

The BAAC Page

Newsletter of the

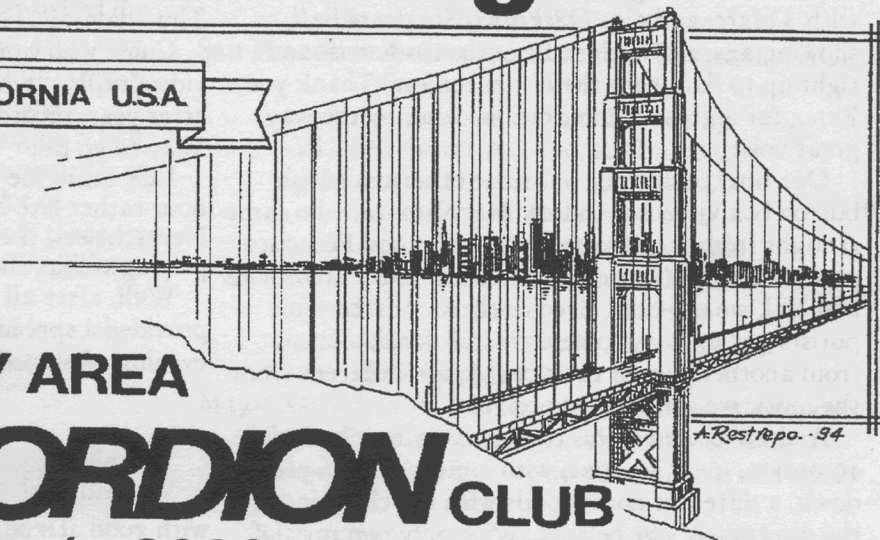
SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



BAY AREA

ACCORDION CLUB

March 2002



March Meeting

By Dick Schiller

"It was a dark and stormy night" (as they say), but Patio Espanol was alive with good fellowship, wonderful music and the sumptuous food offerings from members Dom and Fran Benedetto, our own veteran restaurateurs—wow, are we lucky, or what?

Before the meeting Reno Pucci (believe it or not, my first accordion teacher way back when), started us off in the mood, showing off his years of entertainment experience with lively old favorites. Across the room Dennis Stoscher was tickling the keys on his new Fisart, with Mark Zhagel doing the same in yet another area.

Our new president Val welcomed some 80-plus to this wonderful evening, welcoming guests, and presenting to the club a huge restored picture of old time member artists of the original San Francisco Accordion Club, circa 1916 (remember, we were the first in the world!). Val and John Kieser had the work done and presented it to the club. What a treasure—everyone should see it!

After some announcements, Val introduced our M.C. for the evening, Lynn Ewing who, with friendly and warm persona, got us underway. But, wait a minute.....before we could begin, Bob Berta rushed to the stage to recount a recent experience of Dennis Stoscher, who was arrested for "flashing" in a Safeway store! Well, he didn't get arrested, but he did "flash" his accordion—that is, from underneath his raincoat to startled customers in the aisle of pickled herring! To cheers and applause, Dennis proceeded to belt out some lively tunes and draw a crowd. Talk about inventive genius! Leave it to Dennis to put our beloved accordion "out there"!

First to play for our waiting crowd was none

other than **Father Joe Baccellieri** from Portland, Oregon. Father Joe started out by telling us a little about his history with the accordion. He started playing in 1946 (A.D., that is!). This got us going, and his quips and stories between his musical numbers I'm sure made us all feel that we were part of his "flock." Father Joe then brought us some "old time accordion" music in a very masterful way (with thanks to **Joe Greco** for the loan of his Petosa for Father Joe to play!): *Accordiana* (Magnante); *O Sole Mio* (It's Now or Never); his own rousing rendition of *Dark Eyes*; a soft and mellow *I Left My heart in San Francisco*; a difficult arrangement of the great accordion classic, *Tico-Tico*; a very sensitive and beautiful *Prelude to Act III* from *La Traviata*; and, by audience request, a barn-burning rendition of *Granada*. His encore offering was a very moving and romantic *I Love You More Each Day*, written by his teacher, the late Joe Parente. Thank you, Father Joe. We look forward to having you back anytime you can come!

