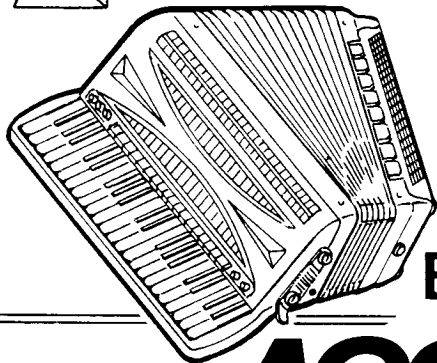


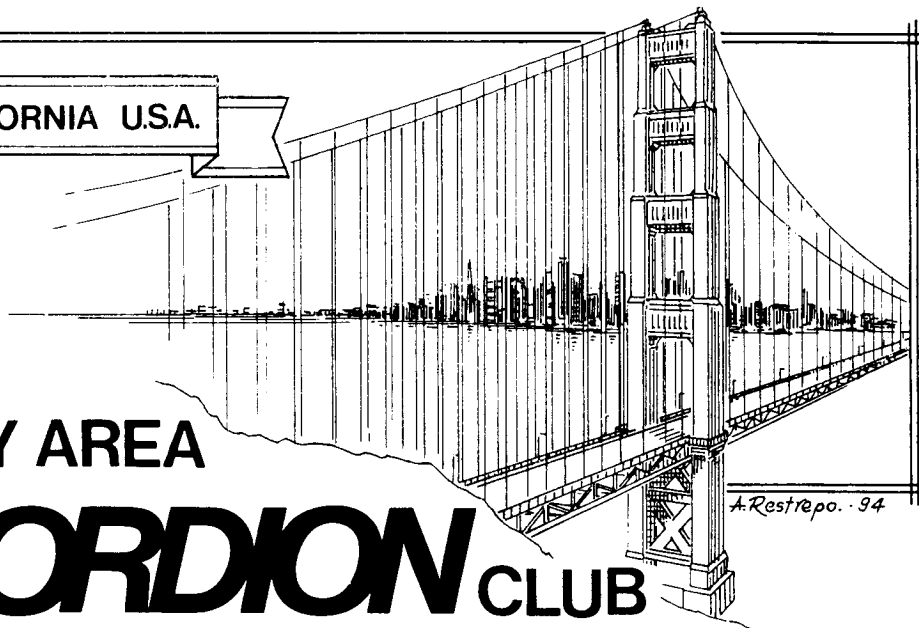
Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



BAY AREA

ACCORDION CLUB



JUNE, 1995

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have enjoyed being your President this past year and I owe it all to you, our members. Many of our most successful activities this year were suggestions that came directly from members such as: Swiss Park as our new picnic site, our dessert pot-luck, the second BAAC performance group, and "swap night" to be held in July.

I have enjoyed the support and active participation of our fine Executive Board. To these people I owe a special thanks: Bob Berta, Algis Ratnikas, Josephine Hornbrook, Glenn McClelland, Joe Smiell, John Puppato, Marian Kelly, Ed Massolo, and Frank Panacci.

Domenic Saso, as always, has made a special contribution with his wit and sometimes wisdom as our master-of-ceremonies at our annual picnic as well as at our monthly meetings. And I don't want to forget Ed Massolo who acted as MC when Domenic was elsewhere.

Marian Kelly and her editorial staff, Denny Huff, Bob Berta, Glenn McClelland, and Eino Huhtala were outstanding this year for making our newsletter the best accordion club newsletter in the country. Thanks to them.

Finally, thanks to those who made our picnic a huge success: Bob Berta for his work as sound engineer; Ed Massolo for planning the program; Algis Ratnikas without whom there would not have been a barbeque; Glenn McClelland and Ken Nimmo, the guys at the gate; Dominic Saso and Joseph E. Smiell who conducted the two ensembles. Kudos too to the folks who provided the door prizes, Frank Panacci, Dominic Benedetto, John Gullmes, Josephine Hornbrook, Val Kieser, Tony DiBono, and Mary Alice Eldon.

Congratulations to our new Board and to new President Bob Berta. We look forward to another fine year of music and friendship.

