



THE GREAT ESCAPE!*

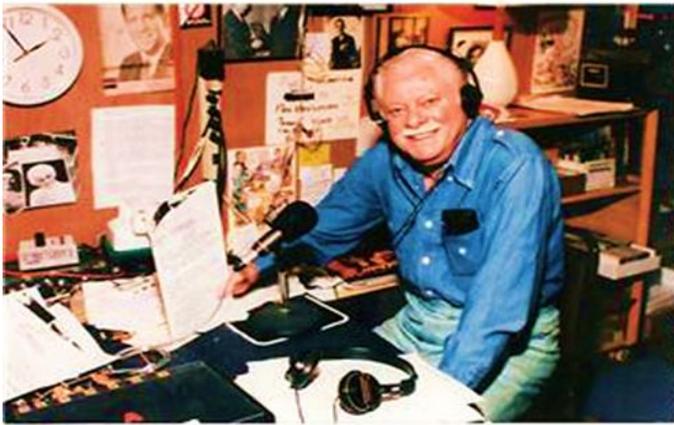
***“Anything that is good jazz is a great escape. When you’re involved in playing or listening to great jazz, no one can get to you.” -Woody Herman**

Issue No.22 January/February 2011
Presented by: www.dixieswing.com

So Long, Phil...

Phil Holdman died on December 22nd 2010 at the age of 92. It's the end of an era. In addition to being a successful record salesman and big band drummer (Carl Schreiber band), Phil led the Browsers for many years, organizing our monthly meetings, writing the scripts for our weekly local and then national ABC radio broadcasts with Eddie Hubbard and making tapes of rare songs by request for thousands of fans down in his "Whine Cellar." Additionally, he also was a baseball historian. On opening day each year, he, along with Browser and sportswriter Eddie Gold, appeared on Roy Leonard's WGN Radio broadcast with a two-hour Chicago Cubs trivia special. Phil was also very proud of his appearance on the often repeated WTTW television special called "Remembering Chicago." What we will miss most is his great sense of humor and storytelling.

In 1992 Phil sat down with writer and Browser Herb Fagen to reminisce about his life. Here, for the first time on the internet is an excerpted version of Phil's remarks.



Phil's Early Musical Memories

The first record I ever heard was a song called "Rose of the Rio Grande." I believe it was by Paul Whiteman. We had a big upright Victrola and I used to get up on a chair to wind it up. I must have played the record hundreds and hundreds of times. I was so fascinated by watching it go 'round and 'round and listening to the music. There was also another record-I believe it came with the Victrola-"Meditation from Thais," by Massenet. It was a lovely melody played as a violin solo by Fritz Kreisler. I remember it well because later when I became a record salesman, I sold a lot of classical recordings. I became a record junkie from that point on.

I had four older sisters and they all loved music. There was Lillie, Nettie, Minnie and my oldest sister was

Sarah. They were all musical, but each one had different tastes. I remember Sarah's favorite song was "Danube Waves." It was a waltz and she used to dance to it all the time. Later in life she was so happy when Mario Lanza recorded it under the title "The Loveliest Night of the Year." I also like to tell about my sister Lillie because she was the flapper in the family and made me her dance partner. Before she would go to a dance, she would always practice with me. Once, when I was 6 or 7 years old, she took me to the old Broadway Strand Theatre on Roosevelt Road (in Chicago). I remember it well because we won the Charleston contest that night. I think our prize was five bucks and a turkey.

Early Favorite Artists and His First Record

Gene Austin and Paul Whiteman, even Hal Kemp and Glen Grey in the early 30's. There were dime store records that cost 15 cents and they went up to 35 cents. They never went past 35 cents unless you wanted one of those RCA classical recordings which cost a dollar. But we never bought those, they were too expensive. (The first record I bought) was an Andrews Sisters record in about 1937 or '38. One side was "Beer Barrel Polka," and the other side was called, "Well, All Right." At about the same time I bought that Andrews Sisters record, I rented a cheap drum set from Lyon & Healy. I think you paid fifty cents a week and they let you keep it for six months. Then, if you wanted to buy the drums you paid the rest of the money or you had to give them back. We didn't have the money. Fifty cents a week was about all my mother could afford. But I would sit and play that Andrews Sisters' record, both sides, hundreds of times. Then I would rush to the drums. Today I can still play it just like the record.

