



The REEDER

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NEWS & VIEWS by Mary Ann Love

GET WELL

Lillian Krueger is recovering from successful surgery.

Peg Davis has entered another round of chemotherapy.

Bob Provart is home after receiving therapy in St. Luke's Hospital.

Guy Vaccaro and Betty Ford are scheduled for eye surgery.

Kathleen Cenatiempo is again taking treatments for some recurring health problems.

Keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.

Bill Nesslein has returned to some club functions. While he was recovering from back problems, he spent a lot of time reading. A memorable line that he shared with us is: "Worry about nothing – Pray about everything."

CONGRATULATIONS

... to Ernie Roberts for his retirement from Boeing on September 29.

... to Bob and Leta Provart for observing their 50th wedding anniversary on October 13.

... to Frank Muriel for his son, Frankie, appearing on the cover of St. Louis Sound Magazine and featuring his band, Dr.Zhivagas.

WELCOME BACK

... to Returning Member: Carroll Markivee

WELCOME TO VISITORS

On September 12 our visitors consisted of Anne and Mike Murphy. Anne is the daughter of Ralph Barber and the couple wanted to tag along to investigate 'What is all this interest in the harmonica and club functions that keeps Dad so intrigued?' Anne and Mike were very gracious and conversed with many of the members. To our delight it was discovered that Mike is actually aka Patrick Murphy of Channel 9. PBS Station Channel 9 is one of the sources of discovery Ralph Barber used in searching out how to contact and join the club. The segment shown periodically on

Living St. Louis features the club and brings many inquiries.

UNIFORMS & PROGRAMS

The summer polo shirt will be replaced with the red vest, long sleeve white shirts on November 1 for scheduled performances. The Holiday music program will be practiced and performed when appropriate, so dust off your holiday sheet music binder and bring to practice. Don't forget "Bless This House" for Thanksgiving Day events.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Chris Pondo surprised (and shocked) the club with a costume and the song "Be-witched" along with silly antics and complete with tricks and treats. We didn't know what mischief was coming at us next. Thanks, Chris, for adding a little fun and excitement. And we thought you were so reserved!!

THANK YOU NOTE

8-29-06

Dear Gateway Harmonica Club,

Thanks so much for entertaining us at our Club 50+ in O'Fallon, MO at the parish hall. We found it very uplifting since right now we are reminded of the anniversary of 9/11 and the hurricanes.

Thanks for sharing your talents and we are planning to see you again sometime.

Norma Prinster
 Secretary, Club 50+



THE GHC REEDER is a bimonthly publication of the Gateway Harmonica Club, Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of the harmonica. The club meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM at the Rock Hill Baptist Church, 9125 Manchester, Brentwood, MO.

Inquiries about membership should be directed to:

Buddy Hirsch, Treasurer
47 Orchard Lane
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 821-8651
e-mail: BuddyHarmonica@aol.com

For information about club activities, contact:

Mary Ann Love, President
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To schedule a club performance, contact:

Charlie Pratte
1547 Azalea Drive
Webster Groves, MO 63119
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All other correspondence should be directed to:

Chris Pondo
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1166 Waldorf Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63137
(314) 868-9557

Information about the club's activities is also available on the World Wide Web at:

www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org

Happy Birthday!!!

Birthday greetings are extended to the following members of the GHC family who are celebrating birthdays in November and December.

November

Marlin Woodring 11/11
Arpad deKallos 11/12
Leo Kluesner 11/16
Jerry Kohler 11/22
Dan Welsch 11/24
Martine Wirth 11/25
Wendy Wilbraham 11/29
Paul Cochran 11/30

December

Bill Mann 12/8
Audria Gebhardt 12/9
Ed Cenatiempo 12/10
Rudy Michelin 12/11
Melba Lackey 12/13
Shirley Perez 12/17
Jean Markivee 12/21
Gloria Cochran 12/22
Joe Fey 12/24
Mary Carol Kluesner 12/26
Tina Cassimatis 12/26
Ernst Hackmann 12/27
Peggy Davis 12/28
Chris Pondo 12/29
Elva Bottchen 12/31

Editors Note: Please notify us if you or your spouse's birthday is missed or incorrect.

