THE RECORDINGS OF

WILLIE BRYANT

AND HIS ORCHESTRA

An Annotated Tentative Personnelo - Discography

BRYANT, 'Willie' William Steven vocals, leader, compere   born: New Orleans, Louisiana, 30th August 1908
died: Los Angeles, California, 9th February 1964
Family moved to Chicago in 1912. Short-lived attempt to play trumpet, then worked as a candy-seller at the Grand Theatre, Chicago. In 1926 began working as a soft-shoe dancer in the Whitman Sisters´ Show, did extensive touring throughout the 1920s, also partnered Leonard Reed in a vaudeville dance act. Continued touring until 1933. Solo spot in 'Chocolate Revue' (1934), also partnered Bessie Smith in 'Big Fat Ma and Skinny Pa' stage revue.. Brief spell as vocalist with 'Buck and Bubbles' Band, then began fronting own big band (late 1934). Continued leading big band until late 1938. From January 1939 worked as an actor, master of ceremonies, and disc-jockey. Did U.S.O. tours during World War II, re-formed band 1946-48, then resumed compere work, had own series on C.B.S. television in 1949. Moved to California in the 1950s, dee-jayed programmes in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Died of a heart attack.   (J. Chilton, Who´s Who of Jazz)

This personnelo-discography is based on RUST, JAZZ AND RAGTIME RECORDS 1897 - 1942.
Personnels are taken from this source, but modified in the light of earlier or subsequent research or on the strength of my own listening, discussed with our listening group or other interested collectors.

- Documented, most certain and aurally absolutely obvious identifications are listed thus: Willie Bryant
- Probable, generally agreed, but not documented identifications are listed in italics, thus: *Willie Bryant*
- Not attributable identifications – although the musician in question might be an otherwise well-known person – are listed thus: unknown
- If a possible identification for an otherwise unknown musician is suggested by the author without the possibility to prove the factual evidence, it is listed thus: (*Willie Bryant*)
When feeling certain without a musician´s documented presence, I have not refrained from altering Rust´s statements without using italics. In any case, my statements are open to discussion and I would appreciate any contribution - pro or contra!

As always in my discographies on this website I have written recording sessions with their headings, dates, titles and names of musicians in italics, whenever I am convinced that the eponymous musician of this discography is not part of the accompanying group of this session! Documented names of musicians if known – in recording ledgers or on record labels – are listed in bold letters.

This discography still is - and will certainly be - a work in progress for a long time, if not eternally.   Yet, on the way to a definite discography of all jazz recordings before 1942 - which certainly will never be possible - it is intended to fill some gaps that have not been treated before.

The following statements and the resulting list of recordings only reflect the opinion of this writer/listener and are open to discussion. More so, discussion is eagerly invited. Corrections, amendments and controversial opinions are much appreciated.

For many years now, I have a special liking for the Willie Bryant Orchestra. For me, they exhibit what I like about the music and the bands of Harlem: hot music, swinging danceable rhythm, colourful arrangements, pleasing performance, Their music is colourful, playful, varied, and amusing. And it is funky, urgent, and virtuoso.

- Albert McCarthy writes in his book 'Big Band Jazz': *"Willie Bryant led a good band during 1934 and 1935, though its contingent of worthwhile soloists was not matched by a really individual style. ... Bryant´s showbiz dominated more of the records than was desirable. His vocals varied from being inoffensively pleasant to abysmal, and even when he did not take a vocal, he would often make spoken interjections that added nothing to the music. ... Mr. (Teddy – KBR) Wilson considers that the band reached its peak when Benny carter was its arranger, but concluded that it was 'never a good musical band'. Possible he is a little harsh in his judgement, for many other musicians consider that in its earliest days, at least, it was an excellent band, even if not comparable to the best of the era."*
- Gene Fernett, Swing Out, Great Negro Dance Bands: *"That was a terrific band,"* recalls trumpeter (Joe – KBR) Thomas, *"with a lot of extra drive coming from its arrangements – written by Charlie Dixon and Benny Carter."*

WILLIE BRYANT AND HIS ORCHESTRA

001 WILLIE BRYANT AND HIS ORCHESTRA   New York,   Jan. 04, 1935
Willie Bryant – voc, ldr;
Robert Cheek, Richard Clark, Edgar 'Pudding Head' Battle – tpt;
George Matthews, John 'Shorty' Haughton, Robert 'Mack' Horton – tbn;
Glyn Paque, Stanley Payne – alt, clt; Johnny Russell – ten;
Teddy Wilson – pno; Arnold Adams – gtr; Louis Thompson – sbs; Cozy Cole – dms;
Edgar Battle – arr (1,3,4)

87265-1	Throwin´ Stones At The Sun	Vic 24847,	Chronogical Classics 768
87266-1	It´s Over Because We´re Through	Vic 24858,	Chronogical Classics 768
87267-1	A Viper´s Moan	Vic 24858,	Chronogical Classics 768
87268-1	Chimes At The Meeting	Vic 24847,	Chronogical Classics 768

