



The REEDER

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NEWS & VIEWS by Mary Ann Love

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

What a treat in the middle of July to attend a cool party with a name like Christmas! The ladies auxiliary makes our get-togethers better and better. It was nice to see familiar faces and make acquaintance with several spouses we haven't met before. Thanks, ladies, it was so nice and fun for all!

SPAH 2008

A St. Louis Planning Committee for the SPAH 2008 convention will meet on Wednesday, September 19, at the Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet hotel following a scheduled gig at 9:00 AM (meeting probably at 10:00 AM). If any members or spouses can participate, please attend this session.

Sharon Davis has assumed responsibility to coordinate the ladies events at the SPAH convention in August 2008, with Teresa Stieven volunteering to oversee the silent auction (ladies, be gathering items and bring them to the December meeting); Judy Beer will lead the tours, and Sharon Davis will host the hospitality room. This is a suite for the attendees to gather in during the day for relaxation, socialization, games, refreshments, and prizes. Sharon also asks the ladies to be on the lookout for \$1 prizes. Other ladies will be asked to volunteer to help in each of the above categories. Your help is necessary and appreciated.

REVISION TO BY-LAWS:

A proposal by Frank H. Davis was submitted on August 7, 2007 as follows:

"I propose that by-law No. 11 be changed

FROM:

Once within each fiscal year as treasury permits, the club shall make a donation of not less than \$100.00 to a humanitarian institution selected by a vote of the general membership.

TO:

The club may make donations throughout the year to charitable institutions selected by a vote of the membership. At the business meeting in December the checking account of the club will be distributed to various charitable organizations less the amount to run the club for three months. The amount to run the club for three months shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Delete the second paragraph which says:

The club will honor at least (3) requests per year and provide a performance for a humanitarian organization without receiving any consideration, donation or contribution from that organization."

A vote will be taken at the next regular business meeting (October 2007) on this proposal.

ROSTER UPDATE:

Here are some recent email address updates.

Ron & Judy Beer	judyandron@att.net
Frank Davis	fdavis0354@charter.net
Bill Dulin	imafosi@att.net
Carroll & Jean Markivee:	cmarkivee@hotmail.com
Frank Muriel	congas6621@att.net

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for Mary and Bob Pangilinan and family as Mary recuperates from surgery and undergoes therapy for cancer.

TIDBITS

Carroll Markivee celebrated his 80th birthday on July 30 and his family gathered from across the country to help celebrate. Daughter, Pamela from Detroit, attended practice on July 31 and sang along with Jean Markivee "Five Feet Two, Eyes of Blue" while proud papa played the harmonica. The song ended with hugs and was a happy time.



Daughter, Ann Murphy, attended practice with her dad, Ralph Barber and enjoyed the open mike session, where Ralph always surprises us with a new/old tune.

Scott Campbell was proud to announce reaching grandfather status with the birth of Harmony Jade Ann Henley, who arrived this week weighing in at 6 lbs., 10 oz. The club cheered him and especially approved of the name Harmony.

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
1162 Villa Flora Dr.
O'Fallon, MO 63366-4443
(636)-379-7707
e-mail: maryannlove@charter.net

To schedule a club performance, contact:

Charlie Pratte
1547 Azalea Drive
Webster Groves, MO 63119
(314) 961-7764
email: CAPJR68@aol.com

All other correspondence should be directed to:

Chris Pondo
Recording & Corresponding Secretary
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 September and October.

SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER	
Rosemary Nesslein	9/07	Norma Uhl	10/06
Charles Pratte	9/09	Jim Bricker	10/06
Jim Melchers	9/17	Bob Reynolds	10/08
Frank Davis	9/25	Thelma Black	10/10
Geza Dombi	9/25	Ron Beer	10/18
Julie Melchers	9/29	Charline Hornberger	10/26
Jerry Bonfiglio	9/29		

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

NEWS AND VIEWS (from page 1)

Doreen Scurlock visited St. Louis (from Columbus, Ohio) and attended the club practice on August 28. Doreen always adds her effervescent personality to any gathering.

