



# 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**

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Presented by: [www.dixieswing.com](http://www.dixieswing.com)

## Steve Allen Goes Green and Phil Holdman Turns Red.

By Browser Bob Knack

I was headed down the stairs to the “whine cellar” when I met Browser President Phil Holdman coming up. He was waving a piece of paper in his right hand and he was livid. I hadn’t seen him this mad since Erv Edell, our broadcast engineer, misfiled all of Phil’s Andrews Sisters cassettes under “S” for sisters.

The “whine cellar” was what we affectionately called the makeshift studio set up in Phil’s basement where we weekly ducked the clotheslines hung with the Holdman laundry to hook up with Eddie Hubbard in Dallas via satellite for our Saturday ‘live’ broadcasts. The morning mail had arrived and along with a stack of fan letters from Browser listeners came the object of Phil’s ire:

Steve Allen  
15201 Burbank Boulevard  
Suite B  
Van Nuys, California 91411

Fifth March, 1993

Dear Friends,

I want you to know, first of all, that this is a form letter which our office is sending to the several magazines and newsletters which Mr. Allen currently receives either because of membership or sponsorship.

Like many active people, Mr. Allen is a voracious reader and as a responsible citizen tries to keep informed on all important social issues. During the last year or so, however, his professional workload has grown to an extent that it is now simply impossible for him to find time to read a good amount of the material that comes in daily.

Clearly, there is something terribly wasteful about the great accumulation of published papers that is eventually thrown out without ever having been read. Consequently, we have now come to the point where we must ask that you remove us from your publication’s mailing list

Mr. Allen will undoubtedly continue to support your organization to the best of his ability. In the unlikely event that he ever retires, it might be possible for him to give attention to your important literature. In the meantime, we thank you for your good work.

Cordially,  
Karen Hicks  
Assistant to STEVE ALLEN

I felt Phil’s pain. I don’t think over the years there was ever a letter sent by a Browser fan that Phil didn’t answer personally. As we were heard on 130 radio stations nationwide

**Continued on page 2**

## At Last, Something to Listen To While You Read the Newsletter!

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

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, we are adding audio clips to Ted Buttermann’s website. Go to [www.dixieswing.com](http://www.dixieswing.com) and click on the “radio shows” icon.

The first wave of clips feature Browsers Phil Holdman and Warren Ketter in rare form recorded on Phil’s birthday. Johnny Macek, our “Record Collector Extraordinaire” plays a few rarities from his collection. Our “Eclectic One” Dick Parker follows with tasty tunes from Cootie Williams and his Rug Cutters, Will Bradley and his Boogie Boys and more. Finally two clips featuring Perry Huntoon, an expert on classic jazz as well as big bands.

Go to [www.dixieswing.com](http://www.dixieswing.com) and click on “radio shows” and please let me hear your reactions. I’d like to put more clips up in the near future but only if I get some positive feedback. Keep in mind, these shows were recorded a while back and some of the information no longer applies and *you can no longer reach us at the phone number given*. Send your feedback to [bobknack@hotmail.com](mailto:bobknack@hotmail.com) or PO Box 642012, Chicago, Illinois 60664 and THANK YOU! And while you’re browsing the site, don’t forget Ted Buttermann’s Neo-Passé Band CD “Live At The Village Tavern” visit [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com) for ordering info.

Thanks,  
-Bob

...Allen and Holdman from page 1

with our big band and trivia programs the correspondence at times could become voluminous. In addition, he would seek out rare recordings requested by fans and send them cassettes free of charge. Allen's missive was not to be an exception. Phil pulled out his felt tipped pen and fired back:

Mr. Allen:

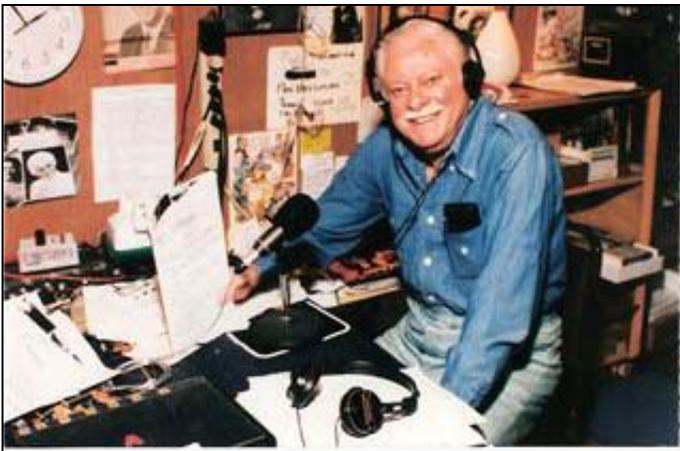
I can't believe that you would allow your secretary to put out such a vitriolic news letter to cancel your subscription to our "no charge" Browsers Notes. I think it's in very poor taste. All this time, I thought you were always against censorship. I would not mail a letter like that to my worst enemy.

What happened to those early days when you and I were growing up in Chicago and listened to the Shaws, the Goodmans, the Basies and the Ellingtons – performing at such places as The Panther Room, The Three Deuces and the Club DeLisa. Don't they matter to you anymore? How do you turn off a memory?

You can rest assured that you will not get any further issues of our publication and you can also rest assured that our 2 million listeners of our weekly satellite radio program will never hear another Steve Allen record again.

I hope you can take five minutes out of your busy schedule to read this message, or will your Ms. Karen Hicks, censor this also.

Phil Holdman  
The Browsers



Phil in the "whine cellar".

As far as I can remember, Phil kept his word and the name of Steve Allen was banished from the Browser lexicon forever.

And now we learn of some vindication for Phil... Allen, was the author a deforesting 54 books, with subjects including poetry, humor, and politics They included autobiographies, comedies and mysteries as well as more serious volumes on education, morality, China and even the farm worker movement of Caesar Chavez. It seems Steve considered himself an expert on practically everything. Interestingly, a former production assistant at Allen's Meadowlane Enterprises, his publisher, now says that after a preliminary run of ten to twelve thousand copies of these books, all but about two thousand were bought back by Meadowlane and put in storage. In seems that if Allen wanted to see someone "terribly wasteful" he need only look in the mirror. Touché Ms. Hicks!



The Browsers in the "whine cellar" clockwise from left: Erv Edell, Karl Kountz, Len Johnson, Bob Knack, Phil Holdman

*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. Kuncil 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.**

To book the Cubs band contact Ted at [TBBands@aol.com](mailto:TBBands@aol.com) or call 847-255-6448 for details.

**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](#)**

# Wild About Harry...

By Browser Bob Knack

Harry Haag James wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth but maybe a little bit of sawdust in his diaper.

His parents were part of the Christy Brothers Circus and until the age of six, Harry was billed as "the youngest contortionist in the business" when a mastoid operation abruptly ended the act. His father gave him a pair of drum sticks and made him a musician. At nine he took up the trumpet and joined the circus band. When business fell at the circus in the early part of the 1930's, Harry went back to Texas ultimately being offered a job by Ben Pollack.

On Christmas day, 1937 he joined the Benny Goodman band. Harry started his own band 3 years later and was the first to hire vocalist Frank Sinatra-being rebuffed in his attempt to change his name to "Frankie Satin." He borrowed \$4500 from Goodman to start that outfit, with Benny now owning 1/3 of the band. Later, James bought back Benny's share for \$20,000. A tidy profit for BG. In October 1941, he made a record of "You Made Me Love You" and sold a million. Following was "I Don't Want To Walk Without You." He went on to tour theatres, did a stretch at the Hollywood Palladium and Astor Roof in New York and made several motion pictures.

According to an Associated Press article by Kate Holliday from April, 1943, here are some other tidbits about Harry at that time of his career:

♪ At this time, there were 167 Harry James fan clubs across the country.