Next, our own **Reno Di Bono** brought his MIDI and 4-track recorder to show how we can arrange our accordion playing to sound like a combo or even a band. He laid down a rhythm track and recorded the accordion melody of *Mala Femmena* with it. Then, playing back that track, he added MIDI instrument sounds using his keyboard; i.e., guitar, bass, vibes, and choral



Father Joe Baccellieri

voices. The finished product was a very professional-sounding recording that sounded like a multi-instrument group. Reno then demonstrated with *Volare* and also *Darktown Strutters Ball*, showing again how versatile our accordion is--and right up to date with the computer age! Thank you, Reno, for a great demonstration-- and, by the way, great voice!

Our final performer was none other than Irish button box virtuoso Andrew MacNamara, who came straight from the airport to debut his San Francisco performances at our club! Thanks to Boaz accordions and Val, we old-time, dyed-in-the-wool accordion purists got to enjoy some terrific accordion music from another part of the world, quite different from the music we are accustomed to.

Andrew played on his two-row, diatonic button accordion, meaning that, with a given button pressed down, a different note sounds with the changing of the direction of the bellows. With only two rows of treble and eight bass buttons, Andrew put out an amazing amount of music. Now if we stop and think of it, we can appreciate the immense talent needed to produce the notes. Just watching his bellow manipulation, at times moving like a vibration in and out, made us appreciate his technique that much more, and showed that this type of instrument produces accents in the music that are difficult if not impossible to duplicate on other accordions.

Andrew played a great variety of jigs, reels and hornpipes, with a spirit that had us tapping our feet and bobbing our heads to this wonderful solo instrument performance.

His final pieces were requests from the audience: *Silver Spear* and *Danny Boy*--played as only an Irish musician could play them. Wanting to add to this experience, I journeyed to the **Plough & Stars** Irish pub on Clement Street on another night to hear Andrew. This time he teamed up with an old-time Irish guitar player. What an experience!



Andrew MacNamara

The accordion and guitar combination produced such a driving rhythm that I wanted to get up and dance, but I couldn't--because the young folks there danced a particular dance pattern to a particular rhythm, i.e., hornpipe, jig and reel. It reminded me somewhat of square dance, but these

young people were twirling, two-stepping, clogging, all flawlessly executing their specific patterns. So, get out your dancing shoes: Free Irish dance lessons are available on Thursdays at 7:30 at 22nd and Lawton in The City.

Guess who won the raffle? Why, **Ed Zaro**, our long-time videographer, who's always there, meeting after meeting, year after year, recording the history of our club for posterity. Way to go Ed!

Last came **Joe Smiell's** Scale Study workshop. With the hour rather late by that time, some people had to leave early. Nevertheless, those who stayed were rewarded with ensemble playing tidbits that few people are aware of.

Well, after all the wonderful music, the Benedettos provided a spread of food that just topped off another great evening of accordion music. See you next month!

President's Message

We had another good meeting with good attendance in March. Who says BAAC doesn't provide variety? Father Joe, Andrew MacNamara, Reno di Bono--every act very different. Unfortunately, time got away from us a bit, meaning that Joe Smiell's mini-workshop came on just about when people were ready to leave.



The workshop was excellent, as always, but had to be abbreviated. We'll do another mini-workshop with Joe in the near future and will make sure there is plenty of time!

For **April** we will have a fascinating demonstration by **Kris Nelson**, President of Accordion Club of the Redwoods, who is an expert on Cajun and Zydeco music. Kris will outline for us some of the differences between the two music styles. I have always been a bit curious about the subject but never took the time to read about it. This will be the perfect opportunity to learn something!

We also will hear **Bruce Metras** from San Rafael. Bruce has played for us on various occasions, each time sounding better. Bruce is a student by correspondence of Gary Dahl in Puyallup, WA. Following intermission we will have a demonstration and workshop, including an accordion history lesson, by **Vince Cirelli**. Among other things, Vince, an expert of legendary proportions, will tell us how best to care for and maintain our accordions and how to adjust them for proper fit and playing position. **Please see notice about parking at Patio Espanol elsewhere in this newsletter!**

Here's a little surprise that happened to me a couple of weeks ago: My husband and I drove to Las Vegas for the wedding of my brother-in-law, which took place at Paris Las Vegas. Entirely separate from the wedding, I was asked to play at one of the many Paris Las Vegas restaurants! Sounds glamorous but, although lots of fun, it was not really *that* glamorous: my husband told the waiter we had an accordionist in our midst and asked if they would like some accordion music. While I tried to disappear under the table, the waiter said, "sure"! Well, our waiter, and his friend who is

also a waiter there, are operatic singers. They burst into song several times during the evening. So, they asked me to accompany them as they sang *O Sole Mio!* They sing it in the key of E, which made me a bit uncomfortable, so I played it in E flat and it worked out fine. It never occurred to me in the excitement that by going up a half step, instead of down a half step, I could have played it in F! Well, we did only the one song, but got a lot of compliments from the other diners. By the way, those two waiters have a second job as gondoliers at the Venetian, where they also do operatic performing.

