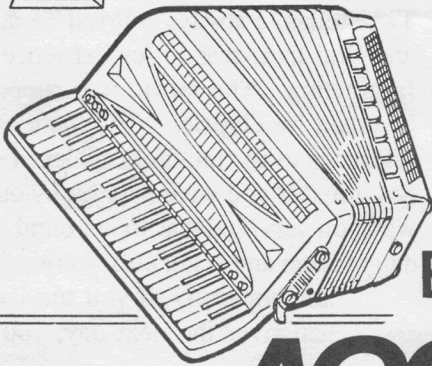


Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



A. Restrepo - 94

# BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUB

## COTATI — AUGUST '94

I'll tell you how good Cotati was. The Saturday morning before the Festival, Kathy cut her foot and needed four stitches; we almost lost (but later recovered) a good camera; and our truck broke down on the Golden Gate Bridge approach while returning home Sunday night. But on average, we thought it was a great weekend.

The difficulties with the Jam tent seemed to have been worked out. It wasn't across the street, it didn't interfere with the performances, and there was always someone playing. On numerous occasions, I found a large accumulation of players and audience.

We'll probably be discussing the pro's and con's of the fence and entrance fee. It did cut down the available area and restricted access to the shops and cafes along the main street, which were a pleasant interlude last year. On the other hand, it limited attendees to serious aficionados

and the predictable income will permit the Festival Committee to do a better job of planning in the future.

The program was ambitious.... diverse... international... very entertaining. Something for everyone! One couldn't do justice to all the performers in the few pages we have available, but a couple of things sort of stood out. The two young men from New Zealand, **Lionel Reeke**

*cont. on p. 6*



*Good Music, Good Weather, Good Friends....Cotati '94*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**September 30th, October 1st & 2nd.** Festa Italiana. Fisherman's Wharf/Pier 35.

**October 3rd, Monday.** BAAC General Meeting. Special guest artist, Bonnie Birch, from Northwest Accordion Society.

**October 5th, Wednesday.** BAAC Board Meeting, 7:30 PM. Frank Montoro's, 1448 Tarrytown, San Mateo. Guests welcome. (415) 574-4757.

**October 6th, Thursday.** Demonstration of Deffner MIDI Synthesizer at Marion Kelly's. 7:00-9:00P. See p. 3.

**October 16th, Sunday.** Concert with Nick Ariondo and Brentwood-Westwood Symphony Orchestra. 3:00P at Paul Revere Middle School, Brentwood.

**October 22nd & 23rd.** Saturday and Sunday. Anchorage Accordion Festival and "Main Squeeze" Contest. 11:00A until 5:30P. See p. 2.

**October 23rd, Sunday.** Testimonial dinner for Gordon Piatanesi. See p. 2. Spanish Cultural Center, 5:00P on Alemany Blvd., San Francisco

**November 2nd, Wednesday.** BAAC Board Meeting, 7:30 PM. Frank Montoro's, 1448 Tarrytown, San Mateo. Guests welcome. (415) 574-4757.

**November 7th, Monday.** BAAC General Meeting.

## ANCHORAGE ACCORDION FESTIVAL

BAAC received a nice note from Patrice Garrett who is the Marketing Director for the Anchorage Shopping Center and who will be coordinating this year's Anchorage Accordion Festival. If you've been there before, you know it's a great time, and if you've not tried it, maybe this is the year you should stop in. There will be numerous good players, and there isn't a "bad seat in the house." (The festival is held in the interior square of the center and spectators can see everything from either level of the shopping area.) And, you can combine the day with a stop at Fisherman's Wharf, a ride on the Cable Cars or any other of your favorite San Francisco activities.

More ambitious (or flamboyant) Club members may want to enter the "I'm San Francisco's Main Squeeze" Contest. Prizes and unparalleled esteem await the winners who will be judged on Crowd Appeal, Accordion Playing, Most Amazing Polka Costume and the explanation of why they should be selected. Call Marian at (415) 854-1896 if you'd like to enter. **Tom Torriglia** will MC the event as well as the entire Festival.

