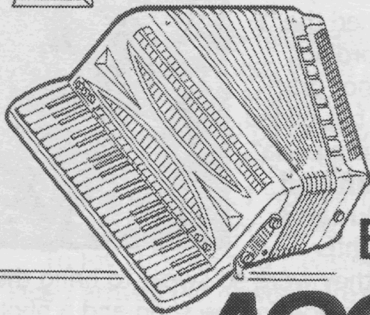


Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



BAY AREA

ACCORDION CLUB

September 2002



President's Message



It has been another incredibly busy summer. I always wonder how it is possible to do so much in such a short time, and yet we always seem to manage. Now summer is nearly over and I wonder where it went.

Galla-Rini camp this year was the best ever (see article elsewhere in this newsletter), and BAAC was well represented with some 15 members participating (see photo)—and, we have a new BAAC member from camp, **Larry Denier** of Goleta (Santa Barbara)! The Maestro is already planning another camp next year, and I hope that you will mark your calendars now for the last week of July 2003—and that many of you who missed it this year will make a point of going next year. I can promise you won't regret it, and you'll certainly never forget it!

The accounting is in on the picnic and we came out a gratifying \$1,200 ahead! Thanks once again to all who, working together, made it such a great success.

The BAAC meeting September 12 will be our first under the new schedule of the **Second Thursday of the month**. Please note that **meetings are supposed to begin at 7:00 p.m.** I know that it is difficult for some of you to get there by that hour, but if we don't start

promptly, then the meetings often go on too late. We must be out of Moose Lodge by 10:00 p.m.

How did you like the "open mic." format at the August meeting? People were hesitant at first to sign up to play, but once we got the ball rolling we had plenty of players. We're going to continue this format anytime we don't have something different scheduled in advance. Example: In September, following the **annual club photo** that Bob Berta is going to take, we'll have **Valarie Morris' student Shelli Joye** and also **Bob Smith** who, because they offered well in advance to play for us, will get the full 15 minutes or 3 songs. Whatever time is left over after that, will be "open mic." So, you have two good reasons to **bring your accordion!**

We have some very special treats slated for the **October 10** meeting. If all goes according to plan, we'll have **Mike Corino** and **Tom Cordoni**. In the second half of the meeting we'll have our annual party honoring those who have served on the board and/or been of outstanding service to the club. Don't forget the **Italian Heritage Day Parade Sunday, October 13**. BAAC will have a "float" (flatbed truck) with members of the Fun Band playing Italian songs, plus a couple of convertibles carrying some of our club's finest players. If you would like to play on the truck with the Fun Band, we may have a couple of extra spaces.

For the **November 14** meeting, we hope to present some scholarships. There may be time after that in the first half for some "open mic."

NEXT MEETING 7 PM THURS. SEPT. 12 MOOSE LODGE DALY CITY

players. In the second half of the evening Vince Cirelli will give us one of his very interesting talks with demo.

I was at Cotati on Sunday only and had a great time. Problem is, I didn't get to hear any of the acts on stage from our BAAC table. I did get to say hi to a young and very talented accordion artist whom I had met before on several occasions: Patricia Bartell. Keep your eye on her—she's going places!

The membership year 2002 ends at the end of September. It's **time to renew your BAAC membership!** Dues are still \$25 per year for individuals, \$30 for families. Postage has gone up again, but we are holding off on increasing dues as long as possible.

Finally, I wish to thank **Lou Soper** and **Moose Lodge** for arranging for our sound system to be stored at Moose. That makes things far easier for everyone. Val

August Meeting: Our First "Open Mic." Night!

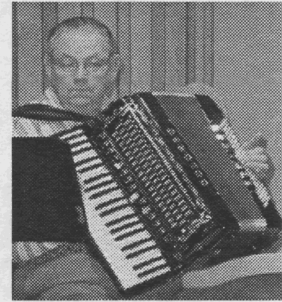
The August meeting featured a variety of players, under our new "open mic." format. First our new friend, **Gregori Krumik**, a very fine bayanist, played the Monti *Czardas* and *Dark Eyes*. Gregori has played a couple of times with the BAAC Ensemble. He is a wonderful musician and sight reader, and we hope he will continue to play with and for BAAC!

