GLENN MILLER

1941

KEEP ‘EM FLYING

AMERICA’S NUMBER ONE BAND

TRANSITION

Dorothy Claire

January 1941 is a month of transition for Glenn Miller. Popular singer Marion Hutton goes on maternity leave. Glenn replaces Marion with young and talented Dorothy Claire from Bobby Byrne's band and Byrne promptly sues Miller. Meanwhile, the band continues at the Café Rouge and returns to the Paramount Theater in February, where they perform without bandstands and music. Then the gang heads west for California via the Midwest with stops in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis.

No stands or music: (L to R) Ernie Caceres, Tex Beneke, Ray Anthony, John Best, Billy May, Trigger Alpert, Dorothy Claire, Jack Lathrop and Ray Eberle

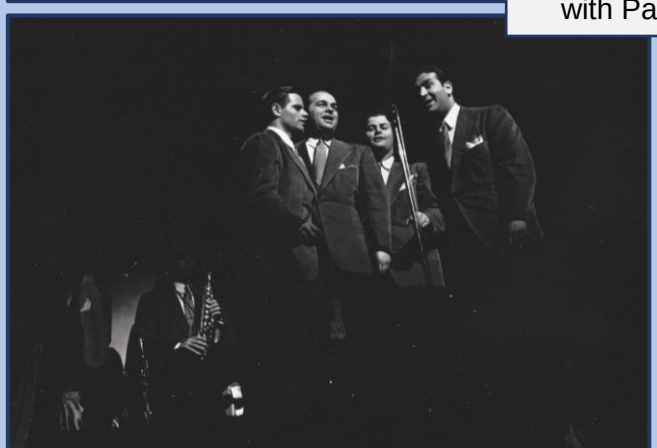
THE MODERNAIRES

with Dorothy Claire

with Ray Eberle

Going unto 1941, Glenn expands the size and scope of his band. He adds a trumpet and trombone chair but also hires the popular vocal quartet, the Four Modernaires: Ralph Brewster, Bill Conway, Hal Dickinson and Chuck Goldstein. And they have an immediate impact on Glenn Miller's music. Hal is married to singer Paula Kelly, who joins the band when Dorothy Claire returns to Bobby Byrne on March 20.

with Paula Kelly

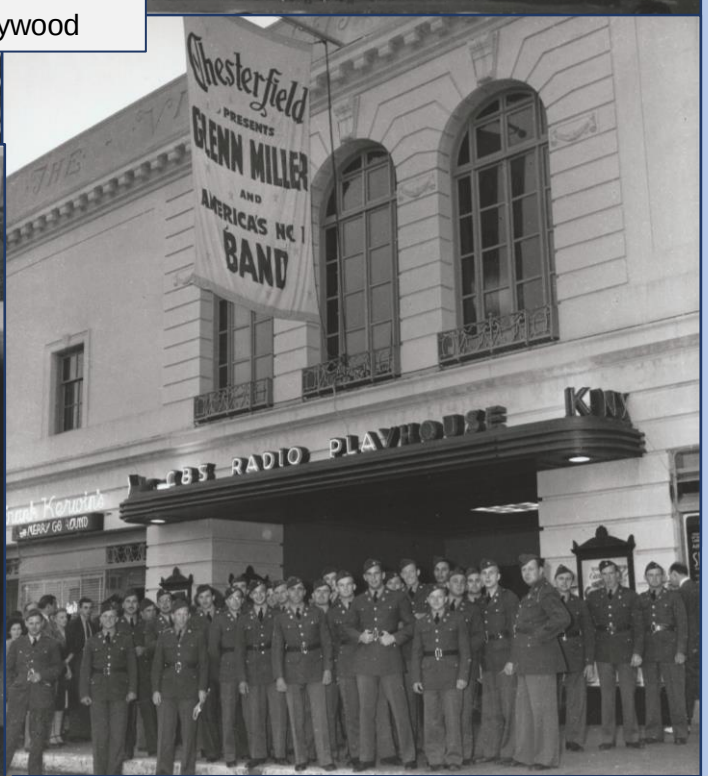


HOLLYWOOD

Glenn and the band arrived in California on March 24 to begin their work at 20th Century Fox on the motion picture *Sun Valley Serenade*, starring Sonja Henie and John Payne. Exterior scenes are shot in Idaho, but the band never leaves Hollywood. The film is a smash hit and continues to thrill audiences today, especially with the Miller hit tune *Chattanooga Choo Choo* and a legendary dance sequence with famous black stars Dorothy Dandridge and the Nicholas Brothers.