MY WONDERFUL HUSBAND

By Peg Davis

In 1961 Frank joined the Masonic Lodge at Wentzville. By 1973 he had advanced through all the chairs and was Worshipful Master of the Lodge. The same year he was Master our son, Rick, was Master Counselor of the DeMolay Chapter and our daughter, Vicky, was Honored Queen of the Job's Daughters. Mom was president of the DeMolay mothers club and secretary of the Job's Daughters council.

Rick joined the Lodge in 1980 and was Worshipful Master in 1987. The gavel was passed from father to son. In the meantime Frank got the job of being secretary in 1984. By now he has been secretary of the Wentzville Lodge for 22 years.



Each year there is a Grand Lodge Convention that lasts for two days. This year it was in Columbia, MO. on Sept. 25th and 26th. Frank went to Columbia on the 25th (his 75th birthday) with some other men. They came home that evening and went back the next morning. Well, there was a banquet the evening of the 25th and Frank was awarded the "Secretary of the Year" award. He should have stayed for the banquet but got his award the next day.

Frank attained a dual membership and joined the "Pride of the West" Lodge in St. Charles. His installation was on Sept. 13th and Joe Fey, Henry Gerfen, and Bill Dulin came to the installation and we had some great entertainment.

Frank is truly a "joiner". The kids got him a T-shirt that says "Stop me before I volunteer again"

Congratulations, Frank! And thanks for all your charitable and good works in that organization as well as the Gateway Harmonica Club!

The program included harmonica music performed by Frank, Joe Fey, Henry Gerfen, and Bill Dulin. Frank also passed out harmonicas as gifts to those present. A harmonica was featured on the invitation and program. The audience collected \$58 and presented it to Frank Davis for the musical performance, which Frank donated to the Gateway Harmonica Club. Thanks, Frank and others



2006 HARMONICA CONVENTION

August 15—19

Denver, Colorado • Renaissance Denver Hotel

We are presenting several reviews on the Denver SPAH. It's interesting how different people attend the same function, but come away with very diverse impressions.

SPAH 2006 REPORT

By Bill Dulin

August means SPAH. The trip to Denver was interesting. We couldn't afford to fly from St. Louis because of the high ticket prices so we decided to drive. We planned to stop in Kansas City for lunch with an old friend and continue to drive as far as we could across the vast wasteland of Kansas. I have often said I would rather take a beating than drive across Kansas. On a lark I decided to check on the air fare from Kansas City to Denver. I was surprised to find that Southwest Airlines had recently started scheduled flights from Kansas City to Denver and the fare was \$50.00 each way. We decided to drive to KC and fly from there to Denver.

We arrived in Denver late Tuesday afternoon and went directly to the hotel to register. We spent the rest of the evening visiting with old friends. This was my fourth SPAH and I have gotten to know many of the regulars. They have become good friends so it was a lot like a family reunion.

It was well after midnight before we reached our motel to get a little sleep before starting in again.

Open mic is a fun part of SPAH. A player or group could sign up for a ten minute period on a sign-up list which was posted every day. There was a problem with the CD player which was used to play accompaniment recordings, but it was finally straightened out. There was also a problem with the CD player in Kansas City last year so next year I may take my own. Some of the St. Louis club members performed together and I thought we sounded pretty good. I was scheduled to play in the last time slot on the last day but the open mic performances were cut short due to a seminar which had been moved into the open mic room. As it turned out Audria was the last to play instead of me.

On the first full day of SPAH at open mic Mary Ann told me that one of her reeds had gone bad. I told her that Jimmy Gordon was there and maybe he could fix it for her. As we left the open mic room we almost literally ran into him. Even though it took an hour or so of his time to change the reed, he was very gracious and happy to help.

