What Took "In The Mood" So Long?

BY Browser Joe Carlton

The song "In The Mood" is the most requested song that the Glenn Miller Orchestra plays. It's almost always been that way. According to the John Flower book "Moonlight Serenade", Glenn didn't record it until July 28, 1939. It certainly was one of his hits that vaulted the Glenn Miller Orchestra to No. 1 on most people's charts. But, this song had been around for quite a while in one form or another.

Previously, Glenn had had an orchestra which broke up after playing its final date on January 2, 1938 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Glenn was disappointed but still was determined to write some new arrangements and find the right personnel for his next band. When this new band was formed, Glenn kept only four holdovers from his previous organization. They were Hal McIntyre, Chummy MacGregor, Rowland Bundock and Bob Price.

However, he hired a young saxophone player from the Ben Young band by the name of Gordon "Tex" Beneke. Now at this time, Glenn was paying his sidemen $50.00 per week. In Tex's conversations with Glenn, it is said that Tex understood he was going to play lead sax and thought he should be paid more than the regular salary. So, he bargained with Glenn and settled for $52.50 per week!!! But was the addition of Tex the spark that helped bring this new band into national prominence?

Anyhow, the Miller band had been playing "ITM" for most of 1939 and I doubt that most people did not recognize it from what they might have heard in the past. The Don Redman Orchestra had recorded "Hot and Anxious" in 1929 with the main melody similar to "ITM". Another interesting thing about the Redman recording is that it starts out with the main melody of "Swinging The Blues" which later became a Count Basie hit.

The zany one-armed trumpet player Wingy Manone and his orchestra (called Barbeque Joe and His Hot Dogs) covered Redman's recording but changed the name to "Tar Paper Stomp" in 1930. Fletcher Henderson used Don Redman's arrangement of "Hot and Anxious" with his recording of this song in 1931.

I don't know who actually started playing the riff which runs through the song, but arranger Joe Garland got ahold of it and finally the name "In The Mood" came into being. Edgar Hayes and his orchestra then recorded this song under the name we know it by, on February 17, 1938 which was 16 months before the Miller recording. (I am not familiar with the Hayes band and certainly not knowingly heard his rendition).

Somewhere along this time, Artie Shaw took this song under his wing but when he played it, it was about 8 minutes in length, played slowly and in a ponderous manner. Not a hit by any standard. When Artie walked off the bandstand during one of the times he was miffed with the music scene, Glenn Miller was able to employ Artie's brilliant arranger Jerry Gray. It then became Jerry's task to write a proper arrangement, which he did and the rest is history. "In The Mood" was reborn. Whew!!

They Were Selling Memories

By Browser Bob Knack

Two sales held in February in Chicago, one an auction and the other a liquidation sale, showed us once again how time passes.

The family of the late Chicago Jazz DJ, Dick Buckley, put his personal record collection of 8000 LPs and 500 CDs up for auction. Meanwhile, nearby at The Ambassador East Hotel in the Gold Coast, 1301 North State Parkway, which is undergoing a complete renovation, a liquidation sale was held of mementos from their famous restaurant The Pump Room. Movie buffs will remember the hotel's lobby was featured in Alfred Hitchcock's flick "North by Northwest."

After 50 plus years in radio, the last 31 on public radio station WBEZ, Buckley, the highly-respected and beloved jazz radio host made his last broadcast on Sunday, July 27, 2008. Many of us would plan our Sundays around his program. I would tune every radio in our split ranch home to his show so that wherever I was in the house, I would miss not a note of his great Jazz. While the Bears were playing football, we'd watch the game with the sound off and Buckley's show on in the background. If there happened to be a meeting of our Browsers that night, invariably, someone would shout, "Hey, did you hear what Buckley played today?"

Buckley's family consigned Leslie Hindman Auctioneers, who generally deal in fine arts and rare books, to auction off the Buckley treasures. Browsers Paul and Evelyn McCurnin attended the sale and had a great time. "They had 93 lots set up," says Evelyn, "large 13X13 boxes full of LPs, CDs, books and tapes. One box went for $950, but most were in the $350-$500 range. As people bid, I regretted not making careful notes of the contents - what was in that box that went for $950?"

"By the time the auction was over, the box was gone and I'd never know about the rare find - the one LP the buyer will resell for big bucks. It surprised both of us that one of the Ellington boxes went for so little. Buckley did a series called 'Duke's Place' for about a year and a half. I bet those LPs were loaded with Buckleyana. Some LPs had notations - different colors, check marks, letter codes. How did he keep track?"

