

1953 The Samaritans helpline is founded by Rev. Chad Varah at St. Stephen's Church, Walbrook, London.

1953 A woman is impregnated with frozen sperm at the University of Iowa.



1954 In Obninsk, USSR, nuclear power plants produce energy for the first time.



1952~1956

## Walking on Eggshells Gerry Mulligan and Chet Baker

*Cool jazz: a deliberate turning away from the spontaneity and excitement of bop toward a more measured music concentrating more on composition than on improvisation. Cool jazz is marked by emotional restraint and subdued performance. So with the definition out of the way, who's cool and who's not, other than the quintessentially cool Miles Davis?*



Caught between microphones: Gerry Mulligan, the clean-looking but far from clean-living baritone master of cool.

### Pacific Jazz

Publicity for the Haig Club was handled by Richard Bock, who was so enamored by the Mulligan-Baker sound that he began to record the group, setting up Pacific Jazz Records for the purpose in summer 1952. Early hits established the label as the main outlet for West Coast cool musicians, recording saxophonists Art Pepper and Lee Konitz and guitarist Wes Montgomery among others. Album covers reflected its location—all sunny boulevards, sandy shores, and, in the case of *Chet Baker and Crew*, sailboats and short sleeves.

also a good singer, in a crooner sort of way. His partner in crime (and in drugs, for a time) was *Gerry MULLIGAN* (1927–96), one of our trio of famous arrangers from the Birth of the

The epitome of cool is Chesney “Chet” *BAKER* (1929–88). With chiseled cheekbones, dark hair, and darker eyes, and a great line in T-shirts and moody photographs, Chet Baker was the James Dean of jazz—youthful, rebellious, and also a junkie, as were so many others in his day. More importantly, he was a fine improviser, playing his trumpet like Miles— understated, lyrical, and direct, with no frills or embellishments. He was

Cool. Mulligan was also goodish looking—tall, thin, with red hair—and played the baritone saxophone. An ungainly instrument, in his hands it danced.

In 1952 Mulligan was playing a regular Monday-night gig at The Haig, a small, converted bungalow on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles that was barely able to seat its audience of 80. The house piano was so poor that Mulligan avoided using it, forming instead a quartet with just Baker's