

THE RECORDINGS OF FLETCHER HENDERSON AND HIS ORCHESTRA

TRANSITION PERIOD 2

An Annotated Tentative Personnel - Discography

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.

FLETCHER HENDERSON AND HIS ORCHESTRA – TRANSITION PERIOD 2

159	FLETCHER HENDERSON AND HIS ORCHESTRA	New York,	Oct. 03, 1930
	Russell Smith, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart – tpt; Claude Jones, Jimmy Harrison – tbn; Benny Carter, Harvey Boone – alt, clt; Coleman Hawkins – ten; Fletcher Henderson – pno; Clarence Holiday – gtr; John Kirby – sbs; Walter Johnson – dms, vib; Jimmy Harrison – voc (2); Rex Stewart, Claude Jones, Benny Carter – voc-trio (2); John Nesbitt – arr (1); Benny Carter – arr (2)		
150857-1	Chinatown, My Chinatown	Col 2329-D,	Chronological Classics 572
150858-3	Somebody Loves Me	Col 2329-D,	Chronological Classics 572
	<i>Composer credits: 150857 (Schwartz – Jerome); 150858 (MacDonald – DeSylva – Gershwin)</i>		

About 16 months after the last Fletcher Henderson recording session (158) and the “Great Day” disaster the band is back again, and in fantastic form. This – to my ears – is the beginning of “Swing”! The use of a string bass playing four-to-the-bar rhythm and the altered drumming away from accentuating the after beats, together with the smoother sound of the guitar, mark a very distinct change in conception of the music, sweeping along the whole band and – above all – the soloists. And this all supported by forward pointing arrangements of John Nesbitt and Benny Carter.

Soloists are easy to distinguish because of their individual stylistic features. Rex Stewart is heard in a whole solo chorus at the start of the first title showing his further developing horizontal improvisational style – in contrast to Bobby Stark’s vertical soloing at the start of the second tune.

Rust*6 lists an issued take -3 of ‘Chinatown, My Chinatown’, all earlier editions do not, just as Walter C. Allen. (By the way, did anybody else before recognise that Rex Stewart holds a four-valve cornet on the photo of the Henderson band on the 13th page of the first photo section of ‘Hendersonia’? That same photo will be found in ‘Black Beauty, White Heat’ on page 96.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (tp); Jimmy Harrison, Claude Jones (tb); Benny Carter (cl, as & arr); Harvey Boone (as); Coleman Hawkins (ts); Fletcher Henderson (p & arr); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (b); Walter Johnson (dm); John Nesbitt (arr)

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory, Vol. 4*: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt); Jimmy Harrison, Claude Jones (tbn); Benny Carter (alt, clt); Harvey Boone (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (p); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (bs); Walter Johnson (d)

- Rust*2: Russell Smith, Bobby Stark (tpt); Rex Stewart (cnt); Jimmy Harrison, Claude Jones (tbn); Benny Carter (clt, alt); Harvey Boone (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (pno); Clarence Holiday (gtr); John Kirby (bbs, sbs); Walter Johnson (dms).

- Rust*3: Russell Smith – Bobby Stark -t; Rex Stewart -c; Jimmy Harrison –tb-v; Claude Jones –tb; Benny Carter –cl-as-a; Harvey Boone –cl –as; Coleman Hawkins –cl -ts; Fletcher Henderson –p-cel -ldr-a; Clarence Holiday –bj -g; John Kirby –bb -sb; Walter Johnson –d; Claude Jones –Benny Carter –v; John Nesbitt –a.

- Hendersonia, p. 264: Personnel is reconstructed from identities of the soloists, and matched against known playing personnels of the period: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark – trumpets; Jimmy Harrison, Claude Jones, trombones; Harvey Boone, alto sax; Benny Carter, clarinet and alto sax; Coleman Hawkins, tenor sax; Fletcher Henderson – piano; Clarence Holiday – guitar; John Kirby, string bass; Walter Johnson, drums and bells; vocal by “quartet” of band members – Harrison, possibly Carter, Jones and Stewart.

- Rust*4,*6: Fletcher Henderson -p -dir; Russell Smith -Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; Jimmy Harrison -Claude Jones -tb; Harvey Boone -as; Benny Carter -cl -as -a; Coleman Hawkins -ts; Clarence Holiday -bj; John Kirby -bb -sb; Walter Johnson -d; v quartet (probably Jones, Stewart, and Carter supporting Harrison, identifiable; John Nesbitt -a.

Solos ad-lib:

150857: *RexSt o-cnt 30, BC clt 2+16, CJ o-tbn 14, CH ten 4+32*
 150858: *BS o-tpt 8, CH ten 6, Voc-trio + FH pno obl 32; JH voc + FH pno obl 32*

160 **FLETCHER HENDERSON AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

New York,

Dec. 02, 1930

Russell Smith, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart – tpt;
 Claude Jones, Jimmy Harrison – tbn;
 Benny Carter, Harvey Boone – alt, clt; Coleman Hawkins – ten;
 Fletcher Henderson – pno, cel; Clarence Holiday – bjo; John Kirby – bbs; Walter Johnson – dms;
 Benny Carter – arr (1)

150997-2 Keep A Song In Your Soul Col 2352-D, Chronological Classics 572
 150998-2 What Good Am I Without You? Col 2352-D, Chronological Classics 572

Composer credits: 150997 (Waller - Hill); 150998 (Ager)

This again is the Henderson band of 1930 at the transition to Swing, yet somewhat restrained here by using a tuba. Yet, the tuba is mainly played four-to-the bar in the first title, thus giving the whole affair a beautiful depth. Instrumental solos are given below. There obviously is no solo by Rex Stewart on these sides. The trumpet soloist on 'What Good Am I Without You', playing the theme very beautifully, certainly is Russell Smith. Russell Procope thought this soloist to be Bobby Stark (see below) and might positively be right because there is difference of tone and vibrato between the trumpet player playing the introduction – and should therefore be the first chair player – and the soloist. But equally Stark or Stewart might have played the intro to give room for Russell Smith's beautiful and sensitive rendition of the melody.

W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p.264: „The muted trumpet solo at the beginning of 'What Good Am I Without You?' resembles Joe Smith's work, but Joe was then a member of McKinney's Cotton Pickers, and Panassie says it is definitely not Joe on this Henderson title, suggesting Russell Smith instead (see session 023 of Nov. 26, 1927 above – KBR). Russell Procope, who listened to this record, suggested that this solo is by Bobby Stark. There is no information in the Columbia files as to personnel or instrumentation.”

Holiday plays banjo and Kirby tuba throughout.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography*, 1948: *Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (tp); Jimmy Harrison, Claude Jones (tb); Benny Carter (cl, as & arr); Harvey Boone (as); Coleman Hawkins (ts); Fletcher Henderson (p & arr); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (b); Walter Johnson (dm)*

- Carey, *McCarthy, Jazz Directory*, Vol. 4: *Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt); Jimmy Harrison, Claude Jones (tbn); Benny Carter (alt, clt); Harvey Boone (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (p); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (bs); Walter Johnson (d)*
 - Rust*2: *Joe Smith, Bobby Stark (tpt); Rex Stewart (cnt); Jimmy Harrison, Claude Jones (tbn); Benny Carter (clt, alt); Harvey Boone (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (pno); Clarence Holiday (gtr); John Kirby (bbs, sbs); Walter Johnson (dms).*

- Rust*3: *Joe Smith –Bobby Stark –t; Rex Stewart –c; Jimmy Harrison –tb-v; Claude Jones –tb; Benny Carter –cl-as-a; Harvey Boone –cl –as; Coleman Hawkins –cl –ts; Fletcher Henderson –p-cel –ldr-a; Clarence Holiday –bj –g; John Kirby –bb –sb; Walter Johnson –d; Benny Carter –a.*

- *Hendersonia*, p. 264: *Probably same personnel as before (session 034 of Oct. 03, 1930 - KBR). Kirby plays tuba; Holiday may play banjo at least some of the time.*

- Rust*4,*6: *Fletcher Henderson -p -dir; Russell Smith -Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; Jimmy Harrison -tb -v; Claude Jones -tb; Harvey Boone -as; Benny Carter -cl -as -a; Coleman Hawkins -ts; Clarence Holiday -bj -g; John Kirby -bb -sb; Walter Johnson -d*

Solos ad-lib:

150997: *JH o-tbn 16; FH pno 4; BC alt 16; FH pno 7; CH ten 4+4; BS o-tpt 8*
 150998: *?BS m-tpt theme 16+6; CH ten 16 + 7; BC clt coda 2*

161 **FLETCHER HENDERSON AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

New York,

Dec. 08, 1930

Russell Smith, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart – tpt;
 Claude Jones, Jimmy Harrison – tbn;
 Benny Carter, Harvey Boone – alt, clt; Coleman Hawkins – ten;
 Fletcher Henderson – pno; Clarence Holiday – gtr; John Kirby – bbs, sbs; Walter Johnson – dms;
 Lois Deppe - voc

E-35668-B We're Friends Again Br unissued not on LP/CD
 E-35669-B What Good Am I Without You? Br unissued not on LP/CD

As obviously no tests have been found, nothing can be said about the personnel and musical content of these titles.

W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 265: „Instrumentation: *Three trumpets, two trombones, three saxes, piano, guitar, tuba, drums. Information on this session was discovered in the English Brunswick files; the personnel would presumably have been the usual for this period.*”

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography*, 1948: *not listed*

- Carey, *McCarthy, Jazz Directory*, Vol. 4: *not listed*

- Rust*2,*3: *not listed.*

- Rust*4,*6: *Fletcher Henderson -p -dir; Russell Smith -Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; Jimmy Harrison -tb -v; Claude Jones -tb; Harvey Boone -as; Benny Carter -cl -as -a; Coleman Hawkins -ts; Clarence Holiday -bj -g; John Kirby -bb -sb; Walter Johnson -d*

162 **FLETCHER HENDERSON AND HIS ORCHESTRA**

New York,

Feb. 05, 1931

Russell Smith, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart – tpt;
 Claude Jones, Jimmy Harrison – tbn;
 Benny Carter, Harvey Boone – alt, clt; Coleman Hawkins – ten;
 Fletcher Henderson – pno; Clarence Holiday – bjo; John Kirby – bbs; Walter Johnson – dms;
 Lois Deppe – voc (1,3); Jimmy Harrison – voc (4);
 Bill Challis – arr (2); *Benny Carter – arr (3,4), Archie Bleyer – arr (4)*

151274-2 I've Found What I Wanted Col 2414-D, Chronological Classics 572
 151275-1 My Gal Sal Col 2586-D, Chronological Classics 572
 151276-2 My Pretty Girl Col 2586-D, Chronological Classics 572
 151277-2 Sweet And Hot Col 2414-D, Chronological Classics 555

Composer credits: 151274 (Ward - Endor); 151275 (Dresser); 151276 (Fulcher); 151277 (Yellen – Arlen)

Now, that the Henderson band has a fairly stable personnel, with little changes for some months, I shall only remark observations that catch my ear.