I thank **Bob Berta** who has provided me with a clean copy of *The BAAC Page's* masthead, so it is looking much better this month.

See you at the April meeting!

Val



Reno
Di Bono

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM By Mike Peters



Upcoming at BAAC

April: Demonstration of Cajun music; discussion of differences between Zydeco and Cajun styles, by **Kris Nelson**, President of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods; **Bruce Metras**, BAAC member from San Rafael; **Vince Cirelli** giving a demo and discussion of care of your accordion. **Bring your accordion!** Time permitting, we'll have **ajam** at the end of the meeting.

May: First half is "Ladies' night." Call Val if you'd like to play, otherwise she may call YOU! We have room for three players before intermission. After intermission: **Chuck Berger** and **Diange Hagen** from Portland will knock your socks off!

June: **Valarie Morris'** ensemble class will perform for us, and then the great **Tony Lovello!**

July: Picnic July 6! No regular meeting.

Upcoming Accordion Events

Sunday, April 14 at 2:30 p.m.

San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE)

Concert at Redwood City

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2124 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City
Call Frank Montoro (650) 574-4757

Sunday, April 21 at 2:30 p.m.

SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble

Concert at Zion Lutheran Church
5201 Park Boulevard, Piedmont
Call Val Kieser (510) 531-4836

Friday, May 10 at 8 p.m.

Major Accordion Performers (MAP) presents a concert featuring Stas Venglevski and John Simkus
Moose Lodge Daly City (see ad elsewhere in this issue)

May 24-26

24th Annual Far West Button Box Jamboree
Fontana, CA (NE of Los Angeles)
Call Val Kieser (510) 531-4836; vtacc@value.net

June 18-22

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

Leavenworth, Washington "The Bavarian Village"

Call (509) 548-5807

www.accordioncelebration.com

June 23-26

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention
Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

For info e-mail lasvegas@accordioninfo.com or go to www.accordioninfo.com, or call (800) 472-1695

June 23-27

Accordion Camp at Silver Falls, Oregon sponsored by Rose City Accordion Club
Featuring Joe Morelli of Vancouver, B.C., Father Joe Baccellieri and Don Bottari of Portland, Gary Blair from Scotland

For info call Geoff Levear (503) 293-0322

Saturday, July 6

BAAC Picnic

Nature Friends Park in Oakland

Picnic to include a swap meet

Details will follow

Save the Date!

July 13-20

Joe Smiell's beginning Button Box Camp
Heidemann Lodge, Norden/Soda Springs

For info call Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938

July 21-26

Galla-Rini Accordion Music Camp
San Diego, CA

For info call Val (510) 531-4836; vtacc@value.net

July 10-14

American Accordionists' Association

Charles Magnante Tribute Festival

Holiday Inn Minneapolis West

Call (201) 991-2233 or FAX (201) 991-1944

Ron Borelli workshop a Smashing Success

For those who missed it you really missed a great workshop. Or, I should say, those who attended—15 in all—found out how much we all have to learn! We thank Ron for taking the time out of his busy schedule to offer us this great workshop on improvisation, including all the extra work in preparing handouts for everyone.



Don't Forget ...

Tony Lovello will be playing for us in June with his vaudeville-style razzle-dazzle and trademark glissandos and bellow shakes that have made him a great performer and showman.



Word has it ...

....that Jim Holliday had a couple of very close calls but is now on the mend. Don't scare us like that, Jim! And get well quick!

....that Richard Yaus' ensemble group, *AbsolutAccord*, drew a standing-room-only crowd at the March ACR meeting.