Frank Montoro

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June 23, 24, 25. San Francisco Folk Festival. Held at Roosevelt Middle School, 460 Arguello between Clement and Geary, San Francisco. Joe Smiell will host a Button Box workshop on the 24th at 1 PM in Room 310. The Cafe Babar Jug Band (Algis et al) will entertain on the main stage at 2 PM on the same day, the 24th.

June 25, Sunday. Fifth annual *Day of The Accordion* Festival & Northwest accordion teachers' competition. Featuring Leo Aquino concert. Seattle Concert House (206) 783-3593, (206) 282-4934.

July 2nd. Accordion Jamboree 1995. Held at the Donkey Deli Beer Garden, 322 Third St., San Juan Bautista, 11 to 6. (408) 623-4521.

July 7th - 12th, American Accordionists' Association Festival, Houston honoring Bill Palmer at JW Marriott on Westheimer. Reservations: 1-800-231-6058. For competition and event info, call (516) 746-3100.

July 8th, Saturday. Festa Italiana in Lodi, at the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds, all day. Featuring Dick Contino and The Gaylords.

cont. p. 6

Across the Editor's Desk.....

Dear Editor:

I wanted to write and tell you how much we all enjoyed the performance by Ed Massolo and Frank Panacci on Monday, May 8th. As you know, their visit was part of the exchange program we have started between our two clubs. Ed with his wife Isabel and Frank with his wife Donna drove to Seattle and stayed with some of Frank's friends. Coincidentally, their house was near the European Connection, a restaurant/nightclub where we hold our meetings. Also, Donna's brother and family flew out from Utah to attend the performance.

I was the emcee for the evening as Ken and Barbara Olendorf were in Los Angeles attending the Art Van Damme birthday party. Every time I fill-in for them, I am fortunate to have an excellent program lined up and this evening was no exception. First of all, we had the pleasant surprise of having Steve Balich in town with his wife Jenny. I knew for about a week that Steve would be here, but Ed and Frank did not know anything about it until they arrived at the Monday night event. It was great fun surprising them.

With Steve in town, we were lucky to have three players from the Bay Area perform for us. Steve impressed us with his great dexterity on the keyboard. He has a wonderfully fast and light touch when moving across the keys. We enjoyed his music very much. Next on the program was Chuck Berger from Portland, Oregon. Chuck is well-known for his skill on the MIDI accordion. He has developed such a high level of expertise that he has become a major consultant on the MIDI accordion with professionals all over the country. His performance, as always, was very enjoyable.

Ed and Frank played for the second half of the evening. They had their program well-prepared. They played together as well as Frank performing solos. Some of the pieces such as *El Rio Drive Polka* and *Carnival of Venice Waltz* were their own arrangements. They began by playing together, then Frank performed *Jalousie* and his own arrangement of *El Relicario*. Later Frank performed the *Trieste* and *Poet & Peasant Overtures*. Ed and Frank also played *Jolly Caballero*, *Just Because*, and *Lichtensteiner Polka*. The program flowed very smoothly and we all sat back, relaxed, and enjoyed their style of playing. I believe they played for about 50 minutes and the time flew by. We will be talking about this program for quite some time.

As you can see, our Monday night program was a big success (sorry you had to miss it, Ken and Barbara.) I truly hope our clubs continue to exchange guest artists. I think this program does a lot to promote good will in the accordion world. Many thanks again to Ed, Frank, and Steve.

Sincerely yours,

Bonnie C. Birch, Northwest Accordion Society

From Herb Caen's column in the Chronicle
Wednesday, May 3rd..

Happy 80th today to S.F.'s Clyde Forsman, who calls himself "America's oldest rock and roller" even though he plays in Those Darn Accordions! (the group's exclamation mark, not mine). Clyde's renditions of the Hendrix scorcher "Fire" and Rod Stewart's "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?" are the stuff of-well-stuff. Seriously, Clyde is terrific. You can hear him on TDA's new CD, "Squeeze This."

