

THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

OAC Calendar

August 9	Regular monthly meeting and orchestra practice
August 15	Practice at Dan Orza's house at 2:00 pm
August 29	Polka Party, Czech Hall, Yukon, OK 5:30 pm: Orchestra performance
August 30	Calvary Baptist Church, Enid, OK 6:00 pm: Orchestra performance
September 13.....	Regular monthly meeting
October 3.....	Plaza District: possibility of playing -- pending job
October 11	Regular monthly meeting AIDS WALK in Bricktown Noonish: pending job
November 8.....	Regular monthly meeting
December 13	Regular monthly meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, August 9, at the Messiah Lutheran Church, which is located at the intersection of NW Expressway and Portland Ave., just west of I-44 and Baptist Hospital, and across the street from Deaconess Hospital on Portland Ave. Festivities begin at 2:30, when the orchestra rehearsal starts. At

3:30 our meeting begins, followed by individual and group performances, and then a "jam session" follows until 5:00 or 5:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to come, and everyone is encouraged to perform. If you are shy about playing alone, some of us will play with you.



The Prez Sez

Bill Henson

Well, I hope it has been hot enough for everyone. I have been out working in the heat over the past month, and it has been hotter than I can remember for a long time. When I moved to Oklahoma, they told me if I didn't like the weather, just wait and it will change.

If you planned on going to the Big Squeeze that we had planned, I need to tell you that we have decided to cancel it this time because of scheduling problems with several members of the club. We will have our normal meeting, as scheduled, at the same meeting location.

If you are concerned about our change of plans, I wouldn't worry. I'm sure there will be plenty to keep everyone busy. Dan is working hard to keep the orchestra involved, and we are being sought out by several groups to perform, so if you can work it in your schedule, let Dan know of your interest.

I don't know how many of you have played with groups before, but the nice thing about playing with a group is that there are several different expertise levels that all join to make one really good performance. I myself, normally, will play a third part since I am still pretty low in my playing ability. However, someday I hope to improve my level of skills, and this is where we need your assistance.

Plan on coming to our next meeting and we would like to hear you play your accordion -- ether individually or with a group. We all respect each other, and I believe it is good to perform with your club members.

If I haven't told any of you lately, I want to tell you now that I appreciate all of you. Nice people make life really nice.



Editor's Note

Because of a PSO power failure, a couple of pieces of my computer equipment bit the dust and had to be replaced. As a result, this issue of the Squeezins was delayed.



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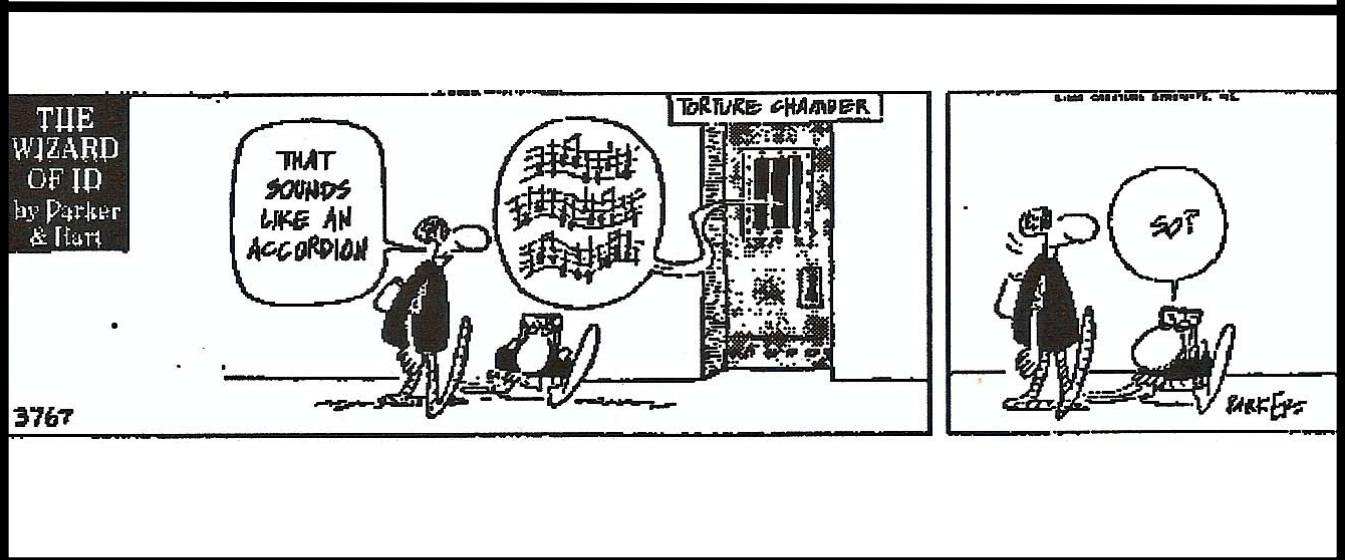
I recently had a conversation with an old friend in my hometown of Erie, PA. He was telling me how the accordion has almost vanished from view. I can remember when there were 20 small groups playing every weekend. Almost all the groups had an accordion, because of its versatility to play all types of music. Now there are only two working groups in Erie, but both have accordions. There were five accordion schools with approximately 12 to 15 teachers. Now there are no schools, and you have to look for an accordion teacher.

