



# THE GREAT ESCAPE!\* j

**\*\*“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. 31

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

## Benny’s Busy Day

By Browser Bob Knack

Benny Goodman must have slept well on the night of June 6<sup>th</sup> 1935, because he and his band sure had a busy day! He and his Rhythm Makers Orchestra went into the studio and in one sitting recorded 50 tracks (one a medley of two) for the RCA transcription service.

The backstory: Benny in 1934 had organized a big band for Billy Rose’s Music Hall in New York City. It was run as a supper club with vaudeville acts opening and the Goodman band playing for dancing later. A fortuitous aspect of the engagement was that a radio broadcast was arranged for the performances and Benny got some welcome exposure. However, the small salary did not allow for the purchase of arrangements, so many of the tunes had to be head arrangements. Rose was a rather shady character possibly with mob backing and left town hurriedly in late summer of that year and Goodman got fired.

About this same time, NBC radio was looking for a vehicle to sell more advertising on Saturday nights. People most likely went to the movies on Saturday and weren’t home to hear the radio. Partnering with the other NBC, The National Biscuit Company, the makers of Ritz Crackers, they came up with a three-hour big band show called “Let’s Dance” featuring a “sweet band” (Kel Murray), a Latin band (Xavier Cugat), and Benny’s hot band and performed in front of a live audience. The program premiered December 1, 1934. Not only did this afford Goodman excellent national radio exposure but the pay was good enough to allow him to buy enough new arrangements and develop a style for his band. At the same time, he changed from Columbia records to NBC owned RCA records. The show was a success but because of an employee strike, the National Biscuit Company cancelled the show on May 25, 1935 after 26 broadcasts. Why advertise your crackers when you can’t make any crackers?

That spring, NBC and RCA got into the transcription business with their Thesaurus label.

Transcriptions are 16 inch discs containing music that was not available on 78s but sold exclusively to radio stations for air-play. Back then, because of the depression, it is said that transcriptions actually outsold 78 RPM records. During the 1970’s, there was a “direct-to-disc” recording craze where bands recorded a “live” session directly to a master disc with no editing or mixing. Bands such as Harry James, Les Brown, Buddy Rich, and [Benny Goodman](#) participated in the production of these audiophile LP’s. Fact is Benny’s 1935 transcriptions were the same as direct-to-disc, and all 50 sides were done with one take!

So on June 6, Goodman, happy to have the work, went into the studio with the following: trumpets, Pee Wee Erwin, Nate Kazebier, Jerry Neery; trombones, Red Ballard, Jack Lacey; alto saxes, Toots Mondello, Hymie Schertzer; tenor saxes, Art Rollini, Dick Clark; piano, Frank Froeba; guitar, Allan Reuss; bass, Harry Goodman; drums, Gene Krupa. Even though Helen Ward was the band singer at the time, the session was all instrumental. The 50 songs recorded represented almost Benny’s entire library. The session can be heard on the web via the [Niven Jazz Collection](#).

Aside from Krupa, many of the big names associated with Goodman were yet to join him. The trumpet solos are by Erwin who came to Benny from the Isham Jones band. He had two stints with Goodman later replacing Bunny Berigan in 1936. Erwin followed Berigan again, this time in 1937 with Tommy Dorsey. You might not know that Erwin also followed Bobby Hackett on Jackie Gleason’s popular mood music records in the 50’s and 60’s although Hackett is often thought to have played on all of them. The tenor solos are mostly Art Rollini. He came to Goodman after stints with Bert Lown, The California Ramblers (the band that also had on it, the Dorsey Brothers and actor Fred MacMurray on sax), Paul Whiteman and George Olsen. After Goodman, he was with the bands of Richard Himber and Will Bradley and then became a staff musician at ABC. Some of the arrangements seem to be stock arrangements but many are by Spud Murphy. Born Lyle Stephanovic, Murphy worked with Jimmy Joy, Ross Gorman and Slim Lamar. Before joining Benny in 1935 he was a saxophonist and arranger for Austin Wylie, Jan Garber, Mal Hallett, and Joe Haymes. From 1937 to 1940 he had his own big band, and recorded for Decca and Bluebird records. The prolific Murphy also contributed charts to the Casa Loma Orchestra, Isham Jones, and Les Brown.

