

## 'Endangered Species' Trying To Form Local Jazz Band

BY DOUG RUTTER  
Staff Writer

Duke Jaynes, Sam Andrews and Tom Underwood think of themselves as an endangered species trying to save a forgotten art.

Jazz musicians with a liking for the big band sounds of the 30s and 40s, the three gather every couple of weeks for a "jam session" and hope to someday be the nucleus of a local jazz band or jazz society.

"We're an endangered species," says Jaynes. "We're trying to make a comeback like the brown pelicans." For now though, their comeback is limited to occasional gatherings in someone's living room.

With Jaynes on the guitar, Andrews on saxophone and Underwood on bass, the trio plays what they refer to as "vintage jazz." That covers songs made famous by the likes of Count Basie and Duke Ellington, classic ballads such as Stardust and even show tunes from old Broadway musicals.

"Once every week or so we'll get together just for the fun of it," Andrews said in a recent interview. "We really do it for our own amusement."

Jaynes and Andrews met about one year ago at a Brunswick County Band function, and they've been playing together ever since. "Jazz musicians just find one another," explains Andrews, who is a long-time friend of Underwood.

With retirees moving into the area every day, the trio believes there is more than enough interest to establish a local jazz society. "I think there's a real market for it," said Andrews. "But it's not so much marketing as it is playing for our own pleasure."

He adds that there are probably plenty of older musicians with a big band style living in Brunswick County. "The thought has occurred to us that buried somewhere down here are a lot of retired jazz musicians," said Andrews. "There's got to be a few of them around here."

Jaynes, the "old timer" of the trio at age 66, lives along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway near Holden Beach. A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., he retired as a railroad worker and moved to the area about 10 years ago.

Andrews and Underwood, both natives of North Carolina, are next-door neighbors at Sunset Beach. They still spend some time in Durham where they also own homes.

Andrews moved to the coast about three years ago after retiring as an administrator at Duke University and Duke Hospital. Underwood still spends most of his time in Durham. He recently retired as operator of a small electronics firm in the Research Triangle Park.

Although all three retired from other occupations, each of the men has played music since their high school days or before. They've all worked with various bands over the years, and talk of their experiences with well-known musicians in different taverns flows freely



JAZZ MUSICIANS, from left, Sam Andrews, Tom Underwood and Duke Jaynes jam to *Sweet Georgia Brown*.

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

whenever they get together.

All three were young when they started playing music, but Underwood may have been the youngest. "I played in the high school band when I was in the third grade," he said. "I had to play tuba because the high school didn't have a tuba player."

Though he never made a living playing guitar, Jaynes comes from a family of professional musicians. "My whole family is music," he said. "That's how my father made a living."

Andrews said he started playing before high school.

He was introduced to the guitar by a college student who rented a room from his father. "All of our wives agree on this," Andrews says with a smile. "When we don't play we get frustrated and walk around kicking furniture."

Jaynes said playing the old jazz classics is an art that isn't even remotely comparable to cranking out the "heavy metal" tunes enjoyed by some of today's younger generation.

He said playing older jazz music requires talent and more feeling than playing modern music. Young rock

musicians can play fast, he said, but they often don't play with a lot of emotion.

"We don't set off fireworks or smoke bombs. We don't bite any heads off bats," explained Jaynes. "We just play because that's what we love to do."

Adds Andrews, "What we play is a definite art form. We do it because it gives us an opportunity to express ourselves."

Anyone interested in playing in a local jazz band or helping to form a jazz society can contact Duke or Peggy Jaynes at 842-9085.

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