♪ His band mates liked him...one saying "He's not a boss, he doesn't bully us for what he wants. He doesn't try to be a big shot. And he sure can blow!"

♪ Outside of music his passion was baseball and he was a big Dodger fan. The band would get into pick-up games on the road. Saxophonist "Corky" Corcoran was 17 when he was considered for the band. Because of his young age, Harry agreed to become his legal guardian when he found out Corcoran was an excellent shortstop.

♪ Harry also loved "burnt steaks." But he and his Beverly Hills manager and roommate, Peewee Monti had to often go out to eat as they couldn't find meat in the stores due to war time shortages.

♪ He wore a mustache because it affected his playing lip to shave.

♪ The highest note he ever hit was B above high C.

♪ He adored westerns. (In the 60's, Harry recorded an LP of Country tunes for Dot Records called "Harry James and his Western Friends.")

♪ Wore his wedding ring on the fourth finger of his right hand. (He was separated from singer Louise Tobin, with two children at that time. On June 30, 1943, Mrs. James was granted a mutual consent divorce decree in a Juarez, Mexico civil court just seven hours after the petition was filed. Harry was now free to marry film star Betty Grable.

♪ Read Ring Lardner and the funny papers.

♪ Liked to listen to the bands of Tommy Dorsey, Duke Ellington, and Jimmy Lunceford.

♪ Had a passion for clothes, and designed the band uniforms his musicians wore. At this time, they had nine different outfits.

## 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](mailto:TBBands@dixieswing.com)

## 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@wjqam1530.com](mailto:theBrowsers@wjqam1530.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 and Saturday night feature at that restaurant, spinning your favorites.

# The Edgewater Beach Hotel: Salad Days

By Browser Bob Knack

The Edgewater Beach Hotel was actually an afterthought. The businessmen who built it initially tried to buy the Chicago Cubs. When that deal fell through, they opted for a hotel instead.

This glorious inn was constructed in pink Spanish-style stucco in the form of a cross, so that most rooms would provide a stunning view of Lake Michigan. The 400-room edifice opened in 1916 at 5349 N. Sheridan Road on Chicago's North side and a second 600-room unit was opened next door in 1922.



Guests could stroll the 1000 foot long Beach Walk, where during the summer months one might be treated to the big band sounds of Tommy Dorsey, Jimmy Dorsey, Russ Morgan, Vaughn Monroe, Freddy Martin, Wayne King, Xavier Cugat, Johnny Long, Tex Beneke, Woody Herman, Guy Lombardo, Frankie Carle, and perhaps even Evelyn and her magic violin. Performances would be broadcast nationwide over NBC and locally over their own in-house station WEBH (for Edgewater Beach Hotel). When the weather turned inclement, the music moved inside to the beautifully appointed Marine Dining Room. The hotel even had a signature salad.

In the editor's preface to The Edgewater Beach Salad Book, John Willy states, "The Edgewater Beach Hotel of Chicago is famed for its wholesome salads: their variety, and pleasing combinations, and are conducive to health for the young and old." You can no longer visit that famed hotel, but you can still have the salad. The recipe follows the article.

The beginning of the end for the Edgewater Beach came in the early '50s. The city of Chicago, in its infinite wisdom, decided to extend Lake Shore Drive past the hotel on the east. This cut the hotel off from the lake and destroyed the beach walk. New owners took over, ceased making repairs, and the place went to seed quickly. A "chop suey joint", The Polynesian Room, replaced the Marine Dining Room. The hotel abruptly shut its doors forever during the Christmas season of 1967.