The musicians were paid one dollar per side but as they made fifty that day, the money made for a pretty good pay day. These transcriptions along with Benny’s Columbia and RCA recordings being played on the radio made for considerable exposure as the Goodman band (after a good night’s sleep) went on the road making its way to the west coast and the legendary Palomar Ballroom engagement that kick-started the Swing Era.

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# Adventures In Big Band Jazz

Written by John Tumpak

Ken Poston's Los Angeles Jazz Institute presented Adventures in Big Band Jazz, another in the Institute's series of twenty-four years of outstanding jazz programs, from May 22 through May 25 at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel near the Los Angeles International Airport. The four-day festival that ran daily from early morning to late evening included fifteen big band concerts, five film showings and five panel discussions.

Poston is a nationally-recognized jazz historian, concert producer, and radio personality. He also is the Founder and Director of the Los Angeles Jazz Institute that houses and maintains one of the largest jazz archives in the world. All styles and eras are represented with a special emphasis on the preservation and documentation of jazz in Southern California. The Institute was founded on the campus of the California State University at Long Beach where Poston has taught jazz studies and broadcasted jazz radio programs.



**Stan Kenton Mellophonium Reunion Band directed by Joel Kaye**

Adventures in Big Band Jazz celebrated the array of creative new big band sounds that started at the beginning of the 1960s. There were innovative new bands emerging along with established bandleaders forging new directions. Adventures in Big Band Jazz presented all of this original music as well as paying tribute to the alumni of the various bands that played it by bringing in musicians from all over the world.

The bands that performed were the Bill Holman Band, Fullerton College Big Band, Terry Gibbs Dream Band, and Maynard Ferguson Birdland Dream Band. The Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Tribute Band and Bob Florence and Buddy Rich Alumni Bands were also part of the program. A highpoint of the big band performances was a concert by the Gerald Wilson Orchestra conducted by the ageless ninety five year old Wilson who also entertained the audience reminiscing about his early days with Jimmie Lunceford and Count Basie. Wilson received a standing ovation and calls for an encore. (*Editor's note: Gerald Wilson died September 8, 2014.*)

The music of Stan Kenton and Woody Herman was showcased. There were five Kenton concerts. In 1960 Kenton added a mellophonium section to his band. Four of the five concerts were by his Mellophonium Alumni Band playing the music from a series of mellophonium albums he recorded in the early 60s. The fifth concert was devoted to Kenton's concert hall Neophonic Orchestra that came after his Mellophonium Era in the mid-1960s.

Any Woody Herman event is a certain Festival highlight and this year was no exception. There were two well-received Herman concerts by the Woody Herman Alumni Band. The first featured the music of his early 60s Swinging Herd that former

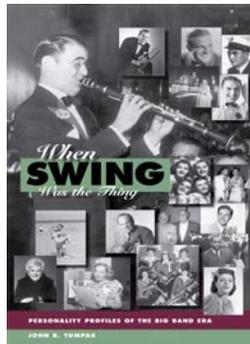
DownBeat editor Jack Tracy considered to be the greatest of all the Herman Herds. The second was devoted to the music from Herman's 1965 [My Kind of Broadway](#) album that Jazzed magazine included in a 2009 article titled "25 of the Best Big Band Recordings of all Time."

Outdoor lunch concerts are a unique Festival experience. Each day a local Southern California college or youth band played at a poolside concert providing a wide variety of jazz music. As an example, at the sundrenched Friday luncheon concert the JazzAmerica Trad Band played Traditional and Ragtime jazz with an emphasis on the music of the late clarinetist Rosy Mc Hargue for an appreciative audience. JazzAmerica was founded by Los Angeles jazz legend Buddy Collette, who was highly influential in both West Coast jazz and blues, in 1994 to perpetuate the jazz art form among young musicians through tuition-free education and public performances.

A serendipitous Festival surprise was the showing of the film *The Wrecking Crew* that is currently not commercially available. *The Wrecking Crew* is the story of the group of Los Angeles session musicians who played on virtually every pop hit recorded in Los Angeles in the 1960s. Several prominent big band and jazz musicians were important members of this group. Herb Alpert, Glen Campbell, Cher, Dick Clark, Nancy Sinatra, and Brian Wilson were among *The Wrecking Crew* associated personalities interviewed in the film that was screened at twenty eight film festivals, winning ten of them in their award category. Audience reaction to the nostalgic themed movie that evoked memories of the dynamically creative 60s Los Angeles music and club scene was overwhelmingly positive.

