



THE GREAT ESCAPE!*

****“Anything that is good jazz is a great escape. When you’re involved in playing or listening to great jazz, no one can get to you.” -Woody Herman**

Issue No.15 September/October 2009

Presented by: www.dixieswing.com

They Also Died Too Young

By Browser Bob Knack

Much is being made about the sudden death of the “King of Pop” Michael Jackson under mysterious and tragic circumstances. He, of course, is not the only musical celebrity to go down at a young age (50) or under odd circumstances. Let’s recall a few of those who played our kind of music (OKOM) and whose codas were played too soon.

One of the stranger deaths of a young artist is that of crooner Russ Columbo. He was known as “The Romeo of Song” and “The Singing Valentino” and was the rival of the other big singers of the 1930’s, Rudy Vallee and Bing Crosby, and with a big future ahead of him. However, on September 2, 1934, he was shot accidentally by his friend, photographer Lansing Brown. Columbo was visiting him at his studio that day. While lighting a cigarette, Brown lit the match by striking it against the wooden stock of an antique French dueling pistol. The flame set off a mini-ball stored in the pistol chamber. The ball glanced off a wooden table; and hit Columbo in the left eye; he died a short time later at the age of 26.

A gun also spelled the demise of pianist Pine Top Smith in 1928. His recordings of “Pine Top’s Boogie Woogie and Pine Top’s Blues” became the first hit boogie-woogie sides ever recorded. Smith died from a gunshot wound suffered in a dance hall fight in Chicago at age 25.

Trumpeter “Sonny” Berman began touring at the tender age of 16 with big names like Harry James and Benny Goodman. He really exploded on the scene as a featured soloist with Woody Herman’s Herd on charts like “Sonny Speaks.” His great potential was never to be realized as he died of an apparent heroin overdose at the age of 22.

Perhaps it is the jazz musicians’ constant life on the road that has resulted in so many deaths by traffic accident. Saxophonist and clarinetist Frank Teschemacher, a member of the Austin High School Gang was about to start a new band with his pal, Wild Bill Davison. They had just landed a steady gig at Guymon’s Paradise Ballroom on Chicago’s West Side. After a rehearsal and visiting a few “joints” in the early hours of February 29, 1932, Teschemacher was riding with Wild Bill in Davidson’s Packard Phaeton convertible, top down, through the Uptown neighborhood at Wilson Avenue @ Magnolia. Their car was T-boned by a Yellow Cab hurling it into a tree. In these days before seat belts, both men were thrown from the car. Teschemacher died in the hospital from head injuries a few hours later at age 25. Davison survived and lived to the age of 83.

Also dying young in auto mishaps were saxophonist Chu Berry and bandleader Hal Kemp. Berry was considered

one of the top tenor saxophonists of the 1930s playing with the bands of Sammy Stewart, Benny Carter, Teddy Hill, and Fletcher Henderson; but was best known for his time with Cab Calloway. Berry died at 31 in Conneaut, Ohio from injuries that he sustained in an automobile accident while driving with Calloway band members to a gig. Bandleader Kemp introduced many popular songs including “Got a Date with an Angel”, “Lamplight”, “There’s a Small Hotel” and “Three Little Fishies”. He died at age 35 from pneumonia in the hospital two days after being hit head-on by another car on December 19, 1940 suffering a broken leg and ribs that punctured a lung. He was driving from Los Angeles to a gig in San Francisco.

Many Jazz people fought the battle of the bottle and lost. Those dying of alcohol or alcohol related causes were Bix Biederbecke in 1931 at 28, Bunny Berigan in 1942 at 33 Billie Holiday in 1959 at age 44, and Lester Young at 49 in 1959.

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease that primarily affects your lungs. In 1936, the U.S. Bureau of the Census estimated that one out of every twenty-one deaths in this country was due to tuberculosis. Its greatest toll was in young people between the ages of fifteen to forty-five. Back then, the only prescribed cure was to get fresh air in a sanatorium. TB had a hand in the deaths of bassist Jimmy Blanton at 25 and guitarist Charlie Christian at 26, both in 1942. Also, drummer and leader Chick Webb at age 30 in 1939 and with an assist from alcoholism, Bubber Miley at age 29 in 1932.

It was not TB but influenzal bronchial pneumonia that took Fats Waller from us too soon at 39. The 278 pound Waller collapsed in the arms of his business manager, Wallace T. Kirkeby on a train in the Kansas City Union Station. Fats was on his way home to spend the holidays with his family.

Great strides have been made in medicine in recent years and perhaps that fact alone would have prevented the early demise from heart disease of the following: Irving Fazola in 1949 at age 36, Mildred Bailey in 1951 at 44, Jimmy Noone in 1944 at age 48, and Ziggy Elman at 54 in 1968.