*If any of you have memories of The Edgewater Beach, please send them to us.*

## Edgewater Beach Salad

*Lettuce, pineapple, grapefruit, orange, cress, cream cheese, red pepper, green and ripe olives*

On a bed of lettuce, place a large slice of fresh pineapple cut in half, round sides turned in so they touch. Cut oranges and grapefruit in small sections and alternate them on top of the two half slices of pineapple. Garnish center with a small cross of red pepper. At one side a small ring of cheese with round slice of green olive in center; at opposite side a ring of cream cheese with a slice of ripe olive in center. At the two crescent sides place in hollows a rosette of cress. French dressing.



The Edgewater Beach salad is planned after the hotel's monogram, and is highly ornate tasty and healthful. The monogram, as well as the salad, is composed of four wings, and are represented with the pineapple. The green olive represents the lake (Michigan), the black olive the automobile road or Sheridan Drive and the green cress the parks on either side.

*-From the Edgewater Beach Salad Book, Published by the Hotel Monthly Press Chicago, 1926*

*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**

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**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](http://www.cdbaby.com) for ordering info or

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

*Art Van Damme, known as the "father of jazz accordion", has died. He was 89. Here, we reprint a tribute to Van Damme written by late Browser Joe Spery from Browser Notes #22 ,December 1993.*

## Van Damme's Worldly Art

In the 1940's Big Band Land, integrated sounds of orchestration were primarily heard from brass, woodwind, string and percussion instruments. The accordion was often ridiculed as the "orphan of the orchestra" and was regarded as the sound associated with ethnic or "foreign" groups playing such native material as polka's schottishes, mazurkas, one-steps, et al.

Vaudeville and radio of the 30's saw and heard accordions as featured "flash" attractions whereby the so-called "Belly Baldwin" or "Stomach Steinway" was spotlighted when performed by such acts and/or names like Phil Baker, Arthur Tracy, Three Suns, Myron Floren, and Dick Contino. Even sweet bands (Welk or Fields) integrated accordion into their arrangements.

However, the true American art form of swinging accordion jazz has been recorded and performed by many artists, among whom are early George Shearing, Milton DeLugg, the great Leon Sash and Meadowlarks, Joe Mooney's Quartet, Ernie Felice with Benny Goodman, and our subject, Art Van Damme & his Quintet.

In 1944, NBC Vice President Jules Herbuveaux heard the latest Van Damme group consisting of accordion, bass, vibraphone and new edition of drums playing at Chicago's Sherman Hotel. They were promptly signed to join the NBC staff music roster.

Previously, before forming his original trio (accordion, bass and guitar) in 1939, Art had studied classical accordion with famous teacher, Andy Rizzo, for over five years. After playing Chicago clubs and lounges (Sportsman's, Brass Rail, Garrick Stagebar) the trio was hired by Ben Bernie's band with whom they toured. The next AVD group consisted of accordion, vibes and bass and extensively played dates for three years. The Sherman Hotel offer came next and Art formed the aforementioned quartet.

After joining the NBC staff, guitarist Chuck Scheiner was added to drummer Max Marlasch, bassist Lew Skalinder, vibist Chuck Calzaretta, and Art, thus forming the Art Van Damme Quintet which created and produced the unique blend of sounds for which they are famous around the world.

In the sixteen years at NBC, the group played their own programs on local and network radio and television as well as working with top stars like Dave Garroway, Hugh Downs, Ransom Sherman, Howard Miller, Dennis James, Dinah Shore, Lawrence Welk and many more. They also did a number of spots with Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee, Buddy DeFranco, and even Dizzy Gillespie.

The Art Van Damme Quintet has recorded over 40 commercial albums in addition to program tapes and transcriptions. The AVD discography lists Capital Records from 1945 to 1952, Columbia Records from 1952 to 1965, MPS Records (Germany) 1965 to 1973. other international labels include BASF, Sonic Arts, GMP, Svenska Media, PI Records, Tutonto, Intersound, Polygram and others. Art has also recorded albums and singles with Jo Stafford, Fran

Warren, Johnny Smith and his favorite guitar player, Joe Pass.