Benny Carter is known to have switched over to the Chick Webb band in March 1931, together with Jimmy Harrison. But when listening to these sides I aurally found little indication of his presence here. He usually is easy to determine as the leading saxophone voice, but this I can find only in the last title. And he does not play any solo or any short solo spot at all, what really is remarkable. So, I wonder, did Henderson cancel his solos in anger? Another possible reason might be that the band does not play Carter arrangements here, and the used arrangements do not call for alto sax solos. I also do not think that the clarinet obligato behind Claude Jones trombone melody in 'My Pretty Girl' is by Carter as listed in Hendersonia. There is nothing of Carter's easily recognizable licks and phrases here, and I therefore believe that this is one of the very few solo spots of Harvey Boone.

John Kirby plays the tuba throughout this session – rather antiquated as you might think – but his occasional four-four rhythm on the big horn together with Walter Johnson's very modern drumming makes this a perfect and beautiful kind of rhythm section! Holiday is on banjo for the whole session.

Arrangements of the last two titles are attributed to Benny Carter in the Mosaic Coleman Hawkins CD-set, but W.C. Allen in Hendersonia attributes 'Sweet And Hot' only to Carter, which in turn is attributed to Archie Bleyer somewhere else – if I only knew, where! But, to be honest, I do not hear any sign of Carter's arranging skills in the four titles here! The booklet to Mosaic MD8-251 says that 'Sweet And Hot' is a stock arrangement written by Archie Bleyer and reworked by Benny Carter.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*; Russell Smith, *Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (tp)*; Jimmy Harrison, *Claude Jones (tb)*; Benny Carter (*cl, as & arr*); Harvey Boone (*as*); Coleman Hawkins (*ts*); Fletcher Henderson (*p & arr*); Clarence Holiday (*g*); John Kirby (*b*); Walter Johnson (*dm*)

- Carey, *McCarthy, Jazz Directory, Vol. 4*: Russell Smith, *Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt)*; Jimmy Harrison, *Claude Jones (tbn)*; Benny Carter (*alt, clt*); Harvey Boone (*alt*); Coleman Hawkins (*ten*); Fletcher Henderson (*p*); Clarence Holiday (*g*); John Kirby (*bs*); Walter Johnson (*d*)

- Rust*2: Russell Smith, *Bobby Stark (tpt)*; Rex Stewart (*cnt*); Jimmy Harrison, *Claude Jones (tbn)*; Benny Carter (*clt, alt*); Harvey Boone (*alt*); Coleman Hawkins (*ten*); Fletcher Henderson (*pno*); Clarence Holiday (*gtr*); John Kirby (*bbs, sbs*); Walter Johnson (*dms*); Jimmy Harrison (*vcl*)(4); Lois Deppe (*vcl*)(1,3).

- Rust*3: Russell Smith – Bobby Stark -t; Rex Stewart –c; Jimmy Harrison –tb-v; Claude Jones –tb; Benny Carter –cl-as-a; Harvey Boone –cl –as; Coleman Hawkins –cl-ts; Fletcher Henderson –p-l-dr-a; Clarence Holiday –bj-g; John Kirby –bb-sb; Walter Johnson –d; Lois Deppe -v.

- Hendersonia, p. 266: Personnel is reconstructed from identities of the soloists, and matched against known playing personnels of the period: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark, trumpets; Jimmy Harrison, trombone and vocal; Claude Jones, trombone; Benny Carter, clarinet and alto sax; Harvey Boone, alto sax; Coleman Hawkins, tenor sax; Fletcher Henderson, piano; Clarence Holiday, guitar and banjo; John Kirby, string bass and tuba; Walter Johnson, drums; Lois Deppe, vocals.

- Rust*4, *6: Fletcher Henderson -p-dir; Russell Smith -Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; Jimmy Harrison -tb -v; Claude Jones -tb; Harvey Boone -as; Benny Carter -cl -as -a; Coleman Hawkins -ts; Clarence Holiday -bj -g; John Kirby -bb -sb; Walter Johnson -d; Lois Deppe -v

Solos ad-lib:

151274: ?RexSt m-cnt 11 + 11; LD voc 32; CH ten 1+4

151275: BS m-tpt 16; JH o-tbn 30; RexSt m-cnt 30; CH ten 4; CH ten 2+8

151276: CH ten 3; BS o-tpt 24; HB clt obl to tbn 30; LD voc 30; CH ten 2+8; BS o-tpt 8; CH ten 8; BS o-tpt 4+2

151277: BS o-tpt 1+7 + 8; CJ m-tbn 16; JH voc 42 + RexSt o-cnt obl 22 + 9; CH ten 10; CH ten 4; CJ m-tbn 4

163 FLETCHER HENDERSON AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Mar. 19, 1931

Russell Smith, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart – tpt;

Claude Jones, Bennie Morton – tbn;

Russell Procope, Harvey Boone – alt, clt; Coleman Hawkins – ten, bar, clt;

Fletcher Henderson – pno (1,2); Horace Henderson – pno (3,4); Clarence Holiday – gtr; John Kirby – bbs; Walter Johnson – dms;

Bill Challis – arr (1); Fletcher Henderson, Don Redman – arr (2,3); Horace Henderson – arr (4,5)

151441-2 Clarinet Marmalade

Col 2513-D, Chronological Classics 555

151442-1 Sugar Foot Stomp

Col 2513-D, Chronological Classics 555

151442-2 Sugar Foot Stomp

Col 2513-D, Mosaic MD8-251 CD02

151443-1 Hot And Anxious

Col 2449-D, Chronological Classics 555

151444-1 Comin' And Going

Col 2449-D, Chronological Classics 555

Composer credits: 151441 (Shields - Ragas); 151442 (Oliver - Melrose); 151443 (Henderson); 151444 (Henderson – Henderson)

On 'Clarinet Marmalade' Stewart plays a typical solo with much straight-ahead steam and swing. After Benny Morton's trombone solo and the immediately following 12 bar minor strain we have a chorus arranged for three-part saxophone section led by a trumpet – obviously Bobby Stark – which makes a four-part harmonized section, a device Benny Carter used to write. Bennie Morton, Jimmy Harrison's replacement, plays very assured in his own inimitable way, using lip-trills throughout his solos. He must have had a wonderful embouchure and great "chops". Russell Procope – new with the band - does not seem to feel at home when listening to his clarinet solo. He certainly had to carry a burden sitting in Benny Carter's chair. In the penultimate chorus there seems to be a baritone sax playing some sort of obligato, leading into a two-bar break, stylistically played by Coleman Hawkins. But I suggest to examine a skilled tenor sax player whether this break could not possibly be played on a tenor sax. I agree that the notes played sound to be played on a baritone sax, but why should Hawkins carry a baritone along for just this two-bar break on this only title of a four-title recording session. (Accordingly, I have written "bar" in the above personnel in italics.)

According to Rex Stewart's own testimony he plays the "Oliver" solo on 'Sugar Foot Stomp', not muted as by Oliver and with much less off-beat, but in the way Armstrong played it in the 1925 Henderson recording. This very solo is repeated afterwards by Benny Morton on trombone.

The last two titles do not have Rex Stewart soloing. They both are arrangements by Horace Henderson – he also has taken over the piano chair – and probably show his developing talent for arranging. In 'Hot And Anxious' Horace uses the well known 'Tar Paper Stomp' motive which later became famous in Glenn Miller's 'In The Mood', while snatching the first strain of Ellington's 'Doing The Voom Voom' for his theme of 'Comin' And Going'. And note Walter Johnson at the end of the fourth title using his high-hat cymbal in exactly the same way as used as ride rhythm by his colleagues all through the swing era.

W.C. Allen, Hendersonia, p. 266: „Guitar soloist sounds same as "Benny Jackson" on the Chocolate Dandies session, but is presumably Clarence Holiday here.“

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (tp); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tb); Russell Procope, Harvey Boone (as); Coleman Hawkins (ts); Fletcher Henderson (p & arr); Horace Henderson (p)(4,5); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (b); Walter Johnson (dm)

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory, Vol. 4*: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tbn); Harvey Boone, Russell Procope (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten, clt); Fletcher Henderson (1,2,3), Horace Henderson (4,5) (p); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (bs); Walter Johnson (d)

- Rust*2: Russell Smith, Bobby Stark (tpt); Rex Stewart (cnt); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tbn); Russell Procope (clt, alt); Harvey Boone (alt); Coleman Hawkins (clt, ten); Fletcher Henderson (pno); Horace Henderson (pno)(4,5); Clarence Holiday (gtr); John Kirby (bbs, sbs); Walter Johnson (dms).

- Rust*3: Russell Smith - Bobby Stark -t; Rex Stewart -c; Benny Morton - Claude Jones -tb; Russell Procope - Harvey Boone -cl -as; Coleman Hawkins -cl -ts; Fletcher Henderson -p(1,2,3) -ldr-a; Horace Henderson -p (4,5); Clarence Holiday -bj -g; John Kirby -bb -sb; Walter Johnson -d.

- W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 266: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark, trumpets; Claude Jones, Benny Morton, trombones; Russell Procope, Harvey Boone, clarinets and alto sax; Coleman Hawkins, clarinet, tenor and baritone sax; Fletcher Henderson (first two titles) or Horace Henderson (last two titles), piano; Clarence Holiday, guitar; John Kirby, tuba; Walter Johnson, drums.