....that our very own *SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble* (ACE) brought the house down at its concert at the Slavonic Cultural Center in SF on March 15. Two more ACE concerts are coming up in April (see elsewhere in this newsletter), and we'd love to see more BAAC people come and hear what the accordion can do as a *classical/semiclassical* instrument. Better yet, be part of it—come and play with BAAC's ensemble that meets on the second and fourth

Wednesday of the month (call Frank Montoro 650-574-4757)!

.... that BAAC member **Valarie Morris'** *Symphony of Light and Shadows* will have its world premier performance on Friday, April 5 at 8:00 p.m. at the Sacramento Community theater, 13th and L Streets, Sacramento! Congratulations, Valarie!

.... that we would like to make this a *monthly column* and would like to have news items about our members that we can include!

Important Parking Notice!

Raul at **Patio Espanol** has asked that people attending our meetings (unless handicapped) not park right in front of the building, but rather **park off to the side** in the parking lot. Dinner patrons have complained that we monopolize the close-in parking. Thanks for your cooperation.

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention ...

There's still time to sign up, and you won't regret it—with stars like Dick Contino, Art Van Damme, Peter Soave, Frank Marocco, Tony Lovello, and many, many others — including our own Ron Borelli—how can you lose? A great lineup at a reasonable price, including workshops with many of these greats. We will have brochures available at the April meeting.

Restore BAAC's Lending Library?

Tom Torriglia is offering us a fairly large quantity of accordion music of all types, that he cannot use. We haven't seen it yet, but it sounds as though we could use it to restore our lending library. *Many thanks, Tom!*

Who is Playing Where?

We would like to make this an ongoing feature, but we need the information! Please let us know where and when you and/or your band are playing, and whether it's an ongoing gig or a one-time event. We have a lot of talent in the club—let's show it off!

If you like great jazz ...

Don't miss famous French jazz accordionist **Richard Galliano** who will be performing solo on **Saturday, June 1** at Herbst Theatre in San Francisco.

* * * * *

**BAAC meets the first
Wednesday of the month at
7:00 p.m.
Patio Espanol, 2850 Alemany
Boulevard
San Francisco**



Our own John Fiore!

M A P
Major Accordion Performers
Presents In Concert



Stas Venglevski & John Simkus

Stas, an internationally famous virtuoso soloist and performer with numerous symphony orchestras & chamber groups, a composer, a producer/performer of CDs & John Simkus, President Emeritus of the Chicago Accordion Club (8 years), a renowned jazz performer, a man who has traveled the nation as a performer, teacher, conductor and ambassador for the accordion (Galla-Rini Camp, Texas AA, International AC., etc.) come together in dazzling solos and brilliant duets for an evening of old favorites and newly composed tangos, waltzes, adagios, romances and beyond. It will be a music lover's concert of a lifetime. Sponsored by Northern California's newest non-profit organization for the promotion of the accordion: MAP. Contact: Lou Soper at 1771 Spruce, Berkeley, CA. 94709 LouHSoper@aol.com (510) 841-6745

**May 10th 8PM Moose Lodge
7535 Mission Street Daly City/Colma
Admission/Donation \$10 at the door**

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

Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938

News about our two accordion centers ...

Smythe's Accordion Center is moving to a new location, less than two blocks from the old one. As of April 1, the new address will be 449 - 23rd Street, Oakland. The shop will be larger and will have natural light for the first time, and parking will be much improved. The moving celebration will feature several bands with accordion, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the old location with a Colombian "cumbia" band, and will move to the new location at 10:00 p.m. For information and updates, call (510) 444-7263 or visit www.21grand.org. The shop phone number will remain the same (510) 268-4084.

Boaz Accordions is moving during the month of April to 1041 Folger Street in Berkeley, a fabulous new space in the Folger-Murray complex, 1/2 block west of San Pablo Avenue, near Ashby. The new location is a lofty space, very open with high ceilings and skylights, and features a tranquil, off-street setting and on-site parking. It is also very close to many other businesses and shops. Details will be forthcoming, or you may call (510) 845-1429 or visit www.boazaccordions.com. Boaz is seeking hardy volunteers to help with the move during the month of April, especially the last days of the month. Meanwhile, Boaz is open for business as usual on Sacramento Street.