Since 1967, the majority of Art's work has been outside the USA. It seems that there is a different sense of musical appreciation in other countries and continents. This approval of American Jazz has brought about many concerts and clinics for Art Van Damme whose "retirement" has found him receiving more accolades, awards and appreciation than at any time in his fabulous career.

As to the future? "Well, says Art, "it looks great as long as the "rockers" don't discover the accordion!"

## Another Breathtaking (?) Quiz With Help From Some Browsers

by Browser Joe Carlton

### Questions

- How many all girl orchestras can you remember?
- There were some good orchestras that didn't travel, making their living by playing on radio and TV programs, mostly for comedians. Who did the following play for:
  - Lud Gluskin
  - John Scott Trotter
  - Skinny Ennis
  - Les Brown
  - Archie Bleyer
  - Ray Bloch
  - Phil Harris
  - Billy Mills
  - tie breaker: George Olson
- Can you name the theme songs for the following singers?
  - Perry Como
  - Frank Sinatra
  - Bing Crosby
  - Russ Colombo
- What is the longest song title?
- My Latin cleaning woman loves "knocking gold". Who is she talking about?
- Who is Helen Patricia Freiday, who was born in 1921?
- What male vocalist sang with them most orchestras?
- What is Will Bradley's real name?
- What was Count Basie's first theme song before "One O'clock Jump"?
- Can you name any theme songs that have the word "moon" in the title?

**Answers appear on page 8**

### **Back Issues**

All back issues of "The Great Escape" are available for viewing at [www.dixieswing.com](http://www.dixieswing.com). Dial us up now. Those long evenings will fly by as you catch up on all those interesting articles.

## Letters E-Mails, Errata Etc.

Dear Great Escape,

Maybe you can trace down an LP by Duke Ellington "Duke Ellington Goes Uptown." I would appreciate a copy of it if possible. Maybe John Macek has it in his collection.

Thanks,  
Bill Treuden  
Nashotah, Wi.

*Bill: I had to look no further than my own Duke Ellington bin at home to find my very worn copy of Ellington Uptown. It has come to my attention that it has been reissued on a two-fer CD on the Collectables Records label in 2006 with another Duke LP called Blue Light. Sounds like a bargain.*

Bob

Thank you for...We're Up To Our Asses in Sinatras.

I couldn't agree with you more. While I do have one or two Sinatra arrangements...they are used sparingly. Yes -- he had great arrangements - but all were written for his concerts. Today - you have entertainment bookers in their 20's... that hire you to play Big Band music for dancing for seniors in their 60's and 70's... and the first think they ask you is--- how much Sinatra can you do.

Unfortunately -- More and More --- I'm running into people that think ---Sinatra = big band music = Dancing. Sinatra requests have surpassed "In The Mood" requests

**The Ron Smolen Big Band / Orchestra**  
" Every Night is New Years Eve "  
P.O. BOX 346152  
Chicago, Illinois 60634  
(773) 545 – 1881

Hello Bob....

Pulled my "The Browsers at Large" out of the bookcase this winter's day....had forgotten I had it...and got to thinking about Phil and Company. When the station near Omaha stopped carrying them years ago, I lost track. I think I heard Eddie Hubbard had passed on...but didn't know about Phil. I saw on People Search there was a Phillip Holdman (91) listed in Chicago...don't know if that be he! Or if Alberta is still with us. I was thinking of writing to the old Browser address. but you can probably answer my query. On my trips to Houston, I used to get the Dallas station that Hubbard was on...but these days I can't find a big band station between Lincoln and Houston. Grim! I saw your name and that of the

Great Escape Newsletter on the internet...signed up for the newsletter. I officially retired (off the payroll) in '97, but have continued my weekly big band show on Neb. Public Radio net...be 20 years this fall. (available on the internet at 8:30 CT Friday nights.....netnebraska.org...click on RADIO and launch stream). Would appreciate an update on things.

Thanks.  
-Don Gill

**Editor's note:** 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. 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.