The Festival is a treasure trove for collector's who are served by vendors that are an eagerly anticipated special attraction. Each day there were marketers of rare big band and jazz CDs who conducted brisk business at their respective tables offering for sale inventory that is difficult to find at conventional and used record stores. This year the event was well attended by visitors from the United Kingdom who made substantial purchases of CDs that are hard to locate back home.

Poston has been conducting jazz conferences since 1991, starting with his Stan Kenton Back to Balboa event held in Newport Beach. These annual symposiums that are essential for enthusiasts of large ensemble jazz have provided outstanding musical entertainment, stimulating panel discussions, and academically furthered the cause of jazz research. To find out more about the Institute and their past big band jazz programs see [www.lajazzinstitute.org](http://www.lajazzinstitute.org).



*When Swing Was the Thing:  
Personality  
Profiles of the Big Band Era*

By John R. Tumpak

This is a must-have book for the library of the Big Band Era aficionado. [You can order John's book here.](#)

## How Johnny Carson's 'Tonight' Show Theme Song Came About

Reprinted with permission from Bobby Ellerbee's [Eyes Of A Generation](#) "The web's largest, most photo rich, television history site with over 4000 images spread over 10 major searchable sections." We highly recommend that you take some time to view this wonderful site.

Singer/song writer Paul Anka is 73, so in his honor, here is the backstory on a song we all know now as "Johnny's Theme"

In 1958, Anka wrote an instrumental for Salvatore "Tutti" Camarata's band which was called Tutti's Trumpets. Paul named the song "Toot Sweet". Tutti was actually the head of Walt Disney Records and started the legendary Sunset Sound Recorders studio the same year this was released and ...this was one of the first sessions ever recorded there.

After a lyric was added in 1959 "Toot Sweet" was re-named "It's Really Love", and under that title was recorded by Annette Funicello on her LP, "Annette Sings". There is a link to the recording below.

In 1962, when Johnny Carson took over the NBC "Tonight Show", he commissioned Anka for a new theme song, via his company called "Management Agency & Music Publishing, Inc." Anka suggested re-using this old tune and the project was technically a deal under a "work for hire" contract. Carson knew all about royalties and wanted to be listed as an author so, being a drummer, he said he would think of something to put at the beginning of Anka's tune to "help author it." That something turned out to be a little drum-break before the band joins in. So for 6 - 7 years there was that one-bar drum break at the beginning of the theme. Eventually that little break was shortened even further to just one and a half beats.

So, on September 12, 1962, less than a month before his debut Johnny became an "author" of his theme for copyright purposes, and got not only a piece of the publishing royalties, but a composer's share of royalties as well.

The co-authoring offer must have been worth it to Paul Anka who once said he got \$200 in royalties every time the show aired. Over the course of Johnny's 30 year run, that would give Carson and Anka about \$1,664,000.00 apiece. Not bad for an old tune that was re-cycled twice.

[Listen to "Toot Sweet"](#) Before it was Johnny Carson's theme: Toot Sweet (It's Really Love) - Tutti Camarata (1960)

[Watch and listen to "It's Really Love"](#)

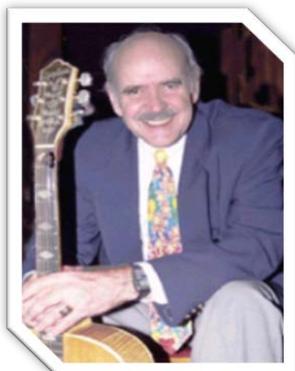
## Ted Butterman Bands & Orchestras

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## Umberto Valentino Dies at 100 Years Old

By Joe Carlton

Yes, Umberto Alexander Valentino (some say Umberto Alejandro Ballentino) passed away on May 25 in Woodland Hills, California, at the age of 100. Huh?? Who?? His stage name was Herb Jeffries. He sang with many groups but is best known as a vocalist with Duke Ellington. Thanks to Wikipedia, I was able to find out that he was of mixed Sicilian, Ethiopian, French, Italian and Moorish roots and born on September 24, 1913.

