The TRUMPET of WILBUR CLAYTON “BUCK”

Solographer: Jan Evensmo
Last updated: Oct. 11, 2016

Note: This is a complete solography with comments to all sessions but only until 1949.
Born: Parsons, Kansas, Nov. 12, 1911  
Died: NYC. Dec. 8, 1991

Introduction:

Buck Clayton was one of my favourite trumpeters from the very first time I heard him accompany Billie Holiday on the late thirties Teddy Wilson records. I even made a solography up to 1942 but forgot the whole thing, just retrieved it by going through my files recently!

Early history:

Father played tuba and trumpet in local church orchestras. Buck began playing piano at the age of six, switched to trumpet in his early teens, took lessons from his father. At 19 went to California for four months, after a succession of non-musical jobs he returned to Kansas, completed high school studies, then returned to West Coast. Worked with various bandleaders in Los Angeles including: Irwing Brothers, Duke Elligewh, Lavem Floyd, Charlie Echols, and Earl Dancer. Received musical advice from Mutt Carey but never took lessons from him. In 1934 Buck was appointed leader of Earl Dancer's Band, this 14-piece unit was heard by Teddy Weatherford who booked the full band for a residency at the Canidrome Ballroom, Shanghai. Weatherford occasionally played concerts with the band in Shanghai, but was not a regular member of the group. Later, Buck led a smaller band at the Casanova Club, Shanghai. Returned to Los Angeles in 1936 and again led own big band, ‘The 14 Gentlemen from Harlem’, also ‘gigged’ with various bandleaders including Charlie Echols. Led own band at Sebastian's Cotton Club, Culver City, during this residency Lionel Hampton guested with the band. In autumn 1936, whilst on his way to New York to join Willie Bryant’s band, Buck stopped off in Kansas City where Count Basie persuaded him to take the trumpet place recently vacated by Hot Lips Page. Remained with Count Basie until Army call-up in November 1943 (except for temporary absence in mid-1942 for a tonsillectomy). Was stationed for most of the time at Camp Kilner, New Jersey, and played regularly with all-star service bands. Honourable discharge early in 1946. Did arrangements for Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Harry James, etc. In October 1946 took part in first national ‘Jazz at the Philharmonic’ tour and subsequently played on several of Norman Granz’s tours. From 1947 led own sextet at Café Society (Downtown), New York. On 24th September 1949 sailed for first tour of Europe, led own band in France. (Ref. John Chilton).
BUCK CLAYTON SOLOGRAPHY

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  
NYC. Jan. 21, 1937

Buck Clayton, Joe Keyes, Carl Smith (tp), George Hunt, Dan Minor (tb), Caughey Roberts (as), Herschel Evans, Lester Young (ts), Jack Washington (sop, bar), Count Basie (p), Claude Williams (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Jimmy Rushing (vo).

Four titles were recorded for Decca, two have WBC:

61542-A  Honeysuckle Rose  Solo 8 bars (mute). (FM)
61542-B  Honeysuckle Rose  As above. (FM)
61544-A Swingin’ At The Daisy Chain  Solo 16+8 bars (mute), (ts-HE) on bridge. Solo 32 bars (mute) to fade out. (FM)

WBC’s recording debut is interesting but without great excitement. He is the main soloist on “… Daisy Chain” and shows immediately his technique and personality. He preferred the mute in his early years, and he seems to master it from the start. The first solo is the most notable, the second a sort of filler and fades out at record conclusion. The “… Rose” solo has earlier been attributed to Carl Smith, but to me the muted style here is typical Buck. Postscript of Oct. 11, 2016: Note the newly discovered alternate take of “… Rose” on Mosaic, lots of differences!

TEDDY WILSON & HIS ORCHESTRA  
NYC. Jan. 25, 1937

Buck Clayton (tp), Benny Goodman (cl), Lester Young (ts), Teddy Wilson (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Billie Holiday (vo).

Four titles were recorded for Brunswick:

20568-1  He Ain’t Got Rhythm  Obbligato 40 bars (mute). Solo 22 bars (open), last 4 with ens. (M)
20569-2  This Year’s Kisses  Solo 8 bars (open) to 8 bars in ens. (SM)
20570-1  Why Was I Born?  Solo 32 bars (mute). In ens 8 bars (open). (M)
20571-1  I Must Have That Man  Obbligato 8 bars (mute). Solo with ens 8 bars (open). (SM)

Here we meet the “real” WBC for the first time! The Wilson/Holiday combination did miracles to everybody participating in their recording sessions and WBC is no exception. There is no doubt that his most important item is “Why Was I …”, here his majestic yet sensitive muted introduction represents a new voice in jazz, different from all his predecessors. His timing is perfect as is his melodic sense! Note also how beautifully he carries the ensemble to a conclusion with a fine open horn. What next? I do not find his obbligato on “… Rhythm” quite perfect, but the open horn is outstanding. The obbligato on “… Man” is certainly magnificent, and again, note the superb way of leading his copatriots to the final grooves! The very simple solo on “… Kisses” is moving. In all, a new trumpet star is born!!!

