

SMASH FLIPS

A COLLECTION OF
ILL-TIMED SONGS



As sung by
The Characters

Confederate Victory Song ♦ Bon Voyage Titanic ♦ Congratulations Tom Dewey
When the Hindenburg Lands Today ♦ Cape Canaveral Moon ♦ and lesser known songs

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For of all sad words of tongue and pen,
The saddest are these: "It might have been."

John Greenleaf Whittier

But for slight errors in timing, the twelve songs represented in this album might have been remembered as the greatest hits of their day. However, due to unforeseeable and ironic twists of fate, each song's destiny was failure.

We have presented these forgotten segments of Musical Americana in the sincere hope that they may still reach the universal popularity they so justly deserve.

Here are some of the facts involved in selecting these compositions as the greatest musical blunders of all time:

Political pollsters agreed that, in the national election of November 2nd, 1948, Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York would defeat President Harry S. Truman by a landslide. There it seemed an excellent bet to have ten million copies of "CONGRATULATIONS, TOM DEWEY" printed and ready for distribution November 3rd. Unfortunately, President Truman received 303 electoral votes to Dewey's 189 in the greatest political upset of the century.

It was not a happy St. Valentine's Day in Chicago on that crisp February 14th of 1929. For that was the day five unidentified gangsters were picked to rub out seven members of a rival gang. However it was a happy day for the writer of "I WISH I WAS IN CHICAGO (ON ST. VALENTINE'S DAY)" who pined to be with his mob on that sentimental occasion. Instead of spending a lackluster holiday in his dank penitentiary cell, we know he was happy (after his escape), in having spent his last moments with his friends.

On June 25th, 1876, General George Armstrong Custer and his force of 208 men marched to the Little Big Horn River, in Montana, to put down an Indian uprising. As luck would have it, the Sioux Chieftain, Sitting Bull, had more Indians at his command than had been counted upon. The only thing that was not lost in that historic battle was a single copy of the sheet music to the song: "WE'RE DEPENDING ON YOU, GENERAL CUSTER."

A cheering crowd of people was on hand May 6th, 1937, to welcome the German dirigible, Hindenburg, to its mooring mast at Lakehurst, New Jersey. A ninety-two piece marching band was standing by to play a special song written for the occasion titled: "WHEN THE HINDENBURG LANDS TODAY." Unfortunately, just as the bandmaster raised his baton for the downbeat, the giant airship exploded and burst into flames. Even though the band finished playing the composition, the song went unnoticed in the excitement that ensued.

When General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomatox Court House on April 9th, 1865, it became obvious that "THE CONFEDERATE VICTORY SONG" would never become a smash hit. Originally the work had been written to be sung by the Confederate troops as they marched into battle. However, with complete Southern victory on the horizon, the publisher wisely decided to wait until the Confederate Flag raising ceremonies at the Capitol in Washington. Today a few Southern gentlemen still whistle its stirring strains through the mint of their juleps.

What could be safer than writing a patriotic song called: "THERE'LL ALWAYS BE FORTY-EIGHT STATES IN THE U. S. A."? After all, one look at any map would show that there was no room left for any more states. The rumors about Hawaii and Alaska gaining statehood could be discounted quickly since the addition of these two territories as full fledged states would disrupt the flag manufacturers. Even after the writer agreed to inject the words "at least" into his title the critics refused to accept the composition as another National Anthem.

After Charles Lindberg's famous flight across the Atlantic, in 1927, several songs about his achievement became national hits. It was natural, then, to compose a song commemorating Amelia Earhart's 1937 around-the-world flight and have it ready for her triumphant return. It is a great tragedy that America's greatest woman flyer was lost somewhere over the Pacific. The publisher of "WHEN AMELIA EARHART FLIES HOME" has never given up hope that someday he'll look up and see her long overdue plane flying out of the clouds.

Following in the tradition of songs about great cities, such as San Francisco, Chicago and New York, a properly enthusiastic song was written about the State Capitol of Arkansas. "LITTLE ROCK, THAT ALL-AMERICAN TOWN" was never released due to recent developments which might tend to "date" the lyrics.

"GOOD JOB, WELL DONE, NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN" was to have become a great hit in England shortly after the Prime Minister returned from Munich, Germany, in 1938, with the news that all had gone well at the peace conference. Adolph Hitler asked for (and got) Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland, with its 3,500,000 people, and had given in return a compact that Britain and Germany would never war on each other again. The events that transpired within a year after the meeting worked against the popularity of this song.

One of the most beautiful works in this album was inspired by a secluded tropical paradise in Florida. Shortly after finishing construction of a charming little retreat, the writer of "SLEEPY CAPE CANAVERAL MOON" sat down to finish the manuscript that he knew would bring lasting fame to these little known shores. Today, nearly everyone has heard of Cape Canaveral.

On August 3rd, 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, with a convoy of three tiny vessels and not quite a hundred men. Everyone knew that Columbus was risking the lives of these men in a foolhardy scheme to prove his theory that the world was round. A young baritone was breaking records, at an espresso house in Naples, singing his own composition, "COLUMBUS, YOU BIG BAG OF STEAM", when the news came of Columbus' discovery. After he was fired he spent years trying to push the song but, somehow, he never really attained any degree of success. In a fit of dispondency he went to the edge of the world and jumped to his death.