Herb was married four times including one to the stripper Tempest Storm and produced five children. In checking through his singing with The Duke, one song stands out: Flamingo. He remained with Ellington from 1940 until 1943 and was replaced by the blind Al Hibbler. The recording of that song advanced to No. 1 on the charts. His greatest fame came as an actor in all-black western films in which he was known as the "Bronze Buckaroo".

**A Must for Your Collection!**  
**Only a Few Left!**  
**Ted Butterman's Neo-Passé Band**  
**Live At The Historic 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 and to hear samples

\*\*\*This Swinging CD was recorded live at the legendary Village Tavern in Long Grove, IL, a Northwest suburb of Chicago, where the Neo-Passé Swing Quintet performed for many years, prior to that venue discontinuing jazz.

Playing in the spirit of the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, with a sprinkling of the 60s thrown in for good measure, the group's rhythm section is comprised of Piano, Acoustic upright bass, Drums, and Acoustic rhythm guitar.

## Back Issues on the Web.

It's hard to believe but we now have 30 issues of The Great Escape Newsletter "in the can."

Go to [www.dixieswing.com](http://www.dixieswing.com) and enjoy some back issues. Here are just some of the stories from the first five issues.

[Issue #1](#) **Quotable Jazzmen: The Bandleaders** Bob Knack writes about some of the amusing things said by the bandleaders back in the day.

**Chicago Memories** Warren Ketter remembers The Chateau Ballroom, walkathons at the Arcadia and Lord Buckley.

**Remembering Liltin' Martha Tilton.** All about that famous Goodman thrush....and more

[Issue #2](#) **Quotable Jazzmen Vol. 2: Eddie Condon.** "We don't flatten our fifths here, we drink 'em." Bob Knack recalls some funny things uttered by the famous jazzman.

**Sammy Cahn, My Kind of Guy,** Browser Jack Hogan writes about one of his favorite singers.

**Trumpeter Ted Buttermen: From Riverboat Five to Wrigley.** All about Trad Jazzman Ted's interesting career leading to his long tenure as leader of Wrigley Field's baseball band.

**Remembering Eddie Hubbard,** He had a long and glorious career as a DJ on WIND, WGN and WJJG and was well known for his association with The Browsers, experts on the big band era on the ABC Network and others....and more.

[Issue #3](#) **Quotable Jazzmen: Vol. 3, the Woodchopper,** Woody Herman was one of our favorite bandleaders and was famous for his quips, here are a few compiled by Bob Knack.

**Are There Any Instrumentals You Never Get Tired Of Hearing?** Browser Dick Parker lists some of the greatest big band hits of all time.

**Phil Harris, That's What I Like About The South,** Bob Langbein with a concise wrap-up of the career of Phil Harris.

**My Dinner With Louis, Dining With A Legend.** Phil Holdman's humorous account of the evening he supped with the great Satchmo' Louis Armstrong....and much more!

[Issue #4](#) **My Favorite Record Stores.** Bob Knack writes about the records bins he visited during his youth.

**More Favorite Instrumentals.** This time author and Browser Joe Carlton lists his fav swingers.

**That Big Band Singers Column.** Guest author Walt Andrus shares some stories about his days with the Tommy Dorsey band in the first of a series of columns

**Frankie Masters Remembered.** Noted author Chuck Sengstock tells about the career of popular leader Masters. And more!

[Issue #5](#) **Buddy Hughes: One Night on the Stand with Thornhill.** Hughes relates what it was like when he appeared with Claude Thornhill at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York.

**Remembering Jumbo.** Bob Knack write about one of his favorite jazzmen, Al Hirt.

**Fats Waller: Your Feets Too Big!** Guest author Bob Langbein returns with a bio of famous pianist Thomas Wright "Fats" Waller. And more!

## Woody's Herd Playing Herb Wong Tribute!!

The Woody Herman Thundering Herd, directed by Frank Tiberi, will be playing on January 25, 2015 in Menlo Park California for a memorial tribute to the late, great jazz writer & ambassador, Herb Wong. This tribute is being presented by The Palo Alto Jazz Alliance (PAJA), which HERB co-founded in 1993. The Herd was always Herb's favorite Big Band – he was very close to Woody. He wrote about them countless times, emceed for them, and did album liner-notes. Herb passed away Easter Sunday, 2014 at age 88. The Concert is 7-9pm at The Menlo Atherton Center for the Performing Arts, 555 Middlefield Rd, Atherton, CA 94027.

