



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

It Takes Two To Tangle

What’s The Real Scoop Behind The Dorsey/Goodman Dust-Up?

By Browser Bob Knack

Well, I must have missed this when I first read the excellent Tommy Dorsey bio written by Peter J. Levinson, “Livin’ in a Great Big Way.”

On pages 211-212 of that tome the author writes of an altercation between bandleaders Tommy Dorsey and Benny Goodman during a recording session for the soundtrack of the motion picture “A Song is Born,” starring Danny Kaye and Virginia Mayo. The picture was a Technicolor clone of the 1941 movie “Ball of Fire” with Gary Cooper. The best thing the remake had going for it was a fabulous cast of jazz legends including Dorsey, Goodman, Louis Armstrong, Lionel Hampton, Benny Carter, Charlie Barnet, Mel Powell, Louis Bellson, and others.

According to Levinson, the trouble started “after a series of late arrivals” by Benny and TD took a swing and missed. However, several newspapers from August 23, 1947, riffing on a Aline Mosley United Press International article, provided more details. (Also, note some very creative headline writing, see “sources” below)

The St. Petersburg Times leads with “Tommy Dorsey, ‘The genial gentleman of swing,’ felled fellow bandleader Benny Goodman with a right to the jaw after Goodman held up the session with a solo flight on his clarinet.” Dorsey admits he’d popped Benny on the chin Friday because the clarinetist took a riff on his own. “I was really mad” said Dorsey. He said Goodman was “inconsiderate.” Goodman said he was mystified. “I was just sitting there playing my clarinet when I was hit on the head, he said. Dorsey said Goodman called him an unkind word and kicked him in the shins.

The session was to begin at 9:00AM. At ten, a studio employee was dispatched to roust Goodman from bed. At 11 AM, Benny showed up explaining that he had been up till 2AM watching Louis Armstrong play at Billy Berg’s night club. Dorsey said, “Look Benny, I came here at nine with the other boys after working until two. Maybe you can sleep but we’d like to get this over with.” TD was possibly still mad at Goodman from that previous Wednesday when BG refused to ride with the Goodman and Dorsey bands on a truck from Hollywood to the Casino Gardens for a benefit dance.

“We cut one record and when we were ready for the second, Goodman jammed all by himself,” said Dorsey. “I got mad. It was the last day of the picture for everybody but Goodman. We wanted to finish. I was on edge I’ve been working 21 hours a day. I’ve worked at the Casino Gardens until 2 a.m. and Armstrong has worked late too. I told Goodman he should apologize for keeping us waiting.” A witness said, Benny started jamming at the end of the song they were recording and ruined the record. The conductor, Emil Newman, called for order and told Benny to follow the music” BG called TD a five-letter name and they made a few

passes at each other. The other guys; Armstrong, Barnet, Hampton, Powell and some studio musicians, pulled them apart but BG kept cursing, kicked TD and then TD followed with a right. Benny was flat-between two music stands braking a microphone and TD’s sunglasses. Goodman left for home and the record was not finished.

The Miami News reported, TD denied striking Benny at all. “There was a little verbal argument. A couple of music stands got upset. Why, I’m a musician. I couldn’t punch my way out of a paper bag.” However, Dorsey, was considered by some a budding pugilist as well as a musician in part for popping actor Jon Hall on the chin three years earlier.

According to a Goodman servant quoted in the Ottawa Citizen, Benny retired to his home. “Mr. Goodman is in bed, very sick with a stomach ache.” “I was just sitting there playing my clarinet when Tommy walked up and started swinging exclaimed Goodman.” He denied calling TD any names.

Levinson describes Mosley’s rendition a “perhaps slightly overzealous account” so who’s to say what really went down at that session. One thing for sure, with the two monster egos of Dorsey and Goodman in the same studio, anything might have happened!

Sources: *Milwaukee Journal*. 8/23/47 - “Benny’s Clarinet Does a Riff and Tommy Dorsey Swings” (UP)

St Petersburg Times 8/23/47 – “Dorsey Swings Connects with Goodman Chin.”

The Pittsburgh Press 8/23/47 – “Dorsey Swings, Benny Flat in Discordant Jam session.”

The Miami News 8/23/47 - “Goodman Nurses Nose As Dorsey Swings Hard.”

