

Editors: Marian Kelly  
Dominic Palmisano

# THE BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUB

## THE PAGE

Bay Area Accordion Club

### JUNE MEETING 1991

Our June 3, 1991 meeting was another lively one after 86 enthusiastic people poured through the doors. It was a unique meeting in that the first half was devoted entirely to business and the last half to a special concert and question/answer period by renowned jazz musician **Don Haas**...

**Peter Di Bono**, who very ably chaired the evening in President **Lou Soper's** absence, opened the meeting by asking us to observe a minute's silence for dear **Mary Casey**. **Peter** then read a touching eulogy composed by **Lou** for his **Mary**. I don't believe there was a dry eye in the house...

Warm votes of thanks were given by all to the following: to **Josephine Hornbrook** for her conscientious work as our Treasurer this past year; to **Colombo & Sons** for all their efforts and assistance with the Art Van Damme concert; to **Roy Helsing**, **Domenic Saso**, **Walter Traverso**, and **Rusty Bartoli** for securing the NCO Club for the Van Damme concert; to the **Lembis** who provided hotel accommodations for Dorothy and Art Van Damme...

**Peter Di Bono** then enthusiastically urged our many great artists to come forward and help out with the Musical Performance Fund. It was suggested that this fund be named the "Mary Casey Musical Performance Fund," and everyone was in agreement...

**Peter** also reminded us that our annual membership dues are coming up on July 1st and that new

membership cards will be issued at that time. It's incredible that our club has mushroomed from 8 members to 158 in its first year!

*More business...* **Peter** diplomatically led us through the proper procedures for the election of new officers and the appointment of a board of directors. This process took quite some time, but it is hoped that all members are satisfied with the procedures taken and the outcome:

- President: **Lou Soper**
- Vice President: **Peter Di Bono**
- Secretary: **Rae Lembi**
- Financial Secty: **Carol Benetti**
- Treasurer: **Marian Kelly**

The new Board of Directors consists of: **Walter Traverso**, **Frank Montoro**, **Reno Pucci**, **Domenic Palmisano**, and **Domenic Saso**.

**Peter** then read a letter from **Art Van Damme** to the club. **Art** thanked everyone for inviting him to perform and remarked that this was the first time he had been honored by a club in this manner.

**Frank Montoro** told us that he and **Lou Jacklich** are hoping that 100 accordionists will attend the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton on July 2nd from 1 to 5 P.M. Sounds like great fun!


**Domenic Palmisano** took the floor to express his feelings about the club. His initial two goals in helping form the club were to create an club which would lift the feelings of accordion players, and to locate accordion friends for his cousin **Joe Catalano**. **Domenic** believes that his goals were overwhelmingly met and that he and **Lou Soper** have successfully co-con-

ducted the club from its beginnings to the outstanding club it is today. **Domenic** declined the nomination for president because he feels that **Lou** has done a fine job and that we should continue following his lead.

**Peter** then acknowledged the guests - all 19 of them, and at Last we were able to take an intermission. Great job, **Peter!**

**We Want music!** **Domenic Saso** opened the second half of the meeting by introducing our guest performer, **Don Haas**. There is nothing that can be said to do justice to his phenomenal talent, so I will leave it to others to describe his astounding playing. He began with Charlie Parker's "Confirmation", followed by Herbie Hancock's "Dolphin Dance", then two numbers composed by Horace Silver, "Nica's Dream" and "Summer in Central Park". A change of pace came with his rendition of Duke Ellington's "In a Sentimental Mood." During his performance, **Don** would explain the musical theory for each piece. He constantly referred to the major scale and its 8 tunes. As he talked about their relation to music, many of us were working on our own understanding. Here is another area where **Don** demonstrates his mastery of music, his ability to explain it. We're hoping that he will return to our club for another evening of sitting and hearing another "world class" musician.

At the close, **Mr. Haas** surprised us by donating an Excelsior ladies' model accordion!

Rae Lembi 

## A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MAESTRO ANTHONY GALLA-RINI

Anthony Galla-Rini was born in Manchester, Connecticut on January 18, 1904. When Tony was only four, his father, John, began teaching him the cornet, adding accordion lessons three years later and subsequently piccolo, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, French horn, trumpet, trombone, and tuba! Anthony's two older sisters were already playing the violin and cornet. John Galla-Rini was a band-master who was driven by a vision of stage success for a family act, so he carefully trained his children and used their collective talents to create a very successful vaudeville act, The Galla-Rini Four. His two sisters left the act in 1916 and Anthony went on his own in 1924.