Composer credits: 87265 (Simon – Heston – Mysels); 87266 (Bryant – Reed); 87267 (Bryant); 87268 (Jones)
This first recording session of Willie Bryant and his Orchestra shows the band from their best side: a nice trumpet section with a perfect hot soloist, Edgar 'Pudding Head' Battle – his nickname referring to his very individual hair-dress, a swinging first-chair player, Robert Cheek, and a mute specialist. Then a perfectly composed trombone section, with a young George Matthews probably playing lead parts, Robert Horton playing muted and growl trombone, and 'Shorty' Haughton presenting brilliant 'swing' solos with a slim and soft tone. Glyn Paque solos using augmented notes, and Johnny Russell blowing a strong and masculine tenor sax. The pianist is extraordinary: a young Teddy Wilson at the start of his international career, a strong and musical – and swinging - guitarist Arnold Adams who is on all Willie Bryant´s recordings, but only on a very few other ones, bassist Louis Thompson who appears earlier with the Walter Barnes band from Chicago, and – last yet not least – one of the rising stars of swing drumming: Cozy Cole. A fantastic band.
Listen to 'Throwin´ Stones at the Sun' with its beautiful chord-progressions and the use of temple-blocks in the introduction, the dialogue of muted trumpets and clarinet section, 'Pudding Head' Battle´s strong and hot trumpet solo, and later Teddy Wilson. 'It´s Over …' features robust and strong tenor sax obligati over the ensemble, Bryant´s vocal and then Teddy Wilson over the band. 'A Viper´s Moan' has Robert Horton playing trombone using two mutes coincidently, alternating with a single mute, similar to 'Tricky Sam' Nanton, but still with an own individual touch. And 'Chimes at rhe Meeting' brings us amusing band vocals mocking a religious camp-meeting with typical solos by both Horton and Haughton, very good muted trumpet by Richard Clark, and an intensely swinging ensemble. And it is nice that Bryant lets us know who the soloists are.   Absolutely great jazz music of the Harlem kind!
Notes:
- Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Bobby Cheek, Dick Clark, Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle (tp); John Haughton, Robert Horton (tb); Glyn Pacque, Stanley Payne (as); Johnny Russell, Ben Webster (ts); Teddy Wilson (p); Arnold Adams (g); Louis Thompson (b); Cozy Cole (dm); Willie Bryant (vo)
- B. Rust, Victor Master Book, Vol. 2: 3t/ 3tb/ 3s/ p/ g/ b/ d, vocalist: Willie Bryant
- Rust*2: Robert Cheek, Richard Clark, Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle (tpt); John Haughton, Robert Horton (tbn); Glyn Paque, Stanley Payne (alt); Johnny Russell, Ben Webster (ten); Teddy Wilson (pno); Arnold Adams (gtr); Louis Thompson (sbs); Cozy Cole (dms); Willie Bryant (ldr, vcl)
- Rust*3: Robert Cheek -Richard Clark -t; Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle -tp – vtb -a; John Haughton -Robert Horton -George Matthews -tb; Glyn Paque -cl -as; Stanley Payne -as; Johnny Russell -ts; Teddy Wilson -p; Arnold Adams -g; Louis Thompson -sb; Cozy Cole -d; Willie Bryant -ldr -v (usually in the form of speech)
- Rust*4: Willie Bryant -v (usually in the form of speech) -dir; Robert Cheek -Richard Clark -t; Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle -t – vtb -a; John Haughton -Robert Horton -George Matthews -tb; Glyn Paque -cl -as; Stanley Payne -as; Johnny Russell -ts; Teddy Wilson -p; Arnold Adams -g; Louis Thompson -sb; Cozy Cole -d
- Rust*6: Willie Bryant, v, speech, dir; Robert Cheek, Richard Clark, t; Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle, t, vtb, a; John Haughton, Robert Horton, George Matthews, tb; Glyn Paque, cl, as; Stanley Payne, as; Johnny Russell, ts; Teddy Wilson, p; Arnold Adams, g; Louis Thompson, sb; Cozy Cole, d
Solos ad-lib:
87265:   *RH o-tbn 4; ?RoCh m-tpt 4; GP alt 4; EPB o-tpt 8 + 4; TW pno 16; JR ten 4 + 4*
87266:   *JR ten obl 16; RiCl m-tpt 8; JR ten 8 obl; ?EPB m-tpt obl 32: TW pno 16; GP alt 8; TW pno 8*
87267:   *RH m-tbn 16; JR ten 1+8; RH m-tbn 8; TW pno 8; EPB o-tpt 16; GP alt 8*
87268:   *TW pno 4; RH m-tbn 16; RiCl m-tpt 2+8; ASH o-tbn 8; GPO alt 4*
Tune structures:
87265-1   Throwin´ Stones At The Sun   Key of Dm   Victor
(Intro 8 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens 28 – JSH o-tbn 4)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA ens 4 - ?RoCh m-tpt 4 – ens 4 – GP alt 4 – EPB o-tpt 8 – ens 4 – EPB o-tpt 4)(1/2 Chorus 3 16 bars BA TW pno 16)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA ens 4 – JR ten 4 – ens 4 – JR ten 4 - ens 16)(Coda 8 bars ens)
87266-1   It´s Over Because We´re Through   Key of Ab   Victor
(Intro ?CC vib 2)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA   ens+JR ten obl 16 - RiCl m-tpt 8 – ens+JR ten obl 8)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA WB voc+ ?EPB m-tpt obl)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA TW pno+ens 16 - SP alt 8 – TW pno+ens 8)
87267-1   A Viper´s Moan   Key of Db   Victor
(Intro 4 bars TW pno)(Vamp 4 bars AA gtr)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA RH m-tbn 16 – JR ten 1+8 – RH m-tbn 8)(bridge 8 bars TW pno+ WB voc 8)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA EPB o-tpt 16 – GP alt 8 – ens 8)(Coda 12 bars ens+WB voc)
87268-1   Chimes At The Meeting   Key of F   Victor
(Intro WB voc + TW pno 4)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens+band voc)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA RH m-tbn 16 – RiCl m-tpt 8 – JSH o-tbn 8)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA ens+WB voc 20 – GP alt 4 – ens+WB voc 8)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA ens+WB voc)(Coda WB voc + ens 29 + CC vib 3)

002 WILLIE BRYANT AND HIS ORCHESTRA   New York,   May 08, 1935
Willie Bryant – voc, ldr;
Richard Clark, Benny Carter, Edgar 'Pudding Head' Battle – tpt;
Eddie Durham, John 'Shorty' Haughton, Robert Horton – tbn;
Glyn Paque, Stanley Payne – alt, clt; Johnny Russell, Ben Webster – ten;
Teddy Wilson – pno; Arnold Adams – gtr; Louis Thompson – sbs; Cozy Cole – dms;
Edgar Battle – arr (1); Alex Hill – arr (2)

89817-1	Rigamarole	Vic 25038,	Chronogical Classics 768
89818-1	´Long About Midnight	Vic 25045,	Chronogical Classics 768
89819-2	The Sheik	Vic 25038,	Chronogical Classics 768
89820-1	Jerry The Junker	Vic 25045,	Chronogical Classics 768