Ottawa Citizen 8/23/47

Peter J, Levinson, Livin’ In A Great Big Way, Da Capo Press

New Radio Trivia From ‘The Browsers’ Planned

Chicago radio broadcaster Mike Baker has announced a new on-air project featuring “The Browsers,” experts in the big band era. The boys will be back in the studio again recording new segments each asking a big band history question, then a related song from the era will be played followed by the answer to the query. The “inserts” will be presented at intervals during Baker’s Sunday radio shows on WJG-AM 1530, Elmhurst, Illinois. The show is also available on the [internet](http://www.dixieswing.com). The Browsers are currently featured on an earlier batch of similar inserts heard Sundays from 4:30PM-8:00PM CDT during the Summer. The Browsers were at one time heard on 190 stations nationwide with the late Eddie Hubbard hosting.

Greasy Sack News

Compiled by Bob Knack

While Russian President **Dmitry Medvedev** was in Washington with President Obama on official business, his staff went on their own "Mission to Moscow" browsing vinyl for his collection. They visited Som Records on 14th Street looking for Duke Ellington, B.B. King and Jimi Hendrix recordings -- Medvedev is a big jazz and rock fan and collects rare records. The store didn't have any Ellington LP's, but they did buy Hendrix, King, Gil Evans, Blossom Dearie and Mark Murphy. \$150 worth in all. Next time maybe they should first consult The Browsers.

On The Scene: Browser **Perry Huntoon** presented Stompin' At The Savoy: A Remembrance Of Harlem's Savoy Ballroom on May 13th at the [Brookfield Jazz Society](#), Brookfield, Illinois. "The Savoy Ballroom was one of the best places in the country to hear big band jazz from the 1930s onwards. The Savoy's house bands included Chick Webb, Erskine Hawkins, Al Cooper's Savoy Sultans and Fess Williams' Royal Flush Orchestra." Coming on July 29th, A Jack Teagarden Retrospective - Perry takes a look at the life and career of the legendary trombone player and occasional vocalist, Jack Teagarden.

Walt Andrus performing "jazz, standards and a smidge of Sinatra!" May 29 at Connecticut's The Gelston House Restaurant along with Les Brown's Donn Trenner at the piano, Dave D'Addario, bass, and Tom Devino, drums.

Great Escape reader **Roberto Magris** tells us of his new CD on JMood Records, a new Kansas City jazz label: Mating Call, The Roberto Magris Quintet: Roberto Magris – Piano, Paul Carr - Soprano And Tenor Sax. Michael O'Neill - Tenor Sax, Elisa Pruetz – Bass, Idris Muhammad – Drums.

Passing: Browser **Dick Leiby** has passed. Dick was a great fan and avid collector of the bands of Stan Kenton, Woody Herman, Maynard Ferguson and others. It was always a great pleasure visiting with Dick and his wife, Armeda at our Browser meetings, He will be missed.

Critically acclaimed clarinetist **Chuck Hedges** has died at 77. He recorded dozens of albums with his own bands and performed on hundreds of other recordings. His bands included the Chuck Hedges Swingtet, a fixture for 30 years at Andy's in the Chicago Loop area. Earlier, Hedges and fellow musicians re-created the Benny Goodman sextet sound as the New Chicago Swingtet. Hedges grew up in Chicago and In 1960 came to the Milwaukee area to play with the trumpeter Dick Ruedebusch and his band, performing on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and recording with that band. At the age of 28, he learned wind-instrument repair to supplement his jazz playing income. - source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

The Count Basie Orchestra is announcing that trombonist **Benny Powell** has died at age 80. Powell is best known for his role in the Basie band of the 1950s

and early '60s — he took a brief solo on the hit recording of "April In Paris" — but he also held spots in the Lionel Hampton Orchestra, the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra and many, many other top ensembles. He was busy as a recording studio, Broadway and television musician.

Allyn Ferguson, arranger, conductor and Emmy-winning composer who co-wrote the themes for the TV series "Charlie's Angels" and "Barney Miller," has died. He was 85. Beginning in 1958 in Hollywood he was an arranger for artists including Sarah Vaughan, Stan Kenton and Andy Williams and wrote the arrangements for the Count Basie Orchestra's Grammy-winning "Count Plays Duke" album. He also was a musical director for Johnny Mathis, Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, Julie Andrews and others.

Joya Sherrill, who sang with Duke Ellington as a teenager, toured the Soviet Union with Benny Goodman and was one of the first African-American performers to host a children's television show, died on June 28 at her home in Great Neck, N.Y. She was 85.

Browser Trivia Back on The Air!!



