

NEWSLETTER OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO

BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUB

Editors: Marian Kelly
Dominic Palmisano

YES, FOLKS.....IT'S PICNIC TIME AGAIN

Lots of Accordion Action on **Sunday, June 7th** at BAAC's second annual PICNIC and celebration of the accordion. Don't be left out! The location is the same as last year, the grounds of the Palo Alto Elks Club on 4239 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Follow the simplified map printed here and you can't miss it. Bring food to barbecue, as

we will have a barbecue pit all fired up for your use, or bring cold food. Walter has arranged to have hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages, beer, soft drinks, and ice cream available for purchase on the site.

Doors open at 10 A.M. An hourly raffle will be held beginning at 11:30. Dominic Saso is coordinating the musical

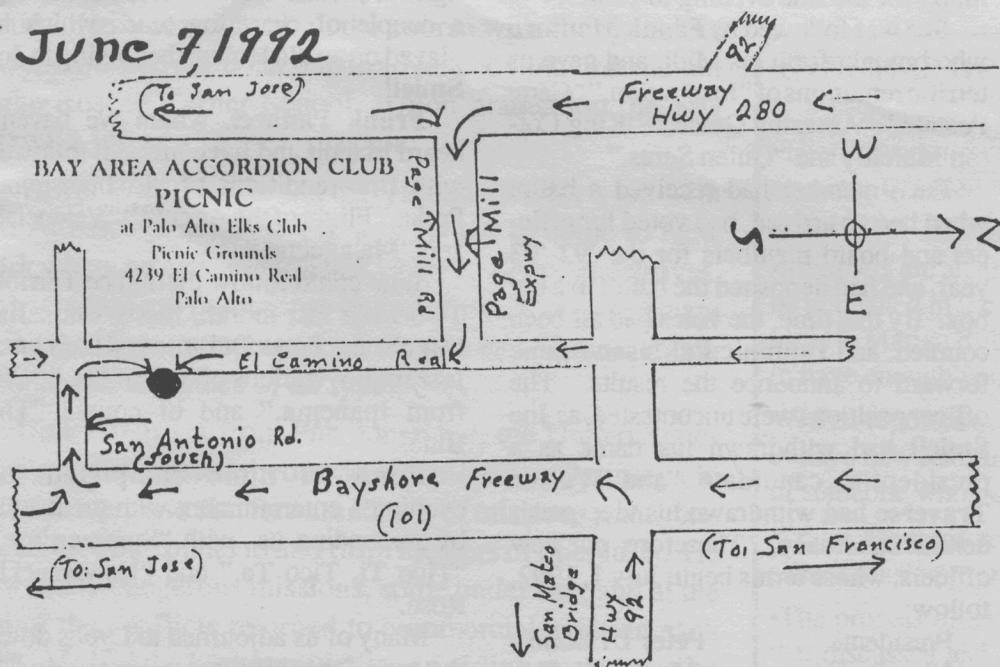
program, so call him at 415-587-7557 if you wish to play.

Anthony Galla-Rini will again be our guest, and he is planning to bring his wife, Dolly, this time. He will play for us, as he did last year, and he will conduct the San Francisco Accordion Ensemble in his arrangement of music from The Godfather.

Should be quite a treat! We will hold a pot luck dinner for him on Saturday evening the 6th to which the first 15 of you who wish to come are invited. Just call 415-854-1896 for details.

Admission to the picnic is \$5.00 per person, with children 12 and under free. Swimming is available in a gorgeous Olympic pool for a slight extra charge. Walter still needs people to help during the event—call him at 415-585-0144.

June 7, 1992



THE MUSICAL PASSAGE: WHERE AM I GOING?

If you are planning a summer vacation this year, you'll probably spend some time before your departure pouring over maps and travel brochures. You'll decide how to travel, the best route, where to overnight, etc., etc. Planning for the trip just makes good sense, right??

In our musical travels, (or should I say *travails*?), I believe that planning plays an equally important role. When traveling, we wouldn't consider leaving the driveway without some idea of where we are going, but we find it quite acceptable to venture into a new piece of music without even the slightest idea of our destination.

