

Karl Kment Biography

In his own words

My father was career military and, in 1935, was in the Fort Sam Houston Hospital in San Antonio, Texas due to an injury. Some talented children who were playing accordion toured the patients' rooms and my father immediately decided that I was going to learn to play the accordion!

I took private lessons for five years from Chris Stark, a fine teacher as well as an accomplished performer. I played in various San Antonio venues, including night clubs, when I was twelve years old. I was still taking lessons (from other teachers) when my father was transferred to the San Francisco area where I then studied with Joe Maggioli as well as with Theodore Pezzolo.

After high school graduation, I served in the navy for four years and, for a good portion of the time, put my accordion to use. I was part of the NATTC Band for almost three years by virtue of the accordion although, when marching, I played the glockenspiel. I was also a member of a small ensemble that performed for functions on and off the base.

After discharge, I gave class accordion lessons in southwest Washington while attending college and, ultimately, opened a retail music store in Hood River, Oregon which grew to a small chain of five stores. The accordion, although still a part of my journey, took a "back seat" for about twenty years. Sometime in the mid-1980s, Earle Minor enticed me to attend a meeting of the Portland Accordion Club—and the rest becomes history. Later, in the late 1990s and early 2000s, I taught workshops at the Rose City Accordion Club accordion camp and, for nearly eight years, played weekly at a supper club in The Dalles, Oregon.

In 2007, Phyllis and I moved to Redmond, Oregon to be near our children as we aged. Living in Central Oregon, I helped in the formation of the Accordion Club of Central Oregon as well as giving lessons and performing minor repairs on accordions.

I had over the years heard piano versions of Albeniz's "Tango in D" and last year tried without success to find an accordion arrangement. The result was converting a piano score to an accordion arrangement. I hope you enjoy it!



Carl Kment, boy of 12 years, entertains from 7 to 8 p. m. at Salas' Steak House, 822 Fredericksburg road on Sunday evenings. This "youthful" entertainer has appeared at some of the outstanding pleasure spots of the city.

DAY OF THE ACCORDION



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