- Storyville 125/163: *Trumpet (At) Tributes, More Johnny Simmen Snippets* (originally in CODA):

"Fletcher Henderson's five 1931 versions of Sugar Foot Stomp. Generally, Rex Stewart is considered to have taken those famous 36 bars on the five well-known versions; one each on Columbia, Brunswick and Crown, and two on Victor. However, in 1949 while discussing his activities with Fletcher Henderson, Rex remarked that he was not sure he was the soloist on all versions. He thought that while he (Rex) was in the band when all the various versions of Sugar Foot Stomp were recorded, Bobby Stark took the three 12-bar choruses on some of them. On his 1966 visit to Europe, Rex and I (Johnny Simmen - KBR) listened to Fletcher's five versions of the tune together, and he clearly identified the trumpet soloist as follows: Columbia: Rex, muted, playing close to Joe Oliver's famous creation. Brunswick: Bobby Stark, open. Victors: Rex, muted, and again playing close to the Oliver version. Crown: Bobby Stark, plunger. This latter came as a surprise, but Rex told me to play Fletcher's House of David Blues as a comparison, and while listening to that, I saw the light - the very special and personal use Bobby made of the plunger. Very unlike Rex. Since that memorable afternoon with Rex, I have heard the Chick Webb Sugar Foot Stomp and there is no doubt that the trumpet soloist is the same as on Fletcher's Crown version - Bobby Stark."

- Rust*4,*6: Fletcher Henderson -p -dir; Russell Smith -Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; Benny Morton -Claude Jones -tb; Harvey Boone -as; Russell Procope -cl -as; Coleman Hawkins -cl -ts -bar; Horace Henderson -p -a (4,5); Clarence Holiday -bj -g; John Kirby -bb -sb; Walter Johnson -d; Bill Challis -a (1)

Solos ad-lib:

151441: BM o-tbn 16, CH ten 1+16, RexSt o-cnt 2+16, RP clt 1+16, CH ten 3+2

151442: CJ m-tbn 12, RexSt m-cnt 12 + 12 +12, FH pno 8 + 8, BM m-tbn 12 + 12 + 12, CH ten 12 + 10

151443: BS m-tpt growl 12; CH clt 11; CHol gtr 1+11

151444: BM o-tbn 12; BS o-tpt 3 + 3, CH ten 8; BM o-tbn 12; BS o-tpt 10; HH pno 1+1; BM o-tbn 6; HH pno 4

Discernible differences of takes:

151442-1: last note in 2nd chorus of Stewart's solo (upbeat to third chorus): clean note g (same as subsequent note g sustained for 4 bars)

151442-2: last note in 2nd chorus of Stewart's solo (upbeat to third chorus): fluffed note (note jumping up, thus higher than subsequent sustained note g)

164 FLETCHER HENDERSON AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

c. Mar./Apr. 1931

Russell Smith, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart - tpt;

Claude Jones, Bennie Morton - tbn;

Russell Procope, Harvey Boone - alt, clt; Coleman Hawkins - ten, clt;

Fletcher Henderson - pno; Clarence Holiday - gtr; John Kirby - sbs, bbs; Walter Johnson - dms, vib;

unknown - voc (1,4);

Bill Challis - arr (2)

1230-2 After You've Gone

Crown 3093, Chronological Classics 555

1231-3 Star Dust

Crown 3093, Chronological Classics 555

1232-3 Tiger Rag

Crown 3107, Chronological Classics 555

1233-3 Somebody Stole My Gal

Crown 3107, Chronological Classics 555

Composer credits: 1230 (Creamer - Layton); 1231 (Carmichael - Parish); 1232 (DeCosta - Edwards - Larocca - Sbarbaro - Shields); 1233 (Wood)

This is a rather unrewarding and unattractive recording session of the Henderson band. W.C. Allen attributes the arrangements of the first and fourth titles to "possibly" Benny Carter, but I do not hear any of Carter's known arranging devices and would therefore leave the arranger(s) as unknown.

I hear Rex Stewart solo in Star Dust in his well-known Bix Beiderbecke derived mode in the penultimate chorus.

Other than Allen I hear Stewart in the trumpet - tenor sax chase chorus in 'Tiger Rag', and not Bobby Stark. Furthermore, it definitely is Claude Jones on trombone in the third strain of this title just before the first trio-part/chorus and not Benny Morton.

W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p.267: „The identity of the vocalist remains unknown. By aural comparison, it is not Dick Robertson, George Bias, Lois Deppe, nor Orlando Roberson, nor does it sound quite the same as the likewise unidentified vocalist on the next (Melotone) session. Take 3 of 'After You've Gone' has been reported, but its existence is unconfirmed."

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (tp); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tb); Russell Procope (as), Edgar Sampson (as, v); Coleman Hawkins (ts); Fletcher Henderson (p & arr); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (b); Walter Johnson (dm)

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory, Vol. 4*: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tbn); Edgar Sampson, Russell Procope (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (p); unknown (g); John Kirby (bs); Walter Johnson (d)

- Rust*2: Russell Smith, Bobby Stark (tpt); Rex Stewart (cnt); Jimmy Harrison, Claude Jones (tbn); Benny Carter (clt, alt); Harvey Boone (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (pno); Clarence Holiday (gtr); John Kirby (bbs, sbs); Walter Johnson (dms).

- Rust*3: Russell Smith - Bobby Stark -t; prob Rex Stewart -c; Benny Morton - Claude Jones -tb; Russell Procope - Harvey Boone -cl -as; Coleman Hawkins -cl -ts; Fletcher Henderson -p-ldr-a; Clarence Holiday -bj -g; John Kirby -bb -sb; Walter Johnson -d; unknown -v.

- W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 266: Russell Smith, prob Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark, trumpets; Claude Jones, Benny Morton, trombones; Russell Procope, Harvey Boone, clarinets and alto sax; Coleman Hawkins, tenor sax; Fletcher Henderson, piano; Clarence Holiday, guitar; John Kirby, string bass and tuba; Walter Johnson, drums and bells or vibes; unknown male (white?) vocalist.

- Rust*4,*6: Fletcher Henderson -p -dir; Russell Smith -Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; Benny Morton -Claude Jones -tb; Harvey Boone -as; Russell Procope -cl -as; Coleman Hawkins -ts; Clarence Holiday -bj -g; John Kirby -bb -sb; Walter Johnson -d; the unidentified vocalist may be white.

Solos ad-lib:

1230: FH pno 6; CH ten 6; CJ o-tbn 1; BS o-tpt 7

1231: RexSt m-cnt 30

1232: RP clt 6; CJ o-tbn 2+2+2; RexSt o-cnt 2+4; CH ten 4; RexSt o-cnt 4; CH ten 4; RexSt o-cnt 4; CH ten 4; RexSt o-cnt 4; CH ten 2; RP clt 2+32

1233: BS o-tpt 22; FH pno 2+32 obl; BM o-tbn 2+16, CH ten 22, CH ten 4

165 **CONNIE'S INN ORCHESTRA**

New York,

Apr. 10, 1931

Russell Smith, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart – tpt;

Claude Jones, Bennie Morton – tbn;

Russell Procope, Harvey Boone – alt, clt; Coleman Hawkins – ten, clt;

Fletcher Henderson – pno; Clarence Holiday – bjo; John Kirby – bbs; Walter Johnson – dms;

unknown – voc (1,4);

Fletcher Henderson, Don Redman – arr (2); Fletcher Henderson – arr (3); Bill Challis – arr (4)

E-36454-A I'm Crazy 'Bout My Baby (And My Baby's Crazy 'Bout Me)

Mt M-12145,

HEP CD 1016

E-36455-A Sugar Foot Stomp

Mt M-12239,

HEP CD 1016

E-36456-A Just Blues

Mt M-12239,

HEP CD 1016

E-36457-A Singing The Blues (Till My Daddy Comes Home)

Mt M-12145,

HEP CD 1016

Composer credits: 36454 (Hills - Waller); 36455 (Oliver); 36456 (Henderson); 36457 (Lewis – Young – Conrad – Robinson)

Here we have the established Henderson band of the time. Soloists are identified below (not necessarily same as by W.C. Allen!). It certainly is difficult sometimes to separate Stark from Stewart or Jones from Morton! But I have tried my best, just as above! So, here we have Bobby Stark playing the “Oliver” solo in “Sugar Foot Stomp”, and he plays it with open horn and gives it a very different treatment (see Allen below). W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p.267: “Rex Stewart told Johnny Simmen that the “Oliver” solo on ‘Sugar Foot Stomp’ was played by Bobby Stark on this Melotone version and also on the later Crown version, but by himself (Stewart) on the Victor and Columbia versions. Harry Carney (in *Jazz Journal*, April 1963, p.13) identified the clarinet soloist on this same Melotone ‘Sugar Foot Stomp’ as Harvey Boone, but Russell Procope, on hearing the record, identified himself and says Boone did not take clarinet solos at this time. ... Personnel was confirmed by the late Eugene Williams of Decca.”

Listen to that gorgeous rhythm section with “antiquated” banjo and tuba and “modern” drumming (there is guitar and string bass on these sides).

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography*, 1948: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (tp); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tb); Russell Procope, Harvey Boone (as), Coleman Hawkins (ts); Fletcher Henderson (p & arr); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (b); Walter Johnson (dm)

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory*, Vol. 4: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tbn); Harvey Boone, Russell Procope (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (p); unknown (g); John Kirby (bs); Walter Johnson (d)

- Rust*2: Russell Smith, Bobby Stark (tpt); Rex Stewart (cnt); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tbn); Russell Procope (clt, sop, alt); Harvey Boone (clt, alt); Coleman Hawkins (clt, ten); Fletcher Henderson (pno); unknown (gtr); John Kirby (bbs); Walter Johnson (dms); Dick Robertson (vcl).

- Rust*3: Russell Smith –Bobby Stark -t; prob Rex Stewart –c; Benny Morton - Claude Jones –tb; Russell Procope - Harvey Boone –cl –as; Coleman Hawkins –cl -ts; Fletcher Henderson –p-ldr-a; Clarence Holiday –bj -g; John Kirby –bb -sb; Walter Johnson –d; Dick Robertson –v.

- W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 267/8: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark, trumpets; Claude Jones, Benny Morton, trombones; Russell Procope, Harvey Boone, clarinets and alto sax; Coleman Hawkins, tenor sax; Fletcher Henderson, piano; Clarence Holiday, guitar; John Kirby, string bass and tuba; Walter Johnson, drums and bells or vibes; unknown male (white?) vocalist.