Chris Pondo played harmonica tunes at the Polish American Festival in Tower Grove Park on the weekend of August 25th where Chris petitioned young members to join the GHC.

Frank Muriel's son, Frankie, has just returned from Hollywood where his band, Dr. Zhivegas filmed their audition for the producers of American Idol scheduled to view in September.

We were sorry to hear that Betty Ford caught a bad cold while attending the SPAH convention. A special congratulations to Betty on her 88th birthday August 13.

Ernie Roberts is requesting that any photos that were taken at SPAH be forwarded to him or Joe Fey to possibly be included in Harmonica Happenings (the SPAH news magazine). These photos may also be used for the 20th year commemorative booklet for the GHC.

Thanks to Bob Pangilinan for including a copy of his released CD "St. Louis - Where My Heart Became Whole" to the club library.

Thanks, also, to Christine Pondo for contributing a video CD to the club library featuring Kaleena Hutchins country jamboree. Chris pens the following tribute:

Kaleena, a beautiful harmonicist,
Plays delightfully we all insist.
Everyone's fanatic
For her chromatic
Her music we can't resist.

Kaleena drums in her high school band.
Her grades are great we understand.
None could compare
At the 2006 State Fair
Where she won playing Patriotic Cohan.

Kaleena performs with Lace and Bass
At Mountain View Folk Center - one terrific place.
She's a rootie, tootie, cutie
And we love her inner beauty
Because she celebrates traditional country music with
true grace.

Kaleena loves harping, singing and dancing.
Her talent is simply entrancing.
The Arkansas miss
We are sure of this
Is a bright star advancing.

Chris Pondo — 7/2007

* * * * *

SPAH's 44th Convention Milwaukee, Wisconsin — August 2007

By Audria Gebhardt

It was 101 degrees in St. Louis when we left Tuesday August 14th. As we drove up through Northern Illinois, the temperature dropped and the trees were more prolific. We took a back road to avoid highway construction on Highway 39 (what a pretty drive it was through the cooler Illinois countryside).

After arriving in Milwaukee Tuesday evening, we headed



to the lobby of the Sheraton in search of harmonica friends we only see once a year at SPAH. The hit of the evening was a young man from Brazil named Pablo Fagundes.

As we were chatting about music and harmonicas with others around the fireplace, Pablo joined in our group. I immediately knew who he was as I had read on Harp-L (a harmonica web site) that a Brazilian harmonica player named Pablo would be performing at SPAH. We were not only entertained by his playing, but Bud Boblink and Fred Warner (both of the Yellow Pine Trio) accompanied him. What a treat for those of us listening in the area. This type of impromptu hallway performance is common at SPAH.

The U-shaped floor plan of the hotel had me running from one end of the U where the stores were, to the other end for seminars and performances. On Wednesday, the first full

day of activity, we went looking for our friends the Sardo brothers (Phil and Tony) as they always lead a group playing in the hall. The Monroe brothers



(Marvin and Roger) are the other brother duo leading the hallway harmonies. Harmonica music of all types is in the air everywhere; in the hallways, the lobby, the bar and of course seminar rooms and the ballroom.

Being the harmonica split personality I am, I try to take in chromatic and diatonic events. The last couple of years I have been focusing a bit more on diatonic because I am the least experienced in playing it. For the last two years,

SPAH has invited Michael Rubin to help the less experienced diatonic player with techniques, music theory etc. There are usually two Blues circles each day; a more informal



hallway Blues circle in the afternoon led by Jimi Lee and the other at 10:30 p.m. after the evening's entertainment, which is a more structured Blues circle for experienced Blues musicians. Before each of the Blues circles, Michael would have a learners Blues circle and would teach a particular Blues lesson and then have us play. Michael also taught a chromatic/diatonic crossover seminar (playing Blues on a chromatic). Buddy, Jerry and I came out of that class very excited about what was taught and the wonderful

handouts given in the class. There are harmonica players who can play Blues on both diatonic and chromatic (but most play Blues on the diatonic).