BASAGlieri PolKA

(Another gem from Vince
Cirelli)

Handwritten musical score for 'Basaglieri Polka'. The score is written on ten staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a common time signature (C), and a repeat sign. The music is primarily in G major, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score includes various musical notations such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and ties. Chord symbols are written above the staves: C, G7, D, and D7. The piece concludes with a double bar line and the word 'Fine' written below the final staff.

Bay Area Accordion Club

Meets 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month
At Patio Español, 2850 Alemany Blvd.
San Francisco
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

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.

BAAC Membership ...

Dues are \$25 per year, \$30 for a family
Send check to BAAC
P.O. Box 318175
San Francisco, CA 94131-8175
Visit us at www.BAACcordionclub.org

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Reno di Bono and the Blue Moon Trio

play for dancing every second Friday of each month
at Montavalle in Scotts Valley, CA, 8:00 p.m. to
11:00 p.m. Call Reno (408) 252-3808 for info

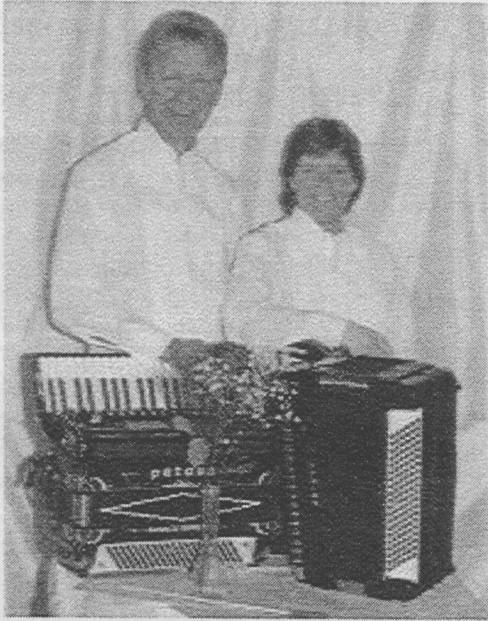
**BAAC meets on the first Wednesday of each
month at 7:00p.m. at Patio Espanol,
2850 Alemany Boulevard, San Francisco
For info call Val at (510) 531-4836**

Your Executive Board met ...

... on Tuesday, March 6. The board voted to make the membership roster available to BAAC members for \$1 and that we specify that the list is not to be used for commercial purposes. Our account balance is \$8,072.11 as of Feb. 28. The board voted to pay Chuck Berger and Diane Hagen \$100 to help cover their expenses. The picnic, on Saturday, July 6, will include a swap meet. We have 219 paid memberships, of which many are couples. Next board meeting: Tuesday, April 2. If you wish to attend a board meeting, please call Val (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@value.net.



Can you top this?



Coming to BAAC in May!

Don't miss

Chuck Berger and

Diane Hagen

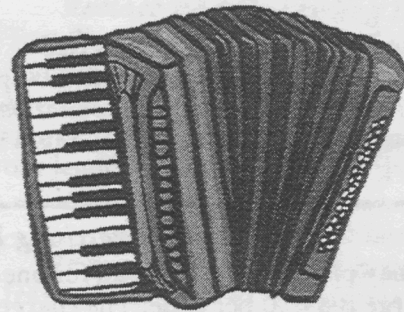
from Portland

Midi Accordionist, **Chuck Berger** is back in the Pacific Northwest again, performing his magic on the Midi Accordion. At our celebration this year, Chuck will team up with the very talented **Diane Hagen** to perform a concert which will include duets of Swiss Laendlers & Polkas, (The tough stuff), plus Classical, and Big Band songs.

Chuck is known world-wide for his expertise on the MIDI accordion, and is called upon to do programming all over the world. His sounds are such that you will swear there's a 20 piece band on stage.

Diane Hagen has been an award winning artist since the age of 5, on through high school. After being away from the accordion for 23 years, she has teamed with **Chuck**, doing duets, Diane is now playing many engagements in the Portland area. An example of things they do together are midi with acoustical accordion including Pietro Deiro

pieces. Audiences make the comment, "They play like they are joined at the hip!" We know you will thoroughly enjoy their talent together on stage. **Don't miss this musical event on Wednesday evening May 1st, 2002**



*A Hearty Welcome ..
To new member
Kristin Stabb from San Francisco*

In Memorium

Our condolences to the family of **George Poley**, BAAC member since its beginnings. He passed away last month at the age of 90 at the Veterans' Hospital at Yountville. An avid accordion enthusiast who studied under John Pezzolo, he also occasionally played drums. George played for over 65 years, performing at Moose Lodge, veterans homes and senior centers. We have been missing George's presence at our meeting for the last year or so.

