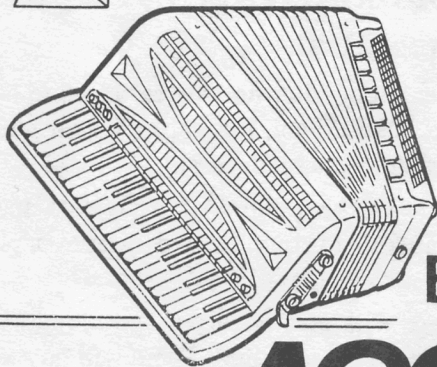


Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



BAY AREA

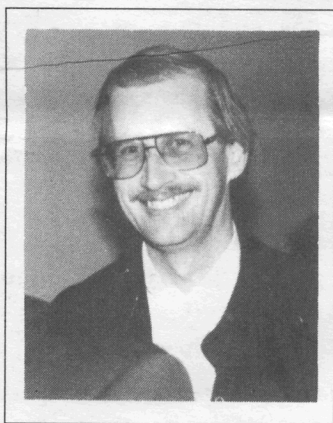
# ACCORDION CLUB



MAY, 1996

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Bob Berta



A lot of exciting events are planned for the upcoming months: the Cotati Festival, the BAAC picnic, the BAAC dinner at the Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco, guest performances by some BIG names, the Making Waves event in San Francisco, the ongoing Fun Band and BAAC Ensemble practices and so on. But one thing bothers me about all of these great events....why do we have to go to so much trouble to get our members to attend/participate in them?

Recently Jim Boggio, Danny Pouillard, Billy Wilson and members of their groups put on a great Cajun/Zydeco workshop. While there was a decent turnout of 48 students, about a third of those participants weren't from our club, and the door take didn't cover costs. The obvious question is...where were

the other 300 some BAAC members? Perhaps they aren't interested in improving their musical skills, don't have an interest in styles of music other than what they normally play, etc. I can't believe the reason they didn't attend is that they don't want to support the club!

Even our concerts have been barely successful...attendance which is adequate but far from what it should be considering the level of talent of our invited performers. That's why we haven't scheduled any lately!!

The bottom line is that the BAAC is an accordion club and exists for the promotion and public awareness of the accordion. While our members may feel that attending a general meeting and getting a copy of the monthly newsletter in the mail is all they are interested in, they should recognize that without their support of these other activities the club cannot either hope to grow beyond a certain minimal level or achieve those goals. In surveys that we have conducted we see repeated requests for concerts, workshops, jam sessions etc. When we have tried to have these type of events they just barely pay their way or in some cases do not cover event costs.

I would ask you to take a hard look at your own support of the club. Are you actively participating in the various events other than just attending membership meetings? I would ask you to commit yourself to a conscious effort to not only attend many of these other functions but to try to convince other members and potential new members to attend.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**June 1 & 2.** 10th Annual So. Calif. Cajun & Zydeco Festival at Rainbow Lagoon in Long Beach. Featuring CJ Chenier & the Red-Hot Louisiana Band and the Savoy-Doucet Cajun Band. Noon to 7P. For more info, call (415) 643-9336 or (415) 467-7630.

**June 3rd, Monday.** BAAC General Meeting. Featuring our special guest, **Bonnie Birch**, Lou Casalnuovo and his South City Society Dixieland and Jazz Band, and Steve Balich. Donworth Hall, 22nd & Eucalyptus, S.F., just north of Stonestown Shopping Center. 7 P.

**June 5th, Wed.** BAAC Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at Bob Berta's, 4 Park Manor Drive, Daly City. Guests welcome. Call Bob at (415) 756-8309 for directions.

**June 10th, Monday 7:00 PM.** BAAC Fun Band Practice, House of Parties. Call Domenic, (415) 587-7557.

cont. on p. 7

## PICNIC PLAYERS NEEDED!!

Mary-Alice is looking for all accordionists willing to play at BAAC's annual picnic at Swiss Park in Newark on Sunday, July 7th. She is obviously accustomed to providing two hours of great accordion music at meetings; for the picnic, though, she must find four hours of entertainment. And she sounds a little worried. So please, all you BAAC performers, help dispel Mary-Alice's concern. Phone her at (415) 366-7819 and assure her that you would be willing to be added to BAAC's Picnic Program. Thanks very much!!!