Dear Mike Baker,

I listen to the 45's every time I hear it on the air. Please don't change a thing...it can't be improved...just more air time would work for me. You are the only radio station in the Chicago area that plays my music from the 30-40-50's...no other place is it found. There is too much talk, foreign language stuff on the air now. You guys are the best for me & people like me.

I like the 45's, just wish they were on more than now. The best music in town. I like the commercial free time very, very much.

- Keep up your fine work,
Jim Murphy

ABC Stardust style music runs Sunday afternoons and features music of the 30's, 40's and 50's and featuring Browser Trivia 4pm - 8:30pm CDT during July and 4pm - 8pm CDT during August ABC Kool Gold music style airs Saturdays only -The format is 50s and 60s oldies.

Because the programming is live, on-air requests are featured.

[Click here to listen to Mike on the internet](#)

Email the Browsers at: [email "The Browsers," click here.](#)

Letters, E-Mails, Errata Etc.

Regarding Hal Grayson

To Bob Knack-

Last year you wrote an article about Hal Grayson. He was my mothers uncle and I've been trying to find career info on him for years. Yours is the most I've ever seen. All my mom and her sister could remember was he was a band leader and had a drinking problem.....Is there anyway you could tell me where you got this information or where I might find more. He seems to have been well known in Hollywood at the height of his career, but is now lost to obscurity. I've always been intrigued by this skeleton from my family's closet. Today is the first day I've seen a photo of him. I have so many family photos from my grandmother, but none of her band leader brother. My Grandmother was Gladys Grayson. They were originally from New Jersey. She married my Grandfather and became Gladys Letts....also lived in LA. Thanks for showing an interest in him and writing an article about him....even though it is a sad ending. I'd appreciate anymore help you could give me in researching him. I've been looking on the internet for 10 years and have never seen anything before.

-Sally Clark

More on Buddy Hughes

Hi Bob,

Another wonderful issue of The Great Escape particularly with the Jimmy Dorsey angles in the Buddy Hughes and Helen O'Connell features.

One correction: Buddy toured with JD for only three months, not six as stated. He joined the band in January, 1946, replacing Paul Chapman, but was himself replaced in mid-April during an engagement at Frank Dailey's Terrace Room in Newark. Bob Carroll is evident as the singer on an April 14 Mutual broadcast from that venue. According to the trade press at that time, Jimmy was trying to replicate the Bob Eberly sound again. However, Buddy once explained to me that it was Decca that insisted that Jimmy take on Carroll as they wanted to promote his career and thought the exposure with Jimmy's band would help. He stayed two years, but only briefly hit the charts with "The Whole World is Singing My Song" and "Heartaches," the latter also featuring Dee Parker who was the gal singer while Buddy was with the band. (Dee, by the way, was very, very, good with the band, though little remembered today. She was also quite attractive as evidenced by an autographed publicity photo Buddy has in his possession.) Bob Carroll did have a minor hit with

"Charmaine" in 1951 with Victor Young, but soon went into acting as his singing career never brought the envisioned stardom.

As to Helen O'Connell, I was lucky to have a front row seat at a concert in Flint, Michigan, in 1987 that featured Lee Castle directing the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, the Mills Brothers, the Modernaires and, finally, Helen singing with the Dorsey band. She looked and sounded every bit as good as ever. Sitting that close to her on stage put me right into Seventh Heaven. I had an older cousin who saw the band during its heyday ca. 1940-41 at the Cafe Rouge. He accidentally bumped into Helen when coming around a corner during an intermission and instantly fell in love with her. She became his favorite big band 'canary' from that point forward. Martin Block, the famous New York DJ, once opined that Helen could only handle up tempo tunes, but I can attest to later ballad recordings of hers after she left Dorsey as being very good indeed.

Keep up the wonderful work with the newsletter.

All the best,

-Perry Huntoon

Hello,

Buddy Hughes is my father. Bless you for honoring him in this way. I'm looking forward to reading your newsletters and sharing them with him and many others.

Sincerely thankful..... your new fan.

-John Hughes

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."



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

-Charles Foster Kane

More Letters, E-Mails, Errata Etc

The Burke Sisters

Hi Bob,

Awhile back I contacted you regarding my aunts, the Three Burke Sisters who toured with Husk O'Hare. Something different this time. I understand that your group probably cannot help me but perhaps you or someone can direct me. The attached photos are of my mom, Patsy Burke - the youngest of the 5 sisters. By the time she graduated from HS, around 1938, the trio was disbanding. My mom took another direction in music - she loved Latin music! The one with Don Pablo has "Don Pablo Band with Andre ~ Patsy Burke ~ Cuban Village, Chicago" on the back. I have no idea who the band is in the other photo. The background looks like a place called the Latin Quarter, a theater restaurant that was on W. Randolph in Chicago. Of course the photos have no date on them ... but I am guessing around 1944 - 48 ish.