Thursday,

Friday and Saturday afternoon I attended Joe Filisko's Teach-In. The Teach-In is where seven or eight tables in the ballroom are each manned by one of the Blues professionals teaching a particular technique at each table; beginners, harmonica repair, playing particular styles, technique etc. I was at the beginner table the first day and then at Allen Holmes' table the last day as he was teaching particular styles of playing.

Every evening from 7:00 p.m. to approximately 10:00 p.m. we were entertained in the ballroom by chromatic and diatonic harmonica performers. Some of the performers were: Bob Herndon, Ron Kalina (jazz pianist, harmonica virtuoso, composer, arranger, studio musician and singer...all around musician extraordinaire), Jim Lohman, Charles Spranklin, Tom Stryker (current President of SPAH), Jerry Adler, Andy Wilson, "Slide Man Slim" Heilpern, Charlie Musselwhite (he was the headliner for the Blues and told us he accidentally taught himself to read music), Jim Liban, Brendan Power, Bruce Kurnow, James Conway, Steve Co-

hen, Adam Gussow (gives free diatonic Blues lessons on the internet) and Jia Yi He (classical music). L. D. Miller played alone and with his family band (the 13 year-old diatonic Blues player who came in second place last year on the TV show “America’s Got Talent“ and we were encouraged to call in and vote for him last year) and he is a very fast Blues player. Also several groups played; The Society Boys, The Yellow Pine Trio, Harmonica Junction,



The Hotshots (Al and Judy Smith), The Milwaukee Harmonica Club and the Harmonicas (the early bird group of women who get together every morning at 8:00 a.m. and learn three or four songs under

the direction of Judy Smith). Judy always invites me to join her early group of women, but I tell her I am usually up too late listening to the Blues circle at night (I wish I could go without sleep and do both...it was already sleepless in Milwaukee this year).

One of the things that stood out to me and everyone at this year’s SPAH was the appearance of approximately five young teenage harmonica players (playing a combination of diatonic and/or chromatic). Our member, Kaleena Hutchins, was one of those young people. Their ages seem to range from approximately 12 to 17 years of age. These young people were accomplished harmonica players, not beginners.



At the Saturday night raffle, I won three prizes for myself and two for another person whose tickets I was watching. When people saw me go up to collect a prize five times, they were sure it was fixed.

SPAH gets better for me every year. Besides seeing old friends, I usually get to know some new people and learn more. Next year we won’t have to travel as far to attend SPAH since we will be hosting it here in St. Louis. As a harmonica player, I feel like a kid in the candy store at SPAH and look forward to it every year.

HUMOR FROM THE HERPETARIUM

Ria Meagher (we like to call her “our German lady”) volunteers her time at the St. Louis Children’s Zoo and submits the following Jokes from the Herpetarium (snake house).

Q: Why do you measure snakes by inches?

A: Because they have no feet!

Q: What did the snake say after he bit the man?

A: Fangs a lot!

Q: Did you hear about the two boa constrictors that fell in love?

A: They had a crush on each other!

Q: What did the boy snake say to the girl snake?

A: Give me a little hiss!

Fred: I found a baby snake.

Ethel: How do you know it’s a baby?

Fred: I could hear its rattle!

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

“Too many people spend money they haven’t earned, they buy things they don’t want, to impress people they don’t like.” — *Humorist Will Rogers (1879-1935) who attended Kemper Military School in Booneville, MO*

“Music is a moral law - - it gives wings to the mind, A soul to the universe, Flight to the imagination, A charm to sadness, A life to everything.” — *Plato (Submitted by Michael LaRue)*

“Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift; that’s why they call it the present.” — *Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)*

“Mistakes are often the best teachers.” *James A. Freude*

GUESS THE COMPOSER

Christine Pondo, Recording and Corresponding Secretary of the GHC, delights in puzzles and mind games. She is sponsoring the following contest to determine your solving skills. Clues are for last name only. For two months from publication date of this Reeder, entries will be accepted and must be mailed to:

Christine Pondo
1166 Waldorf Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63137

The first, second and third earliest correct entries will win \$20 - \$15 - \$10 accordingly. All entries must be printed clearly with the first and last name of composer and list ONE of their famous compositions. Officers, directors, and their families are excluded. All contestants must be current, paid members of the Gateway Harmonica Club

Too much sun + pitcher	Tree trunk growth + motel	Obese tummy + Patella
Secluded	A minor	Body of water + first digit on foot + truck
Masculine + Patella + Bass	Pickling herb + amidst	Tiger sound + Be quiet! + triple cherries
Medicine container	Conflict + small bird	Death Valley Altitude
Five metacarpals + boring	Roller skate + Mary Poppins' friend	Determination + Junior
Tea + bovine + water sport	Brand name of famous barbecue grill	Even in golf + two thousand pounds
“Hello Dolly” + brooch		
Buick + sound enhancer + total		

Answers will be published in the next issue of this newsletter. Put on your thinkin' caps!

GROANERS

1. Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.
2. A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
3. Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.
4. Practice safe eating - always use condiments.
5. Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.
6. A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.
7. A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
8. Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.
9. Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
10. Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion.
11. Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
12. When two egoists meet, it's an I for an I.
13. A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
14. Definition of a will: A dead give away.
15. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
16. In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.
17. She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.
18. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
19. If you don't pay your exorcist, do you get repossessed?
20. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
21. When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.
22. The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
23. You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
24. Local Area Network in Australia: the LAN down under.
25. Every calendar's days are numbered.
26. A lot of money is tainted - It taint yours and it taint mine.
27. A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
28. A midget fortune-teller who escapes from prison is a small medium at large.
29. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
30. Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
31. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.
32. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
33. Acupuncture is a jab well done.

BBQ Sauce

I have been asked to make the recipe for the sauce used in the BBQ at the picnic available to the club. (Carroll & Jean Markivee) Here 'tis:

Remove the papery skin from the back of each rack of ribs by pulling it off with your fingers, and holding the rack with a towel or maybe a clean pair of pliers. (This is the hardest part of the job.)

1. Make the marinade 24 to 48 hours before the grilling of the meat.
2. Marinate the meat in the fridge 24 to 48 hours, turning the rack of ribs at least once during that time. So 48 hours is really better because it soaks in more. Also, if you are only soaking it for 24 hours, you must get up during the night to turn the meat, if you are only turning it once.
3. Ingredients for the marinade:
 - 2 racks of pork ribs, about 4 pounds
 - 1½ tablespoon garlic powder
 - 1 tablespoon dried thyme
 - 1 tablespoon dried oregano
 - 2 teaspoons of special salt (see below)
 - 1 tablespoon dried marjoram
 - 1 tablespoon onion flakes
 - ¼ cup red wine vinegar
 - ½ cup K.C. barbeque sauce
 - ½ cup brown sugar
 - 2 ounces beer
 - Special salt — make up a mixture of Kosher salt 1 cup (I found out this is granular)

Ground pepper — 1 teaspoon

1 ounce Accent

You can keep this special salt for other uses

Mix all the ingredients and place in a roasting pan.

Add the meat and wait for the soaking process to work.

4. I use a BBQ grill with 3 propane burners for heat and a thermometer built in to measure the interior temperature.
5. Prepare the BBQ grill by heating it to 500 degrees just before cooking.
6. Add ribs to grill, reducing temperature to 350 degrees, for ½ to 1 hour. (The temperature will drop a lot while you are adding the meat). You can get the best results for this temperature by turning off one of the burners and lowering the other 2 to medium or low. Leave the hood closed for at least ½ hour.
7. Continue grilling (you may want to open the hood, as you please, for slower cooking). Check the meat with a knife at 1 hour. I think it is better to eat if it isn't grilled until it falls off the rib. If it's done, it's done.
8. If not, continue (hood open or closed) for another 30 minutes.
9. Remove it from the grill and place it back in the marinade in the roasting pan for several minutes, then serve on a separate platter.
10. Turn off the propane to the grill and scrape the grilling bars right away; clean off burnt meat while it comes off easily.
11. FINIS

Do you have a minute to spare?