Shortly after striking an iceberg, the luxury liner "Titanic," making her maiden voyage from England to New York, sank off Cape Race, Newfoundland, April 13th, 1912. If it had not been for this very tragic event, the song "BON VOYAGE TITANIC," might have become the smash "goodbye song" of the century. The priceless original copy of this sheet music was found many years after the accident in a floating gin bottle.

MILT LARSEN

Many adjectives could be used to describe THE CHARACTERS, but the two most appropriate would be "versatile" and "funny." From the stage wherever they may be working comes a variety of material, pretty songs, sad songs, funny songs, sketches, satirical humor, pantomime, slapstick, and what have you.

Perhaps the versatility of THE CHARACTERS comes from their versatility as human beings. While the group is a partnership of the four members, Carmen Baccari is the leader. Carmen is the sober, sane member of the quartet, or perhaps he just seems sober and sane in comparison to the other three members. He is the master of ceremonies for the group. His brother Fred, known to all as "Champ," is an ex-fighter who quit the fight game before he lost his marbles, or so he says. It would be hard to convince the audience of this fact. Charles Hunt has flaming red hair so comes by his nickname "Blackie" quite naturally. Blackie is the master of funny faces. Johnny Ricco, the fourth member, is young, handsome and a really fine legitimate singer. Jack Kent accompanies the group on the drums.

All members of the group, Johnny Ricco excepted, are accomplished musicians. Carmen plays the guitar par excellence; Fred, the Champ, plays bass, and Blackie plays accordion and piano.

During the past five years they have won acclaim in such places as the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas, where they entertain twenty weeks a year, the Bal Tabarin at Lake Tahoe, Harold's Club, the Riverside Hotel and the Holiday in Reno.

Credits:

Special Cover	Orchestration
VIRGIL (VIP) PARTCH	BILL MUNDY
Musical Direction	Recordist
RAY HENDERSON	ALAN GOTTSCHALK

All songs contained in this album were written by DICK SHERMAN and MILT LARSEN and are copyrighted by HALL OF FAME MUSIC COMPANY.

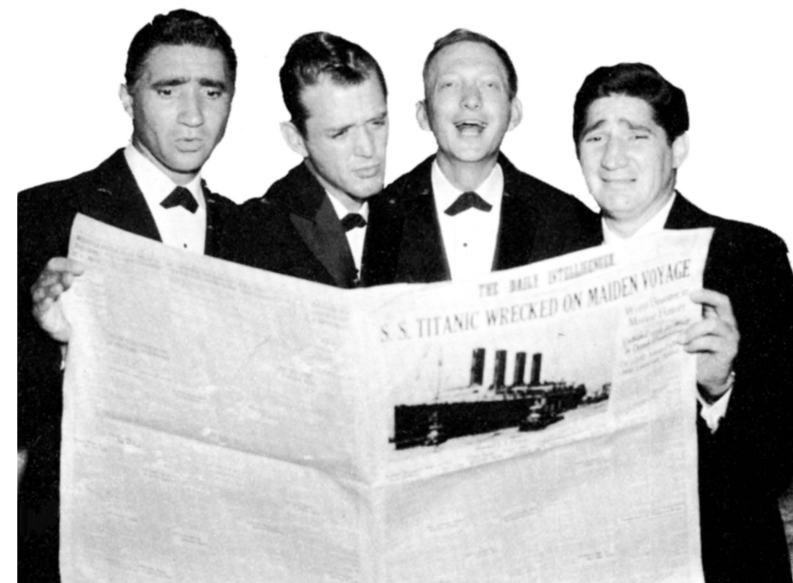
MANUFACTURER'S NOTE

You don't have to be a musicologist to determine that these songs were written by various composers throughout the years.

However two brash young men, DICK SHERMAN AND MILT LARSEN, claim writing credit for all of the material contained in this album.

Despite the fact that Mr. Sherman has several legitimate song hits to his credit and Mr. Larsen has gained an enviable reputation as a television comedy writer, the manufacturers have good reason to believe they are actually plagiarists and song sharks (the Columbus song itself would have to be almost a hundred years old).

Since the actual writers have failed to come forth to claim proper credit, we are forced to give credit where credit certainly isn't due.



RECORDS

A Division of the Brookledge Corporation, 1350 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood, California.



SMASH FLOPS
(sherman-larsen)

as sung by
THE CHARACTERS

PLP 1900

SIDE ONE

1. Congratulations, Tom Dewey
2. I Wish I Was In Chicago
3. We're Depending On You, General Custer
4. When The Hindenburg Lands Today
5. Confederate Victory Song
6. Forty-Eight States In The U.S.A.

33 $\frac{1}{3}$ RPM

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SMASH FLOPS
(sherman-larsen)

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PLP 1900

SIDE TWO

1. When Amelia Earhart Flies Home
2. Little Rock, That All American Town
3. Good Job, Well Done, Neville Chamberlain
4. Sleepy Cape Canaveral Moon
5. Columbus, You Big Bag of Steam
6. Bon Voyage Titanic

33 $\frac{1}{3}$ RPM

PIP RECORDS • A DIVISION OF THE BROOKLEDGE CORP. • HOLLYWOOD, CAL.