If you missed **Jim Boggio** at Cotati, this is your chance to catch him - 4:45 P both days. Other players include:

Those Darn Accordions  
SourDough Slim  
Zydeco Flames  
Danny Poullaird  
Andre Thierry  
Zydeco Magic  
Gumbo Ya Ya Dancers  
Motordude Zydeco  
Red Garter  
Baguette Quartet

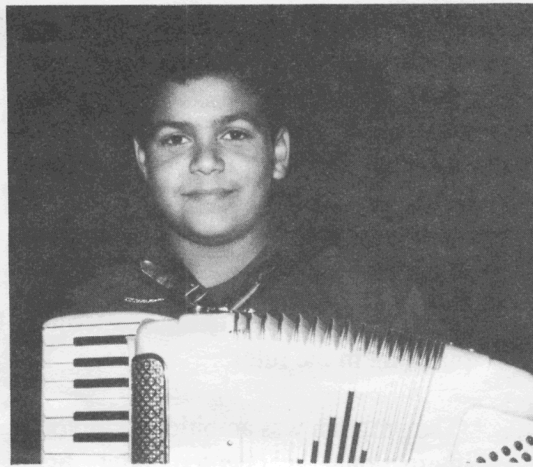
BAAC has been asked to supply four "strollers" who can act as Pied Pipers to help lure the passing throngs into the center. If you're interested see **Dominic Palmisano**.

## September General Meeting

by Bob Berta

**President Frank Montoro** conducted a short informational meeting prior to the entertainment. He announced the upcoming events at the Anchorage, Pier 35 and Jack London Square and asked for some strolling accordionists to volunteer to play.

The BAAC is looking for a possible alter-



Blake Parker

nate site for our picnic next year. The existing location is getting "pricey" and members are encouraged to contact **Bob Berta** if they have knowledge of a good alternate location. The requirements are (1) can handle 250 people, (2) has electricity, (3) will allow amplified PA system and music. See Bob with suggestions or call him at (415) 756-8309.

The entertainment for the night started out with two youngsters who are very impressive and will be the future of the accordion. First up was **Blake Parker**. This 11 year old artist played an impressive rendition of beer *Barrel Polka* and once he had us tapping our feet, he followed up with *Anchors Aweigh*. The loud appreciative applause indicated that the members want him back for some more. Hopefully he will make another appearance in the future.

**Sal Bartimioli** played some examples of

Tarantellas. I always enjoyed Tarantellas and find their reason for existence to be fascinating. The music was supposedly invented by Gypsies. The name was in reference to the tarantula spider. Legend has it that if you were ever bit by one, the way you survived was to get blind drunk, dance faster and faster until you passed out and hopefully, if you survived the hangover the next day, you were cured.

Next up was **Jan Schellenberger**. Jan is a student of Peter DiBono, and I am sure Peter is really proud of this 12 year old artist. Jan plays for us every few months, and it seems that he is advancing at an unbelievable rate. His bass work and bellows control is extraordinary for such a young musician as evidenced in his selections, *Andilucia*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *San Francisco*. His performance was punctuated by enthusiastic applause.

A different style of music was performed by **Bill Murphy**. Bill played his Cajun button box and entertained us with a selection of Zydeco and Cajun music. His performance was interrupted by the sound of a crashing chair. The music came to a temporary stop as Dominic Sasso was



Jan Schellenberger

## Now Available!!

Easy to use, inexpensive MIDI Synthesizer installed in *your* accordion.

Ernest Deffner, Inc. announces the latest breakthrough in MIDI technology for the accordion. This small (9" x 2") synthesizer can be mounted on your accordion grille or used as a separate expander module.

