



# Snopek tunes in sounds of city

Sigmund Snopek III is the kind of guy who goes around hearing music wherever he goes without help from earphones or a boom box. He hears tunes no one else has yet heard; he's just made them up.

Snopek is a Waukesha musician, a performer and composer who has made albums, TV ads, played with symphonies and, while he is honored in his hometown, it seems somehow not nearly enough if his considerable attainments are examined.

Snopek was commissioned by the Sesquicentennial Committee to write a composition to be played near the closing of the week long celebration, and it will be performed at 8 p.m. Sunday at the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha on "Tomorrow Day."

Wednesday, Snopek toured some of Waukesha to get some "sounds of Waukesha" to be played between and over the top of segments of the five-movement jazz symphony called *Five Points* he began writing in May.

There is something of the poet in Snopek, who has come to look on music as "blocks of sound with a frame around them" and all sound as a musical continuum. An avant garde composer, Snopek had as a college professor once took the class on a tour for hours, forbidding them to speak and to listen to sounds they otherwise wouldn't hear. That led him to the "blocks of sound" concept.

That's something of what Snopek did Wednesday, checked in on the musical continuum, though he did interview people on the street to get their views of Waukesha, and some of that will go into his composition. There was a consensus: The people are nice, the place is "homey" and the streets need attention because "it's hard to get around."

But his reel-to-reel tape picked up birdsong, the sounds of children playing in Frame Park, a bowling alley, and Ted Ferrara, employee relations supervisor at Wisconsin Centrifugal Corp. gave Snopek a hardhat-and-safety glasses tour so he could pick up and insert in his symphony what a foundryman or machinist might have a hard time identifying as music, as a tune.

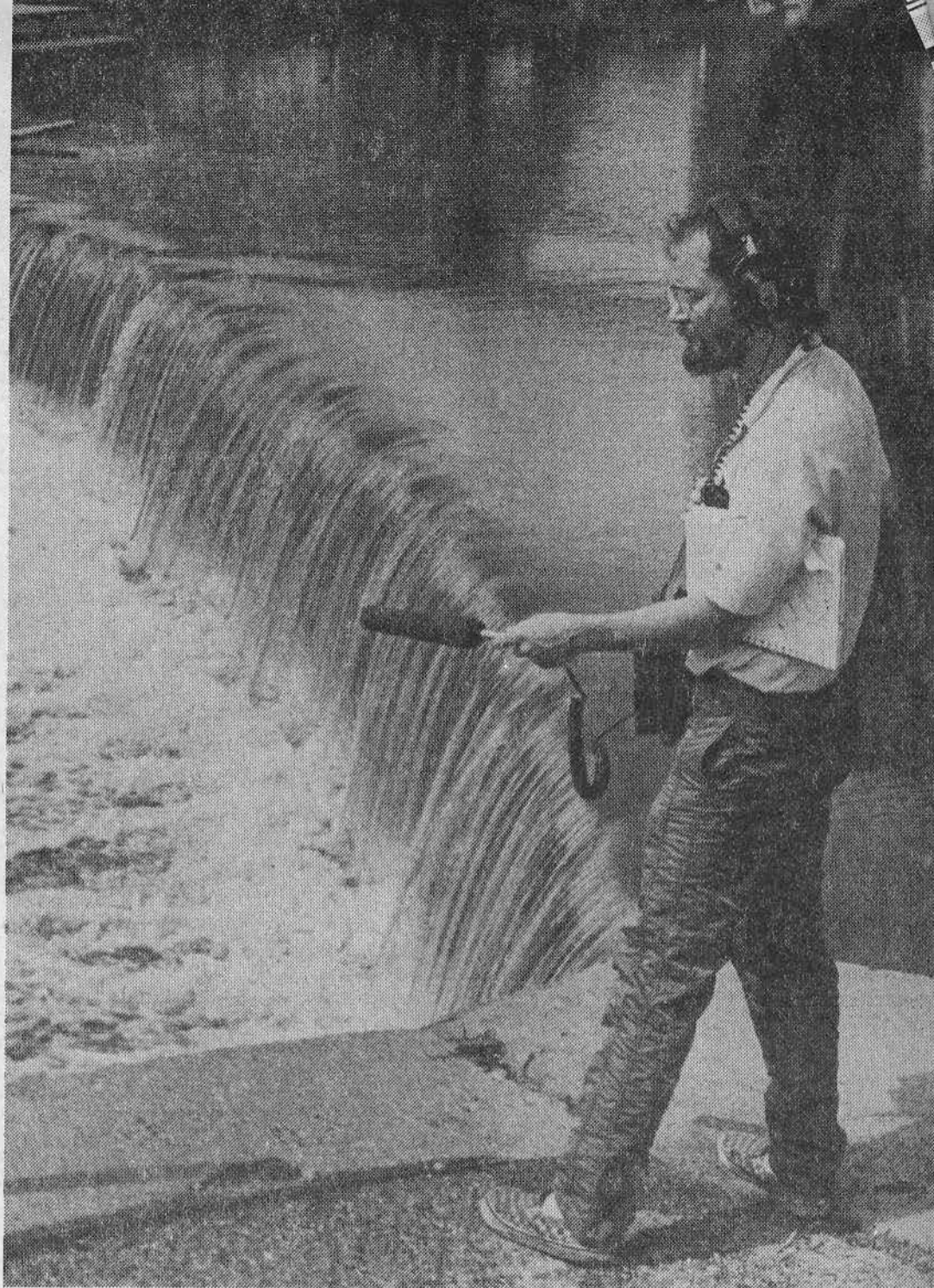
The shavings being razored off a large casting were done to what sounded like bird chirps, and a furnace had a menacing roar.