His Record Collection

Well, records have been my life. I've given away quite a few, but I'd have to say I have close to twenty-thousand. I had to build a room off my house to fit all the records. Of course, my wife says, "How many more records are you going to get. This is it!" Now I have to sneak them in. (laughing) Sadly, I lost many (of my 78's) in a flood in our basement. Later, I had record sales and sold many of them. I sold about \$500 worth of 78's. I'm still in contact with many of the collectors who bought them. In fact, a disc jockey friend in Milwaukee offered to pay me \$50 for all the records he could fit in his car. He had an old junk Buick, and sure enough he put them into the trunk and the back seat and took every record I had. Would you believe the car was scraping the ground?

E-mail the Browsers at theBrowsers@wijgam1530.com

Favorite Trumpeter

It's really hard to narrow it down to one. I like Ziggy Elman on the swinging stuff. Billy Butterfield played such great beautiful solos. But if I had to take one, I'd take Harry James. You can recognize Harry right away. The beautiful melodic solos he played were almost tearful. It fit the band so well. Before Helen Forrest would sing you'd hear he beautiful trumpet solo.

Shaw or Goodman?

Well, I'm one of the few who liked them both. Benny Goodman's band always swung. Shaw swung, too. But you could always tell Goodman. I think he did more for swing and for our kind of music than almost anybody. Shaw was always a rebel but he played great. His ideas were so far out, and today when you play an Artie Shaw record it sounds modern.

A Must for Your Collection!

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



Pictured L to R: Russ Phillips, Scott Black, Dave Elias, Ronnie Baron, Ted Buttermen
© 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](#)

The Impact of Glenn Miller on Big Band Music

I think the musical taste of the country was ripe for Glenn Miller at the time. He came with an idea. He had been playing for years but never did get the sound that he had until he formed his first real dance band in 1937-38. He got the idea when you put the clarinet one octave above the saxophones. This was the Miller sound. But it was not entirely new. It was tried years ago by other bands but they did not stick with it. He was a wonderful arranger and people were dying for music to dance to in 1938. What helped him also were all the great air shots he got and because of this exposure he became an overnight hit. He only played with that band for four years and he made 267 sides. They recorded almost every day and all the records are still available. In England especially they are still crazy about Miller recordings.

Favorite Guy Singers...

Again, that's a hard one. But if I had to pick one, I'd have to say I loved Jack Leonard. He sang with Tommy Dorsey. There was something about his singing which was so romantic. Of course, I was very impressionable in those days. I was going with Alberta then and it was such a romantic era. And of course, Sinatra made great records. So did our own Allan DeWitt. I wish more people would know about Allan. He made a lot of good records when he sang with Jan Savitt. He made three records with Tommy Dorsey. In fact, his recording of "Careless" was a big hit in the East. Here, it was all Eddie Howard because he had a big following in the Midwest.

...Gal Singers

Oh, Helen Forrest and Bea Wain were my favorites. Helen O'Connell sang so many great songs. Then there was Peggy Lee. She made some great records with Benny Goodman. Songs like "All I Need Is You," and "Why Don't You Do Right," Some of the best songs didn't become hits. A song called "I See a Million People" comes to mind. Another favorite Peggy Lee record is "My Old Flame." The thing about that record is that she sang it plain with no frills and Benny Goodman played a great solo. It was just beautiful. Kay Starr was great. She was only 16 when she started with Joe Venuti.

An Army Drummin' Man

I was stationed at Camp Stewart, Ga. and Camp Blanding Fla. I was generally the master of ceremonies and played drums in the band. At Camp Blanding we would do a show called "Parade Rest" every Sunday evening. We had 10,000 troops sitting on the hills like you see in Bob Hope Shows. I'd run down and announce who was going to sing what, tell a couple of jokes and go back to the drums. We'd always end the show with a flag waver. One night we finished with a "killer diller" called "Concerto for Clarinet." It lasted for half an hour and we improvised a lot. I had a lot of tom tom solos and at that time I was suffering from a hernia. No one knew about it but the tom tom solos did me in. I finished the show and then collapsed-fell right off the seat. They rushed me to the hospital in an ambulance and the next morning I was operated on. I also did a show with comedian Jack E. Leonard once. My wife was in the front row and Jack would make all kinds of cracks like "That's the drummer's wife" and "Where'd you get a pretty wife like that." Leonard was a real funny guy and I was a perfect foil.

