

Little leaguers launch own entertainment corps

By Barbara Hoffmeyer
special writer

The Southfield-Lathrup Falcons, a little league football team in the Southfield/Lathrup Village district, has successfully kicked off efforts to expand into a new and different area.

Pleased with the popularity of their football program, but not content with their limitations, Falcons players and parents began looking for ways to expand in order to offer additional activities for other young people in the community who are of middle school age.

"We had over 130 boys and girls in our football and cheerleading programs last year, and we had to turn away youngsters because the teams were full," said Charles Shambles, president of the Falcons.

According to Shambles, the Falcon board of directors agreed that to turn away young people was in direct opposition to their goals, and they felt a strong sense of obligation to expand their services.

The first idea for expansion was the development of a little league marching band and flag corps, but to be comprised of mainly seventh and

eighth grade (and possibly some sixth grade) boys and girls.

According to Shambles, coming up with the idea was relatively easy. However, raising funds, they knew, would be the real challenge.

"ANYONE WHO volunteers time to a charitable organization knows how difficult and disappointing fund raising can be," he said.

Being a non-profit, volunteer organization, the Falcons had to find a way to fund their new idea. The projected amount needed to develop a marching band came in at \$10,000.

"We knew this represented our greatest challenge to date," said Shambles. "And even though we were somewhat threatened, we wanted to go for it."

And go for it they did. Straight to Allied Corp. in Southfield. So committed to the idea was Shambles, who is the director of employee relations at Allied, that he swallowed hard and took the proposal to his superior, Dennis Hayward, vice president of human resources for Allied Automotive.

After considerable discussion and evaluation, Hayward indicated his support for the program. Shambles then

presented the idea to Lou Theus, director of civic affairs for Allied, who also liked the idea. Once that far, the idea was taken to J. Martin (Mace) Reynolds, executive vice president and president of Automotive Sector of Allied.

According to Shambles, Hayward was the first to speak with Reynolds regarding the possibility of Allied funding the Falcon marching band. Next, Theus discussed the project with Reynolds. And finally, Shambles and Theus met with Reynolds, who approved the entire \$10,000 contribution from Allied to the Southfield-Lathrup Falcon Marching Band.

"THE YOUTH of today is the most important ingredient to the future not only of Allied, but the future of the country," Reynolds said. "Although this donation represents a little deviation from the usual types of programs with which we normally participate, we feel this band provides an excellent opportunity for Allied to contribute to and participate with the community."

According to Reynolds, one of Allied's goals has always been to sustain

a close, integral relationship with the local communities in which Allied plants and offices are located. Reynolds also has respect for the people who give their time, energy and support for the furthering of youth-oriented programs.

"I find it very heartening to see people like Charles Shambles who work hard all day, then go home and continue to work with programs such as the Falcons," he said.

Once armed with Allied funds, the Falcons went to work implementing the marching band concept. Middle school band directors were contacted for support in gleaming possible marching band players from school band classes. Southfield Parks and Recreation officials were asked to co-sponsor the band with in-kind services, which they approved, as did the Southfield Cultural Arts.

Next came the question of a band director. Cautioned by both middle school band teachers and the high school band directors to be certain to choose a skillful and knowledgeable director, the Falcons sought out R. Paul Barber, district music co-ordinator for Farmington Public Schools and con-

ductor for this year's 10th Anniversary Australian Tour for Musical Youth International.

Barber sees the Falcon Marching Band as a way to allow students with an interest in music to enjoy the pleasure not only of their music but to also enjoy the excitement of being caught up in the spirit of an athletic event.

"A MARCHING BAND experience gives kids a lot more than simply marching around a football field playing an instrument," Barber said. "It instills in these kids a sense of teamwork, a sense of stimulation and challenge while at the same time allowing them to physically let off steam; to experience the 'rah rah' feeling in a positive manner."