The band Snopek will bring to UWW has 29 pieces — five trumpets, five saxophones, five trombones, a drummer, a bass player and a guitar player, a percussionist, six violins, a vocal soloist, an instrumental soloist, and two synthesizers.

And what is one of Snopek's favorite bands? Why, Glenn Miller, of course.

Those musicians have been rehearsing the piece for "two or three weeks," Snopek said. The individual movements are called *The Past, The Present, People and Creatures, Buildings, Streets and Plants, and The Future*.

"They are musical vignettes," he said, and



Sigmund Snopek III recording the sounds of Waukesha at the Barstow Street dam.

boyhood: Barstow Street in February when he was about to go on his paper route, the quiet of the old courthouse after school, small children watching Carroll College students.

Snopek made his first recording at 16 while still at Waukesha High School. He has come a long way. He has twice performed with the Milwaukee Symphony. Aug. 20 he will go to Paris for a month and play the keyboard. He has signed a contract with MGM records, has just returned from a 19-state tour, has made seven albums of his own, played on 20 others, made the Channel 18 ad, "Catch the Brewer Action on TV 18," and when he gets back has a show to be done with Gabe Kaplan, once of the *Welcome Back, Kotter* fame.

All of this started with "Frieda Hart. I took piano lessons from her, and I guess she is still giving lessons. Jack Whitney helped me at South Campus and so did Ed Mahan." Snopek's degree is in music theory. He worked with Don Stimpert at IJWW and with

follow is fireworks, and Snopek might provide an accompaniment to them, and some of his own.

It will probably be as good as Glenn Miller if considerably different, and there will be, of course, the sounds of fountains, the Fox River dam, new- and old-time residents talking about Waukesha to the tune of — well, come and listen.

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Something you know you'll wish you never knew, and an illustration on how you can't get there from here:

Did you know that North Silver Lake Road is south of South Silver Lake Street? Yes, indeed.

The Town & Country YMCA lists its address at 4004 North Silver Lake Road, P.O. Box 144.

That's because Summit Town has its own numbering system, it differs from Oconomowoc's so that, while east may be