Once I did a show with Harpo Marx. I'll never forget that one. In fact, I was the only one who heard him talk. We did a few routines. Remember how he always wore that coat, the one where everything fell out? Well, once I pulled out a deck of cards. I put them on a stump and said "OK, Harpo, we're going to play a game, cut the cards." So he takes out an ax and cuts the cards. They went flying all over the stage.

We had people who played in all the great bands. A good friend of mine was Ernie Caceres who played with Miller and also with Eddie Condon. I was friends with Jimmy McPartland, also, but I couldn't get him in the band because he didn't play classical horn. It was really dumb, but our warrant officer said he needed classical musicians. He didn't need any more jazz people. Anyhow, it was good for Jimmy because he went to England and it was there he formed his own group, met his wife Marion and became a big name.

Sgt. Johnny Desmond, Dick Haymes and Ray Eberle

Johnny Desmond sang real well, and he was a good looking guy. The women went wild over him. He made a lot of good records with Glenn and the Army Air Force band. He also sang with Gene Krupa and Bob Crosby. He had that great romantic voice.

Dick Haymes, Oh boy. At one time, I think he was the best in the country. I'd say from 1945-1950 he was the best. I have a lot of his records and use them on the show. I'd say if there was a particular song, and it was recorded by Dick Haymes, that would be the version I'd want to hear.

Ray (Eberle) used to have problems with Miller. He claimed that some of Miller's tempos were too fast for his ballads. But Glenn was strictly for the dancers. Miller had such good arrangements. In fact, when a song came out and he recorded it, it would become a hit even if it had been a hit with another band. When Dick Jurgens made a big hit with "Elmer's Tune," Glenn called Dick and said he'd like to record it. He asked Dick if he could get any words for the song. Dick said it didn't have any words but wouldn't mind if Glenn recorded it. So Dick told his friend Sammy Gallup that Glenn needed a lyric. Sammy wrote the words—in only 40 minutes—on an elevated train traveling to the Aragon Ballroom. And the song became a smash for Glenn.

The Record Salesman

I came out of the Army at the right time when records were starting to get a resurgence. GI's came home and they wanted to hear the records they missed and it blasted open the record industry. When I first got out I was playing drums with the band of Carl Schreiber which was a very good dance band. I got paid nineteen dollars a job. (And) I was going to school at the Goodman Theatre in the day learning to be an actor and director, but I had to quit because my first child was born and I had to get a job besides playing in the band. One of my friends started working as a record salesman with a firm named James H. Martin, the biggest record distributor in Chicago. They needed a salesman and my friend recommended me. He told them I knew every record that ever came out. (Martin) gave me a couple of jukebox operators and I think that's how I got well known. The jukebox operators took a liking to me and in time I had everyone in the city of Chicago, which made me the top man. Take a record like "Peg of My Heart." I'd sell five hundred to one guy, not five to a store. And I would say I sold more records than anyone in the world. In fact, there was an article in Billboard magazine about me. I have a plaque from London records when I was given the award for "Salesman of the Year" and they announced that I had sold the most records in my lifetime and should be in the Guinness Book. But it was easy in those days. I had the best territory, I had the biggest hits.

They used to call me up at home. I used to sell records from the house.

When "Third Man Theme" came out by Anton Karas we couldn't ship till the movie was released. There was a stipulation about that. So Jimmy Martin had a big meeting and said "they say it's going to be big in England guys, so we got to take orders for it because Guy Lombardo is going to make it and we don't want to get killed." I went to my friend Bill Hall's house and said "I've got a record, Bill that you've got to put on every machine (jukebox) in your territory. It's going to be a smash." So I put it on and while the zither is playing that haunting melody, he said, "That's terrible, Phil." I said, "Bill, don't listen to it, just buy it." The record became the biggest selling single of all time for the London label.

Will the Big Bands Survive?

Well, everybody says the Big Bands are coming back, but in my opinion. I'm just not sure. For us the big bands never left. To people in our age bracket, and younger people who latched on to our music, the music will last. The younger generation might like Big Band music, but they won't go out of their way to hear it. My son is with the Houston Symphony and thinks the Browsers are doing a wonderful thing in conserving this music because it is such a rich part of our history.