Next up was **Vince Cirelli**, who never had a chance to refuse: Val dropped her accordion in his lap! Vince rarely needs prodding, and even though he tried to look surprised, he had no trouble at all pouring forth several old standards including *Little Coquette* and *O Marie*.

It had been quite a while since we heard **Frank Schlotter** play. For many months now he has been a student of Sharon Walters, and wow! Does it show! First he played an arrangement by Sharon Walters of "Again," using "stomp rhythm" on the left hand; then he played "Hey There" from *Pajama Game*, a signature piece of the late Rosemary Clooney, which he dedicated to her. I was blown away by the improvement in Frank's playing since he began studying with Sharon. Congratulations to you both! Frank's 140-bass Colombo is the last one sold by Gordon Piatanesi before his retirement.

Then Val (yours truly) decided to participate in the "open Mic." format, primarily in an effort to encourage others to sign up to play. I had brought

along my Colombo polka accordion (96 bass) in case anyone tried the "I-forgot-my-accordion" excuse! I had not practiced anything but ended up playing "Santa Lucia" in honor of **John and Lorraine Seckman's** new baby daughter



named Lucia (they were so sweet to bring the baby up on the stage for the song and a photo), and also one of my French favorites, *Hymne à l'Amour* (the English title is "If You Love Me, Really Love me.")

It's always great to see **Ron Borelli** at a meeting, as he is a very busy man and often misses meetings. Using Frank Schlotter's Colombo accordion, Ron played "Take 5" by Paul Desmond (minor key with repeating bass), and then played a jazz medley together with **Lou Soper** that included "You Came To Me Out of Nowhere." Ron also introduced his three friends who were guests at the meeting: Margaret Georgieff and her husband, and their friend Sonia, who is an accordionist.

Following intermission, we had the tremendous pleasure of hearing a couple of pieces by visiting virtuoso **Henry Doktorski**. Henry and his two children, Sunita and Siddhartha, were our houseguests for several days, and we certainly enjoyed having them. Henry played Brahms' *Hungarian Dance #5*, a transcription by Gallarini that Henry also recorded on his CD of music



played during his California visit. He also played a Guido Deiro waltz, "My Florence Waltz," which has operatic overtones. Henry is a fountain of knowledge about accordion history and has many wonderful tales to tell about the Deiro brothers. (Did you know that Guido Deiro's second wife was Mae West?) Henry is on the faculty of the Music Center of Duquesne University. He is also an organist. Henry was in California as a guest artist under the MAP program.

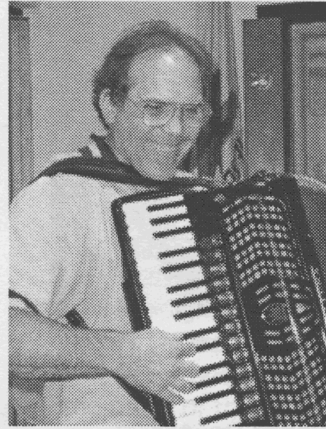
Nothing shy about **Dennis Stoscher**! No arm-twisting required to get him to do a spontaneous comedy act that also included a little ac-

cordion music! I didn't get the names of the songs he played, but his act surely was entertaining!

Bruce Metras is fast becoming one of our favorite regulars. First, Bruce played "Ballad for Anne" by Frank Marocco, and then "Perdido," arranged by Gary Dahl. It is always a pleasure to hear Bruce and follow his remarkable progress. I wonder how many hours a day Bruce practices!

To my surprise and pleasure, **Don Nurisso** arrived (somewhat late) at the meeting, and, together with **Ron Borelli** on Bruce Metras' accordion, a Beltuna with double bassoon, played a lively jazz arrangement of "Under Paris Skies" and "Angel Eyes." By popular demand they played still another song, a fast, jazzy-style "Beer Barrel Polka"!! You don't often hear virtuosi like these play "Beer Barrel Polka"! Then Don alone played (if I can still read my scratchy notes) "La Pia-nola" from Mike Alongi, and a waltz from Southern Italy.