There are seminars and demonstrations all day and a show every night with some of the top harmonica players. There

is always harmonica playing in the lobbies so there is always something to do.

The Sardo brothers, Tony and Phil, have become well known at the SPAH conventions. I first met them at the SPAH in Dallas in 2003. It was my first SPAH and also theirs. I now regard them as good friends. Tony plays the guitar while also playing the harmonica and Phil plays along with him. Together they really sound great and this year they made a CD, "Harmonicas Unchained". They can usually be found in the lobby with chairs pulled up so that anyone can join them.

Each year the SPAH has a store with harmonicas and related items for sale. Members can sell items and SPAH takes a cut of the sale price. I have been collecting and repairing harmonicas for several years and I took eight harmonicas with me to sale at the store. I sold seven of the eight and bought two.

Every night at seven there is a show. This year I believe some of the acts were just too long. I can't believe I just wrote that as much as I enjoy the great performances but every night the shows would last for four or five hours. At the end of a long day that is just a bit too much. Also, the diatonic players had their amps turned up way too loud for me. It is a lucky thing I always carry ear plugs with me.

Our flight back to Kansas City wasn't until Monday morning so we took Sunday to drive into the mountains. We went to Idaho Springs and took Virginia Canyon Road over to Central City and Black Hawk. I had made that drive a couple of times before. It is a breath taking ride with switch-backs up the side of the mountains on a dirt road with a spectacular view and no guard rails. My passenger was a little apprehensive but we made it without any trouble. There are lots of old gold mines along the road which reminded me my great-grandfather was there during the gold rush of 1859. Needless to say he didn't find his fortune. The area had really changed since I was last there. Both Central City and Black Hawk have become gambling centers with one casino after another. We had lunch in one of the casinos and I lost \$1.75 in a slot machine before I came to my senses.

The return flight to Kansas City and drive to St. Louis was uneventful. Next year the SPAH convention will be in Milwaukee. It will be a short trip compared to Denver and we are planning to go.



SPAH 2006 REPORT

By Audria Gebhardt

I was excited to attend the SPAH in Denver because I was determined to absorb (and hopefully learn) as much Blues harmonica playing as possible. I play chromatic also, but feel I am more of a neophyte on the diatonic, so I wanted to return to St. Louis being able to play the Blues a little better.

We arrived mid to late Tuesday afternoon in Denver. We drove to Kansas City and then flew to Denver (Bill said he would rather take a beating than drive across Kansas...nobody likes driving across Kansas from what I have heard). We attended the Welcome Ceremony that evening followed by an open mic for whoever wanted to play. I played a couple chromatic pieces. We tried to check out some of the Blues players at a location in town, however, by the time we struggled through the cumbersome highway construction, closed lanes and poor directional signs, it was late by the time we arrived and decided not to stay.

Wednesday was the first full day of activity and it set the tone for the week with me. I would usually head for where the Blues workshops were being held. Jimi Lee had an informal Blues circle in the hall on Wednesday (he played guitar and each harmonica player played for 12 bars). I gathered my nerves and played with them (it was intimidating with so many more experienced players, but it was my way of telling myself that I am serious about learning to play the diatonic). There were a few more women Blues players there than last year and that was nice to see. Thursday through Saturday from 12:30 p.m. until approximately 3:00 p.m., I attended Joe Filisko's Blues Teach-In in the ballroom. Approximately six or eight diatonic professionals would have their own table in the ballroom where they would teach a particular facet of playing or repairing the diatonic. All three days, I wound up in the beginner group with Johnny Bishop (he also used to work for Hohner, so he literally knew diatonics inside and out). He was an excellent teacher; as he was flexible and would coach each person individually from their level to help them learn the couple riffs he was teaching. He also showed us how to use more tongue blocking for playing Blues (I am working on that).