This small unit provides 18 sound choices for your treble keyboard, four choices for bass notes, and four others for chords. No complicated programming whatsoever is needed; just touch a pad on the synthesizer to choose a sound or to change volume level. Treble sounds available include Piano, Guitar, Vibes, Organ, Trumpet, Clarinet, Pan Flute, Violin and eight more. They can be played singly or in combination. Left hand sounds include String Bass, Tuba, Acoustic Guitar, Organ and four others.

With this easy MIDI retrofit, you can control other MIDI "interfacable" equipment, should you decide to expand your system. The unit weighs only one pound and does not alter or interfere with the

acoustic operation of your accordion in any way. The cost, including installation on your instrument, is \$1495.

This intriguing addition to accordion capability is available locally through Ernest Deffner's sales representative, **Marian Kelly**. There will be a *demonstration of the unit on Thursday, October 6th at Marian's home from 7 to 9 PM*. You are invited to stop by that evening just to observe or to try out this easy synthesizer yourself. Some accordion accessories will also be available, as will information about repair, music and instruments. Refreshments will be served.

● Marian's address is 31 Aliso Way, Portola Valley. Take the Alpine Rd. exit from 280 and go S.W. towards Portola Valley for one quarter mile. Turn right onto La Cuesta at the Shell Station and right again immediately onto Aliso. Since space is limited, please call (415) 854-1896 to let Marian know that you plan to attend.

### September Meeting cont.

picked up off the ground. Seems that he and his chair parted company. After assurances from Dominic that he was O.K., the music resumed. Hmmmm, maybe we better get a seat belt and an air bag for Dominic's chair. Bill resumed unflustered and played an excellent performance of a style of music which many members enjoy.

**Bob Smith** brought out his new/old Petosa accordion and entertained us with *Dark Eyes*, *Nola* and *Hernando's Hideaway*. Bob is another member that I really enjoy. His interpretations and musical ability are outstanding. I particularly enjoyed his selections and look forward to having him back again.

Due to a last minute no show (Grrr!), our

steadfast duo, **Ed Massolo and Frank Panacchi**, filled in with a selection of numbers they had recently performed at the Cotati Accordion Festival. My favorites were *Just Because* and *Canadian Capers*. Frank and Ed are always a highlight when they honor us with their fine playing.

**Reno DiBono** was the final act of the night, and he played both acoustic accordion and MIDI accordion in a repertoire consisting of both classical music, *Overture from Nabucco* by Verdi and *Rondine Al Nido*, and a politically incorrect tune about a horizontally impaired female and the *Darktown*

## Who's Playing??



*Rob Campanella*

Most every Saturday and Sunday morning from 11:00A until 1:00P you'll find Rob Campanella and his faithful Button Accordion at Cafe Quinn in Cupertino. It's in the Oaks Shopping Center on Stevens Creek Blvd. near the 85 interchange.

### Strutters Ball.

Next meeting will feature a special guest artist. See you there!



*Reno Di Bono*

## September Board Meeting

### Synopsis

- \* Alex Ratnakis gave the Treasurers Report. \$3,615.50 in checking and \$3,872.69 in savings.
- \* Frank reported that there was a problem with the BAAC Information Table at Cotati. It could have been coordinated and handled better. The Board will consider. It was agreed to send the Festival Committee a written congratulations on the great job they did.
- \* The Committee working Gordon Piatanesi's banquet will meet to finalize this event.
- \* Lou Soper's plans for an Accordion Workshop are on hold pending Lou's availability to discuss the topic with the board.
- \* The "second" ensemble will be practicing at the House of Parties the second and fourth Wednesdays starting 12 October. The rent will be paid by participants.
- \* Frank Montoro has sent a letter to Myron Floren asking him to play a concert for us at a time of his convenience.
- \* Bob Berta will head the Committee looking for a new Picnic location.
- \* Marian discussed a policy for companies who wish to promote in our newsletter. Details to be announced.
- \* Frank Montoro will write the Seattle Club regarding an exchange of players for club meetings.
- \* There are seven players lined up for September's Meeting.
- \* The Anchorage Accordion Festival is looking for four players to be Pied Pipers for the Festival. \$50 each!! Frank will discuss details at the next meeting.
- \* Jack London Square is also looking for players for 25 September. They will pay \$300 total. Call Russ Jennings (510) 521-8257.
- \* Festa Italiana 30 Sep, 1 & 2 Oct. Also looking for players!
- \* The Board will now meet on the first Wednesday of the month to avoid interference with the second ensemble.
- \* Denny Huff will do the September Newsletter in Marian's absence.
- \* Frank Montoro will ask for a vote regarding the interest in receiving a list of members.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Frank Montoro