- Rust*4,*6: Fletcher Henderson -p -dir; Russell Smith -Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; Benny Morton -Claude Jones -tb; Harvey Boone -as;

Russell Procope -cl -as; Coleman Hawkins -ts; Clarence Holiday -bj -g; John Kirby -bb -sb; Walter Johnson -d; George Bias -v

Solos ad-lib:

E-36454: BS m-tpt 16; CJ m-tbn 16; BS m-tpt 8; CJ m-tbn 8; BS m-tpt obl 32; CH ten 16; RP clt 1+12

E-36454: CJ m-tbn 12; BS o-tpt 12 + 12 + 12; RP clt 12 + 12 + 12; BM o-tbn 1+ 12 + 12 + 12; CH ten 12 + 10; WJ dms 2

E-36454: CJ m-tbn 3; BS o-tpt 1; CJ m-tbn 2; BS o-tpt 2; CJ m-tbn 2; BS o-tpt 2; RexSt m-cnt 12; CH ten 1+2; BS o-tpt 2; CH ten 2; BS o-tpt 2; CH ten 2; BM o-tbn 2; BM m-tbn 1+12, BS o-tpt 4

E-36454: RexSt o-cnt 32; RP clt obl 2+8; RP clt 8; RP clt obl 6 + 2; FH pno 1

166 **CONNIE'S INN ORCHESTRA**

New York,

Apr. 29, 1931

Russell Smith, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart – tpt;

Claude Jones, Bennie Morton – tbn;

Russell Procope, Harvey Boone – alt, clt; Coleman Hawkins – ten, clt;

Fletcher Henderson – pno; Clarence Holiday – bjo, gtr; John Kirby – bbs; Walter Johnson – dms;

George Bias – voc (3,4,5,6);

Fletcher Henderson, Don Redman – arr (1,2); Bill Challis – arr (7,8)

53066-1 Sugar Foot Stomp

Vic 22721,

Chronological Classics 555

53066-2 Sugar Foot Stomp

Vic unissued on 78,

Neatwork RP 2016

53067-1 Roll On, Mississippi, Roll On

Vic 22698,

Chronological Classics 555

53067-2 Roll On, Mississippi, Roll On

Vic unissued on 78,

Neatwork RP 2016

53068-1 Moan, You Moaners

Vic 22698,

Chronological Classics 555

53068-2 Moan, You Moaners

Vic unissued on 78,

Neatwork RP 2016

53069-1 Singing The Blues (Til My Daddy Comes Home)

Vic 22721,

RCA (F) FPM1 7011

53069-2 Singing The Blues

Vic 22721,

Chronological Classics 555

Composer credits: 53066 (Oliver - Armstrong); 53067 (West – McCafrey - Ringle); 53068 (Williams); 53069 (Lewis – Young – Conrad – Robinson)

Bobby Stark might have had a bad day on this 29 April because you don't hear him soloing. All trumpet solos are Stewart's, although I have to confess that I have some slight doubts concerning the trumpet solo in 'Singing The Blues' which could tonally even be Bobby Stark, but it is not known if he ever did take over this task. In 'Roll On, Mississippi' (strange 40 bar chorus!) it is Rex Stewart in full flight with his high air-pressure cornet playing.

ADDENDUM 26-22-23/09-12-23: at the instigation and with the great help of Steve Espinola – U.S.A. – I have managed to find out take's distinctions of 53069 'Singing The Blues', which are listed below. This would mean that Bluebird ND90413 (CD) in fact carries 'Singing The Blues' 53069-2. This accepted as correct, we then must determine that Chronological Classics 555 has take-2, although stating take -1 in the CD booklet. The French double-LP Jazz Tribune PM 43691 also has take -2, as stated. And only the French LP Black & White Series Vol. 116 FPM1 7011 has take-1! I am not informed about earlier RCA LPs. It is my assumption that the RCA Victor people excluded take-1 of this title from later reissues after recognising the fluff in Stewart's solo. (With many thanks, Steve!)

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (tp); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tb); Russell Procope, Harvey Boone (as), Coleman Hawkins (ts); Fletcher Henderson (p & arr); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (b); Walter Johnson (dm)*

- Carey, *McCarthy, Jazz Directory, Vol. 4: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tbn); Harvey Boone, Russell Procope (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (p); unknown (g); John Kirby (bs); Walter Johnson (d)*

- Rust*2: *Russell Smith, Bobby Stark (tpt); Rex Stewart (cnt); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tbn); Russell Procope (clt, sop, alt); Harvey Boone (clt, alt); Coleman Hawkins (clt, ten); Fletcher Henderson (pno); unknown (gtr); John Kirby (bbs); Walter Johnson (dms); Dick Robertson (vcl).*

- Rust*3: *Russell Smith –Bobby Stark -t; Rex Stewart –c; Benny Morton -Claude Jones –tb; Russell Procope - Harvey Boone –cl –as; Coleman Hawkins –cl -ts; Fletcher Henderson –p-ldr-a; Clarence Holiday –bj -g; John Kirby –bb -sb; Walter Johnson –d; George Bias –v.*

- W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia, p. 268: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark, trumpets; Claude Jones, Benny Morton, trombones; Russell Procope, Harvey Boone, clarinets and alto sax; Coleman Hawkins, clarinet and tenor sax; Fletcher Henderson, piano; Clarence Holiday, guitar; John Kirby, tuba; Walter Johnson, drums; George Bias vocal.*

- B. Rust, *The Victor Master Book, Vol. 2: 3t/ 2tb/ 3s/ p/ bj-g/ b-bb/ d. vocalist George Bias*

- Rust*4,*6: *Fletcher Henderson -p -dir; Russell Smith -Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; Benny Morton -Claude Jones -tb; Harvey Boone, Russell Procope -cl -as; Coleman Hawkins -cl -ts; Clarence Holiday -g; John Kirby -bb; Walter Johnson -d; George Bias -v*

Solos ad-lib:

53066: *CJ o-tbn 12, RexSt m-cnt 12 + 12 + 12; FH pno 8 + 8; BM m-tbn 12 + 12 + 12; CH ten 12 + 10*

53067: *RexSt m-cnt 1+22, RexSt m-cnt obl 40; RP alt 14; BM o-tbn 8*

53068: *CH ten 2; RP clt + FH pno obl 30; RexSt o-cnt 8*

53069: *RexSt o-cnt 32; RP clt - CJ o-tbn obl 8; RP clt 8; RP clt -CJ o-tbn obl 8; FH pno 2*

Discernible differences of takes:

53066-1: *bar 3 of introduction: afterbeats played by tuba and very soft drums, both exactly on the beat*

53066-2: *bar 3 of introduction: afterbeats played by tuba and drums, first drum-beat distinctly before first tuba beat*

53067-1: *band chords in coda: half note, half note, quarter note, quarter note, eighth note by steam whistle(very short)*

53067-2: *band chords in coda: half note, half note, quarter note, quarter note, distinct quarter note by steam whistle*

53068-1: *second A part of last chorus: ens phrase, clt upward run, ens phrase, clt upward run, ens phrase*

53068-2: *second A part of last chorus: ens phrase, clt upward run, ens phrase, clt downward run, ens phrase*

53069-1: *Third bar of trumpet solo: R. Stewart plays sequence of 7 eighth notes bb-ab-d (fluffed)-eb-ab-f-bb, 1 half-note g;*

53069-2: *bar 19 of last chorus: R. Procope plays a downward arpeggiated sequence eb-c-ab-g-f-eb-d-c on clt*

Third bar of trumpet solo: R. Stewart plays sequence of 8 eighth notes bb-ab-c-eb-ab-bb-g-f, 2 syncopated dotted quarter-notes bb-g;

bar 19 of last chorus: R. Procope plays a sequence of tricky fast octave jumps in triple rhythm on clt

167 **CONNIE'S INN ORCHESTRA**

New York,

Jul. 17, 1931

Russell Smith, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart – tpt;

Claude Jones, Benny Morton – tbn;

Russell Procope – alt, clt; Edgar Sampson – alt, clt, vln; Coleman Hawkins – ten, clt;

Fletcher Henderson – pno; Clarence Holiday – gtr; John Kirby – bbs; Walter Johnson – dms;

Rex Stewart – voc (4);

Nat Leslie – arr (3)

E-36925-A Low Down On The Bayou

Br 6176,

Chronological Classics 555

E-36926-A The House Of David Blues

Ban 32733,

Chronological Classics 555

E-36927-A Radio Rhythm

Br 6176,

Chronological Classics 555

E-36928-A You Rascal You

Mt M-12216,

Chronological Classics 555

Composer credits: E-36925 (Leslie); E-36926 (Schoebel – Meyers - Mills); E-36927 (Leslie); E-36928 (Theard)

These sides are not so much convincing solistically. But we have a documented example of Rex Stewart singing here which certainly is not so easy to find anymore. As from the arrangements the session is not rewarding either, with the exception of 'The House Of David Blues' which shows essential scoring and features beautiful Bobby Stark on trumpet and the new added sounds of Edgar Sampson on violin, and beautiful Benny Morton. And mind Clarence Holiday's nice guitar fill-ins (he obviously plays a steel guitar).

Notes:

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (tp); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tb); Russell Procope (as), Edgar Sampson (as, v); Coleman Hawkins (ts); Fletcher Henderson (p & arr); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (b); Walter Johnson (dm); Nat Leslie (arr)*

- Carey, *McCarthy, Jazz Directory, Vol. 4: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tbn); Edgar Sampson, Russell Procope (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (p); unknown (g); John Kirby (bs); Walter Johnson (d)*

- Rust*2: *Russell Smith, Bobby Stark (tpt); Rex Stewart (cnt); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tbn); Russell Procope (clt, sop, alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, vln); Coleman Hawkins (clt, ten); Fletcher Henderson (pno); unknown (gtr); John Kirby (bbs); Walter Johnson (dms); Dick Robertson (vcl).*

- Rust*3: *Russell Smith –Bobby Stark -t; Rex Stewart –c; Benny Morton - Claude Jones –tb; Russell Procope –cl –as; Edgar Sampson – cl –as –vn; Coleman Hawkins –cl -ts; Fletcher Henderson –p-ldr-a; Clarence Holiday –bj -g; John Kirby –bb -sb; Walter Johnson –d; Claude Jones –v; Nat Leslie -a.*

- W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 268: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark, trumpets; Claude Jones, Benny Morton, trombones; Russell Procope, clarinet and alto sax; Edgar Sampson, clarinet, alto sax and violin; Coleman Hawkins, clarinet and tenor sax; Fletcher Henderson, piano; Clarence Holiday, guitar; John Kirby, tuba; Walter Johnson, drums; Rex Stewart, vocal. "Brunswick files list above instrumentation, but omit the tuba which is plainly audible; they also name the vocalist (Stewart) on the fourth title."