Every evening at 7:00 p.m., it was show time in the ballroom. There were excellent chromatic players as: Winslow Yerxa, PT Gazell, The Hotshots (Al & Judy Smith), Yellow Pine Trio, Li Jiao, Korean Harmonica Ensemble (played mostly tremolos), Robert Bonfiglio (such a range; he played mostly classical, but ended with some Blues to show his versatility), Stan Harper and Blues players such as Buzz Krantz, Allen Holmes, Jimi Lee, Gary Primich, Dennis Gruenling and last but not least Jason Ricci (he is not only a great Blues player, but a very nice person).

Of course there was harmonica music flowing from every nook and cranny in the hotel where harmonica players gathered. The Sardo brothers, from California, led their usual play-a-long from couches in the hall. This is a favor-

ite of many chromatic players, plus they do all the songs in the key of C which makes it easier for those who play by ear. There were Blues players at another couch and there was a group of Blue Grass players in the hall this year (they were excellent). We were all kids in the harmonica players' candy store. For me personally, I needed to clone myself in order to take in all I wanted. I did not get a chance to check out the Jazz open mic this year as I had done in previous years, but I will next year in Milwaukee.

Not sure how much improvement I detect in my playing, but my ears sure feasted on some of the best Blues players around. Up until now, I think I was too intimidated by some of the outstanding Blues playing I have heard at SPAH to approach any of the Blues harmonica players. However, this year I did approach a couple people. One was Ben Nathanson, who I heard play at the nightly Blues circle. His playing connected with how I would like to play. I asked him about his playing, how he started, his harmonica favorites etc. and he took some time and told me a bit of his harmonica history. He later sent me a CD of him and Jason Ricci playing together at a performance in New Jersey where he resides. One of the nice things about the recording is that Jason Ricci tells the audience in New Jersey that he met Ben Nathanson while at the 2004 SPAH in St. Louis and he spoke highly of Ben's playing. When I returned home to St. Louis, I joined Harp-L (an internet site for harmonica players, mostly diatonic) and because I was the 1,369th person to join, I won a CD compilation of harmonica music (what a surprise). The other Blues harp player I met was Fred Stover,

who is from St. Louis. I told him about our Blues group and that we meet for an hour every Tuesday night. I invited him to not only join us, but that we would be open to helpful instruction. It seems that Fred has been to two of Jon Gindick's Blues Workshops and he is a good Blues harmonica player. Fred attended our Tuesday evening Blues group and brought printed instructional aids for those present. While Fred was there, Jeff Winders also attended that evening. Fred and Jeff have been in communication with one another and are planning a Blues harmonica get together at Jeff's house on November 8, 2006 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. They are going to try to do this on possibly a monthly basis. I know by the time you read this the time will be short, but if you are interested in attending, call Jeff at 314-703-0130 to advise you will attend and get directions if needed. The address is: 128 Tara Ridge Court, Ballwin, MO 63021.

Not only was SPAH a wonderful convention this year, but having it in Denver allowed us to see some beautiful mountain vistas. We were fortunate to be able to spend an extra day in Denver after SPAH ended. We had a picturesque ride in the mountains, however, I was a bit anxious while on a narrow, switchback, no barricade, gravel road.

The time at SPAH always seems to pass so quickly, however, there is always next year to look forward to more harmonica fun in Milwaukee where we all reconnect with old friends we only get to see at SPAH and make new friends.



The following article was featured on Front Page of the Wall Street Journal on October 19, 2006 and submitted by Richard Krueger.

ONE MORE REASON TO PLAY HARMONICA: IT'S GOOD FOR THE PIPES

All the Inhaling and Exhaling Has Instrument's Boosters Just a Bit Breathless

By Sharon Begley

Terry Rand is a member of the Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica. He has played the instrument since he was a kid. At 71, he travels around the Naples, FL, area giving out harmonicas like a latter-day Johnny Appleseed. He doesn't want to see the instrument, which has been in a decades-long decline, die out.

