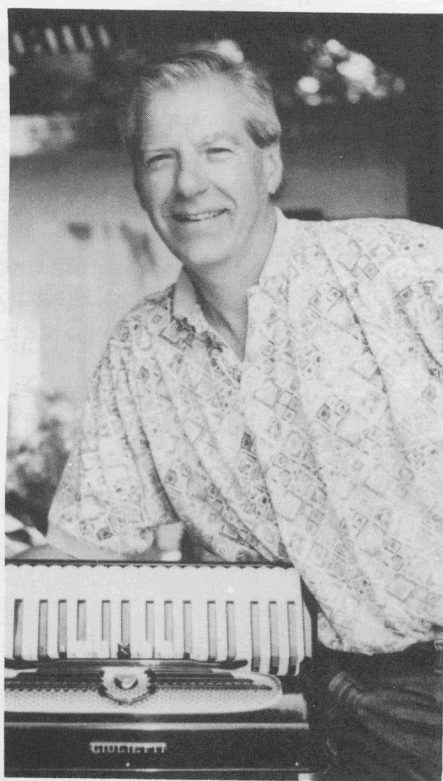
Profile of *Dennis Stoscher*

Dennis is undoubtedly one of the more likeable fellows to join BAAC in recent memory. He always has a friendly smile and a one liner for every occasion. One thing that is apparent is that he is having fun.

Born and raised in a farming community west of Erie, Pennsylvania, Dennis grew up with music. His father played the violin, so Denny heard the music of string quartets as a young boy, and his mother played the piano. Dennis decided he wanted

to learn to play accordion. He took lessons from age nine to fifteen from the Osieki School of Music in Erie. He studied and played with several Osieki brothers, played in his high school orchestra, local church, and was a member of a dance band during the golden accordion fifties.

After Denny graduated from high school, the family moved to the Bay Area and, except for family get-togethers, the accordion disappeared into the closet. Around 1983, just when Dennis' time and energies were primarily directed to his stoneworking and supply business in San Francisco, he bought an old Guerrini accordion at a garage sale, and his dormant musical interests began to reawaken. Then, in 1991, Dennis and Elna won a trip to Germany for a week for selling so many stoneworking tools the previous year. On a side trip to Verona, Florence, Milan, and Castelfidardo they found themselves at the Fiscarmonica Museum. Elna could see the gleam in Dennis' eyes as he heard accordion played like never before. In August '91, Elna presented



her husband with a Titano Midi accordion system and "the spark became a flame" to use his words.

In his usual joking manner, Dennis says that Elna is now looking for a contractor to construct a music room over the garage in their Belmont home so she can get some peace and quiet.

We wanted to know more about his business and his academic background and this is what we learned: Dennis received his BA in Engineering from the University of

Redlands and his MA from Santa Clara. He worked for Fairchild Corp. as a product engineering manager for 15 years before he and Elna acquired Leitch and Co. in 1983, and established themselves with Elna as the President and major stockholder and Dennis as her partner. Their firm sells tools, equipment, and supplies to stone fabricators and contractors. With offices in San Francisco, Anaheim, and Atlanta, you can imagine their schedule!

Nevertheless, BAAC members recently prevailed upon him to accept a position on our executive board (remember the old idea that if you have something that needs doing, ask a busy man?) We asked Dennis what he would like to see happen this coming year. First, he said, he would like to see us double our membership. Second, he would like to have every accordion player teach something to another person in our club. Think about that one, please. As we improve our individual levels of musicianship, we also elevate the status of the accordion.

Thanks, Dennis.

Frank Montoro

ACROSS THE EDITOR'S DESK....

Carmel Valley, CA

Dear Editor:

On May 28, 29, and 30, we attended the 16th Annual Button Accordion Jamboree, Concert, and Dance at the Slovenian Hall in Fontana, CA. Before arriving, we envisioned a very small town affair. We were happily mistaken.

