

## Weekend in Davenport — by Albert Haim

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Hans organized a jam session in the Inn beginning at 7 pm. He also provided -with the incomparable help of Pam and Dennis, our wonderful hosts- food and drinks! Hans is a very generous individual and I, for one, thank him for all he did prior to and during this fabulous weekend.

The following musicians participated in the jam session.

- Brad Kaye, piano.
- Hans Eekhof, trumpet.
- Tom Pletcher, cornet.
- Josh Dufee, Peter Diepeveen, drums.



**Oakdale Cemetery**

- Rich Johnson, guitar.
- Matt Craighead, reeds.
- Pamla Eisenberg, vocals



**Jam Session in the Inn**



**Hans Eekhoff blows his trumpet while Tom Pletcher listens**

I, and (I am sure) all musicians and spectators enjoyed the evening (which went into the wee hours of the morning) enormously. These guys can play, I tell you. Brad is a highly talented pianist with an encyclopaedic knowledge of 1920s music. Hans plays a very good trumpet. He does not try to get a Bixian sound. He plays according to his own style, which may be somewhat reminiscent of that of Wild Bill Davison. Tom, of course, is the cornetist who sounds the closest to Bix and was in great form. Josh is an excellent drummer. I found that modern drummers have a hard time reproducing the rhythmic patterns of the 1920s. Josh understands the 1920s beat and reproduces it faithfully. Peter was the relief drummer and he is quite good. Rich provided a steady pulse on his guitar and soloed occasionally. He is really very good. Matt is an excellent baritone saxophone and clarinet player.



Pam enriched the music every once in a while with a well-sung vocal. I was at awe to see how a few guys who never played with each other could produce

such nice music. As I said, a fabulous evening with excellent music, great food and wine, a terrific atmosphere, and first-class company. It's as good as it gets!!  
**EVENING of JUNE 6, 2004**

The premiere of the restored 1926 film of the Goldkette orchestra took place on June 6, 2004 in Bix's house at 1934 Grand Avenue.

(The following is copied from the original program.)

### The Jean Goldkette Orchestra's New England Tour

On September 21, 1926, the Goldkette Orchestra arrived at a hotel called the Hillcrest Inn in Southboro, Massachusetts, and set up headquarters for their New England tour with Charlie Horvath as Manager and Frank Trumbauer as the leader.

Billed as "**The Paul Whiteman of the West**," in the Marlboro Enterprise newspaper, the musicians began rehearsing for the October 6 opening at the Roseland Ballroom in New York. Playing a noon publicity broad-cast over station WTAC in Marlboro, the Boston Post reported, "Superior to Whiteman or Lopez — Hotter than Ted Lewis — Jean Goldkette's Victor Record Band — Positively the greatest band in the country."

It was at Roseland where the Goldkette and Henderson Orchestras engaged in their now famous "Battle of the Bands."

On October 12, the Goldkette Orchestra recorded the tunes *Idolizing*, *I'd Rather Be the Girl in Your Arms*, and *Just One More Kiss*.

On November 5, the Goldkette Orchestra was back in Detroit.

This film includes scenes taken during the 1926 New England tour.

### PROGRAM

- 6:00p.m. Reception
- 7:00p.m. Welcome by Ray Voss, President, Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Society.
- Introduction by Hans Eekhoff to the showing of four sound films:
  - Lee DeForest film "*Snappy Tunes*"
  - Rudy Vallee (alto saxophone) with Bolton & Cipriano's Westchester Biltmore Orchestra (1926)
  - Howard Lanin and His Orchestra with "*Aunt Jemima*" ("Big Tess" Gardelle) introduced by Jay C. Flippen (1927)
  - Vaudeville comic James Barton with the Chick Webb Orchestra in "*After Seben*" (1929)
- 7:45p.m. Buffet Dinner
- 8:30p.m. Lecture by Steve Teeter, Jazz Curator of the Louisiana State Museum, custodian of the Goldkette film.
- Introduction to the film by Hans Eekhoff.
- Showing of the film "*The Jean Goldkette Orchestra on Tour*" (1926)
- 9:15p.m. Dessert and coffee. Music by the "Grand Avenue Irregulars"