It was not heart ailments but a myriad of other causes that brought these jazz greats to their final bow. A hemorrhage after a tonsillectomy claimed guitarist Eddie Lange at age 30 in 1933. Kidney failure felled Art Tatum at 46 as well as Pha Terrell at 35. The battling Dorseys expired shockingly close to one another. Jimmy from throat cancer in 1957, just a few short months after brother Tommy succumbed from choking to death in his sleep after a night of hearty eating and imbibing.

“TOO SOON” continued on page 5

Greasy Sack News

On The Scene: Browser Perry Huntoon looks into the jazz side of clarinetist, saxophonist, composer and bandleader Jimmy Dorsey on Thursday, October 1 at [The Brookfield Jazz Society](#) in the Irish Times Bar and Restaurant, 8869 Burlington Avenue, Brookfield, Illinois. His presentation starts at 7.00 p.m. Dorsey played in and led many fine small groups and big bands from the late twenties onwards.

The good people of Dumas, Arkansas celebrated "Ding Dong Daddy Days," a festival held the last weekend in July each year in that city located deep in the Arkansas Delta. The town claims that it inspired the song written by bandleader Phil Baxter and made popular when it was recorded by "Satchmo" Armstrong, Arthur Godfrey and Benny Goodman. Fest highlights include County Circuit Clerk Skippy Leek singing "I'm A Ding Dong Daddy from Dumas" as the Ding Dong Daddy and Ding Dong Mama of the year are selected.

Big-band leader Jimmie Lunceford's name has been engraved on a 20-pound brass note and installed as part of the Beale Street Walk of Fame. Lunceford came to Memphis in 1926 to coach football at Manassas High School, eventually began tutoring students in music who then formed a band known as the Chickasaw Syncopators. Lunceford often returned to Memphis holding classes for local musicians. He died in 1947 (see our lead story) and is buried in Memphis' Elmwood Cemetery. The brass note will cost around \$1,700.

The National Endowment for the Arts has released a study that the points out the audience for jazz music is aging. The NEA's research found that 46 was the median age of a jazz concertgoer in 2008, up from 29 in 1982. Help save the music! Drag a kid kicking and screaming into a jazzfest today!

Most music lovers know that Herman "Dodo" Hupfeld was the composer of "As Time Goes By", the song that became famous after it appeared in the film Casablanca. You may not know that Hupfeld also wrote a novelty tune called "When Yuba Plays The Rhumba On The Tuba." Imagine if for some reason Bogie requested Sam to play the latter rather than the former down there at Rick's Café Americain that night. Ilsa might have left with Victor Lazlo in the first reel.



Passing: By now, it's all been said about [Les Paul](#) who died on August 13, 2009 at 94. He was also known variously as "The Wizard of Waukesha," "Red Hot Red" and "Rhubarb Red." In 1947, Paul met Colleen Summers, who had been singing with Gene Autry's band. He changed her name to Mary Ford, a name he found in a telephone book. They married in 1949. They had a television show, "Les Paul and Mary Ford at Home," which was broadcast from their living room until 1958. They began recording using Paul's inventive recording techniques creating many hit records like, "Mockingbird Hill," "How High the Moon," "The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise," and "Vaya Con Dios." The latter two were million-sellers. He was buried at the Prairie Home Cemetery in his home town of Waukesha, Wisconsin. Sources say that Paul's plot will be separated from other members of his family so that fans of the guitarist can visit without disturbing the rest.


British trombonist Roger Rae has passed away. He first played traditional Jazz with Monty Sunshine, the Dick Charlesworth City Gents and the Terry Lightfoot bands. He joined the Syd Lawrence Orchestra in 1974, left and returned in 1985, remaining until September 2005. He then became a regular member of the Nick Ross Orchestra, a big band featuring "sounds from the Glenn Miller era".

Beverly Roberts, who co-starred with Humphrey Bogart in the 1936 film "Two Around the World," has died. She

was 96. Roberts became a Warner Brothers contract player after being discovered in 1935 warbling in a nightclub. Roberts made her first film with Al Jolson in "The Singing Kid." She also appeared with Bogart and Pat O'Brien in "China Clipper" and with Errol Flynn and Joan Blondell in "Perfect Specimen." After leaving Warners in 1940, she toured the country as a singer with the Dorsey Brothers band.

Tap dancer Ernest "Brownie" Brown died Friday, Aug. 21. As half of the comedy team of (Charles "Cookie") Cook and Brown, he traveled all over the US to perform with the likes of Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Lena Horne. The team starred in nightclubs such as Radio City Music Hall, the Latin Casino in Paris and the Cotton Club. Brown was 93.

-Compiled by Bob Knack



Browser Vignettes Return!!

Mike is running the Browser vignettes again this summer on WJGG-AM 1530. He runs one Browser "stumper" an hour from 5pm to 8pm on Sunday evenings during the summer months.