ONE MINUTE EACH NIGHT

In WWII, there was an advisor to Prime Minister Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every night at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace. This had an amazing effect as bombing stopped.

There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America. If you would like to participate: Each evening at 9:00 PM Eastern Time (8:00PM Central, 7:00 PM Mountain, 6:00 PM Pacific), stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens and for peace in the world.

If you know anyone who would like to participate, please pass this along. Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have.

Music Man Has A Banjo On His Knee - A Harmonica In His Hand

Harmonica virtuoso Sandy Weltman's talents are diverse to say the least. While at home in the jazz realm, he is equally skilled in blues, Celtic, Klezmer, Latin and much more. Sandy learned much of his harmonica styling while under the tutelage of harmonica wizard Howard "Flecktone"



Levy. He has since gained international recognition in the World Harmonica Competitions. Sandy has won numerous awards and is equally skilled on the banjo, with which he fronted his own band called the SanDroids (see cd entitled "Escape Velocity"). Sandy currently performs his unique style of harmonica jazz in a duo, trio, & quartet setting. For bookings or more info, email Sandy at harpmac@sbcglobal.net. Sandy also plays mandolin and a wide variety of percussion instruments.

Sandy has performed on dozens of albums nationally and has released four albums of his own: "Banjo Magic" (1987)-currently out of print, "Escape Velocity" with his band The SanDROIDS (1996), "New World Harmonica Jazz" with The Carolbeth Trio (1998) and "The Klezmer Nuthouse" (2002).

Sandy has opened for: Norman & Nancy Blake, Beau-Soleil, Peter Ostrushko, Cassandra Wilson, Trio Globo, Hot Rize, Leon Redbone, Victor Wooten, and John Hartford.

Sandy has performed with: Howard Levy, Brewer & Shipley, Bela Fleck, Bluegrass Alliance and many others.

Weltman graduated from University City High School in 1974. Sandy was married for the first time at age 48 to a wonderful gal named Jeanne. He has a bright and beautiful adult step-daughter named Carolyn, and Jeanne & Sandy expect to travel to China later this year to pick up their adopted daughter, who they have named Grace.

Sandy & Jeanne's lives are centered around their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Being Jewish as well as a strong Christian, Sandy likes to tell people that "Jesus made me kosher". To read more about Sandy's faith, check out the liner notes from his CD entitled "[The Klezmer Nuthouse](#)"

(From a St. Louis Post-Dispatch article dated July 17, 2007 featuring Sandy Weltman – often a featured performer at SPAH conventions.)

Old Bailey Meets Bobby Darin

Playing "Mack the Knife" is fun because it is familiar, sparkly, and entertaining. Most of our audiences will remember the 1950's vocal by Bobby Darin and some, no doubt, may remember The Three Penny Opera, written in 1928. I heard it once on radio by a deep-voiced gent, sung like a dirge – chilling!

But there is more. It seems that Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht based The Three Penny Opera on the work of John Gay, who in 1728 produced The Beggar's Opera, in which he poked fun at Italian opera and satirized English politicians by comparing them to criminals and basing the villain Peachum on a London specialist. How like them!

Two expatriate American PhD candidates, researching how England's other half lived during the Age of Enlightenment found a source for John Gay's opera. One Jonathan Wild, self-styled as the "Thief Taker General of England and Ireland" became London's leading crime boss. Without a formal police force in the 18th century, bounty hunters sought and turned in criminals by tracking thieves and recovering stolen property. Wild was good at this, but he specialized in robbing and extortion. Setting up robberies, he paid low for the goods and returned the merchandise to the owner for the reward. He kept a list of his cronies and, if any of them tried to cheat him, he placed two X's by their names – hence the origin of the term, "double cross" – and

OLD BAILEY MEETS BOBBY DARIN *(from page 7)*

then had them arrested to be tried and hanged, and he collected the bounty! In addition to The Beggar's Opera, Wild's exploits inspired novels by Daniel Defoe and Henry Fielding. Wild eventually received his comeuppance – he was arrested and hanged at Tyburn in 1725.