Read more about this upcoming HERD concert in the Sept'14 issue of ["Jazz Buff"](#), per PAJA Chairman, C. Stuart Brewster.

## The E-Mails Pour In...

### From Ronnie Kole...

As usual, great reading and wonderful memories Bob...Sure wish that I had a booking in the Chicago area but nothing...Keep those issues coming as they really are GREAT reading...and thanks,

-Ronnie Kole

Hi Bob,

Another great issue of The Great Escape. I sure admire your dedication in keeping the publication alive and well.

A couple of corrections for Joe Carlton. Ziggy Elman died at age 54, not 52. He attended Benny Goodman's 1968 private party celebrating the 30th anniversary of the historic 1938 Carnegie Hall concert and died shortly thereafter. Also, in answer 6 of the quiz, it's Buddy DiVito, not DeVito. All the best,

-Perry Huntoon

Hi, Bob,

Just wanted to let you know how happy I am to see your Browsers and other great postings. I'm not sure if I mentioned it earlier, but frequently on the Olde Tyme Radio Network of Jerry Haendiges we play (and have played many) remastered old Browsers shows from tapes that Eddie gave me before he was killed. They appear frequently as new rebroadcasts, and many of them remain in my program archives at Jerry's [VintageRadioClassics.com/broadcast](http://VintageRadioClassics.com/broadcast) (available 24/7). Many are also running on YesterdayUSA. Great work! As Cedric Weehunt on "Lum & Abner" used to say, "Wonderful World!"

-Duane Keilstrup

Dear BOB:

Thanks for sending me your newsletter, which I enjoyed-as you can imagine.

Loved the swing era, as it has lasting value, the be-bop era was for musicians only, or at least it should have been stated that way.

Too bad that big bands are expensive, and the new kids are trying to make it more be-bopish than swing, but they are creating new sounds that is for sure, but maybe one day they will hit on a sound that the average Joe and Mary will swing with, but I await that day.

Take good care, as you are the best,

-Harry Condon

## Was This The First Rock And Roll?

From Joe Carlton

When was the first time the words "rock and roll" were used in a song's title? Well, to be sure, it can't be proven, but the Boswell Sisters (Martha, Connee and Helorta) made a "soundie" of a song entitled "Rock and Roll" in 1932. By today's standards, the set was very amateurish and consisted of the three girls rowing a boat with a background of the sea. Incidentally, Connee was handicapped and always was shown sitting down.

### The "What I Discovered While Looking Up Something Else" Mini-Quiz.

A trumpet player in one of Benny Goodman's early bands was a guy named Sammy Shapiro. He became well known for something else later on. What was it?

### 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! To book the Neo-Passé contact Ted at [TBBands@dixieswing.com](mailto:TBBands@dixieswing.com)

### Browser Related 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". Lately, the meetings have been held at [Paterno's Pizza](#) on Chicago's Northwest Side. Dues are six dollars and include a share of the pizza. **Details subject to change.** Email me

[bobknack@hotmail.com](mailto:bobknack@hotmail.com) to be put on the list.

Browser "Rowdy" Ron Richter continues to perform as one of the most popular DJ's in the Chicago area playing OKOM. Catch him at [The Chambers](#)



Browsers Jack Hogan, Phil Holdman and Buddy Hughes, year unknown. Photo by Jack Hogan

in Niles, Illinois. A spin-off group of Browsers meet the first Sunday of the month for a swinging listening session at [Hackney's](#) in Glenview. Details subject to change.

## Party Like It's 1914! Wrigley Field's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### With America's Favorite Baseball Band



The Cubs Dixieland Band has been playing to packed houses at the 'friendly confines' of Wrigley Field for three decades, 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, barn raisings, 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](mailto:TBBands@aol.com) or call 847-255-6448 for details.

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

The first move we make at the first of every month is to click on the [big band news](#) section of the outstanding website The Big Band Library. Christopher Popa is the creator of this must-see big band site.

A YouTube tribute to our own beloved [Buddy Hughes](#), Browser and vocalist with Jimmy Dorsey, Gene Krupa, and Claude Thornhill. Please give this a viewing!

[Mike Baker and the Forgotten 45's](#) A good friend of the Browsers, Mike plays all kinds of good music from the Big Bands to the hits of the 60's and 70's.