Composer credits: 89817 (Mooney); 89818 (Hill - Mills); 89819 (Wheeler - Snyder); 89820 (Stout - Williams)

Regarding the discographies, this session features two additional musicians, Benny Carter on trumpet and Ben Webster on tenor sax. Albert McCarthy´s 'Big Band Jazz' shows a photo of this band on side 275, which does not include trumpeter Robert Cheek. As the band-books at this time of jazz history usually had three trumpet parts in their arrangements, I assume that Benny Carter was not added to the band´s personnel – as was Ben Webster – but that he replaced trumpeter Robert Cheek. Therefore, I have left out Robert Cheek, a trumpet player of Eddie Heywood´s circle of Atlanta musicians who also was part of the Luis Russell and Ovie Alston – and other - bands. Unfortunately, the Victor Master Book does not give a numerical statement of musicians for this session (see below) to ascertain my assumption.
As noted in Benny Carter, Vol. 2, there are no Carter arrangements recorded on these sides. A great pity!
'Rigamarole' is a stock arrangement, adapted by 'Pudding-Head' Battle for the band, he himself a very gifted arranger. This arrangement consists of a succession of ensemble riff choruses and soloistic vamps. In my ears, the vamp after Ben Webster´s tenor sax chorus (chorus 5) might possibly be played by Benny Carter, as it is more structured and less fierce than Edgar Battle´s vamp after chorus 6. '´Long About Midnight' is a composition plus arrangement by much-praised but little-known pianist Alex Hill and features trumpeter Battle behind Bryant´s vocal and with the subsequent trumpet solo. 'The Sheik' – of Araby, as we all know! – is a simple succession of solo choruses – one of them by Benny Carter on very clean and driving open trumpet – with accompaniment by scarce ensemble parts. 'Jerry The Junker' is a nice song of the 'Minnie The Moocher' species, composed by Clarence Stout and recorded in 1934 by Clarence Williams including sympathetic vocals by the bandleader and strong and lively trumpet solos by Mr. 'Pudding Head'. Very nice big band jazz of the Harlem kind.

Notes:
- Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Bobby Cheek, Dick Clark, Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle (tp); John Haughton, Robert Horton (tb); Glyn Pacque, Stanley Payne (as); Johnny Russell, Ben Webster (ts); Teddy Wilson (p); Arnold Adams (g); Louis Thompson (b); Cozy Cole (dm); Willie Bryant (vo)
- B. Rust, Victor Master Book, Vol. 2: vocalist: Willie Bryant and members of the Orchestra (sic!)
- Rust*2: Robert Cheek, Richard Clark, Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle (tpt); John Haughton, Robert Horton (tbn); Glyn Paque, Stanley Payne (alt); Johnny Russell, Ben Webster (ten); Teddy Wilson (pno); Arnold Adams (gtr); Louis Thompson (sbs); Cozy Cole (dms); Willie Bryant (ldr, vcl)
- Rust*3: Robert Cheek -Richard Clark -t; Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle -tp – vtb -a; Benny Carter -t -a; John Haughton -Robert Horton -Eddie Durham -tb; Glyn Paque -cl -as; Stanley Payne -as; Johnny Russell -Ben Webster -ts; Teddy Wilson -p; Arnold Adams -g; Louis Thompson -sb; Cozy Cole -d; Willie Bryant -ldr -v (usually in the form of speech); Alex Hill -a
- Rust*4: Willie Bryant -v (usually in the form of speech) -dir; Robert Cheek -Richard Clark -t; Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle -tp – vtb -a; Benny Carter -t -a; John Haughton -Robert Horton -Eddie Durham -tb; Glyn Paque -cl -as; Stanley Payne -as; Johnny Russell -Ben Webster -ts; Teddy Wilson -p; Arnold Adams -g; Louis Thompson -sb; Cozy Cole -d; Alex Hill -a
- Rust*6: Willie Bryant, v, speech, dir; Robert Cheek, Richard Clark, t; Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle, t, vtb, a; Benny Carter, t, a; John Haughton, Robert Horton, Eddie Durham, tb; Glyn Paque, cl, as; Stanley Payne, as; Ben Webster, Johnny Russell, ts; Teddy Wilson, p; Arnold Adams, g; Louis Thompson, sb; Cozy Cole, d; Alex Hill, a
- Berger, Berger, Patrick, Benny Carter Vol. 1, p.132: "With few prospects for its employment, Carter dispended the (his – KBR) orchestra and, in February 1935, followed the lead of his own former sidemen by joining Willie Bryant. He arranged and played in the trumpet section. Bryant, a crowd-pleaser, found plenty of work in New York, and on the road. Critics reported an improvement in the band´s playing owing to Carter´s presence."
- Berger, Berger, Patrick, Benny Carter Vol. 2, p.59: "On the Bob Howard recordings, and with Willie Bryant, Carter played trumpet almost exclusively. "I jumped at the chance to play trumpet in somebody´s section; it was a lot of fun for me." Teddy Wilson, who preceded Carter in the Bryant band, recalls that the band 'improved a great deal because after awhile Benny Carter joined as the musical director and Willie´s band really began to sound like something after Benny took over.' (Interview with Phil Schaap, March 5, 1980.) Carter, who was not formally named 'musical director', did arrange for the band and was heavily featured as a soloist. Unfortunately, at his one recording session with Bryant, none of his arrangements were recorded, and he solos on only one title."
Solos ad-lib:
89817:   *JSH o-tbn 16; TW pno 4; RH m-tbn 4; AA gtr 4; BW ten 16; EPB or ?BC o-tpt 4; EPB o-tpt 4*
89818:   *EPB m-tpt obl to voc 32; EPB m-tpt 16; JR ten 16; RH m-tbn 8*
89819:   *TW pno 4; RH m-tbn 30; TW pno 32; BW ten 1+16; JR ten 15; BC o-tpt 1+30; GP clt 32*
89820:   *JR ten 12; GP clt 12; EPB o-tpt + band choir 24; TW pno 4;*
Tune structures:
89817-1   Rigamarole   Key of Bb   *Victor*
(Intro 4 bars   ens)(Chorus 1 16 bars AA   ens)(Vamp 4 bars ens)(Chorus 2 16 bars AA   JSH o-tbn)(Vamp 4 bars TW pno)(Chorus 3 16 bars AA   ens)(Vamp 4 bars RH m-tbn)(Chorus 4 16 bars AA   ens)(Vamp 4 bars AA gtr)(Chorus 5 16 bars AA   BW ten)(Vamp 4 bars EPB or ?BC o-tpt)(Chorus 6 16 bars AA   ens)(Vamp 4 bars EPB o-tpt)(Chorus 7 16 bars AA ens)
89818-1   ´Long About Midnight   Key of Db   *Victor*
(Intro 8 bars   ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA   ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA   WB voc + EPB m-tpt obl)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA   EPB m-tpt 16 – JR ten 16)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA   ens 16 – RH m-tbn 8 – ens 8)(Coda 10 bars ens)
89819-2   The Sheik   Key of Ab   *Victor*
(Intro 4 bars TW pno)(Chorus 1 32 bars AA' RH m-tbn 30 – TW pno 2)(Chorus 2 32 bars AA   TW pno)(Chorus 3 32 bars AA   BW ten 16 – JR ten 15 – BC o-tpt 1)(Chorus 4 32 bars AA   BC o-tpt 30)(Chorus 5 32 bars AA   GP clt)
89820-1   Jerry The Junker   Key of Fm / Gm   *Victor*
(Intro 10 bars   ens)(Verse 1 16 bars   WB voc)(Chorus 1 12 bars   WB voc)(Verse 2 16 bars   WB voc)(Chorus 2 12 bars   JR ten)(Chorus 3 12 bars   EPB o-tpt)(Chorus 4 12 bars   EPB o-tpt + band choir) Chorus 5 12 bars   EPB o-tpt + band choir)(Bridge 4 bars modulation TW pno)(Chorus 6 12 bars   ens)(Coda 2 bars   WB voc + ens)