## BAAC May Board Meeting

### Synopsis

- Treasurer Algis Ratnikas announced a total of \$6978 in our combined bank accounts.
- Final report on the Cajun-Zydeco workshop which Jim Boggio put together in mid-April will come next month. Preliminary findings show attendance at 47 and a projected loss of \$200. Not many BAAC members attended, unfortunately. The Board discussed what to do about this apparent lack of member support. Also, publicity was not strong, so that although the attendees included some non-members, there were not enough for us to break even. The workshop was a definite success from the point of view of content. Jim did a good job, and proved to be an excellent tutor.
- The Board approved payment of an additional \$250, for a total of \$750, to Russian master bayanist Friederick Lips, to allow for airfare costs for his November appearance with BAAC.
- Making Waves has requested that BAAC become involved in their Friday, June 21st Summer Solstice Music Day on Market Street in San Francisco. The Board feels that this is an opportunity for us to celebrate The Year of the Accordion in front of the general public. Therefore, the Board decided to accept Making Waves' request that we co-sponsor one of 20 stages that day, that we give them a \$100 donation, and that we put as many accordionists as possible on their stages. Bob and Marian will coordinate.
- Lou Soper attended and made several proposals for club projects which will make the accordion more visible to the general public.
- There was discussion about several items covered elsewhere in this newsletter; i.e. the BAAC Picnic, Bill Palmer's passing, the Nominating Committee and elections, collecting '96 - '97 dues.
- The June meeting will be at Bob Berta's home since Ed Massolo will be away. MK

## MAKING ACCORDION WAVES

FRIDAY, JUNE 21ST.

You probably read in the April newsletter about **Making Waves'** plans to have a Summer Solstice Music Day in San Francisco on Friday, June 21st. We encouraged you to join their effort, but the form shown seemed a bit excessive.

Well, the story has changed. BAAC is now working with Making Waves, and you may now participate just by talking to us....no form to complete and no tapes or photos to submit.

Here's what is occurring. **Making Waves** will have twenty stages along Market Street on that day, at least a couple blocks from one another. There will be a sound engineer at each stage. Each stage will feature eight 40-minute group acts throughout the day from 11A to 7P. In between the groups, and allowing time for set-up, will be 15 or 20-minute solo acts.

What an opportunity to celebrate **The Year Of The Accordion** in front of large crowds of people! Therefore, we are recruiting accordion acts for that day. Lots of accordion acts!! You won't be able to avoid accordions on Market Street on that day!!

Already signed for 40-minute acts are BAAC-associated groups, Polkacide, Cafe Babar Jug Band, The San Francisco Button Boxers, Odile Lavault, The Ensemble, and Barbara Ann Barnett's trio. We particularly need people for the 20-minute solos, and those persons may wish to move from one stage to another, playing (if they wish) similar 20-minute spots at each stage. All types of accordion music are encouraged; let the crowd know that our instrument is capable of a great variety of wonderful sounds.

BAAC has agreed to co-sponsor one stage. That means that BAAC people will need to be there throughout the day, which will give us an opportunity to promote our club. So we also need non-playing helpers!!!

Although there is no monetary compensation for playing, there will definitely be wonderful exposure to a lot of people.

It has been suggested by the Making Waves promoters that BAAC organize a parade of accordionists for that day. If we have enough volunteers of help, we will do that; else perhaps we will find a vehicle for several of us to ride down Market Street on. There are lots of possibilities....but we need you!

Please call Marian at (415) 854-1896 to volunteer either to play or to help at our stage and for any additional information.

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## Election of Officers and Board

Your Nominating Committee (Frank Schlotter, Val Kieser, Josephine Hornbrook, Denny Huff, and Peter Di Bono) submitted a proposed slate of BAAC officers and board members at the May meeting. They suggested one person for each position. Then President Bob Berta asked for additional nominations from the floor. The two persons nominated from the floor, Tom Cordoni and Clyde Forsman, declined the honor.