On Sunday, October 23rd, BAAC members and friends will be honoring **Gordon Piatanesi** on the occasion of his retirement from Colombo and Sons Accordion Corp. For almost 90 years the Piatanesi family built and imported fine accordions. The name "Colombo" was well known to thousands of accordionists in the Bay Area and throughout the West.

At one time there were no less than seven companies that built accordions in San Francisco. Colombo was the last of these to close it's doors. And while we are saddened to hear the news, Gordon's retirement will be bittersweet. He has devoted his life to his craft and his retirement at 68 is well earned. Together with his wife, Gloria, the time has come to take it easy, to travel and to enjoy his family.

Accordionists and friends of the accordion are invited to join us on Oct. 23rd at the El Patio Espanol, 2850 Alemany Blvd., San Francisco. We are planning a no-host cocktail hour at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m.. There will be strolling accordions, good food, friendship and of course, speeches.

Let's make this a special night for Gordon and Gloria by showing up in numbers to express our feelings.

Reservations will be accepted at our October 3rd meeting by Financial Secretary Glenn McClelland or you may mail reservations and checks (payable to BAAC) to him at: 872 N. Central, Campbell, CA, 95008. The deadline for reservations is October 15th.

## Badges

Bay Area Accordion Club



Comments from BAAC members indicate that not everyone understands how to get or who should have club badges. Badges cost money, and the Club has limited funds. Therefore, when we began making badges, it was decided to make up badges for paid club members only. We can't afford to make up badges for spouses or other family members. Also, if you lose your badge, we'll be happy to make you another, but the replacement cost is \$2.00. (See May Newsletter.)

This will keep our membership in nice looking badges, and our treasury in the black. Thanks.

## FOR SALE

*Petosa Accordion.*

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*overhauled by Joe Petosa.*

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*handcrafted musette reeds.*

*\$1500 or best offer.*

*Call Heidi (415) 647-8639*

## KIMBERLY

It's not as close as Cotati and the Anchorage Shopping Center, or even Accordion Camp in Oregon, but the Kimberly Accordion Championships certainly sound like a lot of fun.

Leo Aquino sent us a newsy letter in which he passed along his best wishes to personal friends at BAAC (and the general membership) and gave a full report on

Kimberly. We regret that there just isn't enough space to print it all, but we would like to thank him for the input and mention a few items which might be of interest.

The event is a combination of competition, concerts, workshops and personal interaction between accordion friends from all points of the compass. Bob Delgado played along with Barbara Ann Martin-

**FOR SALE**  
**Columbo MIDI II**  
**Double Tone Chamber**  
**Asking \$7000**  
**Tom Serafini**  
*(BAAC Charter Member!)*  
**(415) 347-3252**



*Bill Madison, Myron Floren, Tom Collins and Leo Aquino  
 Kimberly, B.C. Canada July '94*

gale as the Diamond Duo, and Myron Floren played a concert one evening to a crowd of 2300 people who enjoyed every minute of the concert and gave him a rousing ovation.

There were pancake breakfasts, Jam Sessions, spontaneous performances, birthday celebrations and a picnic. A good time was had by all!!