003 **WILLIE BRYANT AND HIS ORCHESTRA**   New York,   Aug. 01, 1935
Willie Bryant – voc, ldr;
Otis Johnson, Richard Clark, Edgar 'Pudding Head' Battle – tpt;
George Matthews, John 'Shorty' Haughton, Robert Horton – tbn;
Glyn Paque, Stanley Payne – alt, clt; Ben Webster – ten;
Roger 'Ram' Ramirez – pno; Arnold Adams – gtr; Ernest Hill – sbs; Cozy Cole – dms, vib;
Harry 'Father ' White – arr (1); Teddy Wilson – arr (2,4); Edgar Battle – arr (3)

92908-1	Voice Of Old Man River	Vic 25129,	Chronogical Classics 768
92909-1	Steak And Potatoes	Vic 25160,	Chronogical Classics 768
92910-1	Long Gone (From Bowlin´ Green)	Vic 25129,	Chronogical Classics 768
92911-1	Liza	Vic 25160,	Chronogical Classics 768

Composer credits: 92908 (White - Bryant); 92909 (Brown - Alter); 92910 (Smith - Handy); 92911 (Gershwin - Gershwin)

The band now has a new first trumpet player: Otis Johnson, a modest, but highly regarded horn man for first chair work by colleagues and contemporaries. Of the listed trombonists, Georg Matthews takes most solo spots here. And while Johnny Russell had plenty of solo space on the first two sessions, he is not heard here, all solos certainly by Ben Webster, and all that can be heard from the saxophone section is three-part only. Thus, as the Victor Master Book, Vol. 2 lists three saxophones only, Johnny Russell´s presence must be doubted, or even denied.

The young Roger 'Ram' Ramirez is Teddy Wilson´s successor on the piano and tries his luck with a 4-bar piano bridge in 'Voice …', which – unluckily – fails entirely. But at the whole, he is playing reliably with the band and in solo in a light swing style.

'Steak And Potatoes' and 'Liza' have arrangements by Teddy Wilson, former pianist of the Bryant band.

There is remarkable soloing by hot trumpeter 'Pudding Head' Battle, Ben Webster on tenor sax all over, and George Matthews on 'Steak And Potatoes'. Blyn Paque soloes in 'Long Gone', together with hot Edgar Battle. Of the alto solos I feel a bit uncertain whether the soloist is Paque, or Stanley Payne whom I would favour for the style used.

And we should not forget Cozy Cole´s immensely swinging and driving drum playing – exclusively with brushes. And there is a most modest musician whom I have learned to love from these days of listening to the Bryant band: guitarist Arnold Adams, swinging and offering surprisingly beautiful licks and phrases, apart from his rock-steady beat. But I am unable to find anything personal about him, only that he also recorded with Putney Dandridge in 1936 – with colleagues from the Bryant band – and with Lil Armstrong in 1938. In 1939 he is with Benny Carter Orchestra at the Savoy Ballroom, New York. Anyway, he is one of my favourites on guitar from now on! (Scott Yanow´s book 'The Great Jazz Guitarists' knows nothing of Arnold Adams! A pity!)