[Jazzlives](#): Michael Steinman's outstanding Jazz blog.  
[Friends of Big Band Jazz](#) – Mike Vax, The Kenton Alumni Band and the swinging bands of today.

Born in Chicago, jazz pianist Ronnie Kole is a class act and consummate performer. Kole is a piano man's piano man, admired by many top stars in the business, from Harry Connick Jr. to Allen Toussaint.



## Remembering Hal McIntyre

By Browser John Macek

Reprinted from an earlier Browser's Notes

One of the key members of the Glenn Miller Orchestra was Alto saxophonist Hal McIntyre. He was also a close friend and former roommate of Glenn's.

In 1941, with financial help from Miller, Hal organized his first dance band. With the help of arrangers Billy May and especially Dave Matthews, who gave the band a kind of Ellington sound, the band was booked into many major ball rooms and began recording for Bluebird records which was also recording his old boss, Glenn Miller.

During the early years of World War II, he volunteered his entire band to tour the combat zones. For four months he and his band toured through France and Germany and contributed a great deal to the morale of the Allied troops in those areas. Despite the fact that he gave up many lucrative dates, recordings and air time in the States, he came back with no regrets, even though conditions were very rugged during the tour and he praised the armed forces for helping to make conditions tolerable for the band in many rugged and dangerous locations.

After the war, he reorganized his band but the Big Band Era was winding down and there were fewer and fewer locations for big bands to play. During his recording career, he was heard on Bluebird, RCA, MGM, Cosmo and his only L.P. by his 50's band was issued on the Roulette label. RCA Camden issued their only L.P. of his 40's recordings and remains a collector's item to this day. He will best be remembered for his excellent instrumental version of "Sentimental Journey," which is still heard on big band radio stations today.

He died in May, 1959, when he was critically burned from a discarded cigarette in a bedroom in his Los Angeles apartment. He was only 44 years old.

Click "[Vine Street Jive](#)" by the Hal McIntyre band from the movie "Hey Rookie!" released April, 1944. The Tenor Sax solo is by Ted Goddard. The girl singer on stage is identified as Helen Ward. The late Browser, Gloria Van, also sang with the band.

### Mission Statement

This newsletter, created by Bob Knack and friends, remembers The Browsers on the SMN network and contains articles for all aficionados of big band, swing and traditional Jazz worldwide.

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**



Let's Hear From You!!!

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60187

## Browser's Memories...



Jack Hogan and Phil Holdman stand in front of the famed Chicago Theatre following a Browser broadcast at the WLS-AM/ABC studios in the former State Lake theatre. Jack's group, the Fabulous Skylarks most recently performed at the St. Linus Parish Oktoberfest in Oak Lawn. Also appearing in the band: Rusty Jones on drums, Rich Corpolongo on sax and Spencer Keys on piano. Photo by Jack Hogan.

### The Browsers on the Radio Ride Again

By Browser Bob Knack

One more time! [www.dixieswing.com](http://www.dixieswing.com) has brought back from the archives two more big band and trivia programs featuring Eddie Hubbard and the Browsers. This time with some star power.

Hosted by long time radio icon Eddie Hubbard and co-hosted by the Browser's Phil Holdman the show's panelists on show #1 include Karl Kountz, the world's foremost authority on Canadian crooner Dick Todd, and big band historian, Bob Knack. Show #2 features Chicago Bears CEO and honorary Browser Ed McCaskey! Ed was at one time a novice big band crooner, and the show includes Ed's story of his audition with the Harry James band. The panel for that program rounds out with Browser's Warren Ketter and Dick Parker.

The Browsers shows were nationally aired big band quiz shows where Phil or a panelist would ask a question about a particular song or artist from the big band era and then play a part of the song while the audience mulled over their answers at home.

Recently, [www.dixieswing.com](http://www.dixieswing.com) also posted the December 7, 1991 Browser's special featuring a musical salute to the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Sitting in for the usual host, Eddie Hubbard, is musician and big band DJ Joe LaCina with panelists Browser President Phil Holdman, former WGN radio personality Len Johnson and Bob Knack. Go to the [www.dixieswing.com](http://www.dixieswing.com) web site and click on Bob Knack's radio shows.

**Quiz Answer** Sammy Shapiro changed his name to Sammy Spear and became well known as the band leader on Jackie Gleason's Television Show.