Therefore, our annual election to be held at the June meeting, will doubtless be by acclamation, since only one person has been nominated for each office.

The proposed slate of officers is:

President	Bob Berta
Vice-President	Frank Panacci
Treasurer	Peter Adler
Secretary	Val Kieser
Financial Secretary	Bob Smith

Board Members:

Peter Di Bono  
Ed Massolo  
Herb Meier  
Frank Schlotter  
B. B. Simmons

Thank you for your interest in the Bay Area Accordion Club. We hold monthly meetings and schedule various accordion-related events, and we send this monthly newsletter to all members (currently 340). We encourage your continued interest and participation. Should you care to join us, membership is \$20/year. Make check payable to BAAC and send to 31 Aliso Way, Portola Valley, CA 94028

## MAY General Meeting

by Denny Huff

Where to start?? Well, for openers, I think we should thank whoever first thought up "Ladies' Night." It sounds very anachronistic for the nineties, but we always get to hear some good music and, more importantly, it's always a lot of FUN! Tonight was no exception.

First our President **Bob Berta** conducted a little club business, including finalizing the donation of a total of \$500 to the American Accordionists' Association to help support the Year of the Accordion promotion, a vote on the previously discussed bylaws changes, the presentation of a proposed slate of officers and directors by the Nominating Committee, and the opportunity to participate in **Making Waves'** music promo in San Francisco. **Domenic Saso** then jumped us into the program.

First up was **Ellen Karel**, by now a seasoned BAAC performer. **Ellen** has only been playing for a year or so, but she gets onto the stage with complete confidence and grace and always acquits herself well. She did two numbers, *Inamorata* and *Jesusita*, both of which were very enjoyable. She noted that she wasn't "totally prepared" but she was happy "to show solidarity with fellow lady accordionists!" Attaperson, **Ellen!**

The big surprise of the evening (to me at any rate) was the **Jackie Jones Trio**. They have to be well known in some circles, but we haven't seen them at BAAC previously — at least to my knowledge. If they're not playing regularly in some

Lounge or Club, they should be. Two guitars, a great sounding accordion and excellent vocals received a rousing ovation from the audience. The trio, consisting of **Jackie Jones**, **Pauline Scholen** and **Mike Billo**, played *Tuxedo Junction*, *Waltz Across Texas with You*, and *St. Louis Blues*. They could have played for an hour so far as I was concerned.



Ellen Karel & Friend



Pauline Scholen, Jackie Jones, Mike Billo

CELEBRATE THE ACCORDION!!!

1996 IS THE YEAR OF THE ACCORDION!!

## May General Meeting, from p.3

The evening "Fun Award" definitely goes to **Gwynn Lister** and **The Crusaders**. **Gwynn, Nina Brandt, and Joan Castro** gave us a look at their oft practiced routine which they regularly put on at area Convalescent Homes. The em-

phasis is on audience participation and enjoyment. You could picture the smiles on the faces of her normal audience as they vied to guess the names of the places and people which the **Crusaders** played about — *Ida, Give My Regards to Broadway, I Left My Heart in San Francisco...* you get the idea. We all practiced our "Yahos" to *Home on the Range*, and then the group finished with a dance waltz. Thanks for helping the world smile, **Crusaders!**



*Renate Bixby, Val Kieser*

Button Boxes were next. **Val Kieser**, who's nearly recovered from a forearm ailment, and **Renate Bixby** took us on a musical tour of the Austrian Tyrol and Bavarian Alps. *Der Alte Peter* (nickname for Munich's oldest church - 1139 A.D.), *Bohmer Wald* (Bohemian Forest) and *Schneewaltz* (Snow Waltz) comprised their opening medley. **Joe Smiell** wrote the bridges for the medley and the next number, the *Birthday Polka*, composed especially for **Renate**. The duo

was appropriately costumed in Alpine attire and received enthusiastic applause.

**Helen Morgan** (the accordionist, not the singer, **Domenic** advised), closed out the first half of the program by continuing the progression of excellent performances.