[Click here to Listen to the Browsers on the internet on Mike's Sunday Show times listed below](#)

Email the Browsers at: theBrowsers@wjggam1530.com

Saturdays and Sundays, the music starts at 4pm CST.
Saturday evenings will be the oldies "ABC GOLD" style format and Sunday through Friday will be the "ABC STARDUST" style
Mike's request line is **708-493-1530**.

In response to your many requests: The Browsers theme song "Browsin'" by Ronnie Kole is available at www.ronniekole.com

Phil Holdman's Tall Tales and True; A Few Copies Remain

Author Joe Carlton has written an excellent book, "THE BROWSERS AT LARGE: Phil Holdman's Tall Tales and True." This book, containing many stories by Phil and other Browsers, along with many, many photos, is still available. Phil and his gang of big band experts aired a popular big band trivia show on the ABC network with Eddie Hubbard for over twenty years. If interested, please send your check for \$17.00 made out to Joe Carlton, 317 Cottage Avenue, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 and your copy will promptly be mailed to you.

ANOTHER BAFFLING (?) QUIZ

by Browser and Quizmaster Joe Carlton

1. How many orchestra theme songs were vocals?
2. There are five different kinds of saxophones used in big bands. Can you name the type the following men played?
 - (a) Sidney Bechet
 - (b) Georgie Auld
 - (c) Harry Carney
 - (d) Johnny Hodges
 - (e) Charlie Ventura
3. What did the song "In The Mood" evolve from?
4. Who were the members of the Royal Family of Swing; such as Benny Goodman, the King of Swing?
5. Did you ever have that special song you shared with a love? If so, what is it?
6. Do you have a special piano solo that sticks in your mind?
7. What was Irving Fazola's (who played with Bob Crosby's Orchestra) real name?
8. Artie Shaw recorded the song "Any Old Time" twice, but with different vocalists. Who were these two?
9. The song "Robbins Nest" does not refer to a kind of bird. What does it refer to?
10. Jelly Roll Morton (whose real name was Ferdinand Joseph Lamonthé) wrote a song he named after a friend. Who was that friend?
11. Tie breaker: Songwriter Don Raye would have been 100 years old last March. Can you name any songs he wrote?

Email the Browsers at: theBrowsers@wijgam1530.com

Up Popped Melvin

It was a Sunday afternoon in the summer of 1949, on the Starlight Roof of the Chase Hotel in St. Louis. The Nick Stuart ("The Man With The Band From Movieland") Orchestra band had just gotten off the stand in the room to take a break.

The guys hadn't even reached the break room when they heard drums playing. Turning around, they saw Mel Torme' at the drums. He had a singing engagement in town and happened to be staying at the Chase.

Mel waved at the band members to come back to the bandstand and join him. For the rest of the break, Mel and a few of the guys jammed on "September In The Rain."

Mel thanked the guys who then resumed playing the tea dance.

--Phil Vonder Haar
Gateway City Big Band

Mission Statement

This newsletter, created by Bob Knack and friends, remembers The ****Browsers** on the ABC network and contains articles for all aficionados of big band, swing and traditional Jazz worldwide. It is an attempt to fill the void left when periodicals such as the ****Browser's Notes** ceased to publish. We will concentrate on, but will not be limited to, fun-to-read articles on the music from "back in the day". Letters, articles, suggestions or any help whatsoever is appreciated. Send inquiries to bobknack@hotmail.com or PO Box 642012, Chicago, Illinois 60664. B&W printed copies of past and this current issue are also available in booklet form for \$2.00 each from the above PO Box. [Click here to subscribe to the newsletter](#)

****A Browser** is a dedicated devotee of the truly American art form known as the Big Band. Some years ago, Phil Holdman, founder, often visited record shops seeking rare examples of LP's and 78's to add to his extensive collection. Here, he also met other collectors who sought similar discs or tapes. Phil's wife, Alberta, named the group "The **Browsers**" because "they are always browsing in record shops."

We wish to acknowledge the many contributions made by readers to help defray expenses.



"I don't know anything about running a newspaper; I just try everything I can think of."

-Charles Foster Kane

Land of Linkin'...When you're done here, some other good places to visit.

Illiana Jazz Club <http://www.illianaJazz.com/> For concert info: 708-672-3561 -or- 708-425-4596 -or- 219-923-6775 Held at the Glendora Ballroom 10225 S. Harlem Ave., Chicago Ridge, IL.

The St. Louis Jazz Club: www.stlouisjazzclub.org

[Jazzlives](#) : Michael Steinman's outstanding Jazz blog.

[Friends of Big Band Jazz](#) – Mike Vax and the swingin bands of today.

