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# DeVoe Guitars Newsletter

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*Vicente Amigo and Lester DeVoe, Cordoba 2009. Vicente is holding his new cedar top Blanca guitar.*

Greetings to newcomers and old friends. June 2003 was the last time I sent out a DeVoe Guitars Newsletter. It has been a long time since then, and I hope you like this new format to keep up with my adventures.

Every two years or so, I take a trip to Europe to purchase tone woods and to meet with guitarists. This past October, I traveled to Madrid to visit with the gypsy guitarist "El Viejin", then to Cordoba where I met Vicente Amigo. Although not being able to connect with Paco de Lucia in person, I did have a nice telephone conversation with him from his new home in Mallorca. Paco told me he is not quite finished with his new CD but will begin a concert tour in February, 2010 mostly in Europe, but will play in a few cities in the US and Canada. So far there are

no concerts booked for the West Coast.

In Madrid, Viejin introduced me to his brother Juan Jimenez, a marvelous guitarist who also lives in the same area of Madrid called the Cana Roto where many flamenco artists reside. Viejin and Juan took me to a Japanese buffet of overwhelming variety on the outskirts of Madrid for a wonderful late night meal. The following night, I dined with Viejin and his family, enjoying the cooking of his gracious wife Ana. My ho-

tel was near the Plaza Mayor and I enjoyed the entertainment and events in the plaza. There were several flamenco groups along with other musicians and soloists playing for tips.

In Cordoba, I spent a long day with Vicente Amigo and his family at his new



*Vicente plays his 1999 negra, Indian rosewood and spruce*

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*This 2003 cedar top negra is Vicente's current favorite guitar. Note the rosewood fingerboard. He ordered another guitar just like it!*

home. I met Vicente in 1999 and since then, he began recording exclusively with my guitars, beginning with his CD, the first album to win the Latin Grammy, *Ciudad de las Ideas*, released in 2001. Since then, he recorded two more CDs also with my negra guitars, *Un Momento en el Sonido* and recently, *Paseo de Gracia*. In the late evening, Vicente and his wife invited me, and their friends Manuel and Linda for dinner at the bar, La Bodega. It was so nice to have Linda as an interpreter so I could communicate with Vicente on a deep level. Vicente is always creative, and when something in our conversation sparked his genius he composed an original letra (musical verse) then proceeded to sing with passion, while he and Manuel rapped out the compas with their knuckles on the table top!

During my two un-scheduled days before going to Germany I took a fast trip to Granada, a charming city that I had wanted to experience for years. What I enjoyed the most was hiking up the wooded hill to the Alhambra and walking around the grounds overlooking the city.

Then, I took a flight from Malaga to Frankfurt, rented a car and drove to Bavaria to select soundboards and guitar supplies.

For years I have ordered guitar parts from the Dofra Company and was delighted to finally meet Gerhard Dotzauer and his son Thomas, an excellent maker of mandolins. Both father and son were warm and friendly hosts and tour guides for me.

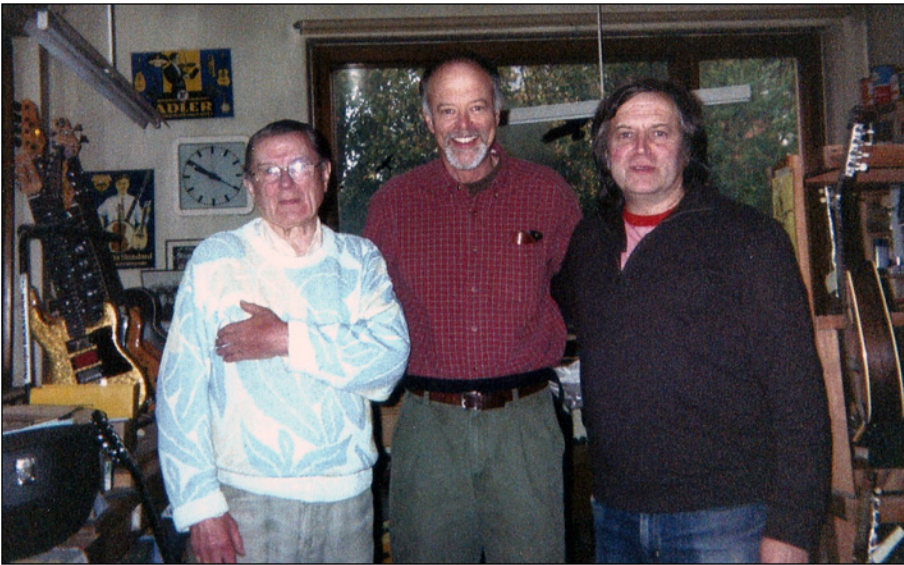
In Freiburg, Germany I spent two days touring the city with my gracious host and new friend Johannes Inhoffen of Mundo Flamenco. Johannes, who I call "Sr. Flamenco" for his knowledge, involvement and promotion of Flamenco music, will be selling my guitars in central Europe beginning in 2010.

My family is well. This past summer the event of the year occurred with the marriage of our daughter Elaine to Daniel. We love our new son-in-law and see the newly-weds often.

On a personal note, after 42 years in the sport, I have given up competitive running but keep in shape riding my mountain bike, lifting weights and walking.



*Lester selecting spruce sound boards*



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*Gerhard Dotzauer, Lester and Thomas Dotzauer in Thomas' workshop, Tennenlohe, Germany.*



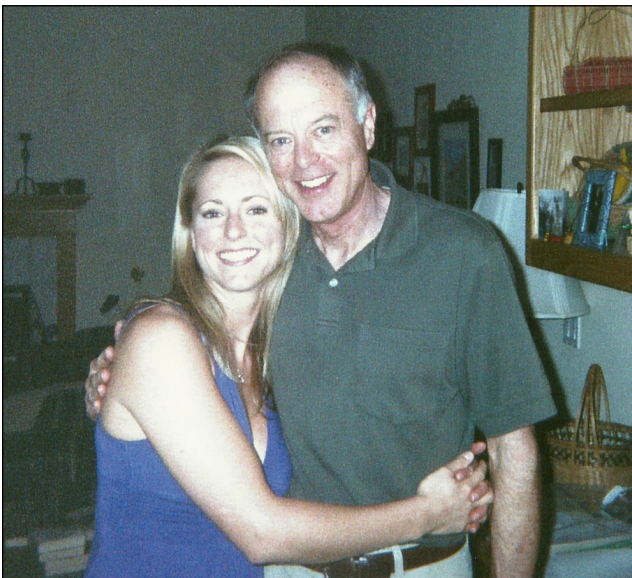
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*Wedding photo of family*



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*Elaine and Lester in gateway*



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*Daughter Emily and Lester*