I spoke with Alberta Holdman recently and she tells us she's doing fine. Phil continues to reside in an assisted living facility and is doing as well as can be expected. The old Browser's address is still valid.

Dear Great Escape,

Thanks for continuing in the tradition of Phil Holdman. I have put your and (Ted) Butterman's web site as a link on my web site at [OTRClassicsAndCurios.com](http://OTRClassicsAndCurios.com) and I recommend you and your great newsletter in my new book forthcoming. I will be mentioning you and your newsletter also on my show on [yesterdayusa.com](http://yesterdayusa.com) radio on which I feature Eddie Hubbard's archives, the Browsers, big bands, and OTR.

- Duane Keilstrup

Hello, Bob!

Just want to let you know that [yesterdayusa.com](http://yesterdayusa.com) will feature 30 minutes of a program Eddie did in the 1980's with his favorite recordings. It will air on Sat. evening, Feb. 27, at 9:30PM Central. It's one of several things from Eddie's Archives I try to play, including many of The Browsers Shows.

Thanks for your wonderful newsletter continuing in the tradition of Phil's work.

If you can, please tell Eddie's fans about the show. By the way, I have a new web site at [OTRClassicsAndCurios.com](http://OTRClassicsAndCurios.com) with samples of my program, big band music (including The Browsers), radio and big band trivia and such.

Many thanks and all my best,

-Duane Keilstrup  
Arlington, TX

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

# Greasy Sack News

I came across a copy of the January 27, 1942 edition of the Baltimore Afro-American newspaper, I found these items of great interest to fans of big band music and great entertainment:

♪ The fifteen women who comprised the International Sweethearts of Rhythm wanted to be recognized as good musicians. Their arrangements were done by the great Eddie Durham. As a result of the wartime draft calling many of the male musicians to service, the "Sweethearts" anticipated getting more choice gigs.

♪ Lionel Hampton said more strings should be used in jazz following the example of Artie Shaw and Harry James. Hampton claimed too many young musicians switched to sax and trumpet after playing violin early in their careers. The current "Hamp" band featured too fiddle players, Ray Perry and sax man Marshall Royal, who doubled on violin .

♪ Former Benny Goodman "trumpet ace" Cootie Williams was getting ready to launch his own outfit.

♪ Teddy Wilson took a permanent job at Café Society in Greenwich Village saying he never wanted to travel with his own big band again. "The constant road work and bad food, the rare possibility of getting a decent hotel...everything connected with a large band, is too much of a struggle," said Wilson.

♪ Ditto Coleman Hawkins, who at the time was fronting a seven piece orchestra at White's Emporium on the South side of Chicago. "I'm tired of a big band, of one-nighters and long hops, and I want to settle down in one spot with my own small combo and relax," commented Hawkins.

♪ Claude Thornhill's new record was "Chattanooga Choo-Choo" featuring "a tough intro, sparse piano and good rhythm" according to reviewer Frank M. Davis. He also gave a thumbs up to Woody Herman's "Someone's Rocking My Dreamboat" new on Decca. Said Davis, "It kicks along all the way and bounces solidly."

♪ Finally, appearing in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Princess Oreha and Pete, internationally famed Rhumba artists billed as "the most barbaric Cuban dancers" were costarring in Ramon Navarro's "Fiesta in Havana" revue touring the Middle West.

**Post-It Note:** The U.S. Postal Service will honor **Kate Smith**, the celebrated singer and entertainer whose signature song, "God Bless America" (composed for her by Irving Berlin), has been called America's unofficial national anthem. The stamp will go on sale May 1. In a career that spanned almost five decades, Smith recorded nearly 600 songs. At least 20 of her records sold more than a million copies. The stamp art duplicates artwork created for the cover of a CD titled, "Kate Smith: The Songbird of the South." The artwork was based on a photograph of Smith taken in the 1960's.