<http://www.bigbandlibrary.com/> Christopher Popa's up-to-date and informative band site. Celebrating fives years on the web.

Recommended Chicagoland Happenings...

"**The Browsers**", experts in the big band era, meet the last Friday of every month @ 6:30 PM "for pizza, beer and good conversation". Dues are six dollars and include a share of the pizza. Details subject to change. E-mail the **Browsers** for location and details at theBrowsers@wijgam1530.com

Disc Jockey "**Rowdy**" Ron Richter plays big band and jazz the first Sunday of every month at Gusto Italiano Ristorante, 1470 Waukegan Road, Glenview, IL 60025 Tel: (847) 729-5444 Fax: (847) 729-5447 4:00 PM - ? Attendees are invited to bring a favorite CD to play and comment on. Call ahead. Details subject to change. Also, Ron is now back as a regular Friday night feature at that restaurant, spinning your favorites.

Letters, E-Mails, Errata Etc.

Dear Bob,

Greetings from Beijing! We've finished our sightseeing (The Great Wall, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, etc) I don't have 24/7 access to a computer, so I've just had a chance to read the first page of your latest issue & the p.1 story on Glenn Miller & Henry Mancini. While everything printed is factually correct, his assignment to the 28th Division band might give some of your readers the impression that he was actually assigned to the famous GM Army band. Not so. Perhaps if he had played flute AND sax he might have made it, but he didn't & so he was assigned to some other army band, but he finally did get a chance to play (piano) with most of the GM army band alumni when Tex Beneke took over from Ray McKinley after the war was over.

I've been trying to reach The Browsers at the website they list in their most interesting column, but I can't seem to get through to them. They asked for other Ellington sidemen's nicknames & right off the top of my head I thought of "The Rabbit" (Hodges) & Harold "Shorty" Baker. Their reference to recordings of state songs properly lists tunes like "Idaho" & "Oklahoma", but they only list "Virginia" & "Alabama". I assume that they meant "I'm Coming Virginia" & "Stars Fell on Alabama," I guess that "Hawaii" was "Blue Hawaii", though I'm sure that there were a couple more tunes with Hawaii in the title as well... I don't think that Benny recorded "My Old Kentucky Home" but he might have played "California, Here I Come." But I digress...as usual.

-Bill Spilka

Best of the Browsers on the Web

Just discovered your newsletter and it looks great. This is really a wonderful continuation of what Phil's "Browser Notes" was to so many for so long. It is a fine tribute to him and more, and I thank you for it. I have a show on yesterdayusa.com that plays The Browsers pretty often (Song & Smile Time). On July 25, I presented a show featuring Eddie Hubbard's "Best of the Browsers" put together by Eddie himself not long before he was killed. It showcases a special tune written and sung by Eddie followed by edited shows of the Browsers from the 1980's. I will continue to feature Eddie and the Browsers and consider it a privilege and honor to do so. Eddie, Phil, and the Browsers made a great big band trivia team. Thanks for all you do to keep their efforts and memory alive. I will do all I can to let folks know they can enjoy "Browser Notes" type of big band articles once again.

-Duane Keilstrup

Thoroughly enjoyed your newsletter. Brought back a lot of great memories. I got hooked on jazz when I purchased Larry Clinton's Bluebird recording of "My Reverie" as a high school freshman. Cut my teeth as a jazz writer interviewing Armstrong, Ellington and Basie for a summer series in Western Mass. in the '60s. Co-founded a jazz society and festival when I moved to AZ 25 years ago. Recently did a profile piece on Russ Phillips for The American Rag. Great guy! Keep up the good work!

-Lew Shaw

Editor's Note: Chicago based Russ Phillips is one of the best trombonists in the country! We're lucky to have him.

The Hub Ballroom

Bob....

Please add this email for a subscription for your newsletter. Thanks for the recent write up of the HUB ballroom in your newsletter. We played there many times. We played the official closing of the ballroom in November 1999. On Mothers Day 2000, we played the official re-opening of the ballroom. On [my web site](#) are photos from the 1999 closing. Also, click on the link for the 2005 Big Band Weekend we hosted. Browser member Perry Huntoon and his late wife attended that event along with the Guy Lombardo Society... I also thought you might enjoy this link: [HUB BALLROOM FIRE VIDEO AND RSO ORCHESTRA FOOTAGE](#) I recently discovered this video story link, which contains more footage of the aftermath, and a very short video of the RSO performing at the HUB. If you enlarge the video to full screen - at the 207 - 221 mark, you can see the large letters H U B that once stood on the roof - laying in the rubble. Good News - - - - the letters will be preserved at the Peoria Historical Society as will the HARP portion of the piano --- all that remains of the HUB Piano. (The piano Harp and strings survived... the wood part of the piano is now dust). This was originally built as a showroom for farm vehicles...and there were extra large steel columns in the basement that held up the floor. From the heat - even the steel beams were twisted.