Mr. Rand was heartened that the newest "American Idol," Taylor Hicks, wowed the judges with his prowess on the harmonica. He was delighted that in early August, "America's Got Talent" featured the 12-year-old harmonica wunderkind L.D. Miller.

But to survive and even thrive, the harmonica needs more than that. And Mr. Rand thinks he knows what: the harmonica is good for your pipes.

"There has been an increase in sales in the last few years, and you've got to figure that the folks spreading the word about how the harmonica strengthens lungs has something to do with it," says Bill Greenhaigh, sales manager of Hohner Inc., Glen Allen, VA, the world's largest harmonica maker.

Mr. Rand and others in the harmonica society have been passing out the instruments at senior centers, hospitals, churches, schools and other places people congregate.

"The harmonica is losing its popularity because most of us are getting old," says Mr. Rand. "We need young blood to keep it going. I have given away hundreds of harmonicas and I can tell you, the numbers that appreciate the health benefits outnumber the playing enthusiasts."

The harmonica was invented in 1821, when German clockmaker Christian Ludwig Buschmann, age 16, assembled 15 pitch pipes into a single four-inch-wide instrument. Named the mundäoline, German for mouth harp, it was first mass-produced by another clockmaker, Matthias Hohner, who founded his eponymous company in 1857 and that same year began shipping some of his mouth harps to cousins in America, where the instrument's popularity took off.

Those first harmonicas looked and worked much as today's. The basic 10-hole diatonic plays the natural notes of a scale (as do the white keys of a piano, without sharps or flats), and comes in any of 12 keys. Each hole has two reeds, one that plays during exhalations and one during inhalations; blowing on the fourth hole of a C diatonic produces a C, while drawing (inhaling) produces a D.

No-frills harmonicas sell for about \$4, while a decent 10-hole model made in China goes for about \$9, complete with instruction booklet. Hohner sells harmonicas in all price ranges, including an \$1,800 Amadeus model.

Buddy Wakefield, 83, has given out more than 5,000 harmonicas in hospitals, nursing homes, patient-support groups and asthma camps for kids, with the help of the American Lung Association. The Newport News, VA, retiree, who was a fire chief at an Amoco refinery, says he learned to play the instrument "under my front porch, where they couldn't reach me with a stick." He first thought of the health possibilities when his brother developed Parkinson's disease. Mr. Wakefield showed him that

playing was as beneficial a breathing exercise as blowing out candles, as his brother's doctor had prescribed.

"If you can breathe and read arrows, you can play the harmonica," says Mr. Wakefield. "Heck, in five minutes I could teach you to play Mozart."

Mr. Rand, still looks like the basketball All-American he was at Marquette University, where in the mid-1950s he was the team's leading scorer and rebounder in each of his three seasons. Now a financial adviser in Naples, he is spending some of his own money to buy harmonicas by the case and give them away to just about anyone willing to purse his lips and blow. He has also sweet-talked some of the financial giants whose products he sells, including ING, Transamerica and General Electric, to contribute 100 harmonicas at a pop for him to give away during his rounds.

One summer afternoon found Mr. Rand zipping south on I-75 toward Naples. The moment traffic slowed in front of his Lincoln Navigator, he pulled a harmonica out for a quick rendition of "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

"You change your breath 20 times in 'Yankee Doodle,' "he said as 18-wheelers zoomed past. "Playing one verse of that is the pulmonary equivalent of walking one-tenth of a mile."

Although research papers haven't been published on the possible or actual therapeutic use of harmonica playing in respiratory disorders, "there is definitely a rationale for it," says pulmonologist Neil Schachter, professor of medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. Pursed-lip breathing, in which one inhales through the nose and exhales slowly through almost-closed lips while tightening the abdominal muscles, has long been used as a physical therapy for patients with impaired lung function. By raising air pressure within the airways, breathing that way can strengthen the lungs' air sacs and reduce their risk of collapsing or narrowing. Playing the harmonica requires pursed-lip breathing.