So far, nothing about the Old Bailey. This is the common name for the Central Criminal Court in London, located in Old Bailey Street. In the April issue of Smithsonian Magazine, an article titled "Digitizing the Hanging Court" by Guy Gugliotta shares some of the activities of historians Robert Shoemaker of the University of Sheffield and Tim Hitchcock of the University of Hertfordshire (the expatriates mentioned above), wherein these gents digitized the 52

million words of the Proceedings of The Old Bailey, containing more than one hundred thousand trials in the City of London and the County of Middlesex between 1674 and 1834 and put them in a searchable data base for anyone to read on the Internet. This masterful exploration of those ancient (comparatively) records has led to the article by Mr. Gugliotta exposing the work of two fine expatriots. So thanks, Bobby Darin, for the link to the Old Bailey.

My copy of the magazine is available to borrow for anyone wishing to upgrade his or her eighteenth century British history.

Cheers,

Ron Beer

HARMONICA BIOGRAPHY — JOHN BOTTCHEN

I found Carroll Markivee's story in the May-June 2007 Reeder very interesting because my introduction to the harmonica was somewhat similar to his.

In September of 1930 I began working as a Western Union messenger, since I did not own a bicycle, I was assigned to offices downtown, out of the main office at 9th & Chestnut Streets for about 4 weeks, then a branch office at Broadway & Olive for 2 weeks, then in the Arcade Building at 8th & Olive Streets, for the rest of my time with Western Union.

Early in 1931, I learned that WU and YMCA had an agreement which allowed us messengers to visit the Y and take advantage of their many facilities. I began to go to the YMCA at 15th & Locust streets after work 2 or 3 nights a week, before I went home for dinner. One evening one of the counselors spoke to me about joining a harmonica band, he rounded up about 10 or 12 kids, told us to buy a Hohner Marine Band and meet with him the following week.

He taught us the scale, told us to practice blowing it forward and backward and get together again in 2 weeks. I must have driven my family crazy, but I did practice. He then began to teach us simple melodies 'til we got them right and all finished on the same note. This took a long time as we had no music, if we would have had music, we would not have been able to read it. Eventually we became harmonica players (after a fashion). Then he started taking us out to

entertain people, we rode the streetcar to one fraternal order or another (Elks, Masons, Knights of Columbus) played a few tunes and were then invited to help ourselves to the food laid out buffet style. Lucky for me because on those nights I did not get home in time for dinner.

Don't remember what melodies we played or what we ate, but it was a lot of fun. Gradually the group broke up, kids dropped out 'til there were not enough left to call ourselves a band. However, I still had my harmonica and used it for my own amusement down through the years 'til I heard about GHC (but, that is another story, which follows).

My wife, Elva, and I were regular attendees of the Queeny Pops Summer concerts, and in 1987 Richard Hayman conducted a series there. We usually sat near the top and looked at everything closely through binoculars. We saw a table with some men in red vests and white shirts and I could read Gateway Harmonica Club. Elva said "why didn't I go down and talk with them" but I said I would call. Of course, there was no number listed so I asked the lady who made the activity reservations for their number, but she said she had misplaced it. Ten years later I saw a notice from Carroll Markivee in the Webster-Kirkwood Times for anyone interested in the harmonica to go to the Rock Hill Baptist Church. After three times visiting, I joined in April 1997 and have been a member ever since. My only regret is that I lost ten years finding the club.

MUSIC IN MY POCKET

I keep music in my pocket, with my pennies and my keys.
 I can play a little melody as often as I please,
 It's just my old harmonica I keep there tucked away,
 and whenever I'm unhappy I just take it out and play.
 So keep music in your pocket — there's nothing quite so smart,
 For with music in your pocket, you'll have music in your heart!