**MIDI Workshop Continued!!**  
*Can't go because of emergency*  
**Bob Berta** is reconvening his MIDI Workshop following the birth of his daughter earlier this year. Next Meeting is **Wednesday, October 26th at 6:00P.** Call **Bob at (510) 450-5766** to R.S.V.P. #4 Park Manor Drive in Daly City. Take 280 to John Daly Blvd. west. Turn left on Lake Merced Blvd. and right on South Mayfair.. Go uphill, turn right on Wildwood and then left on Park Manor.

### Gordon Piatanesi Testimonial Dinner

El Patio Espanol, 2850 Alemany Blvd., San Francisco, Sunday, October 23, 1994  
 No-host Cocktails at 5:00P, Dinner at 6:00P

Special Four Course Dinner Menu - Mixed Green Salad - Pasta Family Style  
 ENTREES, Served with Fresh Garden Vegetables, Bread and Butter and Two  
 Bottles of Wine Per Table and Dessert, Coffee or Tea  
 Roasted New York Strip with a Mushroom Sauce, or  
 Grilled Chicken Breast with a Rosemary Wine Sauce

DINNER RESERVATION *(Deadline for reservations is October 15)*

<input type="text"/> Roasted New York Strip @ \$26.50	Total	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/> Grilled Chicken Breast @ \$25.50	Total	<input type="text"/>

(Price includes tax and gratuity)

Name:

Phone:

**Make checks payable to BAAC**  
 Send to Glenn McClelland, 872 N. Central, Campbell, CA 95008

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## Cotati, cont. from p. 1

and Campbell Bettridge, were particularly refreshing. Great technical skill and excellent presentation as well. And speaking of youth, Peter Soave's two students, Joseph Polumbo and Michael Polansky, were also very impressive. It's encouraging to see such outstanding accordion talent in the ranks of younger players.

BAAC was well represented on the stage and BAAC members can all be proud of our Club's contribution. Peter Di Bono deserves special comment for the class and

composure he showed following Dick Contino. It appeared to me as though the lingering fans could have been moved off to the side earlier, but Peter rose above the obstacle and excelled as usual. Ed Massolo and Frank Panacci made it to the main stage this year, after being largely overlooked on the "second" stage in '93. Ron Zucca, the "Squeeze," Ron Borelli and Dave Baioni (about the only jazz offering this year), Joe Smiell's Band, Stas Wisniach, Steve Balich's Band and the Diamond Duo (which we share with Se-

attle) were other BAAC performers who "carried the flag" well.

I never could figure out where the BAAC Table was - it was mentioned often from the stage, but everytime I made my way over to the Jam Tent, the *mysterious* table eluded me. That will give us something to work on for next year.

The headliner for the Festival, Dick Contino, lived up to his advanced billing as a real crowd pleaser. It's been a few years since Dick jumped to national fame in Horace Heidt's talent contest, but his showmanship has only improved with time. We all appreciate his participation in the Festival. It would be nice to pull in some of the other nationally known names for future festival editions.

It was a longer program this year, in part because the second stage was eliminated, and personally I didn't feel the need for excessive night life, but it certainly was available for those who sought it. Steve Balich's Band did a great job at the Inn of the Beginning, and Paul Magistretti orchestrated a gathering of players and entourage at the Green Oaks Restaurant. And there was a Sunday evening gathering to reflect on the weekend's happenings at the Redwood Cafe.

Good music, good food, good friends, and good weather ..... it was a great weekend!



Ron Borelli and Dave Baioni,  
two of many BAAC performers at Cotati

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MUSICAL  
MERCHANDISE  
SINCE 1934

## Impressions

by Eino Huhtala August 8, 1994

The popularity of the accordion probably peaked during the Big Band Era, when almost every high school flaunted a marching band, and even a relatively small community could boast of a jazz orchestra or western combo, which fulfilled it's musical needs and played for public dances.