Editor's Note: Author and quizmaster Joe Carlton has written an excellent book, "**THE BROWSERS AT LARGE: Phil Holdman's Tall Tales and True.**" This book containing lots of stories by Phil and other Browsers, along with many, many photos, is still available. Phil and his cadre 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.

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.

www.bigbandlibrary.com Christopher Popa's up-to-date and informative band site. This is one of the most comprehensive big band sites you can visit!

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@wjgam1530.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.

Email the Browsers at: theBrowsers@wjgam1530.com.

In this age of instant internet downloads of practically every song ever recorded, we forget that not so long ago, a great many records from "back in the day" were very hard to locate. Phil unselfishly spent hour upon hour down in what became known as "The Whine Cellar" making tapes for listeners who wanted to hear "their song" once more. His recollections on that subject follow...

My Most Requested Songs

My wife Alberta is always complaining about my vast record collection. It's always the same old story, "When are you going to get rid of some of your records. There's no more room in the house." I always give her the same answer, "which one's should I chose to get rid of?" It's like saying, "We have too many kids, let's get rid of some." What if I get a request for a song that I used to have, before the purge?

This leads me to the crux of my story:

What are my most requested songs that I've been sending out for the last twenty years?

I would have to say my number one request would have to be, "I Miss You So" by the Cats and the Fiddle. This hard to find version was released by RCA on their Bluebird label in the early forties and was deleted almost immediately. I don't know the names of the Cats and surely Mr. Fiddle, but it doesn't matter, everyone wants this recording!

My next most requested would have to be "Maria Elena" by Jane Walton with the Lawrence Welk band. Sung in Spanish, yet. Why don't they ask me for the hit version by Bob Eberly.

My next choice could also be number one, with all the inquiries by G.I.'s from World War II. They can't find it anywhere but never forgot-lovely Lily Ann Carol chirping, "I'll Walk Alone" recorded with Louis Prima in 1943, on the cheap "Hit" label. My record is almost worn out. It's hard to believe but I still get many requests for the "Old Sow Song" by Cyril Smith from London, England and featured by Rudy Vallee.

Another hard to find item on the Decca label was the big hit by Ray Bolger titled, "Once in Love with Amy". Many, many requests.

Here's another sleeper, "Why Do I Love You by Franklin MacCormack with Wayne King. This poem set to music never dies.

"Gloomy Sunday" is another asked for oldie. I usually send out three versions with Billie Holiday on top. Many people are still looking for "Dardanella" by Herbie Fields. I have it on a tape and made many copies.

Have you ever heard of "The New Ashmolean Marching Band" by Bing? It's requested regularly. I don't want to get into Holiday songs, but why do so many people still want "Peter Cottontail" by Gene Autry.

The only Glenn Miller song I get many requests for was never even recorded by Glenn. It was made by DJ Steve Hodges about 30 years ago. The title, "Now I Lay Me Down to Weep," the original words to "Moonlight Serenade."

My most requested Bing Crosby effort was never released because he used some foul language, from an album of fluffs; the song was "Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams."

How about Harry James doing "You Made Me Love You" with a vocal. It does not exist, but I have a soundtrack L.P. from the movie "Private Buckaroo" with a vocal by Helen Forrest. The year was 1942. Another highly requested recording is Louis Armstrong's vocal on "Just a Closer Walk With Thee." It's only to be found on an album by the "Dukes of Dixie." Check it out.

Many listeners would be disappointed if I did not have Somethin' Smith singing "It's a Sin To Tell a Lie," or Ozzie Nelson's "I'm Looking For a Guy Who Plays Alto and Baritone,

Doubles on the Clarinet and Wears a Size 37 Suit." A title too long to put on a label.

Many requests come in for songs that were popular during "Our War," like "Rosie the Riveter," "Remember Pearl Harbor," "Silver Wings in the Moonlight," and "He Wears a Pair of Silver Wings" made popular by Vera Lynn, Margaret Whiting and the King Sisters. I even have the version by Harry Babbitt with Kay Kyser (Why would a man sing that song?).

This one is easy to put on a label when I get a request for it. Don Cornell doing the song "I." the shortest song title.

Then I get many weird requests like, "The Freckle Song" by Larry Vincent, "Mr. Zip Zip" by Lawrence Welk, Tony Pastor and Michael Feinstein, "Busy Signal" by Rose Murphy, the Chi Chi gal, "I'm My Own Grandpaw" by Guy Lombardo and a famous instrumental "Pushin' Sand." I never should have left off "September Song" by Walter Huston. Let's put this one way up there.