According to Barber, the Falcon Marching Band will serve as the very first "farm system" for both Southfield and Southfield-Lathrup high schools, feeding to each band director freshmen students with one or two and possibly three years' marching band experience.

Barber also has planned a two-week band camp for Falcon Marching Band members. The camp is to be held at Southfield-Lathrup high school and will include several instructors.

Now that the dust is settling, the outlook for the band appears optimistic.

"When we began, we weren't at all certain that it would all come together," said Shambles. "But now that the actual planning, fund raising and recruiting is over, it looks like we have ourselves a Southfield-Lathrup Falcon Marching Band."

When asked how the funds were holding out, Shambles laughed as he explained the rapid rate of expenditures.

"Well, there's the drums to buy, the cymbals to buy, the sheet music to buy, the uniforms to buy, the director to pay, the classrooms to rent, . . ." he trailed off. "I just hope we have enough."

Anyone interested in volunteering their time, registering a band player or obtaining additional information should write to: The Southfield-Lathrup Falcons, Box 2577, Southfield 48087.

Partners named

Linden, Klein, Israel and Ross has named Frederic J. Bornstein and Howard R. Simon as partners.

Bornstein, president of West Bloomfield, joined LKI and R in November of 1978 and was named a principal in mid-1981.

He has a bachelor of arts degree from Oakland University, he is a member of the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Bornstein is a frequent lecturer on topics of concern to small business.

Simon became a member of the firm in June of 1975 and was made a principal in mid-1981.

He holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Wisconsin and an master of business administration degree from Temple University.

He is a member of the American Association of Certified Public Accountants and the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants, where he sits on the State Tax Committee. Also active in the Farmington Jaycees, Simon lives in Farmington Hills.

LKI and R is a local independent accounting firm, providing audit and accounting, tax, management advisory and financial counseling services for businesses and individuals.

Secretary vies for office

Marie L. Ahearn of Farmington Hills is a candidate for international director, Great Lakes District, of Professional Secretaries International, the voice of the secretarial profession with more than 40,000 members on five continents.

Elections for the 12-member board of directors will be held at the annual convention July 23-27 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

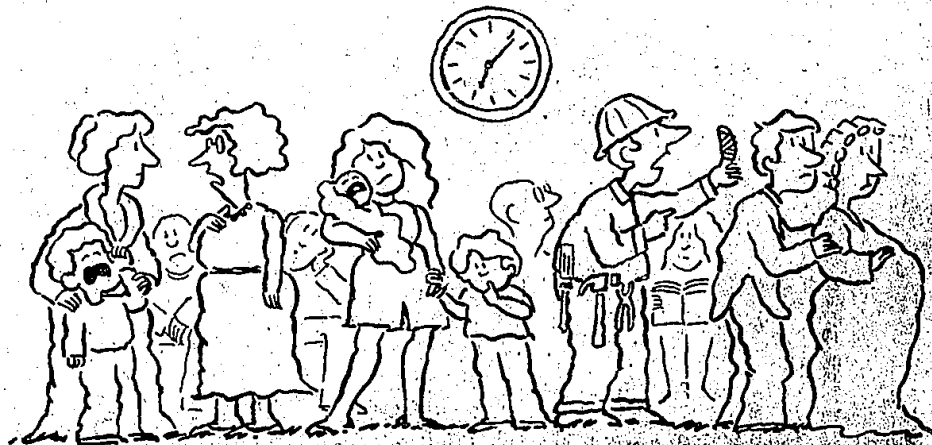
Ahearn is administrative secretary to William Davidson, president and chief executive officer, Guardian Industries Corp., Northville.

A member of PSI River Park Chapter, Ahearn is a former state and chapter president and served as co-ordinator of the 1977 PSI Convention held in Detroit.

She is a member of Friends of Farmington Hills Library and a member of Executive Women International, Detroit Chapter.

Professional Secretaries International, headquartered in Kansas City, provides access to the most recent information available on office automation, secretarial compensation, and changing trends in the secretarial profession.

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