Frank Mancini (1886-1964) studied the clarinet while growing up in Italy. He came to the United States in 1907 to play as a soloist with Ellery’s Royal Italian Band. Between 1908 and 1915, he played with both Sousa’s and Conway’s bands, as well as numerous opera companies. Mancini settled in Modesto, California in 1921 to lead the Stanislaus County Boys Band.

He became an important educator and conductor in the area for the next four decades, directing the band programs in the Modesto Public Schools and Modesto Junior College. His bands won many awards, and Mancini was very active as a guest conductor and adjudicator. Mancini was elected into ABA in 1940 at the convention in Hagerstown, MD.

Mancini had a close relationship with the community of Modesto. In their wills, Mancini and his wife left cash, stocks, and other investments for a considerable music scholarship fund for music students at Modesto High School. They also left their 23-acre ranch to the City of Modesto, later dedicated Mancini Park.

**Life Chronology:**
- 1886 Born in Serramonacesca, Italy
- 1898-1906 Music studies in Italy
- 1907-1909 Comes to U.S., plays with Ellery’s Band
- 1908-1915 Plays with professional bands
- 1911-1915 Plays for numerous opera companies
- 1915 Comes to San Francisco with Sousa for Panama-Pacific Exposition
1915-1921  Plays with many ensembles in and around San Francisco
1921     Settles in Modesto
1921     Begins direction of Stanislaus County Boys Band
1922     Appointed Director of Instrumental Music at Modesto HS
1923     Wins first state band championship
1927     Appointed Director of Modesto Jr. Coll. Band and Orch.
1930     Named Director of Modesto Symphony Orchestra
1940     Elected into membership of the ABA
1964     Died in Modesto, California