I have done basic searches but not much help.

Thanks in advance!

-Michelle Gabel



-We welcome any input from our readers, it looks to me like it could be the Chez Paree. B.K.

Email the Browsers at:
theBrowsers@wijgam1530.com

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



Pictured from left: Russ Phillips, Ted Butterman, 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

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 and Saturday night feature at that restaurant, spinning your favorites.

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](http://www.friendsofbigbandjazz.com) - Mike Vax and the swingin bands of today.

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

Songs and Songsters

Recalling some special favorites from the big band era and beyond by Browser Dick Parker

I recently had some fun in compiling a batch of instrumental recordings that I never get tired of hearing. While I pretty much prefer instrumentals to vocals, there are some singing records that are very special to me.

Heading such a list, my all-time favorite song was written by Mack Gordon and Harry Warren. It is "I Know Why (And So Do You)" from the 1941 movie, "Sun Valley Serenade." The RCA Bluebird record from that film had fine vocalizing by Paula Kelly and the Modernaires with the Great Glenn Miller band. (The B side of that record was "Chattanooga Choo Choo" – which earned Glenn the first gold disc ever awarded to an artist.) Strictly coincidental is the fact that my next favorite song is also written by the same writing team of Gordon and Warren and that would be "There Will Never Be Another You." It too, was a movie, 1942's "Iceland," with Sonja Henie and John Payne who were also the leads in "Sun Valley Serenade." "Iceland" featured Sammy Kaye's band and singer John Merrill.

Some additional favorites in no particular order are: "My Reverie" by Larry Clinton's orchestra with vocal by Bea Wain. My Reverie derives from composer Claude Debussy's "Reverie" and a fine piano treatment of this beautiful melody is by Van Cliburn on RCA Victor classical records; "You Better Go Now" by Jerri Southern – a 1951 Decca record with lush and sensual back-up by the Camarata Orchestra; "I Will Live My Life For You" by Tony Bennett. Not a hit from Tony's illustrious career, but my personal favorite by him-from 1962; "You and Me (We Wanted It All) by Frank Sinatra – from the 1980's three-LP "Trilogy" release. Recorded in his 65th year, this heads my list of favorite Sinatra records; "And I Love Her So" by Perry Como-very sentimental and very touching.

"Long Ago And Far Away" written by Jerome Kern with Ira Gershwin lyrics. This is one of the numerous tunes recorded by the duet of Dick Haymes and Helen Forrest (it was also delightfully performed by Gene Kelly in the 1944 Rita Hayworth film, "Cover Girl." "For Me And My Gal" - Gene Kelly and Judy Garland from the 1942 movie of the same name. One more Gene Kelly entry por favor? His "Singin In The Rain" from the 1952 musical is truly a legendary performance; "I Can't Get Started" by Bunny Berigan. Not only one of the great trumpeters, Bunny sang this song with more feeling than anyone else. I'd have to say "Hello, Young Lovers" – Nancy Wilson with a great string choir arrangement by George Shearing; "If I Could Reach You" – Marilyn McCoo. An outstanding singer who performed with the 5th Dimension vocal group in the late 60's and early 70's. And last but not least, 1944's Decca record of "Cow Cow Boogie" by Ella Fitzgerald and the Ink Spots – always makes me feel good.

Hear Dick Parker play some of his other favorites on "The Great Escape Radio Show" [by clicking right here.](#)

###

Mal Bellairs, Chicago Radio Pioneer Dies

Mal Bellairs, a famous Chicago radio broadcaster, has died at the age of 90. His voice was heard for more than 50 years on Chicago's radio waves. He did commercials, hosted talk and music programs, interviewed celebrities and owned two radio stations in McHenry County, Illinois. A four-hour annual Christmas show, which featured music from around the world, was "his pride and joy, his masterpiece," said his son, Rick Bellairs. He was a resident of Woodstock, Illinois.

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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www.cdbaby.com for ordering info or

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

Late News

Joe Vito

Joe Vito, a beloved Chicago area pianist and accordionist who performed with some of the world's top singers, and who played classical music as expertly as jazz has died at age 79.