Playing a beautiful-sounding MIDI, Helen entertained us with *Brazilia, It's a Sin to Tell a Lie, and Liechtensteiner Polka*. Her last number, especially appreciated by us native Buckeyes in the audience, was *Beautiful Ohio*, which included a slightly ghostly accompanying part played offstage by **Marian Kelly**. Thanks **Helen!**

It isn't easy to bring culture to a maverick bunch of BAAC accordionists, but our next performance took a good shot at it. The **Chamber Quintet plus One**. We weren't exactly told who the "one" was, but **Bob Smith** certainly stood out in his gold lamé shirt. Other Quints included **Lynn Ewing, Val Kieser, Nora Mazzara, Sharon Walters, and Mary-Alice Eldon** and conductor **Val Kieser** — all tastefully attired but no match for **Bob**, we might add. The first number was originally an exercise composed by **Joe Smiell** which sort of "took on a life of



*The Crusaders!*

## CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

We are compiling a list of local media through which we can obtain publicity for BAAC and for the accordion, and we need your help. The task of informing our local community (ies) of BAAC events has always been very difficult because no one of us has much information about how to obtain free or inexpensive publicity. We're sure that compiling such a list will be a much easier task with everyone's help.

Please send us the name, address, telephone number, contact person, and any other helpful details which you have of any newspaper, radio station, TV station or publication which may assist us in publicizing accordion events.

For example, the Palo Alto Weekly publishes a "calendar" of local events on Friday. Submissions are free. Ads are typically 5-6 lines. Their voicemail # is (415) 326-8216; fax is 326-3541.

And...KQED-FM has a community calendar, as a public service. Call (415) 467-7630 at least one week in advance with specific info. Address is 2601 Mariposa, S.F. 94110.

These are just a couple example. There are lots of others! Please tell us of any such resources with which you are familiar. Send information to Mary-Alice Eldon 1004 Edgewood Road, Redwood City 94062 or telephone her at (415) 366-7819. OK to leave message. THANK YOU!!

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## May General Meeting, cont.

### ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

Dear BAAC Members,

Your annual dues are payable ("Again?" do we hear you say). The Club year runs from July 1 to June 30th, and we request your \$20 renewal each year at about this time.

If you originally joined us within the past three months, we do not request an additional \$20; otherwise, that amount is now due to continue your BAAC membership.

Our Financial Secretary, Frank Montoro, is preparing to send out dues notices to each of you along with a return envelope. We encourage you to make any comments about the Club that you wish when you return that notice along with your payment for the upcoming year. Also, please be sure to check the box indicated if you do not wish us to use your name (address, phone) should the Board choose to make membership lists available this year.

Thank you for supporting your Club!!!

its own." *A Minor Study in Three Parts*. They did a medley of Swabian folk songs and then some "real" chamber music, Haydn's *Divertimento in B-flat*. Their final number, just for fun, was a Sicilian tarantella, *Fischietando*. It was a delightful performance.

**Nora Mazzara** remained on stage and played several Eastern European folk numbers, - Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian. But she really blew our socks off with Pietro Diero's arrangement of *Tranquillo Overture*. It was a lengthy and not simple song which **Nora** played very well and for which she received a strong audience response. excellent performance, **Nora!**

A favorite of mine, **Odile Lavault** followed **Nora** and moved the venue west. **Odile** plays frequently in Berkeley and San Francisco, mostly with her trio, the **Baguettes** which offers an unabridged version of French music. She mentioned they were playing the following weekend at Fort Mason, and they usually play at the Anchorage Festival. With apologies in advance, I'll do my best with her numbers which included *Si L'on Ne*

*S'etait Pas Connu* (If I had known you, I wouldn't have fallen in love), *Germaine*, and *Nini Peau D'chien*. The last number, involving the Bastille, included audience participation and a brief lesson in French. (I failed!) **Odile** explained a bit about her four row, chromatic, button accordion, over whose buttons her fingers seemed to dance. She also plays at a restaurant in San Francisco — all our Francophiles should try to catch her show.