So it was in the late '30s, when, under the guidance of a young accordionist, an orchestra consisting of drums, base fiddle, banjo, guitars, mandolin, violin and horns was formed in Utah. Affectionately called a "Hillbilly Band", they were advertised as the "Park City Wranglers", although there wasn't a genuine cow puncher for miles around. They played the part, dressing in full western regalia, including leather chaparajos and 10-gallon hats. Half of the members of this unique group could read music, the rest played by ear. What they lacked in musical technique they compensated with volume, which, in some venues was a great asset, since there were very few electronic amplifiers in use then.

During the summer season this group had a gig playing a barn dance at a farm-ranch area, adjacent to an Indian Reservation. It was well known that dances in this setting occasionally became quite hectic, especially when strangers came to town and began dancing with the girlfriends of the local boys. Having been forewarned, our accordionist decided to use his old accordion to avoid any damage to his new instrument, in case fisticuffs should occur.

The evening was young, and the dance was going on beautifully. The orchestra was rendering a fox-trot version of the Tiger Rag, and, as it reached the point where the lyrics sing out "Where's the tiger?" the accordionist gave his bellows a huge jerk in order to accent the roar of the tiger. Immediately, bedlam occurred. Unknown to him, the metal pins which fastened the base section to the bellows had fallen out! Astonished and chagrined,

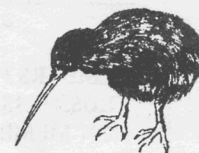
he stood there with the base section held at arms length and the bellows hanging stretched out in front of him. Eventually, pandemonium subsided, and emergency repairs were made with wooden pegs made for match sticks.

The music resumed, and the perspiring mass of dancers began to rotate around the dance floor once again. As I watched, I pondered and wondered. Why do they always move counter-clock-wise and never clockwise?

### For the Player with Everything !!!



Our confederates at Closet Accordion Players are advertising a unique item which might appeal to to the accordionist who *thinks* they already have it all. An Accordion Cookie Cutter!!! Available from Accordion Plus, 1501 Dewberry Ct., McLean VA. 22101. Price includes S & H.



## NEW ZEALAND

### ACCORDION ORCHESTRA

The accordion is very much alive and well in New Zealand. If you attended Cotati you were fortunate enough to hear **Lionel Reeke** and **Campbell Bettridge**, both young and excellent players from New Zealand. Lionel was an accomplished showman, who played traditional/popular music, while Campbell did an equally great job on selections which were more classical. Both are touring the U.S as part of the New Zealand Accordion Orchestra. (Unfortunately the tour is focused in the northeastern United States and misses California on this tour.) The Orchestra played in Mahattan at Playhouse 91 on the 3rd of September, where they shared the spotlight with New York composer-accordionist William Schimmel, who performed the world premier of two new works.

Music lovers in general and accordion fans in particular enjoyed the exhilarating performance and unique sound of the New Zealand Orchestra's 23 young people who pepper their music with a fascinating blend of reeds, drums, glockenspeil, organ, synthesizer, novelty instruments and a voice for a sound as contemporary as tomorrow. The group, which has concertized throughout the world, is conducted by Fayellen Schaw, who together with Harley Jones and Heather Masefiels serve as musical directors.

Viva la Accordion!

### New Members....

Kevin Friedrich, Kew Garden, NY  
 Roger Broda, Auburn, CA  
 Gene Feise, San Francisco, CA  
 Anita Beeth, Petaluma, CA  
 Jean Malley, Berkley, CA

Angelena Drexel, Tracy, CA  
 Mike Zambiceni, Sunnyvale, CA  
 William Heinrichs, Menlo Park  
 Marina Gonzalez, Fremont, CA  
 Dennis Mack, Visalia  
 John Martone, Novato, CA

Welcome !


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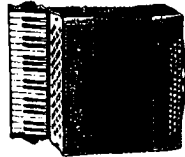
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NEXT MEETING: MONDAY  
Oct. 3rd, 1994  
7:00 PM

Donworth Hall  
22nd & Eucalyptus  
SAN FRANCISCO

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AT A  
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