A friend of mine struck up a conversation with the woman sitting next to her who happened to be Buckley's daughter. One man named Fred, who said he was a friend of Buckley's, bought 11 lots. And people were re-sorting the boxes, making up their own lots, which shocked the (Hindman Galleries) staff. She advised checking the lot a few minutes before it came up for sale. I'll never forget that. In all, 11 lots concluded McCurnin, it was a pretty eventful night.

Dick Buckley died last July at age 85. The liquidation sale of mementos from the Pump Room began Friday, February 18 and was slated to last 12 days, but everything was gone by the following Tuesday. I walked over from my office in The Loop on opening day during my lunch hour (13 blocks each way!) and found a line stretching down the block. So, I never did get my chance to check out those relics from a bygone era such as artwork, lamps, glassware and bar stools. Who knows, maybe Marilyn Monroe herself sat on one of those stools!

The Pump Room opened in 1938. It was a hangout for many Hollywood celebrities such as Zsa Zsa Gabor, Phil Harris and Alice Faye, Sammy Davis Jr, Eddie Cantor and Judy Garland who would head over while waiting to change trains on their way between New York and Los Angeles. In those days it might be a ten hour layover.

Sun-Times columnist Irv Kupcinet diverted them to Booth One, where Kup held court almost nightly, gathering items for his famous gossip column, and with a telephone plugged in at his table. Bogie and Bacall stopped by to chat up Kup on their way to Hollywood the day after their marriage in 1945. According to a Time Magazine article in 1948, Kup, who at one time could make or break a career with a few lines in his column, even went so far as to have his dining room at home made up to replicate the Pump Room. Kup died in 2003.

Frank Sinatra was a Pump Room regular even though, as the story goes, he once hurled a plate of food at Arturo Petterino the long time maitre d of the place. 'Frankie had his own private booth, which was sold at the sale. The original Booth One was donated to The Chicago History Museum around 1980.

WBEZ discontinued their policy of playing Jazz after they retired Buckley and there is no definitive word on what will happen to the Pump Room space after the remodeling. Time passes.

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.
ANOTHER BAFFLIN' (?) QUIZ
by Browser Joe Carlton

Questions

1. What was Alvino Rey's given name?

2. Where was the Glen Island Casino located?

3. Can you name some of the more unusual nicknames that musicians had?

4. Benny Goodman called most people the same name. What was that name?

5. Here is a list of vocalists and songs they sang. But, who did they sing with?

   Helen Forrest - "Any Old Time"
   Anita O'Day - "Blues"
   Frances Wayne - "There's No You"
   Kitty Kallen - "I'm Beginning To See The Light"
   June Christy - "Willow Weep For Me"
   June Christy - "Goody Goody"
   Billie Holiday - "Any Old Time"
   Edythe Wright - "All In Favor Of Swing"

6. When you mention the names "Slim" and "Slam", who are you talking about?

7. Tommy Dorsey recorded a song entitled "Dancing With You" with so-so results. The next year someone wrote new lyrics to it. What was the song's new name and who wrote the new lyrics?

8. Glenn Miller had a hit with the song "The Lamp Is Low". Where did the melody come from?

9. Pete Fountain often played "When The Saints Go Marching In". But that wasn't where he got his biggest publicity. Where did he get it?

10. What theme song did Count Basie use before "One O'Clock Jump"?

Answers Later In This Issue

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.
BIG BAND BEAT
1944: It was A Very Good Year
by Bob Longbein

Trivia question: Who did Franklin Roosevelt defeat for an earthshaking fourth presidential term?

If you are in your early eighties, like I am, then 1944 was probably a very good year. I was 18 for eleven months and 19 for one month, my birthday being December 1, 1925. I started the year in Memphis, TN. And I ended the year in the 10th Mountain Ski Troops in Naples, Italy.

The country had been at war for over two years. The biggest event of 1944 was D-Day, the sixth of June, when Allied forces crossed the English Channel to invade Europe at Normandy. Paris was liberated and the Battle of the Bulge began in December. Back in the USA, there was a civilian cigarette shortage and long lines when they went on sale. Lucky Strike green had gone to war. If you owned a car, it either was up on blocks or the windshield had a sticker that said A, B, or C for gasoline priorities. Skeezix was in the army.

The biggest tragedy of the year -- the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus fire in Hartford, CN - saw a loss of 169 lives. The Pulitzer Prize went to John Hersey for his novel "A Bell For Adano". But most people were reading Kathleen Windsor's racy "Forever Amber"... (Honey and I waited in line for about 45 minutes in 1948, on our honeymoon in Indianapolis, to see the movie. One that now a-days wouldn't even draw an R rating.)