On July 17 --- The fire Investigation was closed...UNDERTERMINED CAUSE. Prior to the fire, the schedule on WDCB for "Those were the Days" old time radio was already posted... Ironically, on Sept 5, they are doing a Big Band remote day... and one of the scheduled broadcasts is Dick Jurgens...from the HUB.

Ron Smolen
The Ron Smolen Big Band / Orchestra
"Every Night is New Years Eve"
Chicago, Illinois 60634
(773) 545 - 1881

Recently received the July, '09 issue of The Great Escape - great issue as usual. Nice job. I like your content so much that I'm printing out copies of all of them. Keep up the good work - I'm glad I'm subscribed.

-Phil Vonder Haar
Gateway City Big Band

Thank you for writing, compiling, mailing, Bob! I quite enjoy reading it. Much enjoyed the front page on Miller and Mancini and the way it was told.

-Ginny Luetje in St. Louis

Email the Browsers at: theBrowsers@wjjgam1530.com

More Letters, E-Mails, Errata Etc.

Air Checks of Buddy Hughes and Jimmy Dorsey

Hi Bob,

My father turned 90 on June 18 and I've been getting as much of his music transferred from cassette to CDs as possible for him. He has some of his Claude Thornhill recordings that you provided him a few years ago and I want to thank you for that. Do you by any chance have anything with my father and Jimmy Dorsey? I have a very poor quality cassette with one or two recordings. A friend of mine here in Studio City is helping me with a DVD and I hope to have that finished by October. Thank you again for all you've done for him. He's a very special guy and I couldn't be prouder of him.

-- Patrice Hughes

And a Response From Browser Perry Huntoon

Hi Bob,

No, I looked for a long time, but there seems to be nothing out there with Buddy and JD. Buddy did mention to me once that he had one poor quality transcription and that may be what his daughter is referring to as being on a cassette. Finding Buddy with JD is as elusive as trying to find airchecks of (late Browser) Allan DeWitt with Tommy Dorsey in late '39. They just don't seem to exist.

-Perry Huntoon

In Search of the Burke Sisters

Mr. Knack,

I am very sorry I did not thank you for all your help! One click on the net lead to another and deeper in I went! And then came the books ... and other reference material. I have learned a lot over the last year.



Besides all the shows they did with Husk, they did stage shows in Wisconsin with Buddy Fisher in early 1931. Then, later in 1935 they were part of a Band Box Revue and in 1937 with Richard Pryors Orchestra ~ and his Hollywood Revue. There are many other names I need to search as well.

I did speak with George O'Hare and although he did not have any specifics for me ~ he did say that my aunts were

beautiful, gracious and he loved listening to them sing! And that was enough for me.

What I am still searching for is a time frame for when they were with Husk at the Canton Tea Garden in Chicago. Having a tough time with that one! Although I searched NewspaperArchives.com, the paper(s) that carried the ads obviously are not available through them. The attached pic of my Aunt Jean is one I just received from one of her daughters last week. I also have a copy of a trimmed ad for the Garden that has a photo of all three girls with Husk. Searching on the net under just CantonTea Gardens brings up a bunch of unrelated stuff as you can imagine.

Thanks again!
Michelle Gabel

Swing Band for Rent... Ted Buttermen's Neo-Passé Swing Band



Pictured from left: Russ Phillips, Ted Buttermen, Scott Black and Eric Schneider

Specializing in swing music of the 30s and 40s, ala Benny Goodman the group is versatile and their repertoire reaches back to the 20s and onward to the 50s, 60s, and some later, excluding rock.

The band performs at any kind of function limited only by your imagination. This includes picnics, Bar-B-Qs, pool parties, Mardi Gras, conventions and wedding receptions. The band consists of piano, bass, drums, rhythm guitar and features a variety of horn players on different occasions including reed players, trumpets, trombones, vibes, and other instrumentalists from time to time. Expect guest artists to sit in occasionally!

[Check out the Ted's song list here! They know 'em all!](#)

To book the Neo-Passé contact Ted at
TBBands@dixieswing.com

"TOO SOON" continued from page 1

Finally, perhaps it was not a heart attack as reported that felled Jimmie Lunceford in 1947. On July 12, while signing autographs in a music shop in Seaside, Oregon, bandleader Lunceford collapsed and died from cardiac arrest. He had complained of feeling ill all that day. He was 45. Rumors that were subsequently printed in Downbeat magazine claimed Lunceford had been poisoned by a fish-restaurant owner who was unhappy at having to serve an African American in his establishment. However, an autopsy concluded he died of natural causes. His band played a scheduled concert that evening in his honor.