I must be in accordion heaven. Since our picnic on June 14th, I have played on an Oklahoma River cruise, at a garden party, at a French celebration, for a college, Italian music at an Italian restaurant, polka music at a Czech Hall, and at a retirement home. I have played solo, enjoyed playing with the Oklahoma Accordion band ensemble, played duets with Kyle Dillingham of Horseshoe Road fame, and played with the big band sound

of the Bohemian Knights under the leadership of my friend, Milo Shedeck. Guess what, the future months look very exciting as well. I would say that the accordion is alive in Oklahoma.

Well, enough about me. Let's talk about the best accordion club in this great world. The meetings have been a lot of fun with good attendance. I think everyone comes to hear our president, Billy Henson, tell short stories and jokes. Bob Mansfield, our librarian, has our music library well under way, and is currently working on a list of available music. Beth Henson, our secretary, keeps us all honest, and Jimmie Woolly, our VP, is there to balance the voting. Maestro Dan Orza keeps all our feet tappin' while directing the OAC band.

Our expenses to date for July are \$46.28. We received no income to date, and the checkbook balance is \$1,439.61. See you all on August 9th at the Messiah Lutheran Church. I'm the guy that looks like he just played an accordion.



July Meeting

Beth and Bill Henson



Diana Richard and Evie Albreski prepare refreshments



President Bill Henson presiding over the meeting



Sandor Silagi performing



Hannah Boydston plays her recorder as proud grandmother Jackie Mashore looks on



Evie Albreski visits with Richard and June Butricks



Karen West performing her piece

July Meeting

Beth and Bill Henson



Members listening to the performances



Dan Orza, Dick Albreski, Lois Roth, Karen West, and Bob Mansfield



Bob Mansfield demonstrating bellows control to the club, with Sandor Silagi, Lois Roth, and Karen West practicing his techniques



Jackie Mashore and granddaughter Hannah Boydston play their recorders



Lois Roth contemplating her navel before practice



July Meeting Minutes

Beth Henson

- There were 17 members and 6 guests present.
- President Bill Henson called the meeting to order.
- Photos of members at the March National Accordion Convention and the OAC orchestra's performance at the OKC Italian Festival in June were circulated.
- Bill presented new member Sandor Silagi with his OAC nametag.
- A note to Dan Orza from the Rotary Club was circulated, thanking him for his performance at the Rotary Conference on May 1, 2009.
- Everyone was happy to see Jackie Mashore after her lengthy absence from club meetings and activities.
- Visitors were recognized: Lani Taylor, Stacey Silagi, June Butricks, Will Chan, Sarah Chan, and Hannah Boydston.
- Dick and Evie Albreski received a big thank you from the membership for hosting the summer picnic at their home. The event was a lot of fun for everyone.
- Dick will perform at the garden club in Surrey Hills tomorrow (July 13).
- Dan Orza reported the orchestra will perform at Spanish Cove, Yukon, on July 17.

- The Big Squeeze scheduled for August has been cancelled. The regular monthly meeting will be held at the church on August 9.
- Bob Mansfield stated that Jairon Baquero will repeat his June recital in September, and he will have the venue and time by the next meeting. Jairon did a great job at the Norman recital.
- As usual, there were a number of outstanding performances from our great, talented members:
 - Karen West – “Sweet Georgia Brown”
 - Sandor Silagi – “Lilli Marline” and “Du, Du Licht Mir In Herten”
 - Jackie Mashore and her granddaughter Hannah Boydston played their recorders and performed “Ode to Joy” and “When the Saints Go Marching In.” Hannah closed out their session with a song of her choice, a very good rendition of “Amazing Grace.”
 - Dick Albreski – “Bourrasque” and “Paris Tour Eiffel”
 - Bob Mansfield – “Green Light” by Charles Magnante, “Parigi”, and “La Cabana Mysteriosa”
- Jackie announced that the band Mountain Smoke will have a CD release party soon.
- Bob Mansfield presented a very informative session on bellows control and bellows shakes, which the membership found interesting and helpful.
- The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Henson



- Q: What's the best way to play an accordion?
A: With a hacksaw.
- Q: What's the least used sentence in the English language?
A: "Is that the accordion player's Porsche?"

- Q: What do you say to an accordion player in a three-piece suit?
A: Will the defendant please rise.
- Q: What's the difference between an accordion and a chainsaw?
A: A chainsaw has greater dynamic range.



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership Form

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone (____) _____ Birthday (mm/dd) ____/____ (optional)

Newsletter

I prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, the Oklahoma Squeezins, by:

- E-mail at address (above) or at _____
 Conventional post (snail mail)

Membership Dues

The OAC membership year runs from January through December. Membership cost is prorated quarterly for new members.

- Primary Membership is \$16.00 per year per individual.
 Family Membership is \$8.00 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Membership.
 Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$180.
 Youth Membership is complimentary for accordion-playing youth through age 18.

Your Status (please check all that apply):

- Professional Semi-Professional Amateur Student
 Associate Hobby Teacher Repairman/Repairwoman
 Other (specify) _____

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