On the silver screen, newcomer Jennifer Jones won over the movie audiences in "The Song Of Bernadette". Barry Fitzgerald and Bing Crosby turned their collars backwards as priests in "Going My Way", a film that gave us "Swinging On a Star". The movie "Cover Girl" gave us "Long Ago and Far Away" while "Mexican Hayride" on Broadway gave us "I Love You".

The nonsense song of the year was "Mairzy Doats". Frank Sinatra made his first movie "Higher And Higher", a movie that had two songs from it make The Hit Parade: "A Lovely Way To Spend An Evening" and "I Couldn't Sleep A Wink Last Night". But the song I ember most from that movie was "The Music Stopped." The year also found two songs that made The Hit Parade for the second time. "My Ideal" was on the Parade for 16 weeks in 1930-31 and it came back for seven weeks in 1944.

"I'm Confessin" was on also in 1930 for seven weeks and for seven weeks in 1944. The song of the year was "I'll Be Seeing You". Written in 1938 but not making The Hit Parade then, it found its niche by saying the right things in a wartime year and was No. 1 for 10 weeks. It was a good year for war inspired songs: "No Love, No Nothin", "Goodnight Wherever You Are", "Milkman, Keep Those Bottles Quiet" and "I'll Walk Alone". The No. 3 song on January 1, 1944 was "I'll Be Home For Christmas". "Mairzy Doats" was on the Parade for 13 weeks but No. 1 only one week, March 11th. "I'll Get By" was on the parade for 20 weeks, but never hit No. 1.

On the SS Argentina, going over to Italy, the song they played ALL the way over was Bing Crosby and the Andrew Sisters "Don't Fence Me In". It was on the Parade the whole month of December and No. 1 on December 23rd and 30th. I was very glad to get off the ship and go to my squad tent and sing Christmas carols in Naples.

Trivia answer: President Roosevelt defeated Thomas Dewey handily in 1944.

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 **Browsers** 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 LPs and 78s 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

Click here to Listen to the Mike's Forgotten 45's and the "Stardust Style"

Mike Announces 2011 Summer Schedule: "ABC Pure Gold" Saturdays at 4pm till dusk CDT
"ABC Stardust" Sundays at 5:30pm till dusk CDT.

Email the Browsers at: theBrowsers@wjjgam1530.com
ANOTHER BAFFLIN’ (?) QUIZ Answers

1. Alvin Rey's given name was Al McBurney

2. The Glen Island Casino was located in New Rochelle, NY

3. Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, Orin "Hot Lips" Page, "Wingy" Manone, Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, "Two Ton" Baker, "Cannonball" Adderley, "Cat" Anderson, Johnny "The Creamer" Desmond and "Bubber" Miley, not to mention some of the more common names such as "Count", "Duke" and the like.

4. Benny called most people "Pops" as he had a bad memory for names and couldn't remember most.

5. Helen sang "Any Old Time" with Artie Shaw Anita sang "Blues" with Stan Kenton Frances sang "There's No You" with Woody Herman Kitty sang "I'm Beginning..." with Harry James June sang "Willow Weep..." with Stan Kenton Mary Ann sang "More Than You" with Woody Herman. Helen sang "Goody, Goody" with Benny Goodman

6. The names were "Slim" Gaillard and "Slam" Steward. "Slam" used to play the bass and hum along with it as he played. I don't remember what "Slim" played.

7. "Dancing With You" became "Once In Awhile" with Bud Green contributing the new lyrics in 1937.

8. The melody for "the Lamp Is Low" came from Maurice Ravel's "Pavanne".

9. Pete Fountain got his biggest publicity when playing with Lawrence Welk, of all people.

10. Count Basie used the song "Moten Swing" which, I am told, is based on the chords of the song "You're Driving Me Crazy".

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@wijjam1530.com

Disc Jockey Rowdy Ron Richter plays big band and jazz the first Sunday of every month at Gusto 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.

Swing Band for Rent…
Ted Buttermann’s Neo-Passé Swing Band

Pictured from left: Russ Phillips, Ted Buttermann, 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

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

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!

