

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



(R6-7C)OWC

Thursday, September 6, 1985 O&E

Era ends: Clarence Baker sells club again

Last week's Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival, No. 6 in the series, may have been a historic one. The rumor that's been about for a couple of weeks, that Clarence Baker has sold the famed 51-year-old jazz nightclub, Baker's Keyboard Lounge, was confirmed by Baker during the festival.

After a set by a trio led by the extraordinary bassist Ron Carter, at the club as part of the jazz festival, Baker said the club was indeed sold. "Thanksgiving weekend will be my last time here," he said.

Which may mean that Mike Tarrow, new owner of Baker's, one of the co-owners of the Rhinoceros restaurant in the warehouse district, may change the entertainment policy. Even if he doesn't, Clarence Baker's leaving the club will mark an end to the era that has lasted since 1935 when his father started the jazz club.

Baker has been rehearsing this move for years and has helped us all to prepare for it by selling it twice before—but each time buying it back. This time is apparently for real. And what will Baker do? Retire to Florida?

"Now, I couldn't live there," he said. "There's lots of things here I can do."

Obviously, Baker, who's in his 70s, will be involved in music in some way. He's negotiated with New Center One over the last year to operate a jazz club in that new New Center building and,

that having apparently fallen through, he's talking about opening a club in the northern suburbs. As well as continuing to produce concerts for best-selling guitarist Earl Klugh.

You can be sure, though, that whatever music project Clarence Baker is part of in the future will have something to do with jazz and it will be first-rate.

THE SUMMER HAS swung in metro Detroit, with the Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival ended, P'Jazz done for the year and most other series saying goodbye to the summer. There's only one more concert for New Center Swings.

As a finale to New Center Swings season two, the concert series has planned sort of a block party Thursday, Sept. 12. The New Center Area Council will block off Second Avenue south of W. Grand Boulevard and feature three bands to wrap up what has been a highly successful summer of music.

Starting at 5:30 p.m. that day, the Alexander Zongle band will be featured in a one-hour set, followed by Steve King and the Dittiles and the Sun Messengers.

For more information about this concert, call 872-0183. And next year at New Center Swings? Look for a bigger, better summer concert season.



on music

James Windell

STILL AT THE New Center. The Graystone International Jazz Museum will bring in Thad Jones and the Count Basie Orchestra at an afternoon dance party at the New Center One Grand Atrium on Sunday, Sept. 15, from 4 to 8 p.m.

The dance with former Detroiters Thad Jones, who's now the leader and director of the Count Basie Orchestra, is a fund-raising event for the Graystone International Jazz Museum. The museum at 718 Lothrop adjacent to the Fisher Building in the New Center area, is raising funds to present Detroit jazz musicians at its "Jazz in the Afternoon" series this fall.

The museum also plans an exhibit of photographs, artifacts, a video and reference library on jazz.

Tickets for the dance are priced at \$25 per person, and information about the dance and tickets may be obtained by calling 871-0334.

DAVE WELCOME, a 43-year old teacher at Bloomfield Hills' Lahser

High School, has been writing songs and playing the guitar for 20 years. Finally, the Bloomfield Hills resident has achieved a long-time goal of recording an album.

"It's a dream I've always had," said the leader of the High Point Band, "and I felt if it was going to get done it had to be now."

Taking the bull by the horns, Welcome put together his own money to record a pop album called "Your Song." The title comes from the first song on side one, a love song to his wife, Sue. Welcome also wrote five other tunes on the album.

"I remember when I bought my first guitar more than 20 years ago," said Welcome, a defensive coordinator for the Lahser varsity football team. "I started making up tunes and I found that the words just came along. They would come into mind and I would write them down."



Jazz flutist Alexander Zongle and his band will play at the season's final New Center Swings concert Thursday, Sept. 12, in Detroit's New Center. He will be on the first part of the program, shared with Steve King and the Dittiles and the Sun Messengers.

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Film 'Mikey and Nicky' to get first Detroit showing

"Mikey and Nicky" will be shown by Detroit Film Theatre at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday at the Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium.

Director Elaine May's 1978 comic psychodrama is being given its Detroit debut. The film stars John Casavetes and Peter Falk in a study of two small-

time gangsters worked over by guilt, retribution and paranoia on a single night.

Tickets at \$2.50 are available through the museum ticket office and at the door. For further information, call 832-2730 during regular business hours.

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This Weekend, We're Unveiling 300 Cars That Are Neither New Nor Improved.

On September 7th and 8th, hundreds of cars and trucks dating from 1900 to 1925 will gather here in Greenfield Village from all over the United States and Canada.

The occasion: the 35th annual Old Car Festival, one of the most

prestigious antique car events in the country.

In addition to the famous names of Oldsmobile, Packard, Cadillac and Ford, you'll also see some that are slightly less popular: like Sunset, Stanley Steamer, and Hupmobile.

So if you'd like a look at how they made cars before anybody ever heard of "fuel injection," "miles per gallon" or "streamlining," bring your family out to the Old Car Festival, this weekend. Call 271-1976 for more information.

The Old Car Festival In Greenfield Village, September 7th & 8th.

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