ANOTHER BAFFLING (?) QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Theme songs that had vocals:

Vaughan Monroe - "Racing With The Moon";
Dick Jurgens - "Daydreams Come True At Night";
Eddie Howard - "Careless";
Jack Jenny - "City Nights" (which was the worst dirge of a theme song).

2. Sidney Bechet - soprano sax; Georgie Auld - tenor sax; Harry Carney - baritone sax; Johnny Hodges - alto sax; and Charlie Ventura - bass sax (when with Gene Krupa Trio) It was so big it was on wheels and wasn't held up like other saxes..

3. Don Redmond played the dominate riff in this song, during the 1920s as "Hot and Anxious". Wingy Manone picked it up and recorded that riff as "Tar Paper Stomp". Once it's title was changed to "In The Mood", Jerry Gray arranged it for Artie Shaw but it went nowhere. It took a later arrangement by Gray, then with Glenn Miller, to become a hit.

4. Royal Family of Swing: Artie Shaw - King of the Clarinet; Maxine Sullivan - The Queen; Somebody was the "Prince of Wails" but I can't remember who; Edward Kennedy Ellington - a Duke; William Basie - a Count and how about Blue Barron? Does he count? The "Earl of" Hines? Paul Whiteman, "The King of Jazz"

5. I had three special songs with girls I went with: "More Than You Know", "Stardust" and "Tenderly". Oh my, what wonderful memories with each!!

6. The piano solo that is my favorite is Jess Stacy's solo on "Swing, Swing, Swing" with Benny Goodman in the Carnegie Hall Concert of 1938. As far as I know, he never played it like that again.

7. Irving's real last name of Prestopnik. He changed it with help from the musical scale "fa-so-la". And it is alleged that his clarinet smelled like garlic, even 20 years later.

8. Artie recorded "Any Old Time" twice; once with Billie Holliday and once with Helen Forrest.

9. "Robbins Nest" was named after Fred Robbins, who was a New York City DJ.

10. Jelly Roll entitled a song for friend Porter King but it didn't sound right. So he just reversed his friend's name and called it "King Porter Stomp".

11. Among others Don Raye wrote, "Well, All Right", "Rhumboogie", "Beat Me Daddy, Eight to the Bar", "Down The Road a Piece", "Scrub Me Mama With a Boogie Beat", "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy", "Bounce Me, Brother, with a Solid Four", "Mr. Five By Five", "I'll Remember April", "Star Eyes", "Cow Cow Boogie", "Irresistible You", "Milkman Keep Those Bottles Quiet" and "Too Little Time".

*What other Jazz band plays to over
40,000 adoring fans at every gig?
Now Available For Your Wedding
Reception!*



Pictured: T. Bartlett E. Wilkinson T. Butterman J. Kunc J. Blegen

The Cubs Dixieland Band has been playing to packed houses at the 'friendly confines' of Wrigley Field for over a quarter of a century, the major league's longest-running baseball band. Our foot-tapping aggregation consists of trumpet, trombone (or tenor sax), clarinet, banjo, and tuba. We have appeared on TV hundreds of times over the years on many local and nationally broadcast programs.

Now Chicago's most listened to Jazz band can light-up your next happening! The band performs at any kind of function, limited only by your imagination, including picnics, Bar-B-Qs, pool parties, Mardi Gras, conventions and wedding receptions. We have even performed at five funerals. We appear in Cubs uniform unless otherwise specified. **Book the band for your next event! Bring the excitement of Wrigley Field musically to your event.**

NEWS: Ted reports that the Cubs band is now in great demand for wedding receptions. To see Ted's listing in Brides.com. [click here](#)

To book the Cubs band contact Ted at TBBands@aol.com or call 847-255-6448 for details.

[Click here to see the Cubs band in action!](#)

Ted and the Cubs Dixieland Band are featured prominently in this ABC News Ben Bradley Cub's playoffs interview:

Click: [View Ted and the Cubs Band on TV](#)

Email the Browsers at: theBrowsers@wjgam1530.com

A Must for Your Collection!

**Ted Butterman's Neo-Passé Band
Live At The Village Tavern**



Pictured L to R: Russ Phillips, Scott Black, Dave Elias, Ronnie Baron, Ted Butterman
© 2001 dixieswing.com
CD Baby Price: \$15.00

Order now, supplies are limited!

Four rhythm; piano, bass, guitar and drums, and one of four different world-class horn players on each track .

The over 73 minutes of music includes:

- 1 When You're Smilin', 2 The One I Love, 3 Sweet Georgia Brown, 4 China Boy, 5 On The Alamo, 6 I Can't Believe That You're In Love With Me, 7 After You've Gone, 8 These Foolish Things, 9 Rosetta, 10 Undecided, 11 Let Yourself Go, 12 Three Little Words, 13 It All Depends On You, 14 Some Of These Days, 15 Lester Leaps In

www.cdbaby.com for ordering info or

[Click to See the Neo Passé Band in Action](#)

Coming Soon...I Hope!