CALIFORNIA DREAM

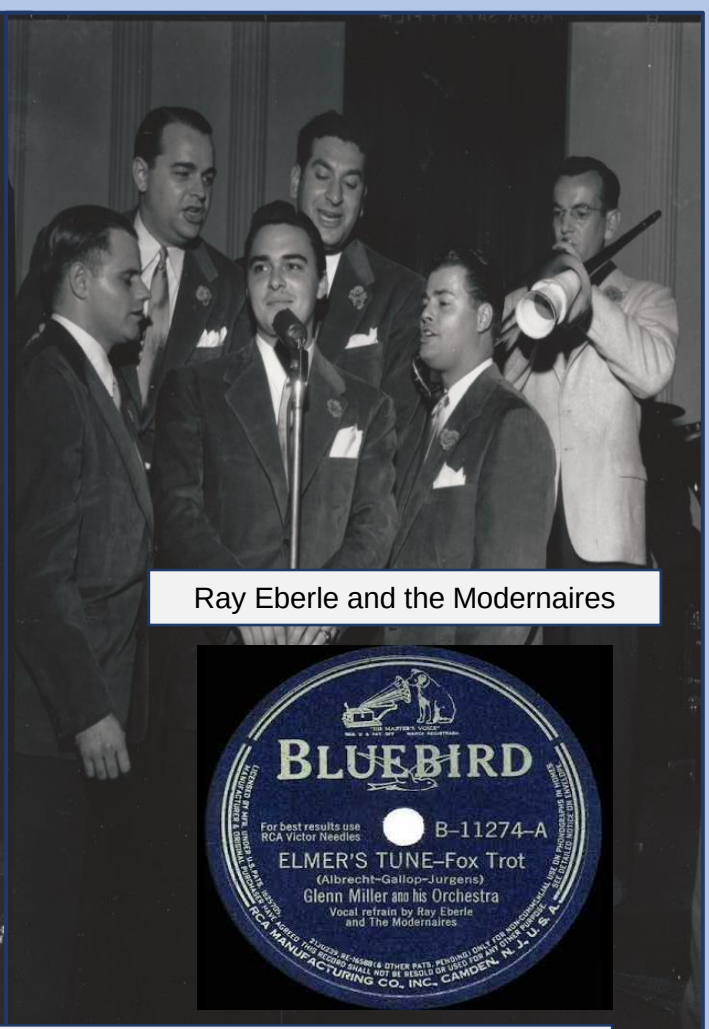
CBS Hollywood



The new Miller home in Monrovia (Rancho Duarte)
Glenn and Helen Miller purchase *Tuxedo Junction*

THE HITS KEEP COMING

Bobby Hackett



Ray Eberle and the Modernaires

The band returns to New York and the Café Rouge and records a new batch of legendary #1 hits. And Marion Hutton returns from maternity leave.

Paul Tanner, Jimmy Priddy, Frank D'Annoflo and Glenn Miller

SUNSET SERENADE

With the NBC-Blue network, Glenn Miller arranges for USO *Sunset Serenade* broadcasts dedicated to the armed forces. Five bases send their favorite tunes that Glenn features on the 5:00 – 6:00 pm (Eastern) Saturday broadcasts from the Café Rouge. The audience votes for their favorite. The winning base wins an RCA Radio-Phonograph and a supply of records, paid for by Glenn himself. He believes that it is the least he can do for Americans in uniform.