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## BLUE STREET JAZZ BAND

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Dixieland is the cornerstone of **Blue Street**. The band has played entire tribute sets to jazz legends such as Louis Armstrong, Sidney Bechet, and Kid Ory at past jazz festivals. These presentations are well-researched and presented tastefully.

a swing band

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**Blue Street Jazz Band**  
P.O. Box 12424  
Fresno, CA 93777-2424  
Phone: 559-229-7472  
email: [blustreet@aol.com](mailto:blustreet@aol.com)

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As explained in the program, we started the festivities at 6 pm with a reception — delicious hors d'oeuvres and cocktails.

Approximately 45 people were in Bix's house at that time, including visitors from far away places: Peter Diepeveen and Mr. and Mrs. Ton Rakers (Ton is the bass saxophonist on track 8 of the "Thank You Bix" CD) from Holland, Brad Kay, Pamla Eisenberg and Michael Kieffer from California, Tom Pletcher from Florida, Jim Cullum from Texas, Joe Giordano from New Jersey. Two of Bix's relatives were present, grand niece Liz Beiderbecke Hart and grand nephew Chris Beiderbecke. At 7 pm, people were seated and Ray Voss, president of the Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Society, welcomed the audience and introduced Hans Eekhoff who acted as MC for the rest of the evening. Hans first mentioned June 6, D-Day and spoke some very touching words about the crucial role played by the US troops in helping liberate Europe. He then told us about the passing of his mentor, the legendary John. R. T. Davies, jazz musician, collector, and record restorer. Then, Hans introduced the four sound films described in the program. The audience was highly appreciative. I particularly liked the short of Red Nichols' band with Eddie Condon on vocal.

At 8 pm we had a nice buffet dinner and at 8:45 the audience was seated again for the highly anticipated premiere. Hans introduced Steve Teeter, Curator of the Louisiana State Museum Jazz Collection and custodian of the Goldkette film.

Steve's lecture was superb and he treated the audience to a historical and technical account of the Goldkette film. The film was shot by Charlie Horvath, manager of the Goldkette band, in October 1926 during the visit of the band to New England and to New York City to play at Roseland. The details of the donation



*Bix's House*

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*Jim Cullum*

of the film to the jazz museum were described by Steve as follows.

"In October of 1966, Edmond "Doc" Souchon [physician, guitar and banjo player, vocalist, early jazz patron from New Orleans, founder of the New Orleans Jazz Club] visited California and attended some meetings of the New Orleans Jazz Club of California. There he made the acquaintance of Enos "Doc" Cenardo, a drummer who had played and recorded with many fine musicians, including Glenn Miller, Kid Ory, Doc Evans, and George Brunies. In the late 20s Cenardo was with the Orange Blossom Band in the Graystone Ballroom, and made friends with Bix and Steve Brown, who were playing opposite in the Jean Goldkette Victor Recording Orchestra.

Cenardo asked a lot of questions about the New Orleans Jazz Club and the Jazz Museum, which Souchon answered without realizing he was being interrogated. His answers were satisfactory, as at the end Cenardo announced he was sending them a package. In due course the Bix film arrived, which absolutely floored Souchon and the NOJC folks. Following the film came a detailed letter from Cenardo, giving its history and provenance, dated January 6, 1967, which I will quote:

The film was taken in June of 1927 [n.b., this is incorrect; it was October 1926], when the band left Detroit for a New England tour and then wound up in New York at the Roseland Ballroom, where the band broke up. The film was taken by Charley [sic] Horvath who at the time of the tour was manager of the band—he formerly played drums in the band and was replaced by Chauncey Morehouse. Knowing that I was a collector of films, Charley gave me the film in 1950, and in 1954 Charley passed away from a heart attack. In

30 June 1, 2, & 3 July 2005

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