Last but not least was **Marian Kelly**. She was the only performer who had color coordinated her skirt and her accordion. Very good, **Marian!** — I assume it wasn't an accident. I'm not even qualified to look at the music for **Marian's** first number, a tango by Astor Piazzola, *Fracanapa*. It was an exceedingly difficult number which **Marian** played sans music. I could personally relate best to her next offering, a medley of Bernstein/Sondheim music from **West Side Story**, *Somewhere, Tonight, and Maria*. Done excellently, of course. **Marian** finished with *Fantasia en mineur* by prolific accordion composer Andre Astier. **Marian** sets a high standard for us all to work towards, and she has been

a key member of the core of people who have really served the club over the several years I've been a member. Great Job, **Marian!!**

And that was Ladies' Night, 1996. What it lacked in political correctness it more than made up for in quality and enjoyment..



Odile Lavault



Nora Mazzara



Chamber Quintet Plus One!

## Wish You Were There!!

How often do you, when *not* at a BAAC meeting, witness an audience jump up and applaud for an accordionist's performance? Pretty rare, eh? Well, it happened tonight. Of course, I have to admit, there were a few others on the stage as well as the accordionist..... well, here's the story.

It was Sunday evening, May 20th, at a concert given in San Jose by the San Jose Chamber Orchestra. The program included several unusual pieces, but the last piece was the fascinating one for an accordion nut like me. It was titled Dansa Trimbula, written for chamber orchestra, saxophone and accordion by composer Henry Mollicone. Mr. Mollicone, who was present, calls the piece a Latin-style work inspired by a recent trip to Mexico, by a wonderful arrangement of a Piazzolla tango and by his knowledge of the saxophonist's playing. It wasn't until the piece was under way that he recognized the need for an

### New Accordion Clubs

Everybody's Gettin' Inta De Act! We know of four new accordion club formed within the last few months. Here they are:

Accordion Club of the Redwoods  
331 Wilson Lane  
Windsor, CA 95495

Accordionaires Accordion Club  
17544 Parthenia St.  
Northridge, CA 91325

Santa Barbara Accordion Club  
(temporary name)  
1772 Calle Poniente  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Accordion Club of Northeast  
Wisconsin  
2076 W. Vista Circle  
DePere, WI 94115

accordion. He wanted to conjure up memories of the "good old days" which he recalls with nostalgia as the accordion's inclusion in dance bands of the 50's and 60's, mixed in with memories of good chianti, pizza, the Italian folk songs his grandmother used to sing and dance to, and beautiful Italian ladies dressed up at wedding receptions.

Mr. Mollicone says in the program that his friend, Anthony Quartuccio, a talented young conductor, is also a hot accordion player. And so it happened that tonight Tony Quartuccio had the responsibility of conjuring up the good old days. Not being Italian, I didn't really hear the good old days tonight...I heard a hot accordionist playing today's music with class and style.

Tony lives in Santa Clara. He's been playing accordion since he was a young boy and now plays a very rare extended keyboard Giulietti bassetti. He has studied with Tito Guidotti, Sylvia Prior, Ernst Gloe and Don Hass and in 1983 won the top prize at AFNA's annual competition in L.A. In college, he says, he was forced to migrate by necessity to the piano. He has a Bachelor of Music degree in conducting from Santa Clara University, and went East for an advanced conducting degree from the Curtis Institute. He says he takes any kind of musical work he can get until a conducting job comes his way. Meantime, he works as a contractor for NASA "doing Internet-related stuff." The evening's program says he also plays trumpet and has studied at Tanglewood. He has served as assistant conductor for the San Francisco Youth Symphony. Tony is currently music director for the Bay Area premiere of a new opera sponsored by the Italian American Heritage Foundation and which will be performed in September, 1996.

The piece was wonderfully enjoyable to listen to. Piazzolla's influence was unmistakable, but Dansa Trimbula was highly complex and very exciting...sort of extended Piazzolla. Descriptions I heard were "wild", "funky", "crazy chords",

## TRIBUTE TO BILL PALMER

by Anthony Galla-Rini

The entire accordion world is saddened by the passing of Bill Palmer, also known as Willard A. Palmer, on April 30, 1996.