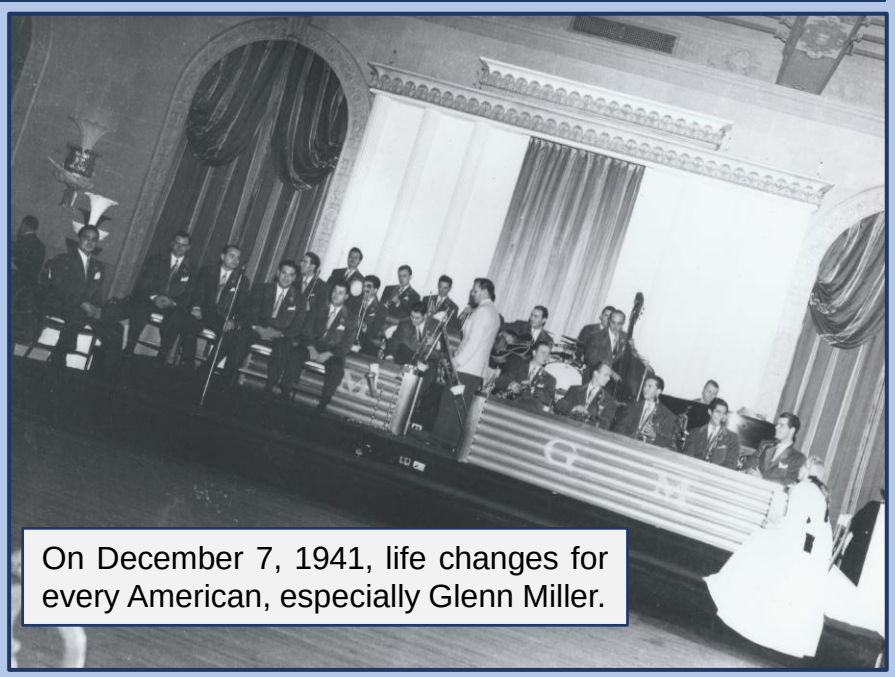
ALL ABOARD ON TRACK 29
CHATTANOOGA CHOO CHOO

Glenn Miller's Biggest #1 Hit
#1 for 9 weeks, 1941-42
In Top 10 for 13 weeks, 1941-42
Millions of 78rpm Records Sold

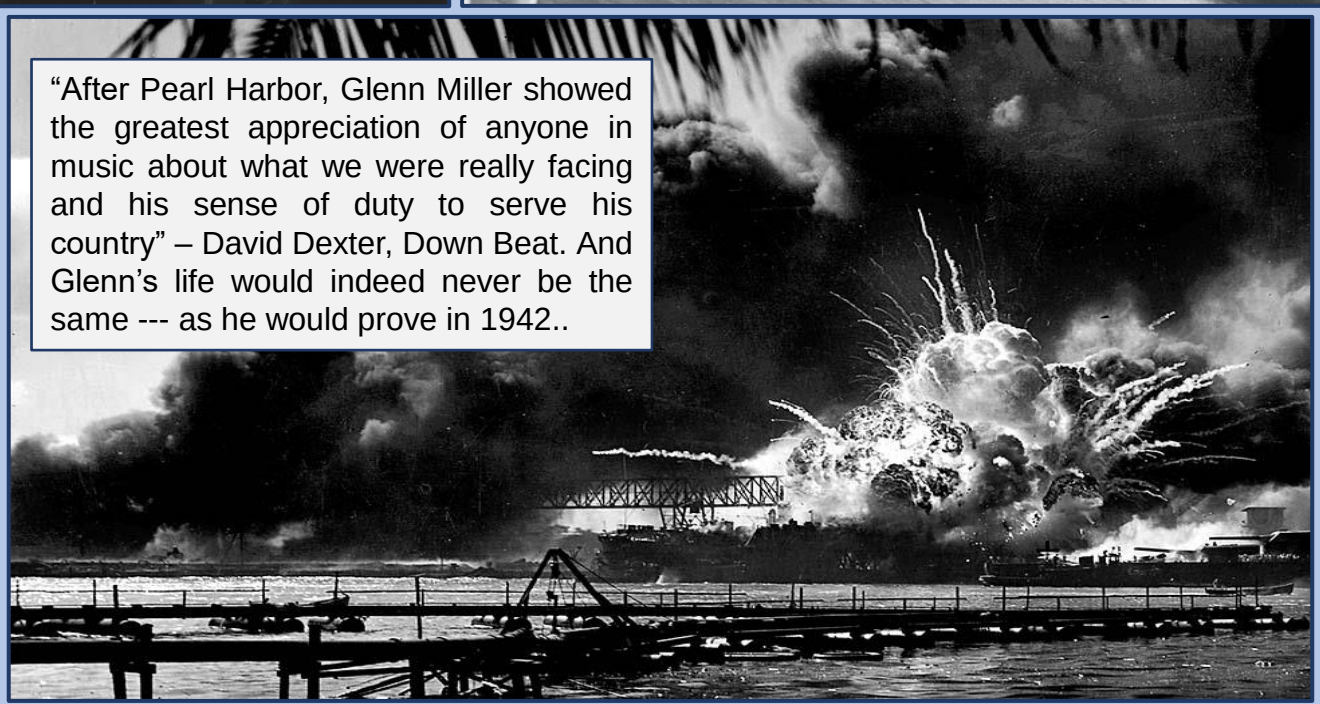
"I think it stinks" – Glenn Miller, when first hearing the tune at rehearsal
(Glenn with Tex Beneke and the Modernaires)