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Bay Area Accordion Club PICNIC

Saturday, June 11th started out as a perfect day for a picnic.....lots of sun with a moderate temperature....none of the unseasonal cloudiness and low temps that we've been seeing. Seems like everybody planned to be at Swiss Park in Newark early, because by 10:30 AM the place was jumpin'. Those who were worried about finding the spot needn't have. Had the proverbial stone been thrown from the freeway, it would have landed right in the Swiss Park vicinity.

few tested the sound system which we had rented and which **Bob Berta** was capably manning, and found it more than sufficient to meet any need. That generated a few conversations about cost and the possibility of purchasing something quite like that system for ongoing Club use.

The park features a fine stage set into a "shell" to project sound forward. And it wasn't long before the formal entertainment which **Ed Massolo** had put together got underway. **Dominic Saso** did all the honors, of course.

First, we heard for the first time, the second BAAC Ensemble, which **Joe Smiell** has been rehearsing twice monthly for several months. **Joe** was in Denver, so his son, **Joseph E. Smiell**, did the honors, and very, very capably, we might add. They began quite appropriately with **Joe's** arrangement of *Star Spangled Banner*, which was over far too quickly. Then came a *Minuet*, and lastly Leroy Anderson's *Synco-pated Clock*, all arranged by you-know-who. A very competent bunch! Congratulations to all the group members for becoming so skilled in playing with a conductor in such a brief time. For lots of accordionists, of course, playing in

tempo with a conductor is really tough....they've been soloists most of their lives and are not accustomed to the teamwork essential to orchestral membership.

Mike Zampiceni then came forward and spoke a little about his Dad, who was a highly respected accordionist, and who published a great deal of accordion music. That was nice to hear, **Mike**....thank you. Then he played some of the music his Dad had published, including *Samba Alisa*, *Dizzy Digits*, and *Cherokee*. He also played an updated PC version of *Sweet Georgia Brown* which had the whole crowd jumpin. Say, **Mike**....how is it that it took us so long to realize what a great accordionist you are and to pull you into the Club?? We're glad you're here; it's great hearing your clean style.

We were introduced to **Gary Drexel** from Tracy, who is even newer to us than **Mike**. We're glad you came all the way in, **Gary**, because we really enjoyed your music. For those of you who weren't there, **Gary** played *Girl from Ipanema*, *The Days of Wine and Roses*, *Night and Day*, and *Choo-Choo Boogie*. Thanks, **Gary!**

Then came a real shark....**Joe Domitrowich**, who lives in Cupertino. **Joe** has been a BAAC member previously, and has kind of been sampling the



Gary Drexel

There were plenty of picnic tables, well separated each from each. Most tables were near a shade tree, so it was easy to choose the appropriate amount of sun. One hundred pounds of charcoal was more than sufficient to light up the huge firepit, and many began cooking soon after arrival. There was more total space than at our previous location, and lots of grass with shade trees. **Glenn, Jeanne,**

Ken became professional greeters during their long morning stay at the welcoming gate.

Accordions came out immediately. A



Can it really be so? Is this Jim Holliday? The man seldom seen anywhere playing an accordion???

PICNIC.....PICNIC.....PICNIC.....PICNIC.....PICNIC

Club again of late. This was the first time, though, that he stopped lurking (as they say in computerese these days) and came forward to show off his stuff. And that guy has a lot of stuff. Great technique, especially obvious with his bellows shake. He played *Jolly Caballero*, *Dark Eyes*, and *Dueling Banjos*. Too bad we couldn't have kept him up there for a long time.....how about playing at a meeting soon, **Joe**????



Frank Montoro and family

Aura Lee, and **Jeb** did *Saints Go Marching In*. They finished up with *Oh Marie*. Fine job, **Frank**. We'd be proud of all of them, too.

Another group was next.....this really was the day for groups, and the audience certainly enjoyed it. **Val Kieser**, **Bob Smith**, **Mary-Alice Eldon**, and **Harry Liedtke** came forward and played three German waltzes, or laendlers. First came two composed by **Joe Smiell** which, for the moment shall remain namesless, because **Joe** doesn't worry about names. The last laendler, not by **Joe**, was entitled *Bergchilbi Laendler*. **Val** doesn't know what that means, except that it has something to do with a moun-

tain! Perhaps it's time for a laendler dance lesson, because the Alpen-sounding foot stamping tempo, made everybody want to move!

