

## Jim Hayden is a Music Listener

by Richard Regent

Charter Member **James M. Hayden** joined UJL in its founding year of 1971. He is on the Jazz Unlimited Board of Directors as Treasurer and Membership Chairman and participates in monthly Board meetings. Jim keeps busy behind the scenes to remind members to renew or encourage folks to join. He also volunteers as the Newsletter Mailing Coordinator. After the newsletter is printed, Jim takes it to a member's home where three other members help to insert flyers, fold, apply address labels and postage stamps to prepare it for the mailing. Jim says jokingly, "I don't get paid more than any other Club volunteer!"

Jim grew up in Peoria, Illinois. In the eighth grade he "played at" a cornet for 18 months but eventually lost the "incentive to practice" and instead returned to concentrating on school studies as a freshman in high school. After graduating from high school Jim attended Peoria's Bradley University to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Business.

Jim had a short crew hair cut before he went into the U.S. Army in 1953. The Army barber appreciated the job done by Jim's civilian barber and just trimmed it up a little bit. In fact, while Jim was in the Army he let his hair grow out and only got crew cuts when he was on leave, just the opposite haircut schedule of his military buddies. Corporal Hayden, as he was then ranked, served in the Finance Corps and was stationed in Germany for 14 months. To this day, Jim loves his crew cut which grows straight and without a part. Besides, crew cuts are now in style!

In 1955 Jim married and he has been happy ever since. Janice (who loves Dixieland) and Jim celebrated their 52nd Wedding Anniversary on June 26, 2007. The old saying, "Like father, like son," deviates slightly in the Hayden Family. Both of their two sons enjoy listening to rock music but avoid crew cuts because their hair grows at various angles and their parts would show.

After having a few beginning jobs, Jim was hired to work in sales by the *W. T. Grant Company* and in 1969 was relocated to Milwaukee. The 1980s brought about higher costs and difficult competition causing *Grant* to close despite Jim's 18 years of dedicated service to the company. Soon the *Ben Franklin Stores* grabbed up Jim as a Wisconsin District Sales Manager. He enjoyed working with individual store owners to improve sales efficiency for the next 15 years until his retirement in 1996. Looking like a no-nonsense squared-away kind of guy, his sales experience shows in his skillful dealing with people.

When they have free time, Jim and Janice visit *The Grove* in Elm Grove to listen to the *Chuck Hedges Quartet*. Jim likes mainstream and straight-ahead jazz, particularly played on a tenor saxophone or clarinet, but doesn't have a favorite tune. Keith Sarnow, tenor saxophonist, once asked Jim if he plays a musical instrument. "No, I'm just a listener." Jim replied. Thank goodness for good listeners like Jim and Janice to inspire and applaud performing musicians. Someone once said "We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen more and talk less."

Jim hopefully says, "We need to attract new younger members to join. I mean the 50-year olds or younger, not just retired people. This needs to happen to keep Jazz Unlimited growing. Members should attend concerts we sponsor to raise money to meet our mission goals of supporting scholarships for young musicians. Members need to be active, visit the annual meeting and hear one or two yearly concerts."

Jim really appreciates his retirement; admitting that he is a struggling golfer, yet plays alternate Mondays and a few Tuesdays when the weather allows. He also enjoys bowling in a league. Jim plans to get a computer after catching up on a backlog of work around the house. "A computer will take lots of time to learn," Jim assuredly says. "Meanwhile, I want to continue to help Jazz Unlimited and enjoy just being a music listener."