It was superbly managed. No delays as 25 bands played at 20 minute intervals on two wooden dance floors with non-stop music. The bands came from 27 states including Alaska. Contestants for the Sunday contest came from all over the USA. It was held at the beautiful Fontana Performing Arts Center.

Joe Smiell was the main headliner and star attraction during the entire three days. He was treated with great respect and outstanding ovations as he played his Petosa accordion at the dance. People stopped dancing and stood in awe watching and listening as he flawlessly played five difficult numbers. **THEY WOULDN'T LET HIM LEAVE THE STAGE.**

At the contest/concert on Sunday, Joe Smiell performed on his button accordion receiving standing ovations. Joe was not competing as he is considered one of the top accordionists in the country and no one would compete against him. He received two trophies for his contributions to the accordion music field in execution, composition, and arranging.

We are so fortunate to have such a great accordionist, composer, and arranger as Joe Smiell in our midst.

Joe will be performing at the Redlands Bowl this summer. His last concert there brought down the house while playing difficult Russian opera music on his Petosa. The Redlands date will be announced later.

Renzo and Sherri Latone

June General Meeting, from p. 1

the audience with "Willow Weep For Me", "Tico Tico" and the "Tarentella". Dave is another accordionist who can play with the best of them!.. The night concluded with **Reno Di Bono's** Trio playing a medley of songs including "In the Mood", "Wonderful", "Laura", "That's A Plenty", "Sleepy Lagoon" and "Samba de Orfeo". The other members of the group were **George Ballantini** on drums and **John Quist** on trumpet. If you're ever needing a trio, don't look any further. We even had this picnic-tired audience dancing in the back of the room (that's a first!). For an encore, brother **Peter** joined in with "Satin Doll" and "Tic-A-Ta". The only person missing from the act was their dad **Tony**. Maybe we can get them to perform together in the near future. For those who remember the **Dino Benetti** picnics, the **Di Bono** family was always a hit.

The After Hours at Lyon's in Daly City was a very mellow get-together. It was obvious that two days of partying was catching up to the best of them.

Still we had a fine cast of players serenading our group of regulars...

See you at the next meeting, July 5.

Jim Holliday and D. P.

Thank you,
Cindy Tuculet
for these photos!



l to r: Al Enos, Jim Firpo, Jean Pierre Pagola, Leon Broussal, Rusty Bartoli, Tony Addiego, Wenzel Rasmussen

The Shadow Knows.....

Barb Hartley is bubbling with exciting News. She reports that she will be married to the most fantastic fellow in the Bay Area on June 26th!

Domenic and Tina Saso are celebrating a milestone on the same day, June 26th, their fiftieth wedding anniversary! Can you imagine? Do you suppose he has been the same crazy guy all 50 years???

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

To continue to receive our Newsletter, please send us your \$20.00 membership fee.
Your check will cover the year July 1, 1993 to June 30, 1994.

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We'd appreciate your comments here: _____