We do have some tremendous talent in our club! *VTK*



(Above) Bruce Metras



(Right) Dennis Stoscher



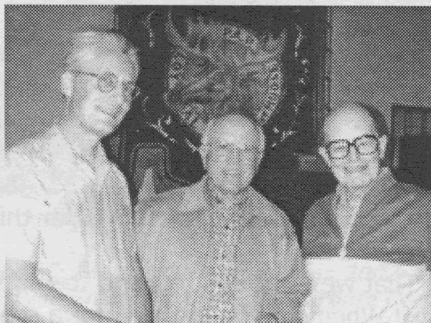
Ron Borelli & Lou Soper



Vince Cirelli



Ed Zaro, Henry Doktorski, Vince Cirelli



Henry Doktorski, Ed Massolo, Jim Holliday

Ron Borelli





Ron Borelli and Don Nurisso

Letter from Henry Doktorski

"Dear BAAC Members,

"Thank you for your kind and encouraging hospitality during your August 7 meeting that I had the pleasure to attend. It had been six years since I visited San Francisco, and as far as I'm concerned, it was six years too many!

"I truly enjoyed hearing your fine accordionists perform on stage during the "Open Mic." program. You have many talented members. Even you, Val, who are always so humble about your own abilities.

"In addition, I especially enjoyed performing the Brahms *Hungarian Dance No. 5* and Guido Deiro's "My Florence" waltz. You were all so attentive and appreciative. I still remember Steve Mobia, sitting up in the front, with a gigantic smile that seemed permanently pasted on his face!

"It's curious, but I sold more compact discs at your club meeting, when I played only two songs, than I sold at any one of the four recitals in which I played 2 hours! Perhaps there's a message for me there? Not to play too long and to quit while I'm still ahead?

"Anyway, I still have a few of my new CD's available,. If any BAAC member wants one, I'll be happy to split the profits with your club. Val, can you take care of that?" (Note from Val: Yes, I have several of Henry's CD's available.)

Henry went on to re-tell the tale of how he was nearly killed in Sequoia National Park by a falling pine cone the size of a coconut —green and with sharp spines protruding, and oozing with sap—that had been let loose by a tiny squirrel just overhead. Henry jumped aside just in time to avoid being hit on the cranium by this projectile. For more details of the story, visit Henry's website at www.henyrdoktorski.com.

Like Polkas?

This item from Frank Schlotter:

On Saturdays from 7 to 8 p.m. Big Joe's Polka Fest is shown on DISH Satellite TV channel 9409. The show features polka bands from the upper Midwest. Nearly all of them have one or more free-reed instruments (accordions), always played enthusiastically, and no MIDI.

Big Joe (Siedlik) presides over the bands and the dancers. The dancers come in a variety of ages, pairings, clothing and costumes. There's Texas two-step, straight polka, German high-kick and double-couple dancing on a plywood floor. Everyone has a good time and so will you!

Gary Dahl Accordion School

ACCORDION LESSONS: PRIVATE & CORRESPONDENCE

Quick Easy Methods

Harmony—Chords—Practice Techniques

Beginners & Advanced

TESTIMONIALS & FREE CATALOG ON REQUEST

A Published Author of Books and Arrangements

Certified AAA—40 years of Teaching/Performing/Bandleading

B.Mus. in Theory, Composition

500 Valley Av. N.E. #5 Puyallup, WA 98372

Email: garydahl@webtv.net (253)7709492 FAX/PHONE

www.accordions.com/garydahl

Word Has It ...

. . . That **Isabelle Massolo** is on the mend following her second hip surgery. Isabelle thanks all the BAAC members for their cards, flowers, phone calls and wishes, which were very much appreciated.

. . . That **Norma Parsons** also is recovering well from a second surgery. Norma played at Cotati with the AbsolutAccord ensemble.

. . . That everyone had a great time at **Cotati**. At our card table we sold several memberships. There was also great interest in the two old SF Accordion Club photos, one from the 20's and one from the 30's.

. . . That proud father **Dick Schiller's son Don** has just returned from a successful training Session with the U.S. Marines in San Diego.

. . . That the accordion world mourns the passing of one of the world's great bandoneonists and tango musicians, **Dale Meyer** this past June at age 54.

. . . That we want you to **send items for this column!** When did you last play for a school or a senior center? Send Val the info!