At New Hope Ministries, a fundamentalist church in Naples, Mr. Rand passed out sheet music to "When the Saints Go Marching In" to the 15 people plus Pastor (and harmonica virtuoso) Grant Thigpen who had taken seats in the front pews.

Your lungs work like bellows," he told them. "Most people use only the top third of their lungs, so the amount of oxygen getting to your brain is decreased. But playing the harmonica is really good for keeping the old bellows going. It really expands your lung capacity."

He explained the "When the Saints" is a two-fer. It is easy to play using the sheet music (which uses up-and-down-arrows to indicate when to inhale notes and when to exhale) and also excellent pulmonary exercise, since the multiple breath changes give the diaphragm a workout. Other wind instruments aren't as beneficial, the theory goes, because they either don't involve pursed lips or don't have inhaled notes. Several members of the congregation tried it, and soon the notes were floating up to the sanctuary ceiling.

"You've got to have fun doing this!" Mr. Rand told them. "Don't try rap music or rock, but hymns are easy to learn."

Playing the harmonica might help patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema, asthma and chronic bronchitis, Mr. Rand told his church audience. He explained the pulmonary benefits of pursed-lip breathing, and explained that playing the harmonica also exercises the diaphragm and abdominal muscles, both of which become weaker in emphysema and bronchitis: “When you play the harmonica, you have to push out as much air as you can from the lungs, which means you’ve got to squeeze with your lower rib cage.”

He told his audience that he intends to “track them down” to see that they have practiced what he’s teaching them, and it’s clear he has made at least a few converts. Laura Murphy was recently in the hospital for lung problems, she said, where she did breathing exercises – inhaling and holding her breath – to strengthen her lungs. “This is a lot more fun,” she said.

“The harmonica is just a little fellow,” said Mr. Wakefield, “but he does a lot of good for a lot of people.”

Online Today: Listen to Terry Rand play “Yankee Doodle” on the harmonica at WSJ.com/OnlineToday

TRIP TO POLAND - AUGUST 2006

By Christine Pondo

During the first two weeks of August, I vacationed in Poland, the birthplace of all my grandparents. It was fantastic! I wanted my first trip to Europe to be in a country I have heard about, studied and loved for all my life.



Lazienki Park in Warsaw has a wonderful statue of Fredrick Chopin, Poland’s greatest composer, surrounded by a water pool and rose garden and concerts are given there each Sunday during summer. I love to sit at my piano and play his mazurkas, waltzes, etudes and

the polonaise. The seventeenth century palace of King Stanislaw Poniatowski was filled with beautiful art, sculptures, paintings, tapestries and decorative furniture. The lake in front was dotted with white swans, ducks and peacocks and the lovely paths through gardens and woods were so peaceful.

So much of this city was destroyed during WWII and now the reconstruction is a beautiful sight.

Czestochowa is a pilgrimage center of Poland where the miraculous icon of the Black Madonna is venerated. It was very inspirational as were the museums dedicated to Pope John Paul II and Lech Walesa, two great peacemakers of our world.

On to Cracow, a designated UNESCO site for preservation of its historic buildings and culture. The Old Town Square was filled with excitement day and night. All types of entertainers perform here including: virtuoso accordianists, trumpeters, violinists, mimes, puppets, breakdancers and ME TOO! I played harmonica. WHAT A BLAST! I also enjoyed an old Italian opera here.