In the summer of 1991 on Elmhurst Illinois's 760-watt big band formatted WKDC radio, I began a local Saturday morning show of my own creation that came to be called "The Great Escape." It preceded this newsletter. I based the title on Woody Herman's philosophy that listening to big bands and jazz is a "great escape" from the troubles of the day. We played Miller, Goodman, James, Kenton, Basie, the combos, and the great vocalists, of course. All the tunes were from my own collection.

Later, as an added attraction, I began inviting a group of fellow record collectors into the studio each week to feature an hour of their rare LP's, accompanied by our banter about the tunes. Most of them had attained semi-celebrity status as regulars on an ABC network big band show called "Eddie Hubbard and the Browsers." We called the new segment "Collector's Corner." It made for some wonderful radio.

Now, I'm in the process of editing "best of" segments of those shows to make them available for all of you to hear on the internet. I'm not all that computer savvy, so it might take a while to get the ball rolling. If you have any suggestions to that end, I'd love to get them from you. As they say "Watch This Space" for further updates.

Thanks,
Bob

The Mix And Match Quiz

Submitted by Bill Spilka

Match the given names with the show biz names below. We did one for you. We matched our old friend Buddy Morrow with his given name, Moe Zudekoff. Good Luck!

	Given Name	?	Show Biz Name
1	Anthony Alessandrini,		Eddie Lang
2	Luigi Paulino Alfredo Francesco Antonio Balassoni		Will Bradley
3	Clarence Beeks		Jerry Fielding
4	Bernard Anzelevitz	17	Buddy Morrow
5	Barbara Coppersmith		King Pleasure
6	Joshua Itzhak Feldman		Tony Pastor
7	Harry Finkelman		Louis Bellson
8	Julius Gubenko		Pete Jolly
9	Salvatore Massaro		Muddy Waters
10	Mckinlay Morgenfield		Annie Ross
11	Antonio Pestritto		Dakota Staton
12	Gertrude Pridgett		Ziggy Elman
13	Allyah Rabia		Tony Aless
14	Mildred Rinker		Cy Coleman
15	Wilbur Schwichtenberg		Raymond Scott
16	Harry Warnow		Carr, Joe "Fingers"
17	Moe Zudekoff		Ma Rainey
18	Anabelle Short		Abbey Lincoln
19	Peter Ceragioli Jr.		Barbara Carroll
20	Anna Marie Wooldridge		Ben Bernie
21	Francisco Raúl Gutiérrez Grillo		Georgie Auld
22	Ellas Otha Bates		Paul Desmond
23	Paul Emil Breitenfeld		Terry Gibbs
24	Seymour Kaufman		Mildred Bailey
25	Louis Bush		Machito
26	John Altwerger		Bo Diddley

Ketter's Corner

Lawrence Welk's early band was known as "The Hotsy Totsy Orchestra."

♪♪♪

Glenn Miller played with "Boyd Senter and his Senterpedes."

♪♪♪

The Denny Russo-Ted Fio Rito Orchestra opened Chicago's famed Aragon Ballroom in 1926.

♪♪♪

Blue Steele's Tag was "King of Rhythm"

♪♪♪

Most Jazz buffs agree that the first use of a voice as an instrument was Adelaide Hall's on Duke Ellington's "Creole Love Call" in 1927.

An Interview with Big Band Vocalist Gail Reese

By President Phil Holdman
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Phil: Hi! Is this the Gail Reese that sang with all those great bands like Bunny Berigan and Glenn Miller?

Gail: Yes, it is. Is this Phil Holdman of The Browsers? You know, Phil, I never miss one of your Saturday Browser shows.

Phil: Gail, how did it all start?

Gail: Well, I started with Bert Block on Long Island, right after I graduated high school.

Phil: Do you remember anyone from that band?

Gail: Oh, yeah, some big names were there like Jack Leonard, Joe Bauer, and Axel Stordahl, who later became the Three Esquires with Tommy Dorsey and made all those great records like "Once In A While."

Phil: What did you think of my favorite vocalist, Jack Leonard?

Gail: Oh, he was great, a wonderful singer and a wonderful person. I've always heard you mention him as your favorite.

Phil: Did you do any air shots with Bert?

Gail: We broadcast every day over WOR. We also did a special radio broadcast with the Morton Gould symphony orchestra with 50 musicians over WOR.

Phil: Then, what came next?

Gail: I went with Dick Messner at the Coconut Grove of the Park Central Hotel in New York. Also, did a Warner Brothers "short" with Hal Leroy...remember him?

Phil: Sure. He was a dancer with long legs.