Bob Delgado has really been practicing.....we can tell, because he did a wonderful job on each of his four selections, *El Cumanchero*, *Under Paris Skies*, *Waltz Allegro*, and *España Cani*. Thanks, **Bob**, for adding so much to our picnic.

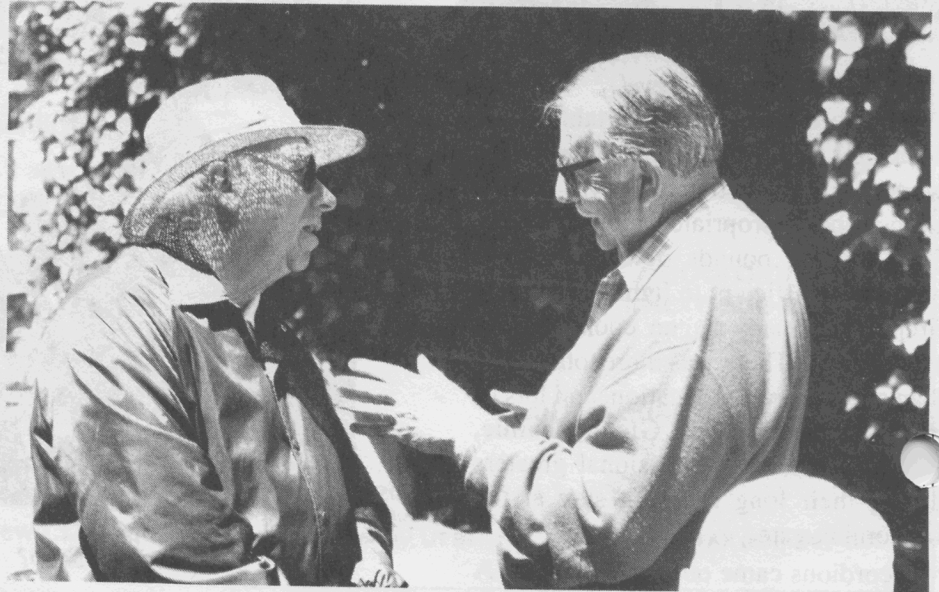
Sev Garcia had driven for five hours (he lives in Porterville) to attend and play at our picnic, and he was planning to drive back that same evening. We were tired just talking to him. **Sev** uses a MIDI setup with a sequencer to tastefully pre-layer several parts of his selections (a la Les Paul), then he plays along on an unamplified accordion, using only the microphone. So the effect we heard was of a fine, tight orchestra, led by a fine sounding accordion. It was just amazing listening to him get all those sounds out of his instrument plus in



Joe Domitrowich

After **Joe**, **Lou Soper** put on a new persona.....he played with a quartet which included with **Rich Herman** on sax, **Don Clem** on drums, and **Jim O'Neil** on bass. They did *Satin Doll*, *Laura* and *Here's That Rainy Day*, and a medley of *Meditation*, *Watch What Happens*, and *Girl from Ipanema*. **Lou's** Big Chords sounded great with the group behind him.

Frank Montoro came forward quite proudly, because he was surrounded by several very capable members of his musical family, daughter **Barbara Swan** on bass, son-in-law **Steve Swan** on guitar, granddaughter **Dana Swan** and grandson **Jeb Purucker**. This fine quintet played the fiddler's tune *Swallowtail*, then *Crazy*, and *Four Walls*. Then **Dana** played



Bumble Boogie, Hora Staccato, and Sicilian Tarantella.

Val Ballerini hasn't been around for a while, because he hasn't been well, but he



Sev Garcia

sure looked and sounded fine on Sunday. *That's Amore, From the Grapes Come the Wine, and Eh Cumpari* (a **Val** specialty). His wife sang along with him, too. We're glad to see you back in action **Val**.

At this point, the weather had turned quite breezy, and many people relocated closer to the buildings, where the temperature was quite a bit higher.

We still hadn't heard BAAC's Fun Band, so they came next. **Dominic** directed them in *California Here I Come!, Peg O' My Heart, La Campagnola*, and of course, *Beer Barrel Polka*. Way to go! You sounded great!