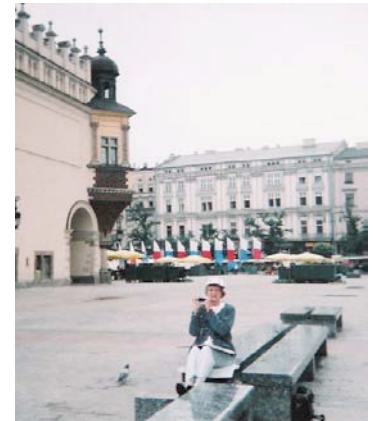


Our group also toured the Jagiellonian University where Copernicus studied, St. Mary’s church (one of the largest in Europe), and Wawel Castle on the Vistula River, filled with medieval artifacts. The old town was filled with lovely restaurants, hotels, monuments, craft shops and a big music store where I bought several songbooks and you will be hearing this music at harmonica rehearsals.

Traveling south on our bus, we had beautiful views of the luscious farmlands, green and organically grown foods that taste so good. There were picture perfect small villages with red roof, wooden homes decorated with carvings and flower gardens. Flowers are everywhere in Poland and I guess that’s why I love gardening.

Zakopane is a smaller city in the Tatra Mountains where skiing and hiking are favorite sports. It reminded me of Gatlinburg in the Great Smokey Mountains here, with beautiful views, sheep grazing, tall trees, ski lifts and country music – the Gorales. I played lively music with one of these bands at our hotel restaurant and was it FUN! I got many carved wooden crafts and a flowered shawl here and admired the wonderful hand work of the mountain folks.

Lublin is another historic city dating back to the thirteenth century and our knowledgeable, handsome, college student guide there was Slawek Nowodworski. After our walk through old town, college, palace and church he played harmonica- - “St. Louis Blues” on diatonic and “If I Were A Rich Man” on chromatic- - was I surprised! I played some Polish folk tunes for him and he is very interested in our club, wants our CD’s and will send us some JAZZ harmonica CD’s. I hope we can keep in touch.



At the banquet on our last night in the capital city we were entertained by the Warsaw Song and Dance Ensemble wearing traditional costumes and performing the beautiful music from different regions of Poland – just like my ancestors, grandparents, parents and I have done for so many years. I thank God for my beautiful trip to Poland, safe journey and meeting so many nice people.

However, there was one horrible day – August 11 – terrorist alert at all airports! Warsaw was in mass confusion and we had to stand in long lines for four hours. The last hour was like a mob scene through tedious and slow security checks. The plane was two hours late leaving and we couldn’t take purses, food, books or any bags onto it. Eight hours later at Newark airport, I missed my St. Louis connection and had to spend fourteen hours overnight there. Wow! I didn’t like that at all. Well, I will never forget my first trip to Europe! My bed felt sooo good when I finally got home the next day and slept with sweet dreams of fantastic Poland.

If any other GHC member would like to share their travel adventures, you are most welcome to submit your stories.

GHC Events Calendar

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday evening meetings at Rock Hill Baptist Church, 9125 Manchester, St. Louis, MO 63144:

6:30 PM - Blues Group, led by Louise Cook — Everyone welcome

7:00 PM - First Tuesday of month: Business Meeting — Everyone welcome

All other Tuesdays: Band Rehearsal — Everyone welcome

8:00 PM - Open Mic — Everyone welcome

PERFORMANCES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

A schedule of upcoming Gateway Harmonica Club performances and special events is distributed bimonthly at our business meeting. For the most current schedule, including maps and customized driving directions, go to www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org/calendar

CATCHING UP WITH OUR PAST

Judy and Ron Beer, 10/27/06

In appropriate style for the time, we selected a sampling of wedding photos to remind us of that special day and were happy to share with family and friends. This was not a coffee table album, so eventually we discovered that it would fit in our living room hide-a-bed. Not rocket science, but efficient. Many years and two moves later with our young family, the album faithfully remained accessible, but under cover.

A challenge with one child involved a search for a private school, and my wife and her father had both attended a school with roots in St. Louis.

All was resolved. We rented our house furnished for one year and rented a house in St. Louis, MO. I was granted a leave of absence from my job for that year and down we came. As it turned out, remaining here intact appeared to be best for the family. Our landlord extended his stay away from St. Louis and our tenants were happy to stay put in our house. They took excellent care of house and furnishings, although the sofa bed succumbed after many years of service, and we gave our tenants permission to throw out the remains. We forgot the album!