(Found on a note at the 2007 SPAH Convention)

Small Instrument, Big Sound

By *Jan Pollack* of the *Suburban Journal*
Tuesday, August 7, 2007 8:38 PM CDT

Ginny and Rich Groves sat up just a little taller as their friend Mel Creasy took center stage. The Florissant couple had given up the usual Saturday-night square dance to listen to Creasy's effortless musical styling on the harmonica.

A seasoned player, Creasy coaxed melodies from his harmonica that had a crowd of more than 200, gathered at Florissant's St. Ferdinand Park, clapping along to songs like the "Wabash Cannon Ball," "Spanish Two-Step," "Jambalaya" and the "Tennessee Waltz."

The concert was part of the city's Music Under the Stars series. He concluded the concert with the "William Tell Overture" and said, "I defy anyone to hear this music and not remember the Lone Ranger."

Creasy, from Florissant, has been playing the harmonica for 70 years. He picked up the instrument at age 8, following in his big brother's footsteps. Entirely self-taught, he plays country music classics and old standards.

"I don't read a note of music," Creasy said. "Once I played with a group of musicians who read music and one guy who played by ear the way I do."

He said the group was playing one time when their sheet music was knocked off their stands. The musicians who read the notes were forced to stop, while he and the other guy just kept playing. "We laughed about it later," Creasy said. "To me, notes look like blackbirds on a telephone wire."

He listens to music once or twice before playing the melody. Sometimes he writes down key words of the song as a memory device.

Creasy has performed at several music festivals and with Stan "The Man" Musial, also an avid harmonica player. His first paid show was 20 years ago. He was named Illinois State Harmonica Champion in 1990, and he won second

place at the National Harmonica Championships in 1989. Today he plays at occasional concerts and before groups in nursing homes and other venues.

He estimated there are about 40 harmonicas lying around his house, many unworkable. "They're done when you blow the notes out of them. It's like hitting a wrong note on the piano," he said.

A graduate of McCluer High School, where his shop teacher forced him to perform for the first time, Creasy said he didn't get serious about the harmonica until 1980, the year the movie "Urban Cowboy" was released. With its honky-tonk and country music, the movie re-ignited his interest in the harmonica.

"It is not easy to play. You have to be physically fit and have good lung power," Creasy said, noting that he can play for about an hour before taking a break. "It's not just something a kid plays with. The harmonica has a pretty tone, especially if you play waltzes. It makes beautiful music."

He plays both melody and harmony, a skill learned over seven decades. "You open your mouth wider and let additional notes come in. Then you have the harmony that makes the music bigger," he explained.

Creasy said he receives great satisfaction when he plays. "I love to see the expression on people's faces," he said. "They listen and then look at each other wondering, 'Where's all that music's coming from?' and how that much music can come from such a small instrument."

The Smith family of Breckenridge Hills had just that reaction. Bob Smith said they "couldn't believe how expressive the music was and how such a big sound came from a harmonica."

After seven decades spent playing the instrument, Creasy has no trouble showing others how it's done. He said he could teach someone to play it in a few minutes.

Making music with it is an entirely different thing.



(NOTE: Mel Creasey (correct spelling) was one of the early members of GHC, but his musical interests turned out to be more in the area of playing with country and bluegrass bands. I see him regularly in Florissant and occasionally invite him to visit one of our club meetings. One evening he just might show up — JF)

We Get Letters . . .

To: Jim Melchers [jmelchers@cambridge-eng.com]
 August 22, 2007
 From: Surobhi Lahiri [<mailto:surbhilahiri@gmail.com>]
 Subject: Newsletter

Hello,

We were happy to see the July newsletter that carried some writing about our visit to the Harmonica Club while my parents were visiting St. Louis in June. Thanks a lot! I have sent the newsletter pdf to them by email and they will surely enjoy it.

Hope the Harmonica Club is playing lovely tunes as always..

Thanks again,

Surobhi (daughter of Mr. D. Lahiri)

* * * * *

To: Gateway Harmonica Club
 From: Paul Davies

Thank you so much for your warm hospitality during my hotel exploration trip. I do believe we have made the right choice.

