

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Milton DeLugg



DELUGG, Milton.
December 2, 1918 - April
6, 2015. The accordion world has lost
another talented accordionist. Milton
DeLugg started his music career on the
piano. His career really took off when, as
a teenager, his father bought him an
accordion and six free lessons for \$68.00.

Young Milton DeLugg played jazz
accordion, and was hired to play with the
staff orchestra at *Paramount Studios*. In
1950, after years of working in radio and
movies, Milton DeLugg became music
director on television's *Broadway Open
House*, often considered the forerunner of
The Tonight Show.

He worked with many other fine
composers, including Frank Loesser. One

of his best-known compositions
is "Orange Colored Sky,"
remembered as a hit for Nat King Cole.
His "Hoop-Dee-Doo" polka was a smash
hit for Perry Como. In 1958, he produced
the Buddy Holly hit "Rave On!"

He was music director of Johnny
Carson's *Tonight Show* in 1965-66.
DeLugg also enjoyed a long association
with Chuck Barris, producer of many
popular game shows. Milton DeLugg
remained active as the music director of
the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day
Parade through 2013.

He passed away at home April 6, 2015
at the age of 96. Milton DeLugg will
always be remembered as a great musician
and accordionist.

May Meeting

**The May meeting will be held on Sunday,
May 10, at 3:30 pm.** As usual, the meeting
will be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church.
The church is located on the southeast corner
of Northwest Expressway and Portland in
Oklahoma City.

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.

After the individual and group performances,
we will have a Jam Session.

**Members are invited to bring snacks for
everyone.**

All are welcome to join in on the fun!



The Prez Sez

Barbara Duer

From now through August, our Club will be focusing on the upcoming concert in August. Members who plan to participate in the concert should start playing their musical selections for the group at the May meeting. This will give participants practice playing in front of a group, and perhaps get pointers on improving your music.

I'm including the music for "Ashokan Farewell" in the newsletter this month. It's a beautiful waltz, and I think we are all familiar with it.

"Ashokan Farewell" is a waltz in D major, composed by Jay Ungar in the style of a Scottish lament. Jay Ungar describes the song coming out of "a sense of loss and longing." The most famous arrangement of the piece begins with a solo violin, later accompanied by guitar and upright bass. Ashokan was the name of a Catskill Region village that is now mostly covered by the Ashokan Reservoir.

In 1984, filmmaker Ken Burns heard "Ashokan Farewell" and was moved by it. He used it in two of his films: *The Civil War*, which features the original recording by *Fiddle Fever* in the beginning of the film, and his 1985 documentary *Huey Long*.

The Civil War drew the most national attention to the piece. It is played 25 times throughout the eleven-hour series, including during the emotional reading of Sullivan Ballou's letter to his wife in the first episode. It underlies nearly an hour of film.

Viewers of *The Civil War* frequently believe the melody is a traditional tune from the Civil War era. However, it is the only modern composition in the documentary's soundtrack. All other music is authentic 19th-century music.^[3]



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- William "Rusty" Dolton
- Janet Haskin
- Roland Lohmann
- Frankie Martinez
- Bob Mansfield
- Tom Phillips
- Phil Scibelli

The Treasurer Sez

Milo Shedeck

Happy Mayday to all!

Our Club's member's birthdays this month are:

- Lifetime member William "Rusty" Dolton on May 2
- Lifetime member Phil Scibelli on May 16
- Colleen Rettman on May 18

- Barbara Mahar on May 30

The Club still has money in the bank, and the only expenses in April were for the pizza party, member badges, rent, and newsletters.

Respectfully,
Your Treasurer, Milo



Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

Las Vegas International Accordion will hold it's 16th annual Convention at the *Gold Coast Hotel & Casino*, June 22-25, 2015. Enjoy this four nights and three days of accordion stars, workshops, and special events. For more information, visit vegas@AccordionStars.com.

American Accordion Association will host their *2015 National Convention* July 8-12, 2015 at the *Holiday Inn Hotel*, Alexandria, Virginia. For more information, visit www.ameraccord.com.

Accordion Teachers Guild will have their *75th Anniversary Festival* in Lisle (Chicago), Illinois at the *Hyatt Lisle* July

22-25, 2015. Enjoy competitions, exhibits, workshops, and concerts. For more information, visit www.accordions.com/atg.

The OAC will hold their *Third Annual Accordion Affair* August 9, 2015 at the *Czech Hall* on Czech Hall Road in Yukon, Oklahoma. The concert will take place from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. All OAC members are encouraged to perform, plus bring family and friends. Once again, Lucas Ross from *KFOR* will show his accordion talents and emcee the program.

Look for more accordion events in future issues of Squeezins.



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April Meeting

Maggie Abel

April OAC Meeting Minutes

The annual OAC pizza party meeting was attended by 32 members and 3 guests.