The last performers were **Don**-minus-30-lbs **Nurisso** and **Lou Soper**, a team none of us had heard before. But we all know how those two fellows enjoy jazz....and they both certainly seemed to enjoy playing with one another. After they finished, Lou was heard to mutter "What a player!". Anyhow, they played *Here's That Rainy Day, Watch What Happens, and Don't Get Around Much Anymore*, and a new team is born!

It was now chilly and windy enough that many people were ready to leave, but most stayed for the door prizes. Several mem-

June Board Meeting

Synopsis

- No Treasurer's report was presented, as Algis was away on business. (He has subsequently reported a total of \$6016 in our two accounts.)
- Details of the upcoming picnic were discussed. The Board decided to give away \$100 as the Grand Door Prize at the picnic.
- It was decided that BAAC should send only one representative to the AAA Houston Festival July 7 - 11. Marian Kelly will represent us.
- Frank Montoro is handling arrangements for BAAC's booth at the Cotati Accordion Festival this year. We will sell tapes of some of the Festival performers; we will have informational material about BAAC available, and we will display a photomontage of our history.
- BAAC will contribute \$500 to the Cotati Festival this year. In return, we will receive an ad in the program, space for our booth and jam tent as previously.
- Frank Montoro, in his role of incoming Financial Secretary, has already put together a form for membership renewal which he will mail to both current and prior members within the month.
- New member Peter Adler sat in on the meeting. Peter's main interest is bandoneon, and he is working on signing up a bandoneon/bass/piano trio to play at our July meeting.
- Bob Berta took the floor for the last part of the meeting. He circulated a sheet of ideas for directions the club might take and some specific ways to work toward new goals. He promised more discussion of philosophy and methodology at our next Board meeting.

bers had kindly donated door prizes (Pres. Frank Montoro thanks them in his column), and about 30 names were drawn. People claimed wine, champagne, plants, and for one lucky fellow, the \$100 grand prize!

It was a fine success, with about 200 people in attendance; plan on a repeat next year.

M. Kelly

A Change of Command

If you don't keep close track, you may not realize that the end of June marks the end of the Bay Area Accordion Club's year. Many of the current officers and Board members will be either retiring from their positions, or switching to another office.

The Officers and Board members want to encourage all of you to contact any of them with questions, suggestions, ideas, complaints, etc. We hope you will clip this little article and save it for that purpose, because it may not be reprinted until next year. (Of course, you can always call BAAC's telephone number, listed each month with our return address on the outside of each newsletter.) So here are names and phone numbers for each of the incoming officers and board members:

President	Bob Berta
	(415) 756-8309
Vice-President	Joe Smiell
	(510) 832-6938
Treasurer	Algis Ratnikas
	(415) 587-9910
Financial Secty	Frank Montoro
	(415) 574-4757
Recording Secty	Val Kieser
	(510) 531-4836

Board Members

Mary-Alice Eldon	(415) 366-7819
Marian Kelly	(415) 854-1896
Frank Panacci	(415) 731-1039
Frank Schlotter	(510) 339-8657
Bob Smith	(415) 856-9321

In next month's newsletter, we will publish an income statement showing income and expenses for the fiscal year ending now.

MK

Mark Your Calendars, cont.

July 9th - 15th. Button Box Camp. Call Joe Smiell, 510-832-6938.

July 10th, Monday. BAAC General Meeting. Accordion "Swap" Night.. Come early if you want to sell something to allow for setup. Tonight we are featuring Rick Bez, Val Ballerini, Sal Bartimoli, Sheng Mei Yu Kuang, Jim Boggio. Special guest artists are musicians from Buenos Aires playing tango music on bandoneon and bass. If you liked Forever Tango, you'll love these fellows.

July 20th-23rd. Accordion Teachers' Guild International Competition and Festival, Kansas City MO. Concerts, competitions, workshops, master-classes. Call 816-756-1720.

July 23rd, Sunday. Festa Italiana di San Mateo. Street Fair on B St. San Mateo, 10A to 6P. Y'all come and bring your accordions!

July 23rd to 28th. Sixth Annual Galla-Rini Accordion Camp in Silver Falls, Oregon sponsored by Accordion World, and featuring Jorgen Sundeqvist assisting Tony. Call John Bonica (Accordion World) at (503)-244-2545 or (503) 257-9648.