I have been so busy since, with putting together this year's convention. I think the team in St. Louis will put on a great party.

* * * * *

From GHC Member Mike Maschek in Arkansas:

Here is the scene at Arkansas, Bull Shoals Theater of the Arts. Most of the music from our group is country with mainly old classic tunes, gospel and blues. I won my way into the hearts of attendees by appealing to the veterans and polka lovers. The shirt and hat I found at a local flea market. Once I tried it on stage, several people suggested I use it as my trademark. I get more compliments for the shirt than my music.



Kay, a friend of Rose's and her husband Bob are colleagues in digital photography. Bob took pictures of me at my request and took many more. The arranged group picture was well received and will be displayed in the lobby of the Theater. He took good pictures of all of us as we performed and I'm sure each will want their best shot. We also

discovered that Bob is an excellent accordionist who led his own band back home in Milwaukee, WI. Rose and I heard him play three extraordinary numbers and I can tell you he would be a big hit here. I hope to learn a lot from him as he said he would help me with any questions I have about music. In Mountain Home there's a good guitarist named Don, who is presently learning, *When I'm 64*, that Henry orchestrated for us in '97.



We'll be playing that soon on Sunday sessions at the Van Matre Senior Center. I always emphasize verbally to people about my background from the GHC and the great work the club does in the St. Louis region. I sure wish a few of you could come down here some time to play. They feature out of town bands but it seems to me its always the same thing. Singing country and hundreds of guitars. I'm almost certain that more variety is welcome. With all the baby boomers from up north retiring in this vicinity the desire for their nostalgic sound increases. Even Branson, MO responds to that demand of variety. I find myself devoting more of my time to practicing and learning new songs. I've had requests for recordings of my music but that at best is a long way off. Bet your new club recording would sell here. Let me know when it's ready. I even wished I was on it.

Well I hope to see some of you at open mic in Brookfield, WI. Bon voyage.

Mike

We Send Letters . . .

From: Jim Melchers
 To: Surobhi Lahiri Surobhi,

Your visit was a big highlight for us. Your parents have the official title of the people who have traveled the furthest to hear us play! (from Bardda, India) We all really enjoyed your father's playing.

I tried to send him a message and some pictures at d_lahiri@rediffmail.com but didn't get any response. Do you know if he received it?

Hope we'll see you all again sometime.

Jim

SEVEN AGES OF HUMANS:

Spills, Drills, Thrills, Frills, Bills, Pills, Wills

GHC EVENTS CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

6:00 PM - Blues Group, led by Louse Cook and Ed Cenatiempo — 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 monthly at our business meeting. For the most current schedule, including maps and customized driving directions, go to www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org/calendar

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

A 20th Year Anniversary booklet is in the works for the Gateway Harmonica Club and the target date for publication of this remembrance item is the end of the year. It had been previously expressed that the biographies printed in past newsletters would be accumulated and reprinted all together in the same booklet. However, due to volume, this idea would not be feasible.

Please fill out the form below or use it as a guide to enter your information in the booklet. Please include anything about yourself you would like to share, but limit to 10 lines (approximately 100 words.) We need your cooperation and input!

Snapshots, photos and any pictures related to club events over the past 10 years are now being collected. Bring in

any that you have. If media is on a disk (preferred) send to Joe Fey. Thanks for your cooperation. It will be a great remembrance to share.

The date for a new photography session will be announced soon.

Please wear red vest uniforms – or wear a long sleeve white shirt & we will lend a vest.

This form will be available to fill out when you have new photos taken. Think about what you want to say about yourself. Any out-of-town members, please mail in the form to any officer’s address listed in this newsletter. You may also send a recent photo of yourself. Thanks for your cooperation. We need to get moving on this project.

Name
Family
Career/working/retired from
Harmonica beginnings and type you play
How you found out about the club
Other interests and hobbies/accomplishments

The deadline for receipt of these forms is October 1.



GATEWAY HARMONICA CLUB
14650 Barattton Drive
Florissant, MO 63034