- At 3:30, pizza and drinks were served, and at 4:00, the meeting was called to order. President Barbara Duer displayed two thank you cards from the Elliott boys, and one from the Smith sisters, who were among those youth assisted financially by the Club to attend the recent March convention.
- Barbara passed around a signup sheet where members could indicate what music they plan to play in the August concert to be held at *Czech Hall* on August 9.
- Roland Lohmann is planning a concert in October. Players would coordinate with Bob Mansfield to audition for this concert.
- Colleen and Bob Rhettman were new attendees. Colleen joined the Club during the meeting.
- Vice President Tom Phillips suggested each member play his concert piece twice before each at-home practice session, then again twice afterward.
- Bob Mansfield announced that George Secor is in the hospital in Illinois.
- The *Accordionaires* (director Dan Orza,

Lois Roth, Karen West, and Maggie Abel) played "April Showers," "Easter Parade," and "Just Walkin in the Rain." Dan then played a solo, "Two Guitars."

- T. Z. Wright played and sang along to "A Walk in the Irish Rain," the humorous "You Ate the Apple," and "Soldier's Joy."
- Wayne Turgeon played "Golden Slippers."
- Anne Lopez and Lois Roth played a French medley of "I Love Paris," "The Song from Moulin Rouge," and "La Vie En Rose."
- Colleen played two Pavarotti songs, the second of which was a waltz.
- Historian Karen West played "It Might as Well Be Spring."
- Barbara Duer soloed with two French pieces
- Past President Dick Albreski played a medley that included "The Lady is a Tramp," "All of Me," and "S' Wonderful."
- The trio of Bob Mansfield, Rod Murrow, and Roland Lohmann played two songs, the last of which was "And the Waltz Goes On."

At the next meeting, members are to begin practicing their numbers for the OAC concert.

Respectfully submitted,
• Maggie Abel, Secretary

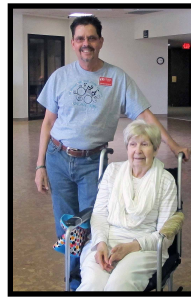


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April Meeting

Diana Richard



March Meeting

Maggie Abel

March OAC Meeting Minutes

Twenty-four members and three guests were on hand to greet OAC members returning from the Plano, Texas *National Accordion Association* convention the previous week.

- President Barbara Duer asked convention attendees to say a few words about the event, and Annette Zongker-Smith, Barbara, and Bob Mansfield obliged.
- Myke Dixon introduced two first-timers, his Minnesota friends Chris Brown and Ryan Thilmay to the members.
- Badges were presented to Bob Mansfield (a lifetime membership), and new members Alberta Bliss and Mary Jean Hojem.
- Historian Karen West played the accordion while Bob Mansfield sang "A Little Bit of Heaven."
- Dan played "Tango of the Roses," with vocal accompaniment.
- Past President Dick Albreski and Treasurer Milo Shedeck (on clarinet) performed "Irish Eyes."
- Dick played "The Praha Polka Medley" with "The Monkey Polka," which he arranged. Milo accompanied on the sax.

- On the same instruments, the men performed "The Blue Skirt Waltz," which was playing when Milo and his wife Lucie danced and fell in love 25 years ago.
- Barbara played a medley: "Galway Hornpipe" with Magdelina on the percussion clapper; a solo of "Sweet Rosie O'Grady;" and "My Wild Irish Rose," which she said she has played all her life after hearing her grandpa play it on the concertina.
- Barbara, Karen, and Bob played "Harvest Home," a fiddle song; Barbara and Karen played "Cockles and Mussels;" and Bob soloed on "The Weaving of the Green" and "The Red-Haired Boy."
- Bob then played a portion of Dvorak's "New World Symphony" on a freebase accordion.

The next meeting on April 12 will be the annual OAC pizza party. It was suggested that, by next year, a gluten-free pizza could be offered among the choices.

Members playing in the August concert are encouraged to practice before the group at the next few meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
• Maggie Abel, Secretary



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Ashokan Farewell

Jay Ungar, 1983, used by permission.

$\text{♩} = 160$

Q: What do you call a Native-American girl who plays the accordion?
A: POLKA-HANTAS

A: I don't remember how it goes, but the punch line is "the accordion player got hit by a car."

Q: Did you hear the joke about polka music?

Q: How do you get a million dollars?
A: Start off with 2 million and buy an accordion store.



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
Mail your membership dues to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
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I prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, the Oklahoma Squeezins', by: ☐ E-mail ☐ Conventional mail

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Primary Membership is \$16 per year per individual | ☐ Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$180 |
| ☐ Family Membership is \$8 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Membership | ☐ Youth Membership is complimentary for accordion-playing youth through age 18 |

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