During the years from 1911 to 1932, Anthony Galla-Rini played the Keith, Orpheum and Interstate Circuits which later became the RKO Circuit (Radio-Keith-Orpheum), as well as the Pantages and Leow Circuits. Many of his performances were broadcast in all major cities of the USA and Canada. He appeared on the same programs with such stars as Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Jimmy Durante, the Marx Brothers, Marie Dressler, Bill Robinson, Jack Oakie, and Fred Allen.

In 1932, Galla-Rini abandoned all the other instruments except his first love, the accordion, and decided to concentrate on a career with significantly different objectives than those which had been inculcated in him by his father. These included:

- 1 Teaching the accordion as a professionally recognized instrument
- 2 Exploiting the full potential of the accordion
- 3 Composing and arranging music
- 4 Promoting the accordion in the concert field.

Galla-Rini then opened his first studio in San Francisco, where he experienced great success teaching the instrument he loved. Also, while here, he met and married another love of his life, the former Dina Louise Petromilli, daughter of Pasquale Petromilli, owner of the famous Guerrini Accordion Factory.

Galla-Rini lived in San Francisco until about 1936, when he and his family moved to New York City to further the other career goals that he had set for his life. He had come to believe that these objectives could best be achieved in New York City where most of the music publishers were located.

With his now outstanding reputation, Galla-Rini quickly established himself in this new locale and began a series of marvelous achievements. He opened a private studio and began putting his dynamic ideas into print as well as publishing in Accordion News magazine. He helped found the American Accordionists' Association and the Confederation International des Accordeonistes.

Today, Anthony Galla Rini resides in San Marcos, California where he is very active in promoting the accordion. With his many accomplishments and worldwide recognition as the foremost leader of the accordion, is it any wonder that he is known the world over as "Mister Accordion"? The world will probably never again see a master of the accordion like Anthony Galla-Rini.

Source: The Golden Age of the Accordion  
by Flynn, Davison, and Chavez  
Compiled by Frank Montoro

## Are you ready?

And now, a little quiz. How do you prepare for an 87-year old house guest whom you have never met?? Be sure he doesn't have to manage too many stairs? Plenty of blankets? Lots of resting time, an afternoon nap, perhaps? Serve bland foods? Be sure he has a TV available? If you answered "yes" to any of the above, then you haven't met Tony Galla-Rini!

His stay at my home, which is near the picnic site, for the last two evenings, has been an eye opener and a delight. He is genial, appreciative, elegant, adaptable, a wonderful raconteur, a thoughtful teacher (but only when asked). He even seemed to enjoy the Kelly "house" red wine. He has lived and continues to live a rich, full life, and his experiences and philosophies make for delightful conversation. And, of course, my home has never before been graced with such wonderful musical sounds. Only a couple difficulties emerged--first, he carries terribly heavy luggage, and second, he doesn't need a lot of sleep. So much for *my* expectations!

Please return soon, Tony.  
You captivated us all!!

*Marian Kelly*



## FATHER'S DAY ACCORDION PICNIC

Our first annual Father's Day Picnic, held at the Elks Club in Palo Alto, was an event not to be missed. The weather and facilities couldn't have been better. We won't provide a minute-by-minute account, but all who attended will attest that the day was extraordinary. Honorary Member, **Anthony Gallarini**, was present and performed. There are no words to accurately describe his talent; he is "the master." We were absolutely delighted to have this legendary man come and spend a day with us. Many other wonderful, skillful players entertained formally from the gazebo "stage", after which the spontaneous, informal music-making began. Five hours later, the last of us finally left, tired but content.

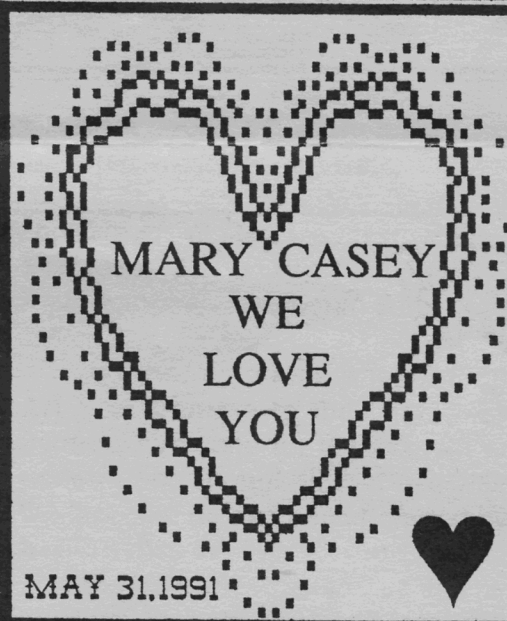
Much can be said about why this event was so successful, but the main reason was **Walter Traverso**. He single-handedly planned, organized and directed this special occasion. His own performance, on the gazebo and off, was impeccable. Also, his supporting cast, **Rusty Bartoli** and **Domenic Saso** deserve special commendation. The list of other contributors is too long to mention but we want to thank all of you for making this day such a memorable one.

