

## He shares joy of music

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had anything to do with music," Barber said. "I called the director of that program and told him I would be willing to start a band. He told me to go to it."

Six musicians showed up for the first rehearsal in 1966; one of them was Fern Barber.

Farmington Community Band celebrated its 20th anniversary with a roster of 70 and a full-scale musical production of "South Pacific," staged this spring in conjunction with Farmington Musical. "They have both very well stood the test of time," he said.

MEANWHILE, BARBER has experienced magic moments in Australia, the British Isles, Japan, Korea and Hawaii as band director for Musical Youth International.

He has spent much of his away-from-school time auditioning the youth who will travel abroad on annual good-will tours of concerts. Intensive rehearsals take place before their summer departure.

"The standards, the expectations, are very high. The team work has to be developed to a very high degree because there are no rehearsals in music. Once that note is

played, it's played," he said.

"If music had a batting average and you were batting .700, you'd be fired," he said. "Missing three out of 10 notes just won't do it. All of the notes have to be played in tune, on time, in rhythm. When you've got that 100 percent, then you've mastered the science of it, you have a sound, and that is just the beginning."

"Now you link the science to the intuitive, the creative, the emotional development and you have an art. This is where one person's success is everyone's success. Everyone can share in someone else's joy. That's a magic moment."

BARBER CALLS music "one of the flowers of life," along with art, drama and literature. He believes it is important that all people stop once in a while to smell one of those flowers.

"If music educators in the world are doing their job, they're contributing to living an enjoyable life," Barber said.

"It is not important that you remember how to finger P Sharp. If you can be taught to love the art, remember and use the discipline you learned from your musical education, you can use music as one of the keys to get through this life

in a harmonious fashion. Music is the audible flower. Stop and smell it and you will have a richer and fuller life," he said.

A good part of Barber's job as music coordinator for the schools is to "work out" any frustrations teachers might have, pave the way for them to spread joy in music to the kids. Just make it as good a climate as can be for motivating the best, bringing out the best in all of the students. I work to create a better and better environment and all the incentive I can for them (teachers) to do a better job every day," he said.

Barber has amassed a lot of awards throughout his music career but brushed aside any talk about them.

"One's best efforts have got to be in learning and growing and making something better for somebody today. I have my arms out in a lot of directions but I make sure I'm available for my children," he said, speaking of Randy, a seventh grader at Dunckel Middle School, and Julie, who started kindergarten classes at Kenbrook Elementary School this fall.

"I tell them to love what they do and it will be easy to do. Whatever you do, please be happy."

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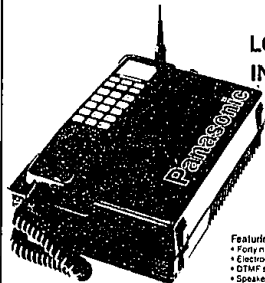
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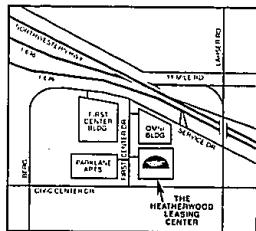
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