



Willona Green of Waterford Township plays alto saxophone in the Oakland Community College Jazz Band.

RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Strike up the band

Craig Strain is director of the musical program for Novi Schools and also leader of the Brookside Ensemble. The jazz band is a labor of love for Strain, who dedicates his spare time to it.



All that jazz

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Strike up the band, or more properly the jazz ensemble, at Oakland Community College. And thanks to maestros Ted Mann and Craig Strain the college has such a group to strike up.

A creation of Mann and Strain, the ensemble at full strength includes seven saxophones, six trumpets, six trombones, a bass, a guitar, a set of drums and vibes. At present, the group numbers about 20 musicians.

"The college never had much of a performing arts program," said Mann, who teaches music history at OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills, "so in 1981 we decided to put one together."

"We started rehearsals in '82, and we've been going with it ever since."

Mann, who also directs an OCC choir, calls himself the "faculty coordinator" of the jazz ensemble, which includes both students and people from the community "who just want to get their horns out again," according to Mann.

STRAIN, MUSIC teacher and band director at Novi High School, is the conductor. "Jazz is his thing, and he's very, very good at it," said Mann of Strain.

The ensemble tries to play at least one concert a year, according to Mann. It took part in the recent Detroit Symphony Marathon.

A December concert at OCC's Wallace F. Smith Performing Arts Theatre was well attended, according to Mann.

The ensemble plans another free concert for 8 p.m. on April 25, a Wednesday, at the Smith Theatre, a facility Mann likes.

Mann and Strain are always looking for new members who can play at least on a high-school-band level. Interested musicians should call Mann at 471-7795 during normal business hours for an interview.



Bob Williams, a retired band director from Westland, plays the trombone.

memory lane

Memories, memories... have we got the memories. And we'd like to share them with you. Using local newspaper files, we're dishing up generous slices of life in the Farmington community from 40, 30, 20 and 10 years ago.

MARCH 23, 1944 —

A SURPRISE hope chest party was given for Farmington Township's Harriet Nebus, who became engaged to Staff Sgt. Al Libasi on March 6. The party was planned by Kathleen Morris, Harriet's closest friend. "Mrs. Morris danced the Irish jig, since it was St. Patrick's Day," said a newspaper account of the affair, "and the girls danced, sang, talked, ate and questioned Harriet about Sergeant Libasi of Long Island, New York, who is a gunnery instructor in Las Vegas, Nevada."

"WRECKING IS going on over at the building on Grand River Avenue right next to the Christian Science Reading Room, and it seems to create a good deal of interest," according to an Around the Block item. "It's one of those things you have to stop by and check up on each day just to see what's happened since the day before."

ANOTHER AROUND the Block item noted, "Easter is not far off, so you'd better get out last year's togs and see how you can spruce them up at a minimum of cost. Just a trip to the cleaners will help a lot, and you might take a tip from Mrs. Bunny and stick a flower in your hat, and join the Easter parade to church. 'I bought a Bon instead of a coat' is a mighty good slogan this year."

FARMINGTON'S SCOUTS, both boy and girl, were asked to help in the search for the four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Navaree of Woodring Avenue. The little boy was found unharmed by a Scout and a Scoutmaster near a creek in Breitmeyer's Woods.

MARCH 25, 1954 —

A MODERATE to heavy voter turnout was expected for a special Farmington Township School District election scheduled for March 29 in the high school gymnasium. Electors were to decide a proposed \$1.5 million school building question.

FARMINGTON MEATS, 33419 Grand River, advertised sirloin or club steaks at 59 cents a pound and Crisco at 79 cents for a three-pound can.

THE 1954-55 Farmington High School cheerleading squad included Diane Franjae, Linda Chambers, Nancy Mitchell, Alice Lancaster, Ron Roberts, Joanne Auger, Pat Bohi and Bill Landacre.

SHORT ITEM: "You're more apt to keep good records on your dairy herd if you keep the records simple, say MSC dairymen." Another short item: "When baking, leave at least one inch of space between pans and between the pans and the oven walls. This allows for even heat distribution to give uniform browning."

CLASSIFIED AD: "LOST — Pair of glasses, in red plastic case, in Clive Theatre, Sunday. Farm. 2702-J."

MARCH 26, 1964 —

A PLAN CALLING for the complete revision in the basketball program offered junior high school boys in the Farmington Public Schools was approved by the Farmington board of Education at a recent meeting. In an attempt to get more boys involved, an intramural program for the three junior high grades running from December through March will be established. The plan also provides for separate eighth- and ninth-grade varsity teams. School officials estimated that the program would cost an additional \$900 a year.

RICK KORTE, a junior at Our Lady of Sorrows High School in Farmington, was named captain of the school's wrestling team for the 1964-65 season. Korte, a 127 pounder, was the only Sorrows underclassman to qualify for the recent state wrestling tournament.

CONROY'S SUPER Market, 23534 Farmington Road, advertised bulk oysters at \$1.39 for a "full pint" and "small, lean & meaty" spare ribs at 49 cents a pound.

SHORT ITEM: A "The smallest good deed is better than the grandest good intention." Another short item: "A man with six children is better off than a man with six million dollars. A man with six kids doesn't want any more."

MARCH 25, 1974 —

STUDENTS FROM Farmington's Eagle Elementary School recently put on "The Mikado" as a school project. Cast in the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta were Mike Phillips, Karl Hamina, Lisa Jakes and Mary Fulkerson. The students performed at three other schools.

PAM MCCARTNEY, a sixth grader at the Westbrook Elementary School in the Clarencville District, received a \$25 savings bond for a third-place finish in an environmental poster contest. Pam's poster theme was Save the Birds. The contest was sponsored by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

ABOUT 500 students at Gill Elementary School in Farmington launched helium-filled balloons with messages asking for their return to students at the school. The launch was held in honor of Farmington's sesquicentennial.

JODI YAMBOR, an outstanding swimmer at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, continued to sparkle on the competitive swimming circuit. Swimming for the Birmingham Swim Club, she won the 100-yard butterfly (1:03.1) and the 50-yard freestyle (25.0) at the Michigan Amateur Athletic Union women's championships at Birmingham Groves High School.

GUINDON MICHIGAN-SPRING AT LAST

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