Later we sold the house to our tenants and retrieved most of our furniture, but no album.

Fast forward.

One recent morning Jim M. called to ask if the name David Mc N. meant anything, and while a bell rang I could not immediately pin the source down. Jim then said something about a wedding album. Good clue! Apparently the album had been moved into a different piece of furniture, but when it surfaced our renters had lost track of us. We had left the St. Louis rental house, which was sold to a family we had not known.

Then along came the Internet.

David went to Google, entered our first names and our surname, and was directed to the Gateway web site. This was the only three-name link. In contacting Jim, the distant family was assured, at least, that the names clicked. Their phone number was made available, so Judy called that evening and had a pleasant visit with David's wife. We will retrieve the album on a visit north unless it can be mailed or delivered in some other manner.

Small wonders in a pretty big world. We are very grateful for the care our tenants exhibited in holding onto the book since we likely won't do it all again just for the pictures. We also share our appreciation for Jim's management of the club Web site. We surmise that the name link may have been possible because of the inclusion on the Web of the Reeder wherein our names appear in the record of our trip last March.

I wonder if we will recognize one another?

MAMA INEZ

(Words by L. Wolfe Gilbert, Music by Eliseo Grenet)

This song was brought back to the club from the Simpson/Smith Workshop SPAH Convention of August 2006 and is on the agenda for the club to learn in 4-part harmony. Many have never heard this song. It is to be played briskly and has a Latin flavor (as the words indicate). I am unable to explain why Mama's name is spelled differently in the title and lyrics! It should add some fun, pep and spicy hot zing to our repertoire.

In Sloppy Joe's in Havana, I lingered quenching my thirst.

I saw a dancer there that was really where I saw her first.

Such graceful beauty and rhythm had never come to my sight.

She made me want to stay, danced my heart away most every night.

Oh Mom-e-nez, Oh Mom-e-nez, They hum and strum that la rumba for you.

Oh Mom-e-nez, Oh Mom-e-nez, Though others come, their la rumba won't do.

When I first saw this she bango, I fell so hard for the tango.

But now this brand new fan dango's got me like nothin' got me before,

Oh Mom-e-nez, Oh Mom-e-nez, No Cuban rum like la rumba for me.

Oh Mom-e-nez, Oh Mom-e-nez, I'm deaf and dumb when is rumba I see.

Oh Mom-e-nez, Oh Mom-e-nez, my limbs get numb oh la rumba for me.

Hawaiians dance in a crude way, the Africans in a lewd way,

And though you dance in a new way every one loves your wonderful style.

Oh Mom-e-nez, I'm blue and glum, dance la rumba for me.

THIS VETERAN'S DAY

I watched the flag pass by one day,
 It fluttered in the breeze.
 A young Marine saluted it,
 And then he stood at ease..
 I looked at him in uniform
 So young, so tall, so proud,
 With hair cut square and eyes alert
 He'd stand out in any crowd.
 I thought how many men like him
 Had fallen through the years.
 How many died on foreign soil
 How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?
 How many died at sea
 How many foxholes were soldiers'
 graves?
 No, freedom isn't free.
 I heard the sound of Taps one night,
 When everything was still,
 I listened to the bugler play
 And felt a sudden chill.
 I wondered just how many times
 That Taps had meant "Amen,"

When a flag had draped a coffin.
 Of a brother or a friend.
 I thought of all the children,
 Of the mothers and the wives,
 Of fathers, sons and husbands
 With interrupted lives.
 I thought about a graveyard
 At the bottom of the sea
 Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
 No, freedom isn't free.



Piow Kan Pang Penang, Malaysia

A harmonica signals breakfast for two appreciative pigs in a village in Fujian, China. "When they heard the music, they came near and stood up," photographer Piow Kan Pang recalls.

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