Notes:
- Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Bobby Cheek, Dick Clark, Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle (tp); Benny Carter (tp & arranger); John Haughton, Robert Horton (tb); Glyn Pacque, Stanley Payne (as); Johnny Russell, Ben Webster (ts); Teddy Wilson (p); Arnold Adams (g); Louis Thompson (b); Cozy Cole (dm); Willie Bryant (vo)
- B. Rust, Victor Master Book, Vol. 2: 3t/ 3tb/ 3s/ p/ g/ b/ d, vocalist: Willie Bryant
*- Rust*2: Robert Cheek, Richard Clark, Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle (tpt); Benny Carter (tpt, arr); John Haughton, Robert Horton (tbn); Glyn Paque, Stanley Payne (alt); Johnny Russell, Ben Webster (ten); Teddy Wilson (pno); Arnold Adams (gtr); Louis Thompson (sbs); Cozy Cole (dms); Willie Bryant (ldr, vcl)*
*- Rust*3: Otis Johnson -Richard Clark -t; Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle -tp - vtb -a; John Haughton -Robert Horton -George Matthews -tb; Glyn Paque -cl -as; Stanley Payne -as; Johnny Russell -Ben Webster -ts; Roger Ramirez -p; Arnold Adams -g; Ernest Hill -sb; Cozy Cole -d; Willie Bryant -ldr -v (usually in the form of speech); Teddy Wilson -a*
*- Rust*4: Willie Bryant -v (usually in the form of speech) -dir; Otis Johnson -Richard Clark -t; Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle -tp – vtb -a; John Haughton -Robert Horton -George Matthews -tb; Glyn Paque -cl -as; Stanley Payne -as; Johnny Russell -Ben Webster -ts; Roger Ramirez -p; Arnold Adams -g; Louis Thompson -sb; Cozy Cole -d; Teddy Wilson -a*
*- Rust*6: Willie Bryant, v, speech, dir; Otis Johnson, Richard Clark, t; Edward 'Pudding Head' Battle, t, vtb, a; John Haughton, Robert Horton, George Matthews, tb; Glyn Paque, cl, as; Stanley Payne, as; Ben Webster, Johnny Russell, ts; Roger Ramirez, p; Arnold Adams, g; Ernest Hill, sb; Cozy Cole, d; Teddy Wilson, a*
Solos ad-lib:
92908:   BW ten 48; EPB o-tpt 16; GP or ?SP alt 16; EPB o-tpt 16; TW pno 4; GP clt obl 16; ?GM o-tbn 16; GP clt obl 16
92909:   EPB o-tpt 16; GM o-tbn obl to voc 16; ?RC m-tpt obl to voc 8; GM o-tbn obl to voc 8; BW ten 16; GM o-tbn 14
92910:   RRR pno 4; GP clt 16; EPB o-tpt 16
92911:   GM o-tbn 16; ?OJ o-tpt 8; GP or ?SP alt 16; EPB o-tpt 8; GP or ?SP alt 8; RRR pno 4 + 4; BW ten 8
Tune structures:
92908-1   Voice Of Old Man River   Key of F   Victor
(Intro 20 bars ens)(Chorus 1 48 bars ABA   WB voc)(Chorus 2 48 bars ABA   BW ten)(Chorus 3 48 bars ABA   EPB o-tpt 16 – GP or ?SP alt 16 – EPB o-tpt 16)(Bridge 4 bars RRR pno)(Chorus 4 48 bars ABA   GP clt over ens 16 – ?JSH o-tbn 16 – GP clt over ens 16)
92909-1   Steak And Potatoes   Key of F / Db   Victor
(Intro 8 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA   ens)(Bridge 8 bars modulation ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA   saxes 16 – EPB o-tpt 16) (Chorus 3 32 bars AABA   WB voc+GM o-tbn 16 – WB voc+?RC m-tpt 8 - WB voc+GM o-tbn 8)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA   BW ten 16 – GM o-tbn 14 – ens 2)(Coda 8 bars   WB+band choir 6 – ens 2)
92910-1   Long Gone (From Bowling Green)   Key of F   Victor
(Intro 16 bars ens)(Chorus 1 16 bars AA   ens)(Vamp 4 RRR pno +WB voc)(Chorus 2 16 bars AA   GP clt)(Vamp 4 bars tbns)(Chorus 3 16 bars AA   WB voc)(Chorus 4 16 bars AA   EPB o-tpt)(Vamp 4 bars tbns)(Chorus 5 16 bars AA   WB voc)(Chorus 6 16 bars AA   ens)(Chorus 7 16 bars AA   tbn+ens)
92911-1   Liza   Key of Db / Eb   Victor
(Intro 8 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA   ens)(Bridge 4 bars ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA   GM o-tbn 16 – saxes 8 – OJ o-tpt 8) (Chorus 3 32 bars AABA   SP alt 16 – EPB o-tpt 8 – SP alt 8)(Bridge 4 bars modulation ens)(Chorus 4 ens 4 – RRR pno 4 – ens 4 - RRR pno 4 – BW ten 8 – ens 4 - saxes 4)(Coda 8 bars ens)

005 **WILLIE BRYANT AND HIS ORCHESTRA**   New York,   Apr. 09, 1936
Willie Bryant – voc, ldr;
Richard Clark, Jack Butler, Taft Jordan – tpt;
George Matthews, John 'Shorty' Haughton – tbn;

Glyn Paque, Stanley Payne – alt, clt; Charles Frazier - ten, flt; Johnny Russell – ten;
Roger 'Ram' Ramirez – pno; Arnold Adams – gtr; Ernest Hill – sbs; Cozy Cole – dms, vib;
Taft Jordan – voc (2); Jack Butler – voc (3);
Charlie Dixon – arr (5)

99972-1	Is It True What They Say About Dixie?	BB B-6362,	Chronogical Classics 768
99973-1	All My Life	BB B-6361,	Chronogical Classics 768
99974-1	The Right Somebody To Love	BB B-6361,	Chronogical Classics 768
99975-1	The Glory Of Love	BB B-6374,	Chronogical Classics 768
99976-1	Ride, Red, Ride	BB B-6374,	Chronogical Classics 768
99977-1	Moonrise On The Lowlands	BB B-6362,	Chronogical Classics 768

Composer credits: 99972 (Caesar – Marks - Lerner); 99973 (Mitchell - Stept); 99974 (Yellen - Pollack); 99975 (Hill); 99976 (Millinder); 99977 (Neiburg – Levinson)

The expressive and dramatic trumpet player 'Pudding Head' Battle has quit the band now and Taft Jordan from the Chick Webb band – for six weeks - and Jack Butler – for a very short period - have taken over his duties. Taft Jordan – as Webb´s hot trumpet soloist – takes most of the solo glory, together with Johnny Russell on tenor sax and George Matthews with his soft but strong swing trombone in modern swing style. Extraordinary for a jazz band, we hear flute solos by tenor saxophonist Charles Frazier in 'The Right Somebody To Love'. Again, we have great guitar playing by Arnold Adams, Ram Ramirez getting more and more fluid on piano, an occasionally dragging Ernest Hill on string-bass (in contrast to the last session), and superb Cozy Cole, almost entirely with sticks on his drums. And it´s very nice of bandleader/singer Bryant to give trumpeters Jordan and Butler the opportunity to show themselves as remarkable jazz singers in titles two and three.