The first Gold Record in history
(Glenn Miller Archives)

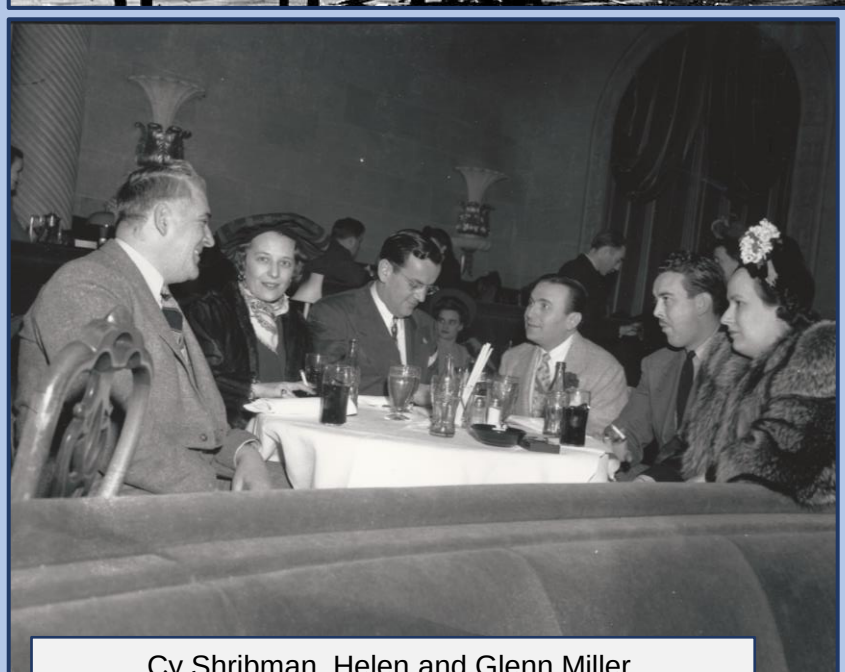
AMERICA GOES TO WAR



On December 7, 1941, life changes for every American, especially Glenn Miller.



"After Pearl Harbor, Glenn Miller showed the greatest appreciation of anyone in music about what we were really facing and his sense of duty to serve his country" – David Dexter, Down Beat. And Glenn's life would indeed never be the same --- as he would prove in 1942..



Cy Shribman, Helen and Glenn Miller, Charlie Spivak, Don and Polly Haynes

Marion Hutton