A good approach is to first spend some time reading the piece, without the ac-

cordion. This is called a "dry reading." It is an opportunity to get a feel for the music. Observe the dynamic markings, tempo changes, phrasing, even the title; these are the keys which unlock the doors into the life of the music. Finger the notes mentally. Are there difficult passages? Work out a fingering in pencil to try later when you have your accordion. Above all, don't rush through this exercise. The musician who takes the time to study the music before trying to play it is better able to execute the piece without the annoying little snags that add up to ruin an otherwise good performance.

Try this: take a familiar piece, without the accordion, as a beginning. Find the areas of difficulty in the piece, the places

you don't play accurately. Figure out why it is you can't play that part. The two most common reasons for not being able to execute a passage are:

1. The notes and their values are not thoroughly *known*.
2. A good fingering for the passage has not been worked out.

If you've done one and two and *still* can't execute, you're probably playing it too fast (one of my bugaboos).

If you think about what you've just read, it becomes obvious that you will not be able to play a passage correctly until you're thoroughly familiar with it. In other words, you can't have the music in your *hand* until you first have it in your *head*.

Peter Di Bono

MAY GENERAL MEETING

We had a simply terrific attendance at our most recent meeting. Had to pull out every chair in sight; nevertheless, lots of members stood in the rear, necessitating a bit of shushing. It delights all of us to see such an enthusiastic turnout—we must be doing something right!!

Had a little business to take care of. President **Lou** introduced our guests for the evening. Then **Frank Montoro** encouraged us to use the library in the back of the room while cautioning us to sign up for anything we take. Apparently a few items are missing to unknown parties.

Jim Boggio reminded us again of the Cotati Festival on August 29th and 30th, and **Clifton Buck-Kauffman** left a stack of Cotati bumper stickers (currently at Colombo). Among the entertainers there will be **Art Van Damme**, **Frank Morrocco**, and **Tommy Gumina**. Lots more details will appear in our next newsletter, but meantime, *please save those dates*.

Walter Traverso talked about the picnic (see accompanying article) and about the Special Olympics to be held in San Mateo on July 26th.

Then our inimitable M.C., **Domenic Saso**, introduced the first entertainer of the evening, **Michelle Gallandre**, who played a French tune, a waltz, and a

mazurka. She has that wonderful effortless technique that always captivates us, and her lovely renditions put us in the mood for the fine evening to come.

She was followed by **Frank Montoro** who brought forth his Midi, and gave us terrific renditions of "Inspiration," "Carte Postale," "Amazing Grace," "King Cotton March", and "Quien Seras."

Each member had received a ballot when he/she arrived, had voted for officers and board members for the '92-'93 year, and had deposited the ballot in a big box. By this time, the votes had all been counted, and **Dominic Palmisano** came forward to announce the results. The officer positions were uncontested, as **Joe Smiell** had withdrawn his name as a presidential candidate and **Walter Traverso** had withdrawn his vice-presidential candidacy. Therefore, our new officers, whose terms begin July 1, 1992, follow:

President:	Peter Di Bono
Vice-President:	Marian Kelly
Treasurer:	Frank Montoro
Financial Secty:	Rusty Bartoli
Recording Secty:	Barbara Hartley

The new Board of Directors will consist of the following persons:

Reno Di Bono, Jim Holliday, Paul Pasquali, Lou Soper, and Joe Smiell.

Then we were all ready for more delightful music. **Hans Frei** led us off with a couple of charming tunes which he played on an old Hohner belonging to **Joe Smiell**.

Frank Panacci, whom we haven't heard in a bit and have missed, followed with fine renditions of "Lichtensteiner Polka," "Flight of the Angels," "Valencia," and "Malaguena."

Who could follow that? The Terrible Two from last month, that's who...**Jim Boggio** and **Peter Di Bono** and their great jazz improvizations of "All of Me," "Girl from Ipanema," and of course "The Blues."

Reno Di Bono completed the evening's entertainment with great style by serenading us with "Summertime," "Tico Ti, Tico Ta," and "Honeysuckle Rose."

Many of us adjourned to Lyons down the road for a bit more schmoozing. If some of you don't join us because you don't know where it is, let us point it out to you. We always have a group of between 25 and 40, and would welcome anyone who would care to join us.