- Rust*4, *6: Fletcher Henderson -p -dir; Russell Smith -Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; Benny Morton -Claude Jones -tb; Edgar Sampson -cl -as -vn; Russell Procope -cl -as; Coleman Hawkins -cl -ts; Clarence Holiday -g; John Kirby -bb; Walter Johnson -d; Rex Stewart -v; Nat Leslie -a

Solos ad-lib:

E-36925: RexSt m-cnt 2+8 + 8; CJ o-tbn 10; BM o-tbn 4
 E-36926: CH ten 16; BS m-tpt 1+15; ES vln 1+15; BM o-tbn 1+12
 E-36927: BM m-tbn 8; RP alt 32; CJ o-tbn 4 + 4
 E-36928: CH ten 16, RexSt voc 16 + 16 + 16 + 16

168 FLETCHER HENDERSON AND HIS CONNIE INN ORCHESTRA

New York,

Jul. 31, 1931

Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart – tpt; Claude Jones – tbn;

Russell Procope – alt, clt; Edgar Sampson – alt, clt, vln; Benny Carter – alt (3); Coleman Hawkins – ten, clt;

Horace Henderson – pno; Clarence Holiday – gtr; John Kirby – bbs; Walter Johnson – dms; unknown – chimes;

Dick Robertson – voc;

Archie Bleyer – arr (1)

70140-1 Oh, It Looks Like Rain

Vic 22786,

Chronological Classics 555

70141-1 Sweet Music

Vic 22775,

Chronological Classics 555

70142-1 My Sweet Tooth Says I Wanna

Vic 22786,

Chronological Classics 546

70143-1 Malinda's Weddin' Day

Vic 22775,

Chronological Classics 546

Composer credits: 70140 (Harburg - Ager); 70141 (Dietz - Schwartz); 70142 (Young - Clare - Stept); 70143 (Weldon)

ADDENDUM 20-04-2024: Anthony Coleman, NYC, in correspondence with the author points to the obvious fact that Horace Henderson must be the pianist on this session (see below under Notes!). I gladly agree and follow Mr. Coleman. Thanks a lot, Anthony!

But also, he doubts the alto solo in 'My Sweet Tooth ...' to be played by Russell Procope. Edgar Sampson cannot be the player, as he immediately before plays the violin solo and would not have time to switch instruments. And the clarinet solo in 'Malinda's ...' decidedly is played by Russell Procope. Mr. Coleman assumes Benny Carter to be the alto soloist, and I can't help but agree, although with a little remaining doubt. In my appreciation of the Carter genius, Benny Carter uses to play much clearer and structured than heard on this side. But it may have been his habit to attend the recording studios for other reasons as he probably did on the Decca recording session of Sept. 25, 1934 (see session 185 of Fletcher Henderson Swing period elsewhere at this website). On this session he solos on 'Liza' although he is not part of the band, just as - very probably - here.

Following the Victor files there are only two trumpets here. We hear both trumpet players solo, and I believe that Stewart plays the first trumpet part as he did in sessions 129 and 130 of my Henderson Classic Period list. But apart from that he also took most of the solos as seen below. Bobby Stark might have been in poor shape?

W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p.270: "Victor files show the instrumentation as above (two trumpets, one trombone), and the names have been filled in from the identified soloists. Robertson's name is on the record labels. I find it difficult to be sure whether or not there is a third trumpet present; if so, it would be either Russell Smith or possibly Mrs. Leora Henderson, who did recall filling in for someone during this period. I cannot hear two trombones at any one time, and all the solos are by Jones; Morton seems to have left the band about this time, a period of low morale and changing personnel."

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography*, 1948: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (tp); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tb); Russell Procope (as), Edgar Sampson (as, v); Coleman Hawkins (ts); Fletcher Henderson (p & arr); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (b); Walter Johnson (dm)

- Carey, *McCarthy, Jazz Directory*, Vol. 4: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tbn); Edgar Sampson, Russell Procope (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (p); unknown (g); John Kirby (bs); Walter Johnson (d)
 - Rust*2: Russell Smith, Bobby Stark (tpt); Rex Stewart (cnt); J.C. Higginbotham, Sandy Williams (tbn); Russell Procope (clt, alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, vln); Coleman Hawkins (clt); Fletcher Henderson (pno); Clarence Holiday (gtr); John Kirby (bbs, sbs); Walter Johnson (dms); Dick Robertson (vcl)

- Rust*3: Russell Smith -Bobby Stark -t; Rex Stewart -c; J.C. Higginbotham or Sandy Williams -tb; Russell Procope -cl-ss-as; Edgar Sampson -cl-as-vn; Coleman Hawkins -cl-ts; Fletcher Henderson -p-ldr-a; Clarence Holiday -bj-g; John Kirby -bb-sb; Walter Johnson -d; Claude Jones -v; Nat Leslie -a.

- W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 270: Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark, trumpets; Claude Jones, trombone; Russell Procope, clarinet and alto sax; Edgar Sampson, alto sax and violin; Coleman Hawkins, tenor sax; Fletcher Henderson, piano; Clarence Holiday, guitar; John Kirby, tuba; Walter Johnson, drums and bells; Dick Robertson, vocal.

- B. Rust, *The Victor Master Book*, Vol. 2: 2t/ 1tb/ 3s/ p/ g/ bb/ d. vocalist Dick Robertson

- Rust*4, *6: Fletcher Henderson -p -dir; Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; Claude Jones -tb; Edgar Sampson -cl -as -vn; Russell Procope -cl -as; Coleman Hawkins -cl -ts; Clarence Holiday -g; John Kirby -bb; Walter Johnson -d; Dick Robertson -v

Dick Robertson, v.

- Anthony Coleman, letter to the author: "These (a couples of recordings with Fletcher Henderson on piano - KBR) all have in common that we can recognize them as being the same person. They all use a limited range - most of the soloing happens within an octave and a half. They all have kind of clunky time bordering on unsteady. They don't have a very virtuosic left hand - they never use tenths. It's kind of like a late ragtime left hand more than a real stride one. We know that there are these examples where Fats Waller is credited and where Horace Henderson is credited. But there are many other examples where there's a kind of virtuosic stride playing going on that clearly cannot be Fletcher. The record that made me stand up and take notice was this one: ('Sweet Music' - KBR). The style is not radically different, but there's a different level of exuberance and technique. Of course, my first thought is - is this Horace? ... Listening to the three other tracks from the same session. Definitely the same pianist on 'Malinda's Wedding Day'. Listen to the left hand behind the clarinet solo. "Driving" in a way none of the Fletcher examples are. Also, the octaves in the out chorus. 'Oh, It Looks Like Rain': the short solo is simply beyond Fletcher on any level. Rhythmically and technically. The octaves are by the same pianist as the other tracks. 'My Sweet Tooth Says I Wanna' - behind the violin solo and the alto solo. Same person. A much looser and more exuberant stride than Fletcher's. BTW, who is the alto solo? It sounds exactly like Benny carter. If Sampson is playing the violin solo it's physically impossible for him to be playing the alto solo, and there's no way that it is Russell Procope - his vibrato is totally different. (I've been known to mistake Sampson for Carter on rare occasions.) But compare the alto on this track to that on 'Come On Baby'."

Solos ad-lib:

- 70140: CH ten 1+1; RexSt m-cnt obl 32; CH ten 15; ES vln 1+8; CH ten 8; RexSt m-cnt 16; CJ o-tbn 8; RexSt o-cnt 8; FH pno 8
 70141: FH pno obl 30; FH pno 2 + 2; ES vln 15; CH ten 2+16+2; FH pno obl 14
 70142: ES vln obl 32; ES vln 16; ?RP or ?BC alt 16; BS o-tpt 16
 70143: RexSt m-cnt fills 30; RexSt m-cnt obl 30; RP clt 2+16; CH ten 16

169 CONNIE'S INN ORCHESTRA

New York,

Aug. 1931

Russell Smith, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart – tpt;
 Claude Jones, J. C. Higginbotham – tbn;
 Russell Procope, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Coleman Hawkins – ten, clt;
 Fletcher Henderson – pno; Clarence Holiday – gtr; John Kirby – sbs; Walter Johnson – dms;
 Claude Jones – voc (1,2);
 Nat Leslie – arr (3,4,6); Fletcher Henderson, Don Redman – arr (5)

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| 1431-2 | You Rascal, You | Crown 3180, | Neatwork RP 2016 |
| 1431-3 | You Rascal, You | Crown 3180, | Chronological Classics 546 |
| 1432-1 | Blue Rhythm | Crown 3180, | Neatwork RP 2016 |
| 1432-3 | Blue Rhythm | Crown 3180, | Chronological Classics 546 |
| 1433-3 | Sugar Foot Stomp | Crown 3194, | Chronological Classics 546 |
| 1434-3 | Low Down On The Bayou | Crown 3194, | Chronological Classics 546 |

Composer credits: 1431 (Theard); 1432 (Leslie - Mills); 1433 (Oliver - Armstrong); 1434 (Leslie - Mills)

Note: Oliver solo on - 33 is by Bobby Stark – plunger muted!

Stewart seems not to have convinced the recording officials – or Fletcher Henderson? - when singing 'You Rascal, You' on session 167 – and he certainly was very far from Armstrong's way to deliver this tune vocally. So, Henderson tried out Claude Jones as vocalist here, and he is much more convincing. The trumpet section shows some pitch problems which might be a sign for a different first trumpet than listed – or just for Stewart intoxicated. This might possibly be the cause for Rex Stewart not soloing on this session. This might also have been the cause for Bobby Stark to take over the famous "Oliver" solo from Stewart. And he plays it very beautifully in his own way. With Higginbotham we have one of the most exciting brass players of the classic jazz period in this band. Listen how he handles his three "Oliver" choruses in 'Sugar Foot Stomp'! Great.