E-mail the Browsers at theBrowsers@wijjam1530.com
Greasy Sack News

Famous Basie guitarist Freddie Green was born 100 years ago in Charleston, South Carolina, on March 31, 1911. According to the Freddie Green website, in June 2006 at the ASCAP event in New York City that honored Green, saxophonist Frank Foster, and trumpeter Clark Terry, the great and hilarious Mr. Terry offered this plausible explanation for his nickname "Pepperhead": "When Freddie would get his hair cut short, the hair on the nape of his neck would curl up into little tiny balls that looked like peppercorns. He sat in front of the trumpet section so we'd be looking at the back of his neck all night. Someone in the trumpet section started calling him 'Pepperhead'...

News from Ronnie Kole: The 19th annual Jazz on the Bayou fundraiser benefiting STARC, Easter Seals Louisiana, The Kidney Foundation and the ARTS in St. Tammany Parish Jazz will be held Saturday, March 26th and Sunday, March 27th, 2011, from 3-7 PM at Chateau Kole on Bayou Liberty near Slidell. Hosts for the event are Ronnie and Gardner Kole, Chairs, and co-chairs Jack and Brenda Stroupe. Jazz On The Bayou includes dancing on the tent-enclosed veranda at the Kole's home on Beautiful Bayou Liberty. Jazz is very unique as it is not held in a hotel or convention center, but at the Kole's house outside of Slidell. Each night after the event formally closes, many stay around for a one hour private concert by Ronnie Kole on his 1940 Steinway Concert Grand Piano in his living room. Since its creation by the Kole's in 1993, Jazz on the Bayou has raised over $1,000,000 to support Easter Seals and STARC programs in New Orleans, and the Northshore.

Passing: Dickie Taylor, 70, died on November. 30 in Lacombe, LA. He began his career in blues and rock bands in his native Chicago. He toured for three years with Ronnie Kole and the Heavyweights before the group slimmed down to a trio (with Everett Link on bass) and settled in New Orleans for a long residency at Kole's Corner on Bourbon Street. The 1980s found him working with the likes of Connie Jones, Eddie Bayard and Banu Gibson. From 1990 until the summer of 2010, he was the leader of the Dukes of Dixieland.

In 1963 the Versatones recorded their first album titled Polka Parade on the Bel-Aire record label. Over the past forty-seven years, they have pleased people in over 6500 appearances, touring the USA, Canada, Europe & Mexico, recorded over 60 albums, won a Grammy, and received over 135 miscellaneous awards for the music they've played. In 2011, Eddie Blazonczyk Versatones will play for the last time. After 47 years of entertaining audiences worldwide, and more than $47,000 annually in tour bus repairs and maintenance, they have decided to retire the band.

My Record Room

About 20 years ago when I built a room addition onto our house my wife said, “There goes our patio!”

It turned out to be one of the best ideas I ever had. I finally had an orderly housing for my thousands of records that I had collected throughout my lifetime.

These great works of art were gathering dust on boards and floors all over my basement in disarray with no semblance of order.

So, I thought it’s time I get my life in order (especially my record collection) and called a company in our area—Air Room—to build a room addition and we came to terms (mostly their terms). I had then make me a full room with shelves (completely surrounding me) where I could stack my LPs in alphabetical order, from Armstrong to Zentner.

The young builder thought I was nuts for wasting all that valuable space on things like “The Best of Little Jack Little” and “Tip Toe Through the Tulips” by Nick Lucas.

He said, “I never heard of these guys—don’t you have anything by Led Zeppelin or the Stones?” I answered, “Yes, but I left those in the basement to gather dust and must that would have befell my Goodman and Shaw albums.”

Now, I find it easy just to walk over to the F shelf and pull out the Bunny Berigan that contains his classic recording of “I Can’t Get Started,” or whatever record that is needed for a broadcast or in producing a tape for someone in Fondunk, Mo.

It’s a big thrill for me now to be able to share all of my historic music with people in all walks of life who have this one thing in common with me... the love and reminiscence of the music of the Big Band Era.

We all believe there is a place in history for our kind of music, no matter what the younger generation has to say.

Yes, I suppose I’d rather be called a “Molky Fig” than a ‘Deadhead’ (what they call the loyal followers of the Grateful Dead).

Also, I still like to dance “In the Old-Fashioned Way.

Phil Holdman

The Browsers circa 1994

Top Row: Carol and Dick Parker, Jack Hogan, Joe Carlton, John Macek, Nick Nardella, Bob Garinkle, Ron Richter and Ned Coe.

Middle Row: Karl Kountz, Lee Morgan Sash, Diane Tsouloufis, Ruth Macek

Bottom Row: Joe Spery, Phil Holdman, Gus Tsouloufis, Bob Knack, Carol Lucchesi.

Some have left us, but are fondly remembered.