Gail: That's right and the title of the clip was "Tanglefeet." After that, I worked with the Mike Durso Orchestra, at the Piping Rock in Sarasota. Then I joined the Charlie Barnett band, mostly on the road.

Phil: Boy, you sure got around in those days. How was that Barnett band?

Gail: The band was always exiting and Charlie played great. We drew big crowds every night.

Phil: Then you joined Berigan, right?

Gail: No. at that time a west coast band by the name of Tom Coakley disbanded and his musicians formed their own band and named Carl Ravazza as leader. I joined that band and handled all the female vocals. Carl "Revel" handled the male parts. (He later changed his name back to Ravazza.) I joined Carl in Detroit as they were working their way East. We played the Book Cadillac in Detroit. Then spots like the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans, Adolph Hotel in Dallas and ended up at the Lexington Hotel in New York.

Phil: Was it tough on the road?

Gail: It sure was. I wanted to stay in New York so I rejoined Charlie Barnett until I got the chance to go with Bunny Berigan.

Phil: This was the era when I discovered you, when you made all those great records with Bunny.

Gail: We did make many recordings besides playing many college dates and weekly stage shows for the Fox circuit. It was hectic. Bunny didn't have a boy singer so I had to do all the vocals.

Phil: I remember you doing many songs that I never heard of, but I did like "Rinka, Tinka Man" and "Gee, But It's Great To Meet A Friend."

Gail: I liked "Rinka, Tinka Man" also, I still have a 78 of it.

Phil: When did Glenn Miller come in?

Gail: Well, after the Paradise Restaurant date, the Berigan band broke up. That's when I went with the Glenn Miller band in Boston. At that time, we played college dates in new England states and ballrooms in the area. Then back to the Paradise Restaurant and Asbury Park.

Phil: I have that miller album with you singing "The Butcher Boy" and "On the Alamo" from the Paradise Restaurant on June 18, 1938. How long did you stay with Glenn.

Gail: I left Glenn shortly after the Paradise Restaurant date to get married in 1939. But I did fill in for a month at the Glen Island casino with Will Osborne's band. Then came retirement #1 when we moved to a suburb of Boston.

Phil: Then What?

Gail: I was divorced in 1946 and then I went out on my own, with a young child and all. I latched on to a weekly half hour radio show on WEZ. I was the "Bit 'O Honey" girl and stayed on as the house singer at the station, with a show called "The Music Shop on the Air," Monday thru Friday with Ray Dorey and a house orchestra led by "Rakor." Buddy Welcome was in that band. Ray and I did many spot commercials and two live TV shows. TV was just coming in then. We lost our jobs when DJ's took over and the live music was discontinued.

Phil: What happened with your career after that?

Gail: I was remarried in September of 1949 and really retired. My husband retired in 1971 and we moved to Florida. I lost him in 1990. Now I try to keep busy with my oil painting and golf. That's about it.

Phil: Did you have a family?

Gail: I have a daughter, Carol Robonson, and three granddaughters; Laura, Debbie and Diane. The later two are lovely twins. They are scattered in New York city, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Phil: What an interesting story. I really appreciate all this. Maybe our interview will bring back some great memories for all of us. Now, I think I'll drag out my record of Rinka, Tinka Man and pretend it's 1938 again. Thanks for everything.

Mix & Match Answers

- 1 Anthony Alessandrini , Tony Aless
- 2 Luigi Paulino Alfredo Francesco Antonio Balassoni, Louis Bellson
- 3, Clarence Beeks, King Pleasure
- 4 Bernard Anzelevitz, Ben Bernie
- 5 Barbara Coppersmith, Barbara Carroll
- 6 Joshua Itzhak Feldman, Jerry Fielding
- 7, Harry Finkelman, Ziggy Elman
- 8, Julius Gubenko, Terry Gibbs
- 9 Salvatore Massaro, Eddie Lang
- 10, Mckinlay Morgenfield, Muddy Waters
- 11 Antonio Pestrutto , Tony Pastor
- 12 Gertrude Pridgett, Ma Rainey
- 13 Allyah Rabia, Dakota Staton
- 14 Mildred Rinker, Mildred Bailey
- 15, Wilbur Schwichtenberg, Will Bradley
- 16, Harry Warnow, Raymond Scott
- 17 Moe Zudekoff, Buddy Morrow
- 18 Anabelle Short, Annie Ross
- 19 Peter Ceragioli Jr., Pete Jolly
- 20 Anna Marie Wooldridge, Abbey Lincoln
- 21 Francisco Raúl Gutiérrez Grillo, Machito
- 22 Ellas Otha Bates, Bo Diddley
- 23 Paul Emil Breitenfeld, Paul Desmond
- 24 Seymour Kaufman, Cy Coleman
- 25 Louis Bush, Joe "Fingers" Carr
- 26 John Altwerger, Georgie Auld