Carol Benetti

Profile of **JIM HOLLIDAY**

Jim Holliday, a recently elected BAAC Board member, is a 73 year young retired commercial airline pilot whose enthusiasm for the accordion dates back as long as he can remember. He recalls having heard the sound over the radio when he was a youngster but not knowing what the instrument looked like until he went to a picnic one day. He was participating in the various activities when he heard the magical sound of accordions from far away. He followed the sound until he came upon three accordionists performing on a stage. That was the end of sack races and pie eating contests for the day, for he spent the remainder of the afternoon leaning up against a tree just listening to the music. Right then he decided he was going to learn to play that instrument some day.

That day didn't come for some time, for he had other plans and other dreams. After high school Jim was a swimming instructor and competitive diver at an exclusive club in the Chicago Loop. Two years later he began looking around for other opportunities and heard about a course which was being offered to non-college students in flight instruction. At one time he had spent hours at the Chicago airport watching planes landing and leaving again, and he now recognized the opportunity to make his flying dream a reality. He breezed through the course with flying colors and was offered a scholarship in advanced flight instruction at the Roscoe Turner School. Upon graduation, he was offered a job as a flight instructor.

World War II broke out and Jim applied for a job with Pan American Airways. He was invited to come to New York where he was interviewed by three airline executives, who sent him to Miami for an intensive course in instrument training. Upon completion of the course he began flying commercial airplanes of all types.

Under contract from Pan American, the United States Government chartered commercial planes to fly troops in all three wars and Jim flew hundreds of missions transporting service personnel to and from theaters of operation. He flew many dangerous missions, some under fire, and at the end of the conflicts returned to commercial aviation each time. He had the highest rating as an airline transport pilot flying every type of airliner including, eventually, the biggest jumbo jet. After some thirty-seven years of dedicated work, he retired in 1979.

Now it was time to return to his love, the accordion. He had owned an accordion in his early twenties and had taken a few lessons at the Pietro Diero School of Music in New York, but airline schedules and music practice proved to be

incompatible. Too often he and his accordion were separated by thousands of miles. But now time was on his side and he took music lessons from Don Haas and Bud Seghieri. Most of Jim's musical education has been the result of his own effort, for he has the ability to analyze how music is constructed and he puts it to work in his own way playing some very difficult pieces. He owns a fine Excelsior accordion and plays mostly in his own living room. Yes, he confesses to being a "closet accordionist."

Credit Jim for being one of the five men who proposed our accordion club two years ago for he was with Walter, Domenic, Rusty, and Lou the day they formed BAAC. Also to his credit, Jim helped the Los Angeles club, F.O.T.A., reorganize when it appeared they might disband.

But Jim is a man of many interests. He owned a sail plane for seven years. A sail plane, he explained, is designed to ride warm wind currents for hours on end, unlike a glider which is fairly limited. He also is an expert dancer and along with member Evelyn Balch teaches a class in ballroom dancing at the Woodlake Apartment Complex. He owns a huge collection of accordion music much of it long out of print. Jim is as active as they come. Swimmer, dancer, hiker; we were lucky to catch him for long enough to manage this interview!!

Frank Montoro

SYNOPSIS OF APRIL 22TH BOARD MEETING

- The Treasurer reported \$3573 in checking and \$1181 in savings. Detailed year end financial results will be presented to the Board in July and published in this newsletter.
- 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.
- Frank Montoro reported on the continuing success of the school music program.
- The process of conducting the election at the May meeting was discussed and agreed upon.
- BAAC is planning to sponsor the San Francisco Accordion Ensemble in a concert in September and is in search of a locale. It was agreed that the theme should be the John Molinari Memorial Concert, and that John Jr. be a featured performer. More later.

Carol Benetti

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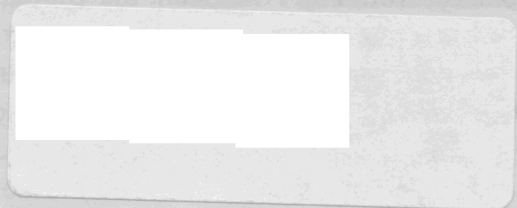
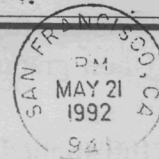


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NEXT MEETING: MONDAY
June 1, 1992
7:00PM

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CALL DOMENIC SASO IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AT THE
NEXT MEETING..415-587-7557

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