July 28th, Friday. Jorgen Sundeqvist in concert, 7 PM. 5516 S.E. Foster Road, Portland, OR. Call Accordion World, 503-244-2545.

July 30th, Sunday, Jorgen Sundeqvist and Carmen Carrozza in concert 2 PM. 16101 Greenwood Ave, Seattle, WA. Sponsored by Petosa Accordions 206-632-2700.

August 7th, Monday. BAAC General Meeting featuring special guest artist Jorgen Sundeqvist.

August 10th - 13th, Leavenworth, Washington International Accordion Celebration and Competition. Call Anne Koenig, (509) 548-5807.

August 23rd- 27th. (note date change) AFNA (Accordion Federation of North America) celebrates its 40th birthday with a bangup Festival at the Hyatt at LAX. Call 213-686-1769 for info and reservations.

August 26th and 27th, Cotati Accordion Festival. Held in beautiful downtown Cotati from 10 to 7 both days. Admission \$5, but reduced to \$2. if you are accompanied by an accordion. Performers include Dick Contino (both days), Kenny Kotwitz, Leo Aquino, Jorgen Sundeqvist. For more info, call Clifton Buck-Kauffman or Rebecca Brown at 707-664-1302. Or consult BAAC's July newsletter for longer article..

Sept. 10th - 16th. Button Box Camp. Call Joe Smiell, 510-832-6938.

Sept. 15 - 17th, Northeast Squeeze-In. In the Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts. Call the Button Box at 413-549-0171.

ACROSS THE EDITOR'S DESK.....

715 Ivy St. Apt 1, Pittsburgh PA 15232

Dear Marian;

Hope everything is well for you. Just thought I'd keep in touch. I don't know if I told you that I'm back in school, working towards a masters degree in composition at Duquesne University Graduate School of Music. This keeps me very busy, but I also get to perform my favorite music (classical) on my favorite instrument (accordion) now and then.

I have two significant dates on my calendar: September 18th I perform with the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble in Hindemith's Kammermusik #1.

But I especially look forward to my engagement with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra next season. Two weeks ago I auditioned for Lorin Maazel, music director of the P.S.O.

Some of my orchestra friends warned me that Mr. Maazel was an extremely demanding conductor and had some negative experiences with accordionists. Either due to insufficient technique or not being able to follow the conductor, etc., they were not up to his standard. So I was expecting an extremely sharp critique of my playing. Luckily, I had recently performed with the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble and the Duquesne Contemporary Ensemble under the direction of conductor David Stock, so I felt quite sure that I would be able to follow Mr. Maazel's baton.

When I entered his office he said gravely, "I've written a cello concerto for Mstislav Rostropovich which includes a very important part for accordion." He asked me to play some excerpts from his piece and also something of my own choosing. I warmed up with a movement from a Handel keyboard suite and then played excerpts from his concerto. Within a few moments Mr. Maazel's serious countenance was transformed into a large smile.

After I finished, he welcomed me into the orchestra and we chatted for some time. He said that he loves the sound of the accordion and wants to compose more music for it, if I would help him to learn more about the limitations and capabilities of the instrument. I agreed and he thanked me.

I think this may be significant for music lovers in general and accordionists in particular, because Maestro Maazel is retiring next year from his post as music director of the PSO (leaving a salary of \$1.2 million/year!) in order to compose full-time. I hope to see more orchestral works in the future from his pen which include accordion.

I'll be performing with the PSO in the world premiere of "Music for Violoncello and Orchestra" by Lorin Maazel, with Mstislav Rostropovich at Heinz Hall on May 2, 3, and 4, 1996

After I graduate next Spring I hope to find a position teaching theory at the college level.

Sincerely, *Henry Doktorski*

Wisdom and Wit from the Internet

The accordion-interest newsgroup in the Internet is a constant source of accordion information, some of it important and some less so. We show below a few of the messages which have come over our wires in the last few months. (By the way, if you have Internet access, you can join this group by sending a message to accordion-request@cs.cmu.edu and saying "please subscribe".)