W.C. Allen, Hendersonia, p.270: "Presumably full band personnel but see above session for remarks on third trumpeter. Two trombone soloists are again present. Rex Stewart has identified Stark as soloist on this version of 'Sugar Foot Stomp'."

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography, 1948*: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (tp); J.C. Higginbotham, Claude Jones (tb); Russell Procope (as), Edgar Sampson (as, v); Coleman Hawkins (ts); Fletcher Henderson (p & arr); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (b); Walter Johnson (dm)

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory, Vol. 4*: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tbn); Edgar Sampson, Russell Procope (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (p); unknown (g); John Kirby (bs); Walter Johnson (d)

- Rust*2: Russell Smith, Bobby Stark (tpt); Rex Stewart (cnt); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tbn); Russell Procope (clt, sop, alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, vln); Coleman Hawkins (clt, ten); Fletcher Henderson (pno); unknown (gtr); John Kirby (bbs); Walter Johnson (dms); Claude Jones (vcl).

- Rust*3: Russell Smith – Bobby Stark -t; Rex Stewart –c; Benny Morton - Claude Jones –tb; Russell Procope –cl –as; Edgar Sampson – cl –as –vn; Coleman Hawkins –cl -ts; Fletcher Henderson –p-ldr-a; Clarence Holiday –bj -g; John Kirby –bb -sb; Walter Johnson –d; Claude Jones –v; Nat Leslie -a.

- W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 270: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark, trumpets; Claude Jones, J.C. Higginbotham, trombones; Russell Procope, Edgar Sampson, clarinets and alto saxes; Coleman Hawkins, clarinet and tenor sax; Fletcher Henderson, piano; Clarence Holiday, guitar; John Kirby, string bass; Walter Johnson, drums; Claude Jones, vocal.

- Rust*4,*6: Fletcher Henderson -p -dir; Russell Smith -Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; J.C. Higginbotham -Claude Jones -tb; Edgar Sampson -Russell Procope -cl -as; Coleman Hawkins -cl -ts; Clarence Holiday -g; John Kirby -bb; Walter Johnson -d; Claude Jones -v

Solos ad-lib:

- 1431: CH ten 16; CJ voc 15 + 15 + 15
 1432: CJ o-tbn 1+7 + 14; RP alt 30
 1433: CJ o-tbn 12; BS m-tpt 12 + 12 + 12; JCH o-tbn 12 + 12 + 12; CH ten 12 + 10
 1434: CJ o-tbn 12; JCH o-tbn 4

Discernible differences of takes:

- 1431-2: Second vocal chorus, second line: "I'll be standing on the corner high"
 1431-3: Second vocal chorus, second line: "I'll be standing on the corner lap down"
 14332-1: Second chorus - alto solo bars 15/16: a sequence of eight dotted same notes f, then two downward dotted notes
 14332-3: Second chorus - alto solo bars 15/16: six alternating dotted notes and one sustained higher note

170 CONNIE'S INN ORCHESTRA

New York,

Oct. 1931

Russell Smith, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart – tpt; J. C. Higginbotham – tbn;
 Russell Procope, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Coleman Hawkins – ten, clt;
 Fletcher Henderson – pno; Clarence Holiday – gtr; John Kirby – bbs; Walter Johnson – dms;
 Fletcher Henderson – arr (2)

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| 1503-2 | 12 th Street Rag | Crown 3212, | Chronological Classics 546 |
| 1506-3 | Milenburg Joys | Crown 3212, | Chronological Classics 546 |

Composer credits: 1503 (Bowman - Razaf); 1504 (Morton – Melrose - Mares)

We hear a rather soft Rex Stewart solo on the first title, but this may also be caused by Crown's not so effective recording equipment? Stark solos in the second title. And there is no sign of a second trombonist. Whether Kirby plays string bass or tuba is very difficult to differentiate. But I feel certain that he plays tuba on both titles.

W.C. Allen, Hendersonia, p. 271: „If this session was indeed recorded in October, the Henderson band had already left Connie's Inn, and Claude Jones (who is not audible on these sides) had left Henderson to join Don Redman's new band which was soon to begin playing at Connie's Inn itself. See previous sessions for remarks on trumpeters; the bass instrument is not well resolved.”

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography*, 1948:

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory*, Vol. 4: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tbn); Edgar Sampson, Russell Procope (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (p); unknown (g); John Kirby (bs); Walter Johnson (d)
 - Rust*2: Russell Smith, Bobby Stark (tpt); Rex Stewart (cnt); Benny Morton, Claude Jones (tbn); Russell Procope (clt, sop, alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, vln); Coleman Hawkins (clt, ten); Fletcher Henderson (pno); unknown (gtr); John Kirby (bbs); Walter Johnson (dms).
 - Rust*3: probably: Russell Smith - Bobby Stark -t; Rex Stewart -c; J.C. Higginbotham or Sandy Williams -tb; Russell Procope -cl -ss -as; Edgar Sampson -cl -as -vn; Coleman Hawkins -cl -ts; Fletcher Henderson -p -ldr -a; Clarence Holiday -bj -g; John Kirby -bb -sb; Walter Johnson -d; Claude Jones -v; Nat Leslie -a.
 - W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 271: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark, trumpets; J.C. Higginbotham, trombone; Russell Procope, Edgar Sampson, clarinets and alto saxes; Coleman Hawkins, clarinet and tenor sax; Fletcher Henderson, piano; Clarence Holiday, guitar; John Kirby, tuba or string bass; Walter Johnson, drums.

- Rust*4,*6: Fletcher Henderson -p -dir; Russell Smith -Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; J.C. Higginbotham -tb; Edgar Sampson -Russell Procope -cl -as; Coleman Hawkins -cl -ts; Clarence Holiday -g; John Kirby -bb; Walter Johnson -d

Solos ad-lib:

1503: JCH o-tbn 2 + 14; CH ten 16; RexSt o-cnt 14

1506: BS o-tpt 16; JCH o-tbn 15

171 FLETCHER HENDERSON AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Oct. 15, 1931

Russell Smith, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart - tpt; J. C. Higginbotham - tbn;

Russell Procope, Edgar Sampson - alt, clt; Coleman Hawkins - ten, clt;

Fletcher Henderson - pno; Clarence Holiday - gtr, bjo; John Kirby - sbs, bbs; Walter Johnson - dms, vib;

Les Reis - voc;

Frank Skinner - arr (2)

151845-1 Singin' The Blues

Col 2565-D,

Chronological Classics 546

151846-3 It's The Darndest Thing

Col 2565-D,

Chronological Classics 546

Composer credits: 151845 (Fields - McHugh); 151846 (McHugh)

Attention: this first title 'Singin' The Blues' (composers Fields - McHugh) is an entirely different tune - different melody, different chords - from the two 'Singing The Blues' (composers Lewis - Young - Conrad - Robinson) of sessions 165 and 166 above!

This is nice commercial Henderson, beautifully played. One solo by Rex Stewart in the first title. The rhythm section is guitar and string bass in the first title, and banjo and tuba in the second title. Great four-four tuba by John Kirby. Mind Walter Johnson leaving his drum-set and switching to vibraphone in the B-part of the last chorus of '... Darndest Thing'. And there is fantastic Coleman Hawkins and beautiful Bobby Stark on these sides. But eight bars only by J.C. Higginbotham.

W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 271: „On the next two (this one and the next - KBR) Columbia record dates, I cannot positively hear a second trombone. It is apparently Rex Stewart who takes the lovely, muted "talking" style trumpet solos on 'Singin' The Blues' and 'Sugar'; he plays in similar vein on some other Henderson recordings, and on some of McKinney's records, especially 'Rocky Road'. At one time, I had thought it was not Rex, because of contemporary evidence that he was then playing (and recording) with McKinney's Cotton Pickers; but on the other hand, these solos are NOT by Smith or Stark, and Stanley Dance says, "on 'Singin'' there's n upward flare of a kind I never heard anyone but Rex do." Frank Driggs' LP notes, Hugues Panassie, and Dance all agree these solos are by Rex Stewart."

W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 272: „See remarks on previous pages about trumpet solos. Les Reis' name is from the Columbia files. The tune 'Singin' The Blues' on this date is not the Con Conrad - J. Russell Robinson tune of that name, from 1927, which had been recorded for all time by Frankie Trumbauer's band with Bix Beiderbecke on cornet, and the arrangement of which had been re-orchestrated, probably by Bill Challis, for Henderson's Melotone and Victor recordings of the past months. Rather, it, and 'It's The Darndest Thing', were from a Negro musical named 'Singin' The Blues' which opened at the Liberty Theater, New York, on Sept. 16, 1931.

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography*, 1948: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (tp); J.C. Higginbotham, Claude Jones (tb); Russell Procope (as), Edgar Sampson (as, v); Coleman Hawkins (ts); Fletcher Henderson (p & arr); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (b); Walter Johnson (dm)

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory*, Vol. 4: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt); Benny Morton, J.C. Higginbotham (tbn); Edgar Sampson, Russell Procope (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (p); unknown (g); John Kirby (bs); Walter Johnson (d)

- Rust*2: Russell Smith, Bobby Stark (tpt); Rex Stewart (cnt); J.C. Higginbotham, Sandy Williams (tbn); Russell Procope (clt, alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, vln); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (pno); Clarence Holiday (gtr); John Kirby (bbs, sbs); Walter Johnson (dms); Les Reis (vcl).

- Rust*3: Russell Smith - Bobby Stark -t; Rex Stewart -c; J.C. Higginbotham - Sandy Williams -tb; Russell Procope -cl -ss -as; Edgar Sampson -cl -as -vn; Coleman Hawkins -cl -ts; Fletcher Henderson -p -ldr -a; Clarence Holiday -bj -g; John Kirby -bb -sb; Walter Johnson -d; Les Reis -v.

- W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 272: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark, trumpets; J.C. Higginbotham, trombone; Russell Procope, clarinet and alto sax; Edgar Sampson, alto sax and violin; Coleman Hawkins, clarinet and tenor sax; Fletcher Henderson, piano; Clarence Holiday, guitar; John Kirby, string bass and tuba; Walter Johnson, drums; Les Reis, vocals.

