



When Swing Was King

Autumn Newsletter

A Big Band Quiz

“Autumn Fires” (Robert Louis Stevenson, 1885)

In the other gardens
And all up the vale,
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over
And all the summer flowers,
The red fire blazes,
The gray smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!

Star Facts

- * “Stardust” was written by Hoagy Carmichael in 1927.
- * Mitchell Parish finally finished the lyrics in 1929.
- * The best instrumental version of “Stardust” was probably made by Artie Shaw, selling over 8 million records!

- 1) What beloved bandleader was lost over the English Channel in December 1944?
- 2) Big Band singer and actress Harriet Hilliard is better known as _____.
- 3) What was the theme song for Woody Herman’s Orchestra?
- 4) The first million selling record by a female group was recorded by The Andrews Sisters in 1937. What was it?
- 5) In the song “Stardust,” what kind of bird “tells his fairy tale of paradise, where roses grow”?
- 6) What big band star was a contortionist at age 4, a drummer at age 7, and a trumpet soloist in a circus band at age 12?
- 7) According to the Guinness Book of World Records, who led the longest running big band in history?
- 8) Before becoming a major star in the early days of television, what famous comedian played saxophone with the likes of Shep Fields, Claude Thornhill, Charlie Spivak, and Benny Goodman?
- 9) Where did the Chick Webb Orchestra make its home?
- 10) Who was described as “The man who plays the sweetest trumpet in the world”?

Answers to Quiz on page 2.



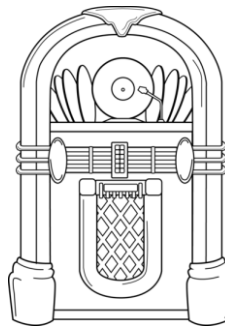
A Note from Denny & Claire

As we reach the autumn of our lives, we often become more nostalgic, even if we realize that the “good old days” were not always that good. As someone put it, people sometimes get nostalgic about things they weren’t all that crazy about the first time around! And, of course, our nostalgia creates mixed emotions: sadness for the loved ones we miss, regret over good times that have gone by, frustrations brought on by the changes in our culture and in our own bodies.

But there are also pleasures in remembering and appreciating and in being grateful for the blessings God has given. As one “When Swing Was King” fan told us, “Your shows bring back so many memories. Some of them are happy. Some of them are sad.

But they’re all mine and I’m truly grateful for them all.”

That’s what we hope our programs provide for all of our audiences – great music, entertaining information, interesting and fun photographs, the blessing of friendship... and memories that are all yours!



What Were the Top Songs in the Fall of 1945?

- * “On the Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe” (Johnny Mercer)
- * “Till the End of Time” (Perry Como)
- * “It's Been a Long, Long Time” (Harry James)

How About the Fall of ‘55?

- * “The Yellow Rose of Texas” (Mitch Miller)
- * “Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing” (The Four Aces)
- * “Autumn Leaves” (Roger Williams)
- * “Sixteen Tons” (Tennessee Ernie Ford)

(Answers to Quiz from Page 1)

- 1) Glenn Miller
- 2) Harriet Nelson (Ozzie’s wife)
- 3) “Woodchopper’s Ball”
- 4) “Bei Mir Bist Du Schon”
- 5) Nightingale
- 6) Harry James
- 7) Les Brown
- 8) Sid Caesar
- 9) The Savoy Ballroom in Harlem, New York City.
- 10) Charlie Spivak



Spotlight On... Ozzie Nelson!



Born in Jersey City in 1906, Oswald George (“Ozzie”) Nelson became one of America’s most successful and beloved entertainers. An Eagle Scout at 13, a good student and

football player at Rutgers University, and proficiency with a saxophone were just some of his youthful achievements. While a Rutgers law student, he made a little money playing sax and coaching football, but decided he’d rather take his chances in the entertainment field. He started a band and quickly found success – as a bandleader, a songwriter, and in winning over singer and actress Harriet Hilliard to be his wife. His orchestra’s theme song? What else? “The Loyal Sons of Rutgers.” The band was very popular but Ozzie and Harriet branched out into radio too, first appearing as regulars on *The Red Skelton Show* and then, in 1944, began their own program, *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*. It was a big hit and led to more success when they moved the show to television in 1952.

Duke Ellington Said It:

“Gray skies are just clouds passing over.”

“There are two kinds of worries - those you can do something about and those you can't. Don't spend any time on the latter.”

“On becoming more acquainted with the Bible, I began to understand so much more of what I had been taught, and of what I had learned about life.”

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Wouldn't you have liked to be there...

...in early 1938 at the Savoy Ballroom for a “battle of the bands” between Chick Webb's group (with Ella Fitzgerald) and Count Basie’s band (with Billie Holiday)?

...or sitting in the pews of the Park Avenue Baptist Church in Piqua, Ohio in the 1920s listening to the young Mills Brothers singing hymns?

...or in the crowd of adoring bobby-soxers at Frank Sinatra’s legendary opening at the Paramount Theatre in New York City on December 30, 1942?



So Beautifully Phrased...

“Autumn...the year's last, loveliest smile.”
(William Cullen Bryant from “Indian Summer”)

“Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons.” (Jim Bishop)

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” (Genesis 8:22)

“I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.” (L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*)

“Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.” (F. Scott Fitzgerald)

“Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.” (James 5:7-8)

“No spring nor summer's beauty hath such grace as I have seen in one Autumnal face.” (John Donne, from “Elegy IX: The Autumnal”)

“When you reap your harvest in your field and have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow, in order that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.” (Deuteronomy 24:19)

“The one red leaf, the last of its clan,
That dances as often as dance it can,
Hanging so light, and hanging so high,
On the topmost twig that looks up at the sky.”
(Samuel Taylor Coleridge, from “Christabel”)

In this autumn season when we appreciate the harvest, enjoy the unique beauties of color and change, celebrate Thanksgiving, watch a little football, and prepare for the Christmas season and the rigors of winter, we pray God's abundant blessings on you all.