He accompanied Tony Bennett, Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra, as well as opera greats Placido Domingo, Catherine Malfitano and Luciano Pavarotti. His fans included Doc Severinsen, Johnny Carson's "Tonight Show" band leader, who sought out Mr. Vito to play his accordion at Severinsen's Italian-themed shows on tour.

He was not only a star of the cabaret era, when clubs like the Blue Max and Mr. Kelly's ruled the Chicago night, he was an in-demand accompanist to the end. He played on countless commercial jingles, and he was a sought-after bandleader at corporate events for Florsheim, Whirlpool and McDonald's, whose founder, Ray Kroc, enjoyed tickling the ivories with him. The Warsaw Philharmonic asked him to solo at a 100th anniversary bash. He performed at Holland's North Sea Jazz Festival and the Umbria Jazz Festival in Orvieto and Perugia, Italy.

Mr. Vito was probably best-known for a long-standing gig at Toulouse Restaurant with the late violinist Johnny Frigo, composer of jazz classics like "Detour Ahead" and "I told Ya I Love Ya, Now Get Out."

Email the Browsers at:

theBrowsers@wjgam1530.com

Goodman vs. Shaw

"Who Was Better"

by Browser President Phil Holdman

As we continue to celebrate the Artie Shaw centenary, we're reprinting Phil's article from the Browser Notes #84 of April, 2004.

Benny was one of eleven children in the Goodman family. Artie had seven beautiful wives. Enough about statistics. Let's get down to the nitty-gritty. Who was better? This is a hard question to answer. It's like comparing

Beethoven to Mozart
Pucini to Verdi
Babe Ruth to Ty Cobb
Sandy Kofax to Nolan Ryan
Einstein to Edison
The Gershwins to Irving Berlin
Michael Jordan to Michael Jackson (no contest)

While Benny would play it straight on ballads like, "Where or When" or "My Old Flame," Artie was frantic on ballads like "Stardust" and "Dancing in the Dark." All these performances were like magic to our ears. Benny's solo on his classic recording of "Sing, Sing, Sing will never be duplicated. Artie's solo's on "Begin the Beguine" and "Frenesi" were exhilarating.

Born in 1909, Benjamin Goodman had two daughters-Rachel and Sofia. He recorded songs about them, Rachel's dream and "Hi Ya, Sofia." They were both flops.

Arthur Warshawsky, born in 1910, had no children, but married many famous gals like Lana Turner, Ava Gardner, Kathleen Windsor, Doris Dowling and Evelyn Keyes. How's that for an array of beauties?

They both had the best talents in the industry-Benny had his Gene Krupa and Artie had his Buddy Rich. Benny had his Helen Ward and Martha Tilton while Artie had his Helen Forest, who also recorded with Goodman. The late and great Billie Holiday also recorded with the bands. Also famous were their small groups-Benny with his trio, quartet, quintet and sextet. Artie with his fabulous "Gramercy Five."

When I was a teenager, almost every Saturday afternoon, I would hop on a streetcar for a price of seven cents and head downtown to my favorite record emporium, Lyon & Healy on South Wabash Avenue. All floors of the building had to do with music. Harps were manufactured on the 7th floor. The first floor, where I spent my time, contained walls and walls of records-some 10 inch, some 12 inch-and all were 78's. Also on the floor were hundreds of phonograph players. In those days you could ask the clerks for recordings that one could listen to before buying. (I never bought, I just listened) they had many record booths on the balcony where I would spend three or four hours at my favorite pastime. My Goodman selections consisted of "Don't Be That Way," "One O'clock Jump," and of course, the ever popular "Sing, Sing, Sing." The load was getting heavy when I added my favorite Artie Shaw records of "Indian Love Call" with a great vocal by Tony Pastor,

"Summit Ridge Drive," "Dancing in the Dark," "It Had To Be You," and his haunting theme song, "Nightmare." My expense for the weekend in those days was fourteen cents, the carfare.

Wanna know something? I'm still playing these same records, 70 years later. Wait a while. Why am I so gung-ho about Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw?.....I'm really a Tommy Dorsey nut!

Hear Phil and Warren Ketter play some of their favorite songs on "The Great Escape Radio Show"
[just click here](#)

What other Jazz band plays to over 40,000 adoring fans at every gig?

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Their 29th Season at the ballpark



Pictured: T. Bartlett E. Wilkinson T. Butterman J. Kuncl 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. Just think, the bride can now throw out her bouquet and the first pitch at the same time!

To book the Cubs band contact Ted at 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:

[View Ted and the band on TV](#)