Here's an informative testimonial concerning the most well known accordion orchestra in the U.S.:

The University of Missouri-Kansas City Accordion Orchestra is conducted by Joan Cochran Sommers who does most of our arrangements; however we also perform some pre-existing arrangements which Joan usually will "fatten" up. UMKC has a "unique" sound due to the use of elektronium, tenor and bass accordions as well as a full ensemble of percussion including harp when called for.

The orchestra is a virtuoso group. Most of us have studied at the conservatory using the accordion as a major instrument, but there are junior high and high school students as well as members who play for fun. The orchestra usually averages about 25-30. We perform pieces from Scherazade and Sorcerer's Apprentice to Michael Jackson medleys, complete with singers and dancers all arranged by Joan. We even did an ET medley which the composer, John Williams, thought was great, again arranged by Joan. We here at UMKC are really fortunate to have Joan.

The accordion program at the Conservatory is fully accredited and has been since 1961. The program has been designed for students who have an interest in pursuing a Bachelor's, Master's or a Doctorate degree in music using the accordion as their performing instrument.

Joan is internationally recognized as an accomplished performer, teacher,

Questioner Bob Wallis:

Some of you may already know: Here in the United States the month of June has been designated "National Accordion Awareness Month!" Is there a foundation?

Responder John Peter Giunta of
Vienna, VA:

Yes, Bob, there is a foundation.

BW: Is a cure in sight?

JPG: The only curable symptom of this killer condition is the clef palate. At the international accords last year the Lady Of Spain was bellowing about being strapped for money, but she hit it right on the button by saying that we are all feeling the squeeze. However, there are some foundation keynote speakers who think this should be a minor key in any negotiations. Not helping matters is the shortage of bees wax for seating reeds. On this score, the public needs to be reeducated as to the Plight of the Bumblebee. The foundation needs to make a concerted effort to pitch Congress and get those people on the same sheet of music. As accordionists, we should look at Congressional notes and ask, "Are they in or out?" They will soon find that they can't have it both ways. Former US President James K. Polka mused on this.

conductor and clinician. She has also written and published numerous arrangements for accordion solo and orchestra as well as doing a variety of research on numerous topics pertaining to the accordion. In 1980, she was awarded a research grant to attend the Vogtland Music Days in Klingenthal, Germany where she studied the instruments (bayans) and music used by the competitors from the former Soviet Union. In addition to her research at Klingenthal, she has been invited to give master classes and presentations in Norway and Poland. In 1988, Joan was

The Chopin Project

Alice Hall from FOTA in Los Angeles, writes to ask us to mention a new cassette tape by Nick Ariondo which is now available for purchase.

The Chopin Project contains Waltzes, Polonaises, a Prelude, a Nocturne, and an Impromptu. Bill Palmer has listened to this tape....he says "Outstanding renditions!" Alice herself says "This is such a great tape, and a great accordion sound as well. One would think that Chopin wrote for the accordion!"

Order Nick's tape from Acco-Music Publishing, P O Box 11120, Glendale, CA 91206. Enclose a check for \$12.50 (plus sales tax in California).

If you would like to join the San Francisco Bay Area Accordion Club, please send a check for \$20 payable to BAAC to our Financial Secretary, Frank Montoro, 1448 Tarrytown, San Mateo, CA. 94402. You will receive a newsletter monthly from July '95 through June '96. We welcome all interested persons!

invited by the All-China Accordion Teachers' Association to teach, to rehearse orchestras, and to conduct master classes, lectures, and performances as both a soloist and in chamber music. The event drew over 250 of the leading accordionists from throughout China. I know Joan would very interested in corresponding with you. You may reach her at the below address:
Joan Cochran Sommers
UMKC Conservatory
4949 Cherry
Kansas City, MO 64110
(816) 235-2743
(Signed) Sam Midd

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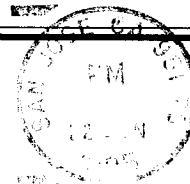
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NEXT MEETING: MONDAY
July 10, 1995
7:00 PM

Donworth Hall
22nd & Eucalyptus
SAN FRANCISCO

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AT A
MEETING, CALL ED AT 415-589-8409

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Co-Conductor
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Algis Ratnikas

Teller
Frank Montoro

Scribe
Val Kieser