One more note about Moose Lodge ...

Moose has requested that we buy our drinks, including sodas, from their bar, so the club will no longer be selling the sodas. We will continue to provide food, however.

News Flash!!!

Mark your calendars now for a **big 99th birthday bash for Maestro Tony Galla-Rini,**

January 17-18-19 in San Diego

Everyone is invited! Details will follow, or you can call Val (510) 531-4836

Upcoming Events ...

September 8-14

Joe Smiell's intermediate/advanced
Button Box Camp

Heidelmann Lodge at Norden/Soda Springs
Call Joe (510) 832-6938

REMEMBER!!!

...To **bring your accordion** to the
September meeting, for the photo!
(And who knows, you may get to play too!)

BAAC Advertising Policy

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$5.00 per issue. The charge for a business-card-size ad is \$5.00 per issue or \$50.00 per year; for a quarter-page ad, \$10.00 per issue; for a half-page ad, \$20.00 per issue; and for a full-page ad, \$35.00 per issue. The cost for ads placed by non-members is twice the above quoted prices.

A World of Accordions Museum

...at Harrington Arts Center, 1401 Belknap, Superior, Wisconsin (218) 628-3441. This Helmi Strahl Harrington Collection is a not-for-profit subsidiary of Accordion Concertina Music and Accordion-concertina Repair and Technicians School, affiliated with the American Accordionists Association, Inc. Its mission statement:

"The Museum seeks to serve the general public by providing insight into the musical artistry, physical beauty, complexity, and cultural significance exemplified by accordion-family instruments and artifacts displayed in a noble setting. This unique facility encompasses four accordion-specific goals: (1) preservation and restoration of instruments in the collection; (2) concerts that bring the instruments to life, in context with cultures of the world; (3) library housing and compilations of sound recordings, published and manuscript music, books, literature, and art works; (4) research into technology, acoustics, and physical sciences. The Museum seeks to provide a complete perspective that is accurate in scholarship, understandable in presentation, interesting and relevant to modern life." Val has the literature, sent by Stella Allison, and will bring it to the next BAAC meeting. It covers the work of the Museum, the "Magnificent 1000 Accordions," the Museum as a Resource Center (Library, recordings, music), USA Accordion Patents Collection, Accordion and Concertina Figurines Displays, Charles Magnante Collection, Concerts (Accordion music in live performance), Workshops and Presentations, and photos of items of interest from the World of Accordions Museum. It speaks also of the role of the Accordion-concertina Repair and Technicians' School. Contributions to this worthy cause are much needed. You can even opt to "adopt an accordion" to cover repairs/restoration/maintenance of an instrument for the Museum, indicating the type of instrument that interests you!

Dr. Helmi Harrington may be contacted at:

Dr. Helmi Harrington
Accordion, Concertina Repair &
Technicians School
2801 West 1st Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55806

**Val still has several of each of Henry
Doktorski's 3 CD's available @ \$20.**
Call Val (510) 531-4836 The club gets a cut!

Galla-Rini Accordion Camp 2002: The Best Ever!

The thirteenth annual Galla-Rini Accordion Camp inaugurated splendid new digs on the University of San Diego campus during the week of July 21st. Some thirty-five accordionists from across the country and Europe assembled for master classes, workshops, lessons and good times. BAAC was well represented this year: Stella Allison, Ernst Angst, Barbara and Vic Corsiglia, Lynn Ewing, Joe Greco, Val Kieser, Gwyn Lister, Jana Maas, Anne Métais, Sundi O'Mara, Joe Smiell, Bob Smith and Sharon Walters participated, as well as our brand new member Larry Denier from Santa Barbara.

Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini is the magnet! Looking fit and dapper, and having recovered from a nasty fall and ensuing surgery last April, the Maestro was every bit up to the challenge before him. Under his legendary baton, players of all levels gathered every morning from nine until noon, perfecting their respective parts of the four orchestral pieces arranged specially for the occasion by Maestro Galla-Rini himself. Building up to the gala Thursday-night concert, he began with a true classic, the second movement, or *Andante*, from the "Surprise" Symphony by Josef Haydn. Eyes twinkling, the Maestro made sure that the players, assisted by timpanist Emily, gave the audience the intended jolt on the sixteenth measure. Then followed the elegant Paragon March, a Galla-Rini composition, inspiring thrills and chills among parade-lovers. On to quieter harmonies of Sir Arthur Sullivan's "The Lost Chord;" players later were heard to whisper "Did we? Or didn't



The BAAC Gang at Galla-Rini Camp 2002: The Maestro in front; Joe Greco, Vic Corsiglia, Barbara Corsiglia, Sharon Walters, Ernst Angst, Bob Smith, Anne Métais, Lynn Ewing, Sundi O'Mara, Larry Denier, Val Kieser, Joe Smiell, Jana Maas, Stella Allison, Gwyn Lister

we?" But all chords were accounted for in the final tally. The ensemble closed with Maestro Galla-Rini's magnificent arrangement the climactic Irving Berlin composition "God Bless America."

The temptation of an Olympic-size pool on campus notwithstanding, serious players attended workshops during the afternoons, in the interest of perfecting playing techniques such as sight-reading, articulation, or jazz theory (chords! chords!...scales! scales!) where tri-tone substitutes and flat fifths were the order of the day (not to mention high-fives). Our own Joe Smiell and Chicago Accordion Club President John Simkus led these workouts.

Back at the dorm, campers' rooms had every desired amenity, including terraces with views rivaling Florence-on-the-Arno, overlooking the blue and gold dome of the campus church; nightly fireworks displays were courtesy of Sea World.

Wednesday evening's traditional "Dance Night" features players in an informal setting, as well as would-be dancers. BAAC Fun Band participants led by Sharon Walters played a set of foot-tapping tunes that brought out the shyest of wallflowers! On into the night, Joe Smiell and Michele Scheffler led the remaining partygoers in the intricate steps and rhythms of obscure Czech folk dances and reels, sending campers reeling back to their rooms at an undisclosed hour.

Large dorm rooms and terraces were conducive to a continuum of parties late into the night. These were the scene of many a fine spontaneous accordion solo and some vocals as well. Chief reveler among us was Maestro Galla-Rini, by no means the first to leave the festivities.

Tempt yourself to take part in this one-of-a-kind experience by contacting "Friends-of-Galla-Rini" organizer Kjell Holmes 4779 Cather Ave. San Diego, CA 92122. Reserve your place at the 2003 event, scheduled for the very last week of July.

Anne Métais



Come and join in ...

Bay Area Accordion Club

Meets 7 p.m. the **second Thursday** of the month
Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St. Daly City/Colma
For information call (510) 531-4836
Website: www.baaccordionclub.org

East Bay Accordion Circle

Meets the second Thursday of the month
1517 – 5th St., Berkeley. Bring your accordion!
For information call (510) 548-2822

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

Meets 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma
For information call Harry (707) 838-2859

Golden State Accordion Club

Meets 7 PM the second Tuesday of the month
At Pietro's #2, 679 Merchant St. in Vacaville
For information call (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club

Meets 7 p.m. the second Wednesday
of the month
Community Center
1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon
For information call (209) 545-3603

South Bay Accordion Jam

Meets 2:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month
Seventh Day Adventist Church
5265 Carter Ave., near Camden & Kooser

BAAC Ensemble Practice

Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City
For information call Frank (650) 574-4757

BAAC "Fun Band" Practice

Third Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 p.m.
Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City
For information call Frank (510) 339-1163

* * * * *

Accordion Teacher Listings

San Francisco/North Peninsula

Peter Di Bono

Theory/Technique/Performance
(415) 753-1502

Lou Soper

Every Tuesday 3:00-6:30 p.m.
Moose Club, Colma/Daly City
(510) 841-6745

Sharon Walters

All levels (415) 621-8284

North Bay

Steve Albini

Marin/Sonoma
Private (415) 897-4131

Bart Beninco

Accordion and Piano
Petaluma (707) 769-8744

Marjorie Konrad

Button Box, Piano Accordion
& Chromatic
Santa Rosa (707) 539-5308

East Bay

Valarie Morris

Group & Private; Theory, Technique,
Composition; all levels/ages
(510) 222-8442

Lou Jacklich

Private Lessons; Technique,
Arranging & Chords
(510) 317-9510

Peninsula & South Bay

Lynn Ewing

All levels/ages
(650) 365-1700

Marian Kelly

Lessons structured to your
Individual need
(650) 854-1896

Ron Borelli

Theory, Technique, and Performance
(650) 574-5707

Sacramento

Mike Zampiceni

Beginner to advanced
BA and MA in Music
(916) 966-8384

Correspondence

Gary Dahl

Technique/Musicianship
Mel Bay Arranger/Author
Phone/FAX (253) 770-9492
www.accordions.com/garydahl