Finally, To all of you who were there, let's do it again next year!

## MAGIC 61- 610AM

Bay Area Radio Personality, **Carter B. Smith**, will feature our BAAC Tee-Shirt on his Program on Friday, June 28th, 1991, between 6:00AM and 9:00AM.

Talking about tee-shirts...**Jim Holliday**, who designed the shirt, was able to add new colors [black, red and dark blue] to the collection. The response indicates that Jim was *right on the money* again. (We now have sweatshirts)



## LOU SOPER

*Lou has been the spark to the BAAC organization. Mary was his partner. We all share in his loss of Mary...*

## Do You Need A Haircut?

If you find yourself wanting to talk about the accordion and need a trim around the ears at the same time, go see **John Gullmes**. What a guy; you can find him at every accordion concert, he has all the latest literature and tapes, and plays a very fine chromatic accordion. John owns the New Viking Barber Shop at 634 Taravel St. (between 16th and 17th Avenue) in San Francisco. **Roy Black** has become a steady customer, and Roy says that a haircut from a real accordion enthusiast is quite an experience! By the way, you don't need an appointment, just drop by...



Announcing:

OUR ANNUAL DUES OF \$20.00 ARE DUE IN JULY. IF YOU PLAN TO SEND IT IN, PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO:  
**BAAC**  
48 POPE ST.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
94112

Next meeting: July 1st.  
First Monday of the Month

**HOUSE OF PARTIES**  
22 HILLCREST DR.  
DALY CITY  
7:00 PM

[Free Municipal Parking 1/2 block west]

**VIDEO**

Ed Zaro

Entertainment

Joe Smiell & Domenic Saso

**STAFF**

**BEVERAGE**

Albert Enos &

Wenzel Rasmussen

# THE BAAC Classified

**FOR SALE**  
*Excelsior 940*  
 Professional  
 Model  
 asking: \$2000  
 Clyde Forsman  
 621-5926


**For Sale**  
 IORIO "G"  
 Model with MIDI  
 (OMB 3) and AMP  
 asking: \$2000  
 Roy Helsing  
 415-994-1074


**FOR SALE**  
 Hohner  
 Concertina  
 Maroon Color  
 Good Condition  
 \$175.00  
 415-931-8445

**For Sale**  
 DONELLI  
 Electrified  
 Ladies Model  
 asking \$495  
 415-664-7513

**Colombo & Sons**  
**Accordion**  
 1201 Anderson Dr. Suite 0  
 San Rafael, California 94901  
 (415) 457-2222  
*Hours:*  
 Tuesday - Friday  
 8:30AM To 4:30PM  
 Saturday  
 9:00AM To 2:00PM

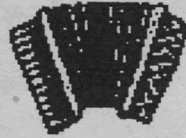
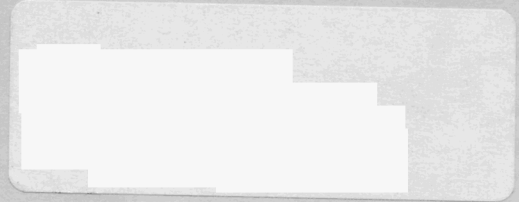
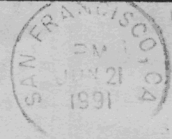
**The Golden Age Of The Accordion**  
 By Ron Flynn  
**Colombo & Sons Accordion**  
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**THOSE DARN ACCORDIONS!**  
 Go West at the DeYoung Museum  
 on Wednesday, July 3, 1991  
 6:00PM - 8:00PM  
 Free Show and Americana Art  
 Call Tom Torriglia for details  
 415-346-5862

**WE'RE BAAC**  
**48 POPE ST.**  
**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**  
**94112**

|                                      |  |                                   |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>Conductor</u><br><i>Lou Soper</i> | <u>Co-Conductor</u><br><i>Peter DiBono</i> | <u>Scribe</u><br><i>Rae Lembi</i> | <u>Banker</u><br><i>Marian Kelly</i> | <u>Teller</u><br><i>Carol Benetti</i> |
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