Jazz trumpet man **Clark Terry** has been named recipient of the Recording Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award, presented during Grammy Week on Saturday, January 30. Terry, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on December 14, 2010, once said "I'm too old to pimp, and too young to die, so I'm just gon' keep playin'." The Lifetime Achievement Award honors lifelong artistic contributions to the recording medium.

**On The Scene:** South Florida began 2010 with its longest stretch of bitter cold weather since 1940, the year Frank Sinatra debuted with the Tommy Dorsey orchestra. **The Woody Herman Orchestra directed by Frank Tiberi** shook the rafters of the Cerritos Center-for the Performing Arts, Cerritos CA, Sunday, January 17. Every Monday at 8:30 pm **Herb Gardner** leads the Stan Rubin jazz all-stars at Charley-O's restaurant, Broadway at the corner of 49th street, Manhattan. It was the end of an era on December 16<sup>th</sup> as Eddie Hanna, AKA **Tommy Bishop**, and seven other musicians played their last gig at the Pla Mor Ballroom, ending the band's 62 years of performing dance music in the Lincoln, Nebraska area. **The gavel falls:** On February 16<sup>th</sup> an auctioneer sold off the contents of **Don Roth's Blackhawk**, including a large quantity of musical instruments and memorabilia from the original downtown Chicago Blackhawk famous for many live remotes during the big band era.

**Passing:** **Dick Johnson**, clarinet and sax man, has died at the age of 84. Early on in his career he toured with the big bands of Charlie Spivak and Buddy Morrow In 1983, Johnson was hand-picked by jazz legend Artie Shaw to lead a re-formed version of Shaw's famous band. Johnson headed the Shaw Band until 2006.

A giant of British Jazz, **Sir John Dankworth** has died at 82. He was the first major jazz musician and the first British bebopper to be knighted. With his vocalist wife Dame Cleo Laine, he became known to the jazz world and to an international audience. As a youth, he began to play clarinet after gaining a liking for the music of Benny Goodman and later took up saxophone. Dankworth was also known as a successful film and TV composer for the music he wrote for The Avengers, Tomorrow's World and Modesty Blaise. His big band made the British top ten with Experiments with Mice (1956) and African Waltz (1960). Dankworth was knighted in 2006 by Queen Elizabeth II for service to music.

**Jimmy Wyble**, 87, a guitarist who played with country-western swing bandleader Bob Wills as well as with the Benny Goodman and Red Norvo jazz combos has died. In the 1950s and '60s, he toured with Norvo, and with Goodman, as well as with Frank Sinatra during an Australian concert series.

Drummer **Jake Hanna** died in Los Angeles. He was 78. He began playing drums in a marching band at the age of five in Dorchester, Massachusetts. He went on to

play with big bands led by Woody Herman in 1957 and again in 1962, Maynard Ferguson, Toshiko Akiyoshi and was a longtime member of the band on Merv Griffin's television show. He also led a group with trombonist Carl Fontana, the Hanna-Fontana Band (Concord Jazz 1975), and worked with the group Supersax.

Cornetist **Tom Saunders** died February 13, at the age of 71. Saunders had been a leading figure of Detroit's Dixieland scene for forty years. By the age of thirteen he led his own group, "The Six Saints of Dixieland". Following a three-year stint in the Navy, Saunders went on to tour with Pee Wee Hunt and eventually recorded and toured with his childhood hero, Wild Bill Davison.

After a battle with complications from an injury in December, bandleader **Johnnie Kaye** passed away on Friday evening, February 12th. The La Salle-Peru Illinois native was two days short of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. He founded the Johnnie Kaye Orchestra in 1946 and entertained for 63 years.

**Paul Guma**, died Jan. 19, 2010 in Houston at the age of 90. He played guitar, clarinet and saxophone in New Orleans with many notable musicians and entertainers including Pete Fountain and Al Hirt, as well as for symphony, opera and ballet orchestras, WDSU-TV, and at the Blue Room of the Roosevelt Hotel.