- Rust*4,*6: Fletcher Henderson -p -dir; Russell Smith -Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; J.C. Higginbotham -tb; Edgar Sampson -cl -as -vn; Russell Procope -cl -as; Coleman Hawkins -ts; Clarence Holiday -g; John Kirby -bb; Walter Johnson -d; Les Reis -v

Solos ad-lib:

151845: RexSt m-cnt 24; BS o-tpt 8; BS o-tpt 8; CH ten 8; BS o-tpt 8; CH ten 4

151846: FH pno 4; BS m-tpt 16 + 8; JCH o-tbn 8; CH ten 16

172 FLETCHER HENDERSON AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Oct. 16, 1931

Russell Smith, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart - tpt; J. C. Higginbotham - tbn;

Russell Procope - alt, clt; Edgar Sampson - alt, vln; Coleman Hawkins - ten, clt;

Fletcher Henderson - pno; Clarence Holiday - bjo; John Kirby - bbs; Walter Johnson - dms;

Les Reis - voc (1,2);

Archie Bleyer - arr (3)

151847-1 Blues In My Heart

Col 2559-D,

Chronological Classics 546

151848-1 Sugar

Col 2559-D,

Chronological Classics 546

151851-1 Business In F

Col 2615-D,

Chronological Classics 546

Composer credits: 151847 (Carter - Mills); 151848 (Meyer - Young); 151851 (Bleyer)

This is not one of the average Henderson sessions of 1931 in that we have a beautiful rendition of 'Blues In My Heart', yet not played with the ubiquitous Benny Carter arrangement, but in a different version the arranger of which is not documented. J.C. Higginbotham plays the melody with beautiful feeling, and it is certainly Bobby Stark on trumpet behind the singer, and not Rex Stewart as given by Walter C. Allen. The following 'Sugar' encompasses great violin by Edgar Sampson, a fiery and enthusiastic trumpet solo by Bobby Stark and an equally lively muted trumpet/cornet solo by Rex Stewart. In comparison 'Business In F' is inferior for composition and arrangement. But listen to that great rhythm section again: Holiday and Kirby throughout on banjo and tuba and Walter Johnson with his hi-hat a finger-post to future drum styles.

W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 272: „There were two earlier tunes entitled ‚Sugar‘ – one by Alexander, Mitchell and Pinkard, recorded by McKenzie and Condon’s Chicagoans among others; and one by Red Nichols in collaboration with Yellen, Ager and Crum. The tune recorded at this session is the third!”

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography*, 1948: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (tp); J.C. Higginbotham, Claude Jones (tb); Russell Procope (as), Edgar Sampson (as, v); Coleman Hawkins (ts); Fletcher Henderson (p & arr); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (b); Walter Johnson (dm)

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory*, Vol. 4: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt); Benny Morton, J.C. Higginbotham (tbn); Edgar Sampson, Russell Procope (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (p); unknown (g); John Kirby (bs); Walter Johnson (d)

- Rust*2: Russell Smith, Bobby Stark (tpt); Rex Stewart (cnt); J.C. Higginbotham, Sandy Williams (tbn); Russell Procope (clt, alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, vln); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (pno); Clarence Holiday (gtr); John Kirby (bbs, sbs); Walter Johnson (dms); Les Reis (vcl).

- Rust*3: Russell Smith – Bobby Stark –t; Rex Stewart –c; J.C. Higginbotham – Sandy Williams –tb; Russell Procope –cl –ss –as; Edgar Sampson – cl –as –vn; Coleman Hawkins –cl –ts; Fletcher Henderson –p –ldr –a; Clarence Holiday –bj –g; John Kirby –bb –sb; Walter Johnson –d; Les Reis –v.

- W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 272: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark, trumpets; J.C. Higginbotham, trombone; Russell Procope, clarinet and alto sax; Edgar Sampson, alto sax and violin; Coleman Hawkins, clarinet and tenor sax; Fletcher Henderson, piano; Clarence Holiday, guitar; John Kirby, string bass and tuba; Walter Johnson, drums; Les Reis, vocals.

- Rust*4,*6: Fletcher Henderson –p –dir; Russell Smith –Rex Stewart –Bobby Stark –t; J.C. Higginbotham –tb; Edgar Sampson –as –vn; Russell Procope –cl –as; Coleman Hawkins –ts; Clarence Holiday –g; John Kirby –bb –sb; Walter Johnson –d; Les Reis –v; Archie Bleyer –a

Solos ad-lib:

151847: JCH m-tbn 16 + 8; BS m-tpt obl 32; CH ten 1+8

151847: ES vln 2+16; BS o-tpt 14; RexSt m-cnt 32

151847: CH ten 16; JCH o-tbn 8; CH ten 8

173 FLETCHER HENDERSON AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Feb. 1932

Russell Smith, Bobby Stark – tpt; J.C. Higginbotham – tbn;

Ben Whitted, Henry Jameson – alt, clt; Coleman Hawkins – ten, clt;

Fletcher Henderson – pno; Clarence Holiday – gtr; John Kirby – bbs, sbs; Walter Johnson – dms

unknown titles

unknown recording company

This recording session is listed only in W.C. Allen’s magnificent ‘Hendersonia’, resulting from his own personal research. It certainly keeps a great amount of probability, but is documented nowhere. But should perhaps somebody somewhere OK, it certainly will not really happen. But we have to recognise: Ben Whitted for Henderson was a first-rate choice for “subbing” his altoists in case of emergency. No wonder when you consider that the Charlie Johnson Paradise Band was rated among the first three of “jazz” bands in Harlem.

Notes:

- W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 307: “Alto saxophonist Henry Jameson told me that he came to New York in “1932” and recorded a session with Fletcher Henderson early that year in New York, for an unrecalled company. Edgar Sampson and Russell Procope, the regular altos with the band, were ill at the time, and Ben Whitted and he were the replacements. He said it was a somewhat smaller band than normal, and gave to following personnel: (see above). He does not recall any titles, but thinks Coleman Hawkins made at least one of the arrangements. These were instrumentals, without vocals. This session may correspond with one of the known 1932 sessions, but the personnel and instrumentation do not seem to fit.

174 FLETCHER HENDERSON AND HIS ORCHESTRA

New York,

Mar. 10, 1932

Russell Smith, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart – tpt;

Sandy Williams (if at all), J. C. Higginbotham – tbn;

Russell Procope, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Coleman Hawkins – ten, clt;

Fletcher Henderson – pno; Clarence Holiday – bjo, gtr; John Kirby – bbs, sbs; Walter Johnson – dms; unknown – effects (2); unknown – glockenspiel;

“John Dickens” – voc (1); Ikey Robinson – voc (2); Baby Rose Mary – voc (3,4); Harlan Lattimore – voc (5,6);

Benny Carter – arr (2,6)

71938-1 Strangers

Vic 22955, Chronological Classics 546

71939-1 Take Me Away From The River

Vic 24008, Chronological Classics 546

71940-1 Say That You Were Teasing Me

Vic 22960, Chronological Classics 546

71941-1 Take A Picture Of The Moon

Vic 22960, Chronological Classics 546

71942-1 I Wanna Count Sheep

Vic 22955, Chronological Classics 546

71943-1 Poor Old Joe

Vic 24008, Chronological Classics 546

Composer credits: 71938 (O Flynn - Coots); 71039 (Parker); 71040 (Turk - Ahlert); 71041 (Young – Little); 71042 (Little – Young); 71043 (Carmichael)

This now is a real commercial recording session – oh yes, everything in the music business was commercial! But read the titles, there is no title of any jazz origin. And no identifiable Rex Stewart trumpet solo here.

‘Strangers’ has short solos by Hawkins and Bobby Stark – not Rex Stewart as given by Allen. And also: what Allen identifies as trombone duet is really a trombone leading the saxophone section, a device Benny Carter had already developed in his arrangement for Charlie Johnson’s ‘Mo’Lasses’ of 1929, as I assume.

In ‘Take Me Away From The River’ it is the great banjo virtuoso Ikey Robinson who sings the melody. But according to his own testimony (Storyville 2002-3, p.56) he did not play, but only sang. There is little soloing – Coleman Hawkins 15 bars and Fletcher Henderson 16 bars.

But there is beautiful tuba playing here by John Kirby. W.C. Allen guesses that this is a Benny Carter arrangement, and there certainly are some devices that Carter used in other tunes, e.g. the saxophone voicings in the last chorus. But as a whole, I would tend to suggest another arranger.

For the third and fourth titles, please, read W.C. Allen's comment below.

'I Wanna Count Sheep' brings a couple of short solos by Hawkins, Stark and Higginbotham, but the extraordinary is Kirby's slapping string bass which dominates authoritatively the rhythm section – and swings like hell.

W.C. Allen attributes the trumpet obligato behind the first vocal chorus in 'Poor Old Joe' to Rex Stewart, but I believe this player to be Stark. The glockenspiel in the second chorus is by Walter Johnson whose brushes are silent whenever the glockenspiel sounds. The clarinetist behind the second vocal chorus probably is Russell Procope, whereas the clarinetist in the last chorus is another player, most probably Edgar Sampson – or perhaps even Coleman Hawkins? Here also Allen suggests Carter as arranger.

But at no instance do I hear two trombones or any sign of Sandy Williams. Is he really there?

And it is still banjo and tuba in the rhythm section, but also guitar and string bass.

W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p.307: "Victor files give the same instrumentation as above, except that they specify string bass only. The plethora of vocalists seems strange for this period of economic hardship, but is real. "John Dickens" is not Bias, Deppe or Reis, nor Dick Robertson, present on the previous Gene Kardos session (adjacent matrices 71934-37). Ike Robinson, Negro banjoist-singer known as "Banjo Ike" and not to be confused with Dick Robertson, recalled making this one title with the Henderson band. The two titles by then-child-star Babe Rose Marie (reminding one of a much-later Brenda Lee) were apparently made as an afterthought, as an audition "on approval" with the band reading from stocks; without the Victor information, one would never know from listening to them that it was the Hendersonband behind her – there are NO instrumental solos or even hot accompaniments. Harlan Lattimore was then regularly singing with Don Redman's orchestra, but did make this and a few other record dates as a guest vocalist in the Bing Crosby vein. ... Two takes were made of all six titles, but only the #1 take in each case was mastered. There seems no possibility of the existence of alternate takes from this session."