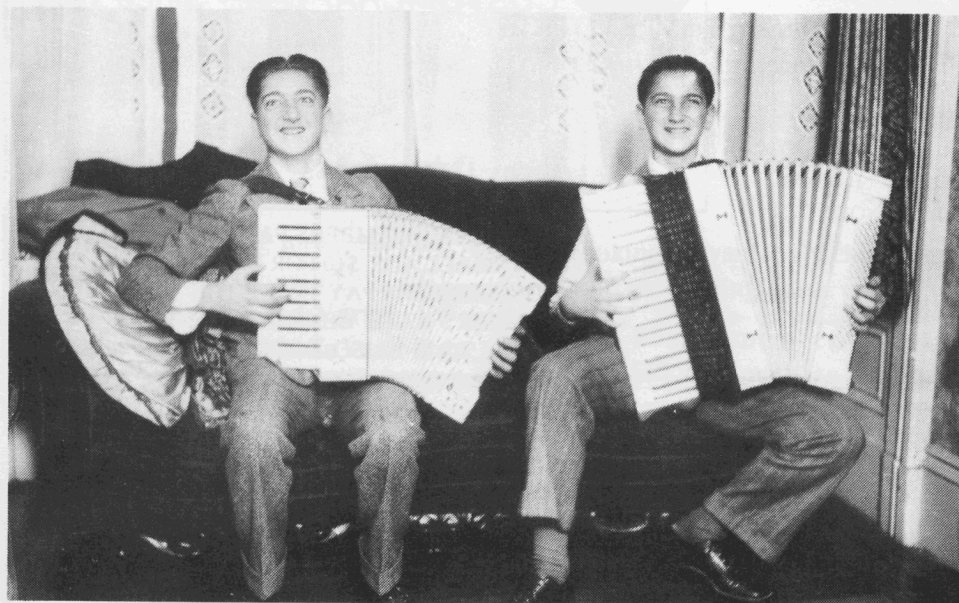
Make your check payable to B.A.A.C. and mail to: Rusty Bartoli, 222 Prague St., San Francisco, CA 94112
THANK YOU!!!!

ATTILIO (Til) BAVA

1916 - 1989

by: Joe Bava

My brother, Til and I, started taking piano lessons with a very strict classical teacher at ages eight and ten. After six years of grueling piano study, Til switched to accordion, taking lessons from the husband of our teacher. This man was a concert master and knew nothing about the accordion, although he was familiar with all the other instru-



ments. Even more strict than his wife, he taught my brother to play even the most difficult classical music including operas, transcribing all to the accordion. Til was practicing from five to eight hours per day. See photo, above, of Joe (left, age 15) and Til (age 13) Bava. At age fifteen Til won his first accordion contest at the Milano Theater in North Beach playing with a new Guerrini. He continued to win a number of contests during this period.

Then Til started taking lessons from Anthony Galla-Rini. At age sixteen, he played a several-weeks engagement as the featured soloist with the Horace Heidt orchestra at the Golden Gate Theater here in San Francisco (I remember my brother insisting on my being at every performance because he was so nervous). He also started lessons with Frank

Gilmore who taught him how to play jazz and the popular tunes of the day.

Til's group, the Dobonnett Trio, was managed by MCA (Music Corp. of America) during the 1950s. Their bookings included the Western states, mostly Nevada, with a couple of stints in Asia and Europe. After performing at several of the major hotels in Las Vegas, his trio

ended up at the Tropicana where they had an eight year run. This was during the late sixties.

During this time The Three Suns were booked for four weeks. Their accordion player had to leave so they had Charles Magnante, one of the great accordionists of all time, fly in and finish the engagement. Also at the same time Dick Contino, with his quartet, was booked. When we speak of thrilling coincidences, here we had three of the best accordionists of the time, Til, Magnante, and Contino performing on the same stage! One followed the other as each finished his performance.

While The Dobonnett Trio performed, I was at the bar with Charles Magnante, and I'll never forget what he said referring to my brother, "How come I've never heard of him before?"

Looking for Music.....??

Ernest Deffner Publications has recently acquired the entire libraries of Pagani and Deiro. Sixty-eight oversized cartons of music arrived, and now the task of sorting, compiling, and computerizing inventory has begun. This mammoth undertaking will provide the largest offering of accordion music available today when combined with existing stock. A catalogue will be available. If you know the call number of a piece which you would like to order, or to request the catalog, write to:

Ernest Deffner Publications
P.O. Box 608
Mineola, N.Y. 11501

Arthur Welch, in The Accordion Connection Report, writes: "We have compiled a list of accordion solos that are no longer in print. We have at least one of each of these titles and will make photocopies on request for a small fee. Send for this free seven page list - include a stamped self-addressed business size (#10) envelope to

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Courtesy of Tim Tyree

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NEXT MEETING: MONDAY

July 5, 1993
7:00PM

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