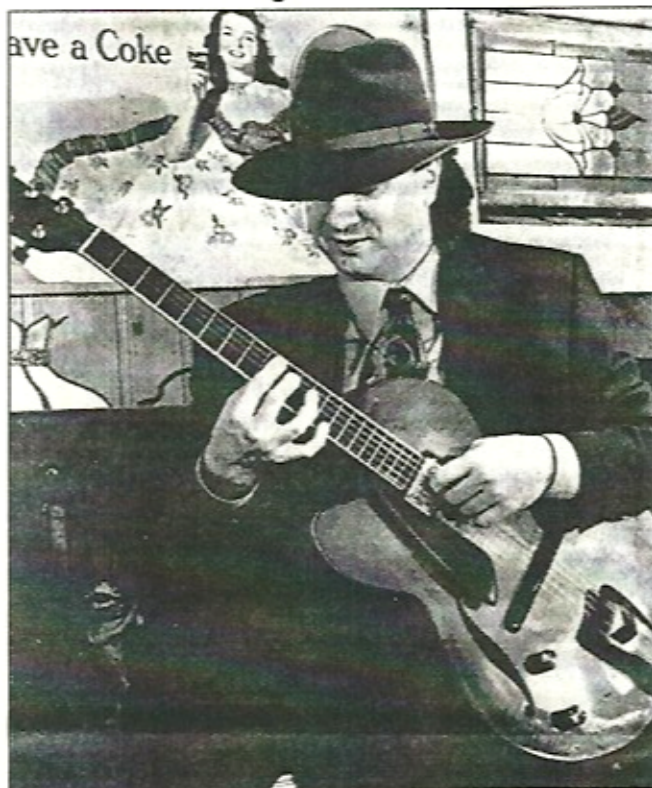




Jazz Bands to Jam Thursdays on Bell



Jazz guitarist Joseph Carter III will be one of the featured performers during the Bayside Chamber of Commerce's Thursday night music series all this month.

By DAVID BRUNSON

The Bayside Chamber of Commerce is ready to jazz up Bell Boulevard.

Beginning Thursday, a quartet of blues and jazz bands was slated to hit Bayside's main thoroughfare and fill the air with the sounds of bebop, cool jazz, soul, blues and rhythm-and-blues.

The bands will play on Bell every Thursday this month, starting at 4:30 p.m.

"We thought jazz and blues were probably the kind of music that people would like the most," said Harold Gareau, Bayside Chamber of Commerce president.

Gareau got together with jazz guitarist Joseph Carter III last summer when Carter found musicians for a mini-jazz fest on Bell. The success of last year's event led to this summer's expanded event.

"We're using this event to promote window-shopping," Gareau said. "We hope commuters will get off the railroad and stick around Bell Boulevard."

The bands were scheduled to play Thursday at spots near the train station. They'll move to different spots on Bell Boulevard later this month, Gareau said.

Carter, a veteran jazz guitarist, has assembled four acts for the Bell series: the Willie Steel Blues Trio, the Stan Wright Blues Review, the Gary Strauss Group and his own Joseph Carter III Trio.

Willie Steel, a guitarist and vocalist, is "the man of steel," Carter said. "He's the hardest working blues musician in the world. He's played a million blues gigs in

every kind of club everywhere. He's just a wild guy."

Steel, with his trademark turban and goatee, sings and plays soulful blues guitar backed by drums and bass.

The Stan Wright Blues Review will bring its own brand of grooving rhythm-and-blues to Bell. Wright, a guitarist, has played with such legends as Booker T. and the MGs, the Coasters and Bo Diddley.

Roland Parker, a 70-year-old drummer and vocalist who Carter said "has played with just about everybody" and bass player John Abbey round out the group.

Abbey's band Dog's Eye View, which plays blues-based rock 'n' roll, has a new album on Columbia Records and a MTV video coming out later this month.

The Gary Strauss Group, a trio, plays cool jazz, the style made legendary by Miles Davis in the 1950s. Baker, a trumpet and trombone player who has performed at Lincoln Center, is joined by Stu Waters on piano and Barry Brenner on drums.

Carter's own group, the Joseph Carter III Trio, plays a variety of music, focusing on blues and bebop.

Carter's band mate, Bill Doggett, is an organist who has played with Ella Fitzgerald and appears on "about 100 albums," Carter said. Drummer Walter Perkins, 63, has been on some 50 albums with such luminaries as Billie Holiday and jazz guitar legend Wes Montgomery.