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  
Pittsburgh, Feb. 1937

Personnel probably as Jan. 21.
Large number of titles exist, from the Jazz Archive LP-issue, six have WBC:

St. Louis Blues  Solo 24 bars (mute). (FM)
King Porter Stomp  Soli 24 and 16 bars (mute). (FM)
You Do The Darndest Things  Soli 4, 4 and 4 bars (mute). (M)
Tattersfield Stomp  Solo 8 bars (mute). (F)
Yeah Man!  Solo 32 bars (mute). (F)
Swingin’ At The Daisy Chain  Soli 32 and 40 bars (mute) to fade out. (FM)

Buck is all mute here and have some nice contributions, although the sound quality of these broadcasts is rather inferior.
COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  NYC. March 26, 1937
Personnel as above except Ed Lewis, Bobby Moore (tp), Freddie Green (g) replace Keyes, Smith and Williams.
Four titles were recorded for Decca, three have WBC:

62078-A Exactly Like You Obbligato 32 bars (mute). (FM)
62079-A Boo Hoo Obbligato 44 bars (mute). (FM)
62081-A Boogie Woogie Obbligato 36 bars (mute). (M)

From this date we understand that Buck specialized in the art of accompaniment! Whenever Rushing is singing, the muted trumpet is backing him. He plays very actively and creatively, not restricting himself to mere background, in fact, it seems that he steals the show! There is little reason to single out any particular item, but if I must, I suggest “Boo Hoo”, an AABA tune with A’s of 12 bars instead of the usual 8 bars.

TEDDY WILSON & HIS ORCHESTRA  NYC. May 11, 1937
Buck Clayton (tp), Buster Bailey (cl), Johnny Hodges (as), Lester Young (ts), Teddy Wilson (p), Allan Reuss (g), Artie Bernstein (b), Cozy Cole (dm), Billie Holiday (vo).
Four titles were recorded for Brunswick:

21117-2 Sun Showers Solo 16 bars (open). In ens 4 bars. (M)
21118-2 Yours And Mine Solo 16 bars (open). In ens 4 bars. (SM)
21119-1 I’ll Get By Obbligato 14 bars (mute). Solo 14 bars (open) to coda. (SM)
21119-2 I’ll Get By Obbligato 28 bars (mute). Solo 14 bars (open) to coda. (SM)
21120-1 Mean To Me Solo 8 bars (open). In ens 8 bars (open). (SM)
21120-2 Mean To Me Solo 8 bars (mute). In ens 8 bars (open). (SM)

Another string of pearls on the second TW/BH session! For an aperitif note the two beautiful bridges to Prez on “Mean …”, one with and the other without mute. What to prefer? Honestly I don’t know, both soli are perfect! In “Sun …” he presents the melody, lovely but straight, and the rear 78 rpm. side “Yours …” is the better one, having a gorgeous open solo introducing Billie. Note differences in the background playing on “… By”!

TEDDY WILSON & HIS ORCHESTRA  NYC. June 1, 1937
Buck Clayton (tp), Buster Bailey (cl), Lester Young (ts), Teddy Wilson (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Billie Holiday (vo).
Four titles were recorded for Brunswick:

21217-1 Foolin’ Myself Solo 8 bars (open). In ens 2 bars. (SM)
21218-2 Easy Living Obbligato 32 bars (mute). (SM)
21219-1 I’ll Never Be The Same In ens 2 bars. (SM)
21220-1 I’ve Found A New Baby In ens 32 bars. Solo 16 bars (open). In ens. (F)
21220-2 I’ve Found A New Baby As above. (F)

Another immortal swing session, due also to Buck. His brief solo on “… Myself” shows a trumpet maestro, knowing his horn inside-out and how to play music with it. His style is really individual, not closely inspired by anyone as far as I can judge. The obbligato on “Easy …” is another magnificent performance, few trumpeters if any did master the difficult art of obbligato like WBC, and his contact with Billie here is not inferior to that of Prez. “… Same” features WBC but briefly at the end. “… Baby” however is very interesting with two takes with Buck playing quite differently. The tempo is high though, and he has got some slight trouble on take 3 compared to take 1. But return to the first two titles and appreciate one of the greatest trumpeters ever!!!

BILLIE HOLIDAY & HER ORCHESTRA  NYC. June 15, 1937
Buck Clayton (tp), Edmond Hall (cl), Lester Young (ts), James Sherman (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Billie Holiday (vo).
Four titles were recorded for Vocalion:

21249-1 Me, Myself And I Obbligato 32 bars (mute). Solo
Again a beautiful session, to last forever, with WBC taking his proud share. Probably “… Your Love” should be considered the most important trumpet items here! He plays kinda straight with an open, beautiful, intense style, perhaps not exciting improvisations as such but very moving messages. The two takes are superficially similar, but if you listen closely, you will find the details differ. I prefer take 2 slightly. “Born …” is of the same calibre, apart from a hesitating opening phrase. Also “… Moonlight” is excellent, and note how Jo Jones is dropping bombs here! The obbligato on “Me …” is not too well recorded, and the soli are more interesting. In all, perhaps not the most important of Buck’s billie Holiday encounters but enough beautiful trumpet to make it noteworthy.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA    
NYC. June 30, 1937
Personnel as above except Earl Warren (as) replaces Roberts and Billie Holiday (vo) added.
Broadcast from Savoy Ballroom. Eleven titles, four have WBC:
Shout And Feel It Solo 6 bars (mute). (F)
They Can’t Take That Away FM Soli 4 and 4 bars (open). (S)
Bugle Blues Soli 24 and 32 bars (open). Solo 3 choruses of 32 bars (open) to coda. (FM)
I Got Rhythm Solo 8 bars (mute), destroyed by announcer. (F)

Buck opens up now, “Bugle …” features him extensively with his open horn, to great success! Note in particular the second solo!!

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA    
NYC. July 7, 1937
Personnel as above.
Four titles were recorded for Decca, two have WBC:
62331-B Smarty Solo 16 bars (open). (M)
62332-A One O’Clock Jump Solo 12 bars (open). (M)

On “Smartty” WBC plays the open horn with great authority. “… Jump” however is rather ordinary.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA    
NYC. Aug. 9, 1937
Personnel as above except Eddie Durham (tb, g) replaces Hunt.
Four titles were