

Highlights and A Short Biography

1935 – Glenn began recording under his own name for Columbia. His instrumental ‘Solo Hop’ reached the Top 10.

1937 – Glenn organized his own touring band and signed with Brunswick records.

1938 – The group was unsuccessful, and was disbanded.

1939 – The Orchestra played at the Glen Island Casino, NY, a major swing venue, and was heard on the radio.

17 Top 10 hits including ‘Sunrise Serenade’; ‘Moonlight Serenade’; ‘Wishing (Will Make It So)’. Chart-toppers: ‘Stairway to the Stars’, ‘Moon Love’, ‘Over the Rainbow’, ‘Blue Orchids’, ‘The Man with the Mandolin’

His ‘Moonlight Serenade’ radio series for Chesterfield aired on CBS three times a week.

1940 – ‘Tuxedo Junction’ sold 115,000 copies in the first week. ‘Pennsylvania 6-5000?’ was released.

31 Top 10 hits: ‘Careless’, ‘When You Wish Upon a Star’, ‘Imagination’, ‘Fools Rush In (Where Angels Fear to Tread)’, and ‘Blueberry Hill’; ‘The Woodpecker Son’. ‘In the Mood’ and ‘Tuxedo Junction’ was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

1941 – Another 11 Top 10 hits: The band made the movie, Sun Valley Serenade, introducing ‘Chattanooga Choo Choo’, soon a million-seller.

#1 hit: ‘Song of the Volga Boatmen’, ‘You and I’, ‘Elmer’s Tune’.

1942 – 11 Top 10 hits and 3rd year as the top recording artist with ‘American Patrol’, ‘A String of Pearls’, ‘Moonlight Cocktail’, ‘Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree (With Anyone Else but Me)’ and ‘I’ve Got a Gal’ In Kalamazoo’ which came from Miller’s second film, ‘Orchestra Wives.’

The end of Miller’s dominance of popular music was when he received an officer’s commission in the Army/Air Force. Glenn organized a service band, performed at military camps, and hosted a weekly radio series.

1943 – Two more Top 10 hits including #1 ‘That Old Black Magic’.

1944 – Took his band to Great Britain, performed for the troops, and did radio broadcasts. On December 15th, Glenn Miller boarded a transport plane to Paris, never to be seen again.

1945 – ‘Glenn Miller’, an album of 78 rpm records, topped the newly instituted album charts and became the most successful album of the year.

1947 – ‘Glenn Miller Masterpieces, Vol. 2?’ topped the album charts.

1954 – Miller was the subject of a partly fictionalized film biography, The Glenn Miller Story, starring James Stewart.

2003 – Miller posthumously received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.