

in the Big Apple, particularly in the vicinity of 19th Street and 5th Avenue. From one of our outraged sources comes a copy of a Manhattan accordion shop's monstrous \$850.00 estimate for minor repairs to a Lachenal 48-key treble, which subsequently went to a Canadian sanatorium and was pronounced cured for under \$200.00. Several independent repair specialists, when shown the estimate, were aghast. Was it a misprint? Did they really mean \$85.00? Since when does it cost as much to tune and replace the pads & valves in a concertina as it would to buy an entire instrument, in good playing order, through some advertisements in C&S? Step warily in the megapolis! In the meantime, our lookouts will have their spyglasses carefully trained, in the event a keelhauling is required.

RICHARD CARLIN REVISITED

Frank Butler writes: It is now twelve years since Richard Carlin's popular tutor was written, and about fifteen years since Carlin himself lunched with me, looking very much as his picture that adorns the cover of his book.

I was moved to look through the tutor again and the pictures it contains, by news from Arthur Austin (pictured on page 29) who at the age of 91 has retired to a nursing home, and now wants to sell his tenor-treble concertina. As he wants 1,000 Pounds for it, he can be considered as A1 as ever. The Fayre Four are pictured on page 39, in a pose that gives no indication of their superb classical playing, which included such numbers as *Flight of the Bumblebee* and Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody*. I have not seen any of them since 1980, but they are all octogenarians by now, for at George Jones's Christmas parties the oldest of the sisters used to give me, the infant F.E.B., piggyback rides.

Harry Minting (page 41), the last manager of Wheatstone & Co., gave a talk and played at a fairly recent I.C.A. Meeting, apparently carrying his years gracefully. But of the pair on page 45, we mourn the loss of Wilfred Pearce, a splendid player and supporter of the concertina cause. His companion, Rueben Shaw still plays his Duet concertina, and visited Australia a year or two ago. We all mourn the loss of Harry and Neville Crabb (page 54) and Harry's wife, who used to help making bellows for him.

Richard Carlin himself is looking meditative on page 60. I leave it to your Editor to update the story and possibly the picture of Richard Carlin, and also of the Matusewitch family, to which he so rightly pays respect with other illustrations in his tutor.

An interview with Sergei Matusewitch is promised for an upcoming issue, and if one of our readers out there will show this issue to Richard, maybe he'll send us a new photograph.

This is as good an opportunity as any to mention that Frank Butler himself is now eighty-six, and so deaf that he has not heard any form of music for several years. He has also been plagued in recent months with a hardening retina which makes it very difficult for him to read more than a bar of music or one shortish word at a time; but he still answers nearly a dozen letters a week, and continues to take infinite pains to provide not only Concertina & Squeezebox but the I.C.A. and our good colleagues at the Australian Concertina Magazine with wonderful music, articles, reviews, rare photographs, and historical insights impossible to find or at least pry loose from other sources, some of whom are absolutely rolling in achival material and are only interested in parting with it for a fancy price. And what of Mr. Butler? He not only gives generously of his time and expertise, but he even pays for his subscriptions! Talk about supporting the cause.... —Ed. 🎵 ☺