

# Local Jazz History

## It Might as Well Be Swing

In the current rival of partner dancing, instructors and studios are becoming hard-pressed to keep up with the demand for lessons in the foxtrot, lindy and jitterbug. However, often the music being played has little to do with the authentic rhythms and feel of the music that inspired these dances and social gatherings of the 1940s and '50s.

While the dances are being revived, those who lived through and loved the era of Glen Miller, Artie Shaw, Count Basie and Duke Ellington are concerned that most of the young people now becoming drawn into the joys of "swing" dancing are not being exposed to the music that made the Swing Era a truly special period in American history and that became the foundation for what evolved into more than a passing fad -America's only internationally recognized art form: jazz.



*The swing dance craze has hit Chicago, where hundreds of young adults gathered one Saturday morning in September for lessons in the ballroom at the Hyatt hotel on the Chicago River which features a ballroom that can accommodate more than 4,000 dancers.*

The advocates for a New England jazz center on the Boston waterfront believe that a center could add to the fun as well as put a historic perspective on Boston's social and musical history.