-Compiled by Bob Knack

## Another Breathtaking (?) Quiz With Help From Some Browsers

### Answers

1. All girl orchestras: Phil Spitalny, Dolly Dawn and the Dawn Patrol, Darlings of Rhythm, International Sweethearts of Rhythm and Ina Rae Hutton. Know any others?

2. Lud played for Burns and Allen, John played for Bing Crosby, Skinnay played for Bob Hope, Les Brown did also, Archie played for Arthur Godfrey, Ray Bloch played for Jackie Gleason, Phil played for Jack Benny (that is an easy one), Billy played for Fibber Magee and Molly and the tie breaker: George Olson played for the first year Jack Benny was on radio.

3. Perry's theme song was "Dream Along With Me", Sinatra's was "Nancy With The Laughing Face" but had a later one which skips my mind, Bing's was "When The Blue Of The Night Meets The Gold Of the Day" and Russ Columbo's theme song was a song he wrote "You Call It Madness And I Call It Love".

4. The longest song title I know of was written by Hoagy Carmichael entitled "I'm A Cranky Old Yank, In A Clanky Old Tank and I'm Heading For A Hullabaloo. I'll Be Ridin' My Tank Through A Tokyo Bank, Sure As I'm An Army Buckaroo. And When I Set My Khaki Down In Old Nagasaki, I'll Be Singin' Like A Wacky Jackaroo....." There are six more lines in the title, but you get the idea.

5. Who is "knocking gold"? Why, it's Nat "King" Cole.

6. Helen Patricia Freiday used the stage name of Pat Friday and was the ghost singer for Lynn Bari in the movies "Sun Valley Serenade" and "Orchestra Wives".

7. I had to reach way back to the Jazz Age but as far as I know, Harold "Scrappy " Lambert was the male vocalist who sang with the most orchestras, such as Ben Bernie, Red Nichols, Frank Britton Wenzel, Fred Rich, Sam Lavin, Nat Shilkret, Ben Selvin and about 3-4 more. Whew!!!

8. Will's real name was Wilbur Schwichtenberg and it is said that he changed it because it wouldn't easily fit on a theater marquee, but I think most people couldn't pronounce it.

9. Count Basie used "Moten Swing" as his first theme song, since he earlier had played with Benny Moten's Orchestra in Kansas City.

10. Theme songs with the word "moon" in the title: Glenn's "Moonlight Serenade", Vaughn Monroe's "Racing With The Moon", Dean Hudson's "Moon Over Miami", Hal McIntyre's "Moon Mist". And don't forget "When The Moon Comes Over The Mountain" by Kate Smith and I didn't say it had to be an orchestra's theme.



Chicago's Original Hits Station  
featuring **THE BROWSERS** from Trivia Tower  
**Mike Baker** and the **Forgotten 45s**  
WJGG AM 1530  
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ABC Stardust music runs approx. 5pm-7pm CDT weekdays in March, 5pm-7:30pm weekdays in April, 5pm-8pm in May. The format is big band/MOR oldies. Note: All new for the 2010 year with 3 times the amount of music over last year. Sunday afternoons features the music after 4pm.

ABC Kool Gold music airs Saturdays only (live) 5pm-7pm CDT in March, 5pm-7:30pm in April, 5pm-8pm in May. The format is 50s and 60s oldies. Because the programming is live, on-air requests are featured.

**NEWS:** Rockabilly singer and guitarist Dale Hawkins died in Little Rock, Ark. on Feb. 13 after a three-year battle with colon cancer. He was 73. Hawkins made his mark with the 1957 hit, 'Susie Q,' which featured guitarist and future Rock and Roll Hall of Famer James Burton, who also played in Ricky Nelson and Elvis Presley's bands. Recording and performing well into his 70s, Hawkins has also played with Roy Buchanan and Scotty Moore.

[Click here to Listen to the Mike's Forgotten 45's and the "Stardust Style"](#)

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