"Musette"

The Wrong Word for the Right Tune!

By BAAC member Bernard Métais

***Reprinted from Accordion World
July 1993***

Editor's Note (By the Editor of *Accordion World*): When we hear the word "Musette" the mind conjures up Paris, red wine, fresh baguettes and sidewalk cafés with colorful umbrellas. Those of us who have our treble switches named will think of the 3 reed combination with two of the three reeds tuned one sharp and the other flat, producing a coarse, but attractive sound. It is said that there is an "Italian musette," a "German musette" and a "French musette" sound, all distinctly different, but this is probably just a particular tuning that was used by Italian, German and French accordion manufacturers.

Interestingly enough, the term "musette" has a defined and historical meaning which our "French connection," correspondent Bernard Métais of California, but now back living in his native France, shared with us at last year's Galla-Rini Accordion Camp. We have reproduced Bernard's account of the origin of "musette" as he narrated it to us in his charming French style. (*Accordion World* was edited by John and Ellen Bonica of Portland.)

"Musette"

When one hears the word "musette," Paris comes to mind. The "musette" is a unique expression of a place and an era: Paris and the early 1900's; even if the word is a misnomer.

Originally, a "musette" was a kind of bagpipe, played by the rural population of the "Auvergne," a province in the center of France. At the end of the 19th century, many "Auvergnats" emigrated from their native province to Paris. Some of them combined the sale of the coal imported from the Auvergne with the sale of drinks and simple meals. On Sundays the proprietors (the "bournats") organized dances for their friends where they played their native instrument: the musette. Such community dances were called "bals à la musette."

Other immigrants also came to Paris, which, at the

turn of the century, was a haven for immigrants.

Among them, after 1870, the Italians, who, like the auvergnats, brought with them their musical instrument: the accordion, which has been produced in Italy in the Castelfidardo workshops since 1860. They also settled in the same marginal parts of Paris as the auvergnats and therefore competed against them in the Sunday community balls with their accordions. In the end the Italians won and the "bals musette" took place with the sound of the accordion—no longer with the sound of the musette.

From the strong Italian (the *bel canto*) and auvergnat (the *bourrie*—a type of polka) flavors, the "musette" became typically Parisian, with its unmistakable sound of the button accordion. The genre "musette" was born with the sound of accordions not always in perfect tune.

During the first half of the 20th century more than 300 "bals musette" opened in Paris, most of them in seedy areas of town such as Rue de Lappe, near "la Bastille" (now becoming terribly "yuppie").

In the years of the 1930's in Paris, the accordion became fashionable and many accordionists became famous, among them many of Italian origin (Albert and Emile Carrara, Joseph Colombo, Louis Ferrari, Auerino, Tony Murena ...).

After a decline in the 70's and 80's the accordion is experiencing a renaissance in Paris. If you are in Paris, please go to the Balajo, near the Place de la Bastille. You will hear the musical heartbeat of true Paris.

Bon accordéon!

Your friend,
Bernard Métais



* * * * *

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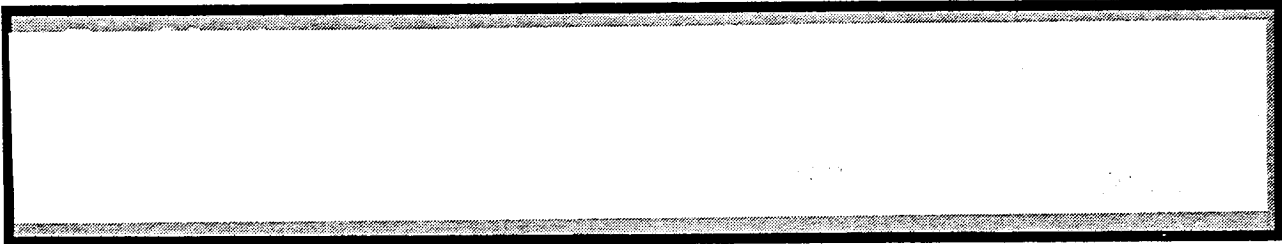
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@7:00 PM. Come see &
hear us for a good
—TIME—



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

BAAC PAGE

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