Notes:
- Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Dick Clark, Jack Butler, Taft Jordan (tp); John Haughton, George Matthews (tb); Glyn Pacque, Stanley Payne, Charles Fraser, Johnny Russell (s); Roger 'Ram' Ramirez (p); Arnold Adams (g); Ernest 'Bass' Hill (b); Cozy Cole (dm); Willie Bryant (vo)
- B. Rust, Victor Master Book, Vol. 2: Vocalists: Willie Bryant, Taft Jordan, Jack Butler (sic!)
*- Rust*2: Richard Clark (tpt); Jack Butler (tpt, vcl); Taft Jordan (tpt, vcl); John Haughton, George Matthews (tbn); Glyn Paque, Stanley Payne (alt); Charles Frazier, Johnny Russell (ten); Roger 'Ram' Ramirez (pno); Arnold Adams (gtr); Ernest Hill (sbs); Cozy Cole (dms); Willie Bryant (ldr, voc)*
*- Rust*3: Richard Clark -t; Jack Butler -Taft Jordan -t -v; John Haughton -George Matthews -tb; Glyn Paque -Stanley Payne -as; Charles Frazier -Johnny Russell -ts; Roger Ramirez -p; Arnold Adams -g; Ernest Hill -sb; Cozy Cole -d; Willie Bryant -ldr -v; Charles Frazier -f*
*- Rust*4: Willie Bryant -v, -ldr; Richard Clark -t; Jack Butler -Taft Jordan -t -v; John Haughton -George Matthews -tb; Glyn Paque -Stanley Payne -as; Charles Frazier -Johnny Russell -ts; Roger Ramirez -p; Arnold Adams -g; Ernest Hill -sb; Cozy Cole -d; Willie Bryant -ldr -v; Charles Frazier -f*
*- Rust*6: Willie Bryant, v, speech, dir; Richard Clark, t; Jack Butler, Taft Jordan, t, v; John Haughton, George Matthews, tb; Glyn Paque, Stanley Payne, as; Charles Frazier, Johnny Russell, ts; Roger Ramirez, p; Arnold Adams, g; Ernest Hill, sb; Cozy Cole, d, vib; Charles Frazier, f*

Solos ad-lib:
99972:   RRR pno 4; ?JB m-tpt obl to voc; GP clt 16; SP alt 8; GP clt 6; RRR pno 16; GM o-tbn 8; RRR pno 8
99973:   TJ m-tpt 4 + 24; TJ voc 32; GM o-tbn 4 + 4; JR ten 8; GM o-tbn 4; RRR pno 2 + 2
99974:   RRR pno 4; JB voc 32; TJ m-tpt 16; JR ten 8; TJ m-tpt 8; CF flt 4+4+4; CC vib 2
99975:   TJ m-tpt obl to voc 32; SP alt 16; ?JB o-tpt 8; JR ten 8; GM o-tbn 16; GP clt 8; GM o-tbn 8
99976:   TJ m-tpt obl to voc 32; JR ten 32; TJ o-tpt 4 +14
99977:   RRR pno 4; TJ o-tpt obl to voc 16 +8

Tune structures:
99972-1   Is It True What They Say About Dixie?   Key of Ab / Bb   Bluebird
(Intro 8 bars RRR pno 4 – ens 8)(Chorus 1 32 bars AA' WB voc +?JB m-tpt obl)(Chorus 2 32 bars AA' GP clt 16 – SP alt 8 – GP clt 6 – ens 2)(Chorus 3 32 bars AA' RRR pno 16 – GM o-tbn 8 – RRR pno 8 modulation)(1/2 Chorus 4 16 bars A' ens)
99973-1   All My Life   Key of Ab / F   Bluebird
(Intro 4 bars TJ m-tpt 4)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA TJ m-tpt 24 – saxes 6 – ens 2)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA TJ voc)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA RC o-tpt+GM o-tbn 16 – JR ten 8 – RC o-tpt+GM o-tbn 8)(Tag modulation 2 bars ens)(1/2 Chorus A' ens 30 – RRR pno 2)(Tag 4 bars ens 2 – RRR pno 2)
99974-1   The Right Somebody To Love   Key of G / Ab   Bluebird
(Intro 4 bars RRR pno)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA JB voc)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA TJ m -tpt 16 – JR ten 8 – TJ m-tpt 8)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA ens 4 – CF flt 4 – ens 4 – CF flt 4 – RRR pno 8 – ens 4 – CF flt 4)(1/2 Chorus 5 16 bars AA ens) (Tag 8 bars ens 6 – CC vib 2)
99975-1   The Glory Of Love   Key of G / Bb   Bluebird
(Intro 4 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA WB voc + TJ m-tpt)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA SP alt 16 - ?JB o-tpt 8 – JR ten 8)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA GM o-tbn 16 – GP clt 8 – GM o-tbn 7 – RRR pno mod. 1)(1/2 Chorus 5 16 bars AA ens)
99976-1   Red. Red, Ride   Key of Ab   Bluebird
(Intro 8 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AA' ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AA' WB voc+TJ m-tpt)(Bridge 8 bars ens)(Chorus 3 32 bars AA' JR ten)(Chorus 4 32 bars AA' ens 12 – TJ o-tpt 4 – ens 2 – TJ o-tpt 14)(Chorus 5 32 bars AA' ens)
99977-1   Moonrise On The Lowlands   Key of Eb   Bluebird
(Intro 4 bars RRR pno)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA WB voc+TJ o-tpt)(1/2 Chorus 3 16 bars BA ens 14 – TJ o-tpt 2)