Fred Astaire playing accordion!
Photo submitted by Peter Di Bono

BAAC Officers

President: Valerie T. Kieser
(510) 531-4836 vtkacc@value.net

Vice President:
Frank Schlotter
(510) 339-1163

Treasurer: Bob Pisani
(650) 347-2559 grnduster@aol.com

Secretary: Richard Schiller
(510) 832-3002 richards38@aol.com

Directors

Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707
Vince Cirelli (415) 467-2208
James Firpo (415) 648-3674

Your Executive Board Met ...

... on Tuesday, Aug. 6. Our Treasurer reported that we're on track with regard to budget, and we made a nice profit on the picnic. We have a total of \$7,693.86 in all our bank accounts. We have three scholarship applications pending. There was much discussion of how we will handle the logistics of the Italian Heritage Day parade. We will have cards, literature and possibly some favors to hand out along the parade route. We will tie our banner on the front of the truck.

Who Is Playing Where ...

Reno Di Bono and the Blue Moon Trio

Play for dancing every second Friday
of the month

At Montavalle in Scotts Valley, CA
8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Call Reno (408) 252-3808 for more info

Mike Zampiceni

Plays on Saturday nights at
Di Cicco's Italian Restaurant
2509 Bascom Avenue, San Jose
For reservations call (408) 377-5850

The Internationals

Sept. 7 & 8 Italian Festival in Monterey

Sept. 13-14, 20-21 and 27-28

Germania Hall in San Jose

For info call (408) 842-6867

Or e-mail tubatoo2@lycos.com

Joe Domitrowich and the Alpiners USA

Sat. Oct. 5, 11:30-3:30

Dixon May Fairgrounds in Dixon

Sun., Oct. 6 Noon-6:00 p.m.
Lugano Swiss Bistro in Carmel
Oct. 10-11-12, 5:00-9:00 p.m.
Tyrolean Inn, Highway 9 in Ben Lomond

Joe Smiell's Band

Sunday, Sept. 15 all afternoon

Oktoberfest, Nature Friends Muir Woods

Sat., Sept. 21

Russian Show, Russian Center on Sutter St. SF

Sunday, Sept. 22

Polish Day in San Jose

10250 Clayton Road San Jose

Admission free

Info (650) 349-5079

Friday, Sept. 27 evening

And every Friday evening in October

Schroeder's Café, 240 Front St. SF

(415) 421-4778



Boaz and Judy Rubin of Boaz Accordions
In their new digs at 1041 Folger Avenue, Berkeley

SMYTHE'S
ACCORDION
 CENTER
 WE'VE
 MOVED!



NEW BIGGER LOCATION
 449B 23RD ST. OAKLAND
 NEW & USED INSTRUMENTS
 SHEET MUSIC, ACCESSORIES
 510-268-4084

BOAZ
 ACCORDIONS

Sales • Repairs
 Workshops • Accessories
 • Armando Bugari
 • Castagnari
 • Hohner & More!

Visit our Berkeley location
 By Appointment
 (510) 845-1428

www.BoazAccordions.com

P **petosa accordions**
 CUSTOMCRAFTED - since 1922

Free list of accordion music CDs, cassettes,
 and VHS tapes available upon request

~ visit our website: www.petosa.com ~

313 N.E. 45th Street Seattle, WA 98105 (206) 632-2700

(Submissions to BAAC PAGE are due 2 weeks after the 1st Wednesday of the month)

BAAC PAGE
 San Francisco Bay Area
 Accordion Club
 PO Box 318175
 San Francisco, CA 94131-8175
www.BAACaccordionclub.org



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