How can one calculate all the musical achievements accomplished by this one man when it seems to be almost endless! In addition to being outstanding as a musician, writer, teacher, lecturer and co-author of the incomparable Palmer-Hughes Accordion Course, he was also a significant factor towards the recognition of the accordion in the collegiate institutions.

His stature was such that it also gained the attention of musicologists in fields other than those associated with the accordion. In other words, he was everybody's "musician".

Yet, with all these accomplishments, he was a real human being with a high regard for everyone else and for everyone's well-being. He captivated everyone he ever met with a rare sense of humor which only he could impart. Dolly and I can testify to that.

Personally, I have lost a very dear friend and will miss him very much.

Dolly and I offer our condolences to his beloved wife, Ruby, and all members of the Palmer family.

---

"terrific beat" This was the piece's premiere performance; I found myself wishing it could be performed very frequently and wondering how that might happen.

Tony looked right at home with that chamber group. It was quite clear that he was enjoying himself and that he was delighted with both the piece and his role. The audience most definitely agreed.

Marian Kelly



*Mark Your Calendars, from p. 1.*

**June 12th & 26th, Wednesdays** 7:00 PM. BAAC Ensemble Practice, House of Parties. Call Joe, 510-832-6938.

**June 21st., Friday.** Making Waves Music Celebration on Market St. See p. 2.

**July 1st, Monday.** July General Meeting features guest artist Henry Doktorski.

**July 7th, Sunday.** BAAC Picnic. Swiss Park in Newark. Mowry at 880. Children 16 or under, no charge; adults \$5. Gates open at 9!

**July 11-15th.** American Accordionists Association Festival honoring Myron Floren in Philadelphia. Call (516) 746-3100.

**July 13th, Saturday.** Festa Italiana, Lodi, at the Grape Festival Grounds, 413 E. Lockeford St. Featuring Dick Contino. Call (209) 931-3529.

**July 18 - 21,** Accordion Teachers Guild Festival. Arlington Hts. IL. For details, phone (319) 396-6443

**July 21-26th,** Galla-Rini Accordion Camp, Silver Falls, OR. Call Accordion World, (503) 244-2545.

**August 5th,** Monday. BAAC General meeting featuring special guest Ken Olendorf.

**August 8 - 11th,** Leavenworth Int'l Accordion Celebration, Leavenworth, WA. Competitions, Workshops, Jamming. Call Anne Koenig, (509) 548-5807.

**August 18th, Sunday.** BAAC Inauguration and Honors Dinner. Plan to attend! More info in June newsletter.

**August 20 - 25th.** AFNA (Accordion Federation of North America) Music Festival in Long Beach. Phone Sylvia Prior (818) 994-1249.

**August 24th and 25th.** Cotati Accordion Festival. Performers include Jim Boggio, Reno Di Bono, Ken Chambers, Chuck Berger, Steve Balich, and headlining, the Celtic group Golden Bough. Stay tuned for more complete listing.

**September 9th** (2nd Monday). BAAC General Meeting featuring Stas Venglevski.

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**NEW MEMBERS**

A hearty welcome to all of our new members:

- Irving Azaren, Clayton
- Mike Arralde, Seattle, WA
- Frank Freitas, Fremont
- Joseph Freitas, Miwok Village
- Joan & Dan Grauman, Rockville, MD
- Virginia Kapika, San Lorenzo
- Bob Laurin, Sebastopol
- Wayne Lutzow, Loomis
- Lee Ann Parker, San Francisco
- Vivian Powers, Pacifica
- Boyd Rubin, Oakland
- Kurt Rietmann, San Francisco
- Mick Wiggins, Berkeley

We want to become acquainted with all of you! Keep in touch and keep squeezin'!

**AD POLICY**

MEMBERS PAY \$5/ISSUE FOR SMALL ADS, \$10 FOR BUSINESS CARD SIZE ADS. (Ask about other sizes.)  
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NEXT MEETING: MONDAY  
JUNE 3rd, 1996  
7:00 PM

Donworth Hall  
22nd & Eucalyptus  
SAN FRANCISCO

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AT A  
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