006 WILLIE BRYANT AND HIS ORCHESTRA   New York,   Jun. 03, 1936
Willie Bryant – voc, speech, ldr;
Richard Clark, Jack Butler, Taft Jordan – tpt;
George Matthews, John 'Shorty' Haughton – tbn;
Glyn Paque – alt, clt; Stanley Payne – alt, clt, bar; Charles Frazier - ten, flt; Johnny Russell – ten;
Roger 'Ram' Ramirez – pno; Arnold Adams – gtr; Ernest Hill – sbs; Cozy Cole – dms, vib;
Taft Jordan – voc (2); Jack Butler – voc (4)

102003-1	Mary Had A Little Lamb	BB B-6435,	Chronogical Classics 768
102004-1	I Like Bananas (Because They Have No Bones)	BB B-6436,	Chronogical Classics 768
102005-1	Cross Patch	BB B-6435,	Chronogical Classics 768

102006-1   I´m Grateful To You   BB B-6436,   Chronogical Classics 768

Composer credits: 102003 (Symes - Malneck); 102004 (Yacich); 102005 (Seymour - Lawnhurst); 102006 (Davis - Coots)

Willie Bryant here records with the same personnel as at the preceding session. And it is most interesting and amusing to compare Bryant´s style of singing with those of Taft Jordan and Jack Butler. But: the arrangements grow in complexity with a decrease of hot soloistic and lose a lot of interest for jazz afficionados. And: while Cozy Cole played with sticks in his common style on the fore-going session, he seems to be restrained here to the use of brushes. For commercial reasons?
The singer on the fourth title is not Willie Bryant as attributed in Rusts, but Jack Butler at his trashiest.
Notes:
- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Dick Clark, Jack Butler, Taft Jordan (tp); John Haughton, George Matthews (tb); Glyn Pacque, Stanley Payne, Charles Fraser, Johnny Russell (s); Roger 'Ram' Ramirez (p); Arnold Adams (g); Ernest 'Bass' Hill (b); Cozy Cole (dm); Willie Bryant (vo)*
- *B. Rust, Victor Master Book, Vol. 2: Vocalists: Willie Bryant, Taft Jordan, Jack Butler (sic!)*
- *Rust*2: vocalists: Willie Bryant and Jack Butler*
- *Rust*3: Richard Clark -t; Jack Butler -Taft Jordan -t -v; John Haughton -George Matthews -tb; Glyn Paque -as; Stanley Payne -as -bar; Charles Frazier -Johnny Russell -ts; Roger Ramirez -p; Arnold Adams -g; Ernest Hill -sb; Cozy Cole -d; Willie Bryant -ldr -v; Charles Frazier -f*
- *Rust*4: Willie Bryant -v, -ldr; Richard Clark -t; Jack Butler -Taft Jordan -t -v; John Haughton -George Matthews -tb; Glyn Paque -as; Stanley Payne -as -bar; Charles Frazier -Johnny Russell -ts; Roger Ramirez -p; Arnold Adams -g; Ernest Hill -sb; Cozy Cole -d; Willie Bryant -ldr -v; Charles Frazier -f*
- *Rust*6: Willie Bryant, v, speech, dir; Richard Clark, t; Jack Butler, Taft Jordan, t, v; John Haughton, George Matthews, tb; Glyn Paque, as; Stanley Payne, as, bar; Charles Frazier, Johnny Russell, ts; Roger Ramirez, p; Arnold Adams, g; Ernest Hill, sb; Cozy Cole, d*
Solos ad-lib:
102003:   TJ o-tpt 16; JR ten 8; TJ o-tpt 12; SP alt 16; RRR pno 6
102004:   JB+WB voc 32; JB+Wb voc +TJ m-tpt obl 32; JR ten 16
102005:   SP bar 4; JR ten 16 + 8
102006:   GM m-tbn 4; JB voc 32
Tune structures:
102003-1 Mary Had A Little Lamb   Key of G / Bb / G   *Bluebird*
(Intro 6 bars ens)(A1 Chorus 36 bars AABA' ens)(A2 Chorus 36 bars AABA' TJ o-tpt 16 – JR ten 8 – TJ o-tpt 12)(Bridge 8 bars modul. ens)(A3 Chorus 36 bars AABA' WB voc)(Bridge 4 bars modulation ens)(A4 Chorus 36 bars AABA' SP alt 16 – RRR pno 6 – ens 2+12)(Coda 4 bars ens)
102004-1 I Like Bananas   Key of Db / Eb / F   *Bluebird*
(Intro 6 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA JB voc + WB speech)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA JB voc + WB speech + TJ m-tpt obl)(Bridge 6 bars modulation ens)(Verse 16 bars ens)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA JR ten 16 – ens 16)(Tag 2 bars modulation ens)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA ens)(Coda 4 bars ens)
102005-1 Cross Patch   Key of F / Eb / Ab   *Bluebird*
(Intro 4 bars SP bar)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA WB voc)(Tag 2 bars modulation ens)(Chorus 3 32 bars AABA JR ten 16 – ens 8 – JR ten 8)(Chorus 4 32 bars AABA ens)
102006-1 I´m Grateful To You   Key of G / Ab   *Bluebird*
(Intro 4 bars GM m-tbn)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens)(Tag 2 bars modulation ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA JB voc)(Bridge 4 bars ens)(1/2 Chorus 16 bars BA ens)

009 WILLIE BRYANT AND HIS ORCHESTRA   New York,   Apr. 06, 1938
Willie Bryant – voc, ldr;
Robert Williams, Gene Prince, Reunald Jones – tpt;
Sandy Watson, Jimmy Archey, Eli Robinson – tbn;
Carl Frye, Claude Green – alt; Stafford Simon, Prince Robinson – ten;
Sonny White – pno; Arnold Adams – gtr; Norman Franke – sbs; Manzie Johnson – dms

63558-A	On The Alamo	Dec 1772,	on www. archive.org
63559-A	You´ll Never Remember And I´ll Never Forget	Dec 1881,	on www. archive.org
63560-A	You´re Gonna Lose Your Gal	Dec 1881,	on www. archive.org
63561-A	Neglected	Dec 1772,	on www. archive.org

Composer credits: 63558 (Isham Jones – Gus Kahn); 63559 (Peter Tinturin – Jack Lawrence); 63560 (Joe Young – James V. Monaco); 63561 (Johnny Marks – Joe Davis)
Note: Quite obviously these four titles were never reissued because they did not have space on the Chronogical Classics CD, and the label did not live long enough to have included them into a possible later CD of various subjects. A pity!

