

WGN Radio Master Control Room.,
July 26th, 1957. Chicago.

Dear Editor Heidrich:

A few nights ago some of the "Old-timers" in our Engineering Dept were recalling a few of the dance bands that were made famous by being heard on WGN in the passing years. Many are long forgotten and some are age-high today. We started to list them as best our memory served us and thought perhaps it might be of some interest to some of your readers. All these Bands were set up and balanced by our own Engineers at the various locations. Incidentally, this list goes back as far as the early 30's and thru all the 40's. How many can you remember and how many names are complete strangers to you today? If we have missed any, blame the poor memories of Engineers Buckley, Wynn, Jewell, Perkins and yours truly Bob Baird.

During the fabulous Aragon-Trianon era WGN listeners heard Lawrence Welk, Wayne King, Tommy Carlyn, Dol Courtney, Teddy Phillips, Dick Jurgens, Eddie Howard, Harry James, George Olsen, Jack McLean, Freddie Martin, George Hamilton, Art Kassel, Buddy Franklin, Ted Neems, Clyde Lucas, Terry Shen, Barry Kay, Henry King, Elliot Lawrence, Griff Williams, Leighton Noble, Ray Herbeck, Billy Bishop, Bernie Cummins, Orrin Tucker, George Winslow, Johnny Long, Phil Levant, Buddy Moreno, Woody Herman, Ray McCune, Baron Elliot, Tee-Wee Arslin, Tiny Hill, Guy Lombardo, Carl Ravazza, Don Reid, Benny Strong, Will Back, Benny Backner, Shep Fields, Gene Willis, Glen Miller, Horace Heidt, Benny Goodman.

At the green and gold Empire Room of the Palmer House we had our problems with such as Ozzie Nelson, Joe Reichman, Little Jack Little, Eddie Duchin, Ted Neems, Jan Carter, Ben Wild, Ray Noble, Freddy Nagel, Lew Diamond, Skinny Minis, Buddy Rogers, Clyde McCoy, Bob Grant, Eddie Oliver, Ishma Jones, Duke Ellington,

The Walnut Room at the Elmhurst proudly gave forth with Art Kassel, Jimmy Loy, Joe Judy, Don McGrane, Tony Dal Pardo, Emil Petti, Sherman Hayes, Sonny Greer, Ivy Anderson.

Ray Kyser and his College of Musical Knowledge got started at the Blackhawk, along with others including Bob Crosby, Gay Claridge, Chuck Foster, Harry Cool, Dick Stabile, Dick Shelton, Les Brown, Stan Kenton, Ramon Arlas, Don Pedro. Let's not forget, (who could?) Coon-Sanders and the Midnight Flyers!

How about a stop at the LaSalle Hotel for a bit of Husk O'Hare and his genial gentlemen of the air? Then north to the L'Aiglon Restaurant for Emilo Bolomini and his Strings.

We got all dressed up when we went to the Mayfair Room of the Blackstone for Carmen Cavallero, Al Kavalan and others. Then way south to the Martinique for Don Hagon, Jimmy Palmer, Russ Carlyle, Joe Da Salso, Blues Baron, Ray Herbeck, Carl Schreiber.

Terrace Gardens produced Ted Fio Rito and Clyde McCoy. The Drake rolled out Jack Hillyard, the English band and Horace Heidt followed by Fred Waring. Let's not pass up Jack Denny.

WGN gave many other spots a big boost including the Don Aire Country Club, Chez Paree, The Stevens, Old Heidelberg, The Yip, Old Colony Club, Lincoln Tavern, Glass Hat of the Congress Hotel. We even had Ina Ray Hutton at a place called the Orange Bowl on Rush Street. From a military point of view we had Navy bands from Navy Pier and Army bands from Ft. Sheridan.

WGN Engineers worked mighty hard to help some of these Bands up the ladder to success. Some made it and others are long-forgotten. Recalling a station slogan of long-ago, "The best Bands in the land broadcast on WGN". We believe the motto still holds!

Bob Baird Eng. Sup'vr.
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