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography*, 1948: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (tp); J.C. Higginbotham, Claude Jones (tb); Russell Procope (as), Edgar Sampson (as, v); Coleman Hawkins (ts); Fletcher Henderson (p & arr); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (b); Walter Johnson (dm)

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory*, Vol. 4: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt); Benny Morton, J.C. Higginbotham (tbn); Edgar Sampson, Russell Procope (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (p); unknown (g); John Kirby (bs); Walter Johnson (d)

- Rust*2: Russell Smith, Bobby Stark (tpt); Rex Stewart (cnt); Benny Morton, J.C. Higginbotham (tbn); Russell Procope (clt, sop, alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, vln); Coleman Hawkins (clt, ten); Fletcher Henderson (pno); unknown (gtr); John Kirby (bbs); Walter Johnson (dms); Ikey Robinson (vcl) (and may be the bjo, gtr on all records in this chapter (Connie's Inn Orch. – KBR); John Dickens (vcl)(1,2); Baby Rose Marie (vcl)(3,4)

- Rust*3: Russell Smith – Bobby Stark -t; Rex Stewart –c; Sandy Williams - J.C. Higginbotham –tb; Russell Procope –cl –as; Edgar Sampson – as –vn; Coleman Hawkins –cl -ts; Fletcher Henderson –p-ldr-a; Ikey Robinson –g-v; John Kirby –bb -sb; Walter Johnson –d; John Dickens – Harlan Lattimore –Baby Rose Marie –v.

- W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 307: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark, trumpets; J.C. Higginbotham, Sandy Williams, trombones; Russell Procope, Edgar Sampson, clarinets and alto saxes; Coleman Hawkins, clarinet and tenor sax; Fletcher Henderson, piano; Clarence Holiday, guitar; John Kirby, string bass and tuba; Walter Johnson, drums and bells; vocals by "John Dickens", Ike Robinson, Baby Rose Marie -----, Harlan Lattimore, and chorus from band.

- B. Rust, *The Victor Master Book*, Vol. 2: 3t/ 2tb/ 3s/ p/ bj-g/ bb/ d. vocalist John Dickens, Ikey Robinson, Harlan Lattimore, Baby Rose Marie

- Rust*4,*6: Fletcher Henderson -p -dir; Russell Smith -Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; J.C. Higginbotham -Sandy Williams -tb; Edgar Sampson -cl -as -vn; Russell Procope -cl -as; Coleman Hawkins -cl -ts; Clarence Holiday -g; John Kirby -bb -sb; Walter Johnson -d; John Dickens - Ikey Robinson -Harlan Lattimore -Baby Rose Mary -v

Solos ad-lib:

71938: CH ten 16; JD voc 32; BS o-tpt 14

71939: CH ten 15; FH pno 2+16; IR voc 32

71940: No ad-lib solos

71941: No ad-lib solos

71942: CH ten 2; FH pno 4; HL voc 30; CH ten 1+16; BS o-tpt 8; CH ten 8+2; JCH o-tbn 4; BS o-tpt 4

71943: HL voc 32 + BS o-tpt obl 8 + 8; CH ten 8; HL+unknown voc 32 + RP clt obl 32; ES clt 8; CH ten 1+1

175 CONNIE'S INN ORCHESTRA

New York,

Mar. 11, 1932

Leora Henderson, Bobby Stark, Rex Stewart – tpt;

Sandy Williams, J.C. Higginbotham, – tbn;

Russell Procope, Edgar Sampson – alt, clt; Coleman Hawkins – ten, clt;

Fletcher Henderson – pno; Clarence Holiday – gtr; John Kirby – bbs; Walter Johnson – dms;

Harlan Lattimore – voc (3,4,5);

Gene Gifford – arr (1); Fletcher Henderson – arr (2)

11445-A Casa Loma Stomp

Ban 32701,

HEP CD 1016

11446-A Blue Moments

Mt M-12368 (unissued), test exists, not on LP/CD

11446-B Blue Moments

Mt M-12368 (not issued), HEP CD 1016

11447-A How 'm I Doin', Hey, Hey

Ban 32440,

HEP CD 1016

11447-B How 'm I Doin', Hey, Hey

Mt M-12368 (unissued), test exists, not on LP/CD

11448-A Good-Bye Blues

Mt M-12340,

HEP CD 1016

Composer credits: 11445 (Gifford); 11446 (Henderson); 11447 (Branch - Redman); 11448 (McHugh – Fields – Johnson)

'Casa Loma Stomp' is exactly the arrangement the Casa Loma Orchestra used for their signature song, only that – as must be expected – the instrumental solos are those of the Henderson musicians.

'Blue Moments', possibly one of the earliest arrangements of bandleader Henderson himself, was not issued on 78 originally, probably because of its very below-par trumpet solo in the second half or the title (a display of this strange phenomenon can be found below). The Columbia people, when preparing their famous LP set 'A Study In Frustration', edited this solo out, with the strange consequence that the tune did not loose exactly 16 bars (= 64 beats), but an uneven number of beats which caused a change of meter in the bridge leading into the final chorus. (Which means that there remained one bar with only three beats or one bar with five beats. Very crazy!) But we are compensated with beautiful solos by Rex Stewart and Coleman Hawkins. The complete tune – together with Leora Henderson's, the bandleader's wife's! – goofed trumpet solo is issued on later days CDs.

Don Redman's title 'How Am I Doin'?' comprises good soloing by Higginbotham, an obligato by probably Stewart behind the vocal verse, a great 2 bar augmented alto break by Edgar Sampson in the first A part of the last chorus, and a number of short solo bits by others, among

which Sandy Williams' earliest solo performances in the Henderson band come a bit uneven. As for W.C. Allen there exists an unissued take – B of 'How Am I Doin'?' on test, obviously sadly unissued until now.

Oh yes, and then the very beautiful 'Good-Bye Blues' – which, by the way, is everything but a blues. Contrary to W.C. Allen I think that it is Bobby Stark taking the first trumpet solo. And what a wonderful ride-out band chorus, swinging like mad.

Holiday plays guitar and Kirby plays tuba throughout this session.

W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p.308: "Instrumentation is from the ARC files. Personnel is as for previous session, except that Fletcher and Leora Henderson thought she had played trumpet on some Brunswick sessions from this period, and seemed to recall 'Casa Loma Stomp' as one tilte. There is a trumpet solo on 'Blue Moments' (so bad it was deleted from the Columbia LP issue) which is not at all like any known work of Bobby Stark or Rex Stewart, who are both heard on other titles on this session. It does not sound like Russell Smith either, but although Leora said she never recorded any solos with the band, I am tentatively ascribing it to her. (John Chilton essentially agrees – a straight player, out of practice.)"

Notes:

- Ch. Delaunay, *New Hot Discography*, 1948: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (tp); J.C. Higginbotham, Claude Jones (tb); Russell Procope (as), Edgar Sampson (as, v); Coleman Hawkins (ts); Fletcher Henderson (p & arr); Clarence Holiday (g); John Kirby (b); Walter Johnson (dm); Gene Gifford (arr)

- Carey, McCarthy, *Jazz Directory*, Vol. 4: Russell Smith, Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark (cnt); Benny Morton, J.C. Higginbotham (tbn); Edgar Sampson, Russell Procope (alt); Coleman Hawkins (ten); Fletcher Henderson (p); unknown (g); John Kirby (bs); Walter Johnson (d)

- Rust*2: Russell Smith, Bobby Stark (tpt); Rex Stewart (cnt); Benny Morton, J.C. Higginbotham (tbn); Russell Procope (clt, sop, alt); Edgar Sampson (alt, vln); Coleman Hawkins (clt, ten); Fletcher Henderson (pno); unknown (gtr); John Kirby (bbs); Walter Johnson (dms); Harlan Lattimore (vcl)(3,4,5).

- Rust*3: Russell Smith – Bobby Stark -t; Rex Stewart –c; Sandy Williams - J.C. Higginbotham –tb; Russell Procope –cl –as; Edgar Sampson – as –vn; Coleman Hawkins –cl –ts; Fletcher Henderson –p-ldr-a; Ikey Robinson –g-v; John Kirby –bb –sb; Walter Johnson –d; Harlan Lattimore –v.

- W.C. Allen, *Hendersonia*, p. 308: Rex Stewart, Bobby Stark, possibly Leora Henderson, trumpets; J.C. Higginbotham, Sandy Williams, trombones; Russell Procope, Edgar Sampson, clarinets and alto saxes; Coleman Hawkins, clarinet and tenor sax; Fletcher Henderson, piano; Clarence Holiday, banjo and guitar; John Kirby, string bass and tuba; Walter Johnson, drums; vocals by Harlan Lattimore, and chorus from band.

- Rust*4,*6: Fletcher Henderson -p -dir; ?Leora Henderson -Rex Stewart -Bobby Stark -t; J.C. Higginbotham -Sandy Williams -tb; Edgar Sampson -Russell Procope -cl -as; Coleman Hawkins -cl -ts; Clarence Holiday -bj -g; John Kirby -bb -sb; Walter Johnson -d; Gene Gifford -a

Solos ad-lib:

11445: JCH o-tbn 16; CH ten 16; BS o-tpt 16; RP clt 16

11446: RexSt m-cnt 14; CH ten 14; LH o-tpt 14

11447: CH ten 4; JCH -tbn 1 + 1+16; BS o-tpt 4; HL voc 16 + 16 + 16 + RexSt m-cnt obl 16; CH ten 1+16; HL voc 14;

SW o-tbn 4 + 2; ES alt 2; RexSt o-cnt 1; ES alt 1; SW o-tbn 1; CH ten 1; CH ten2; BS o-tpt 2

11448: BS m-tpt 16; JCH o-tbn 1+14; HL voc 16 + FH pno obl 16; CH ten 1+2; CH ten coda 1

Discernible differences of takes: (thanks to Walter C. Allen, *Hendersonia*)

11447-A: First and second vocal chorus, Lattimore sings: "Oh gee baby oh shaw"

11447-B: First and second vocal chorus, Lattimore sings: "Oh gee baby hee shaw"

The recordings of the Fletcher Henderson Orchestra in real Swing style will be discussed in my subsequent list 'The Recordings of Fletcher Henderson and his Orchestra – The Swing Period' elsewhere at this website!