This is a modernised Willie Bryant Orchestra, unfortunately much more commercially inclined and with much less hot swing music.
In 'Alamo' very nice alto sax playing by probably Claude Green – his only appearance in Rusts, but he is with Mary Lou Williams in 1944 - with interesting atonal parts; then typical Sonny White on piano and a 'modernised' Prince Robinson on tenor sax, plus the bandleader´s pleasing and sympathetic vocal chorus – un-usually at the end of the title. The subsequent three titles have nice and appropriately arranged big band music cum Bryant´s singing with very little – if at all – hot soloistic.
It might be of interest for some listeners that the form of the chorus of 'You´re Gonna Lose Your Gal' is quite un-usual in that this AABA chorus has 44 bars, each A-part having 12 bars while the B-part has the usual 8 bars.
Notes:
- *Ch. Delaunay, New Hot Discography, 1948: Sandy Watson, Gene Prince, Renald Jones (tp); Robert Williams, James Archey, Eli Robinson (tb); Carl Frye, Stafford Simon, Claude Green, Prince Robinson (s); Sonny White (p); Arnold Adams (g); Norman Lee Franke (b); Manzie Johnson (dm)*
- *Rust*2: Robert Williams, Reunald Jones, Gene Prince (tpt); James Archey, Eli Robinson, Sandy Watson (tb); Carl Frye, Claude Green (alt); Stafford Simon, Prince Robinson (s); Sonny White (p); Arnold Adams (g); Norman Lee Franke (b); Manzie Johnson (dm); Willie Bryant (ldr, vcl)*
- *Rust*3: Robert Williams -Reunald Jones -Gene Prince -t; James Archey -Eli Robinson -Sandy Watson -tb; Carl Frye -Claude Green -as; Stafford Simon -Prince Robinson -ts; Sonny White -p; Arnold Adams -g; Norman Franke sb; Manzie Johnson -d; Willie Bryant -v -ldr*
- *Rust*4,*6: Willie Bryant -v -ldr; Robert Williams -Reunald Jones -Gene Prince -t; James Archey -Eli Robinson -Sandy Watson -tb; Carl Frye -Claude Green -as; Stafford Simon -Prince Robinson -ts; Sonny White -p; Arnold Adams -g; Norman Franke sb; Manzie Johnson -d*

Solos ad-lib:
63558: *CG alt 8; SW pno 2+16; PR ten 2+14; RJ o-tpt 8*
63559: *SW pno 2*
63560: *PR ten 8; ER o-tbn 8*
63561: *no hot solos*

Tune structures:
63558-A   On The Alamo   Key of Eb / Bb   *Decca*
(Intro 6 bars ens)(Chorus 1 32 bars AA' ens 16 - CG alt 8 – ens 6 – SW pno 2)(Chorus 2 32 bars AA' SW pno 16 – ens 14 – PR ten 2)
(Chorus 3 32 bars AA' PR ten 14 – ens 10 - RJ o-tpt 8)(Tag 2 bars modulation ens)(Chorus 4 32 bars AA' WB voc)(Tag 2 bars WB+ens)
63559-A   You´ll Never Remember And I´ll Never Forget   Key of G   *Decca*
(Intro 2 bars SW pno)(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA ens 16 - ?SW o-tbn 8 – ens 8)(Bridge 4 bars ens)Chorus 2 32 bars AABA WB voc)
63560-A   You´re Gonna Lose Your Gal   Key of Bb / Eb   *Decca*
(Intro 4 bars ens)(Chorus 1 44 bars AABA ens 24 - PR ten 8 – ens 12)(Bridge 2 bars modulation ens)(Chorus 2 44 bars AABA WB voc)(1/2 Chorus 3 20 bars BA ER o-tbn 8 – ens 12)(Coda 4 bars ens)
63561-A   Neglected   Key of C   *Decca*
(Intro 4 bars ?SS ten))(Chorus 1 32 bars AABA   ?SW o-tbn 16 – ens 16)(Bridge 4 bars ens)(Chorus 2 32 bars AABA   WB voc)

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010 **WILLIE BRYANT AND HIS ORCHESTRA**   New York,   1946
Willie Bryant – voc, ldr;
Frank Galbreath, Archie Johnson, Henry Glover – tpt;
Ed Moran, Dan Minor, Steve Pulliam – tbn;
Michael Hedley, Jimmy Powell – alt; Eddie Leaves, John Hicks – ten;
Bill Doggett – pno; Leroy Harris – gtr; Billy Taylor – sbs; Panama Francis – dms;
Steve Pulliam – voc (1)

R1177	Phungie, Phungie An´ Stew	Apollo 1029,	on www. archive.org
R1178	Sneaky Pete	Apollo ,	on www. archive.org

011 **WILLIE BRYANT AND HIS ORCHESTRA**   New York,   1949
Willie Bryant – voc, ldr;
Sammy Love – tpt; Bob Range – tbn;
Bobby Smith – alt; Haywood Henry – bar;
Larry Johnson – pno; Lee Stanfield – sbs; Joe Murphy – dms;

R1337	Blues Around The Country – part I	Apollo 409	not on LP/CD ?
R1338	Blues Around The Country – part II	Apollo 409	not on LP/CD ?
R1339	Algiers Blues	Apollo 408,	on www. archive.org
R1340	Because Your Baby Is On Your Mind	Apollo 408,	on www. archive.org

K. – B. Rau
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