So the next time I'm asked why I don't get rid of some of my records, I'll say, "What if I get a request for "Who's Your Little Who-zitz' by Sylvia Froos?

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

xx

Chicago's Original Hits Station

featuring **THE BROWERS** from Trivia Tower

WJGG AM 1530

Mike Baker and the **Forgotten 45s**

The Browsers and The Browsers logo are trademarks of © The Browsers. All rights reserved.

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

In addition to the most requested tunes, Phil also collected a few "clunkers." Here, he has some fun listing a few.

Please, Don't Play That Song

I would like to list the Top Ten worst songs in my collection. I dare you to top these.

1. "The Story of Two Cigarettes" by Vaughn Monroe. If you ever go dancing with your best girl, don't request this stupid song.
2. "Hooray, Hooray, I'm Going Away" by Beatrice Kay. The writers of this monstrosity should have been taken away before they started.
3. "He Wears a Pair of Silver Wings" by Harry Babitt. If you get this World War II hit song, get it by a girl singer like Louise King of the King Sisters, or Dinah Shore, it's more appropriate.
4. "High-Ho Trailus Boot-Whip. I've listened to this jazz classic by Anita O'Day numerous times, but I still don't know what she's talking about. I know it's got a good beat, but so has "Fry Me Cookie With a Can of Lard" and "Scrub Me Mama With A Boogie Beat" by Will Bradley and Ray McKinley.
5. (As long as you're not in love with anyone else) "Why Don't You Fall In Love With Me.-Many recordings made in 1942. This jerk doesn't give the girl a chance, what if he is repulsive?"
6. "There's A Flaw In My Flu" by Frank Sinatra. Why Didn't Frankie call a chimney sweep to help save his romance? Can you believe that two of our greatest songwriters wrote this ditty? Jules Stein and Sammy Cahn.
7. "Angels With Dirty Faces" by Tommy Dorsey, vocal by Edythe Wright. This song had nothing to do with the famous James Cagney picture of the 30's. Glad I saw the movie before I listened to Edythe.
8. "Dreams Are A Dime A Dozen" by Chuck Foster. Vocal by T. Ryan. Another dumb song. What is this guy doing, buying bagels or something?
9. "I've Got Rings On My Fingers And Bells On My Toes" by Blanche Ring. I would hate to be her manicurist or pedicurist
10. "My Heart Is A Hobo" by Ray Noble. Vocal by Snookie Lanson. What about his other organs-like his kidneys...lungs...pancreas? What are they, chopped liver?

I know many of you have never heard some of these songs. You don't know how lucky you are!]

How I Met Phil

By Browser Bob Knack

I was first introduced to Phil Holdman in the mid 1980's by our mutual friend, Joe Spery, at an annual Browsers Christmas party held at a northwest Chicago eatery. He told me he had to give me a very stringent two-question test to gain Browser membership; 1) Did I have a driver's license so that I could chauffeur the guys down to southwest suburban Mokena, Illinois where the Browser broadcasts were done, and 2) Could I pony up six bucks for my share of the pizza at the monthly meetings? I was in!

Following that rubber chicken holiday feast, Phil rose and held an impromptu trivia contest for the guests. I recall that the two Browsers with their hands raised quickly to answer every question correctly were Ray Ludke and John Macek. This rookie never had a chance.

Eventually Phil allowed me in on the Browser broadcasts with Eddie, but only after a few weeks of answering listener phone calls outside the studio during a "break-in" period. My first broadcast found me safely tucked in between mother hens Phil and Warren Ketter on the panel. During the hour, I was able to correctly answer some question or other about trumpeter Al Hirt which made me (and Phil) very proud. Success!

Subsequent Browser Christmas parties featured jam sessions as our membership boasted many musicians and singers with solid big band era credentials. We had plenty of drummers with Phil, Joe Spery, Bob Untereinner, and Ellis Stucky taking turns sharing the tubs, low boys and high hats. Lee Morgan Sash, the wife of jazz accordion great Leon Sash, played bass, and Phil's pal from the Carl Scheiber band days, Kenny Iversen played piano. We had a cavalcade of great singers; Buddy Hughes (Jimmy Dorsey, Claude Thornhill, Gene Krupa), Allan DeWitt (Jan Savitt, Tommy Dorsey), Jack Hogan (Skylarks Unlimited), Gloria Van (Hal McIntyre), and her husband Lynn Allison (Glen Miller's Crew Chiefs). What a magnificent line-up and what great memories.

After a few years of a vagabond existence our monthly meetings found a home for many happy years in a side room of the now shuttered Villa D'Oro pizzeria in Chicago where Phil would regale us with his "tall tales and true." As to Phil's legendary record collection, just as any Browser would proudly announce to all that he finally had located a long sought after recording, Phil's enthusiastic response most often would be "Yeah, I've got it, that's a good record."

Thanks, Phil, for including me on so many of the weekly broadcasts, taking me on the famous Browser cruise, letting me MC at some of our special events, for teaching me so much about our wonderful music, and for your great friendship.



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.

Letters, E-mail, Errata, Etc.



Bob,

Came across the Great Escape Newsletter (Nov/Dec 2010) as I was Googling Sammy Kaye and "So you want to lead a band". I recently came across a photo of my mother taken in 1951 on the Astor Roof Garden of the Astor Hotel in NY as she leads the band. I also have the baton that Mr. Kaye gave her as a souvenir of her conducting. I remember stories growing up about it and it's safe to say that it was a highlight of her life as she was a big fan of Sammy Kaye, the Dorsey brothers and all the big bands from that era. Sadly, she is no longer with us, but she would have loved to have read your newsletter.

Regards,
Michael

As attached. The photo is dated Aug. 19, 1951. My mother's name is Justyne (Jay) Simon. Please send me a copy of your newsletter if you publish it.

Michael: Thank you. Yours is the kind of e-mail we love to receive. It's why we do what we do. I hope more readers like you will find us. What a thrill this must have been for your mom.

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

Stanley Martin "Kay" Kaufman, 86, passed away peacefully in his home on June 21st, 2010. In his 70+ year career, Stanley enjoyed successes as a drummer, percussionist, artist manager, creative director, conductor, arranger and composer. After serving in the Marine Corps during World War II, Stanley rose to musical prominence in the mid 1940's as the back-up drummer and manager for the Buddy Rich Band. He was also drummer for such headline acts as Josephine Baker, Patty Paige and Frankie Lane. He was a creator, manager and conductor for the world-renowned "Hines, Hines & Dad," continuing to manage Maurice Hines as well as stars such as Michelle Lee and Paul Burke. In the decades to follow, Stanley became Entertainment Director of the New York Yankees, a position he served proudly throughout his life. In 1992 Stanley founded and was the creative force behind Sherrie Maricle & The DIVA Jazz Orchestra, a band that will carry on his extraordinary musical legacy. Stanley is survived by his sister, Sybil Goday, niece Mace Goday, grand niece Sybil Happy Goday, as well as the thousands of lives he touched with his extraordinary generosity, kindness, understanding and compassion.

Jami Dauber

Manager/Trumpet - Sherrie Maricle & The DIVA Jazz Orchestra/FIVE PLAY/DIVA Jazz Trio

Road Manager - Maurice Hines

www.divajazz.com

877.DIVA.JAZZ

management@divajazz.com

Dear Bob,

I happened across your Great Escape newsletter, which I very much enjoyed reading and have subscribed to. I thought I would introduce myself and my little swing duo. Here's how we bill ourselves:

If you think jazz musicians don't play the melody any more, this little jazz group will surprise and please you. They're just two instruments (guitar/voice + clarinet/sax), but can they swing! Audiences love their upbeat, energetic and happy renditions of America's great traditional jazz tunes. (They've performed at the Northeast Jazz and Wine Festival, the MEANY (New York) Festival, Playhouse on the Green, Artists' Workshop and other venues.) No odd times, nothing avant-garde -- just the sweet, beautiful tunefulness that makes American music the gem that it is. Often witty, always well-played, they bounce along in an evening of musical variety: swing, bebop, rag, show tunes, ballads and novelty numbers.

Bill Crow and Eddie Bert have both written highly of us. I've attached sample mp3s for you, and hope you enjoy them. (The piano on Tiny Capers is a 17 year old, by the way, with whom we sometimes play.) Might this be music you'd play on WJJG?

In music and mirth,

Richie Kaye

www.rchiekaye.com

Don't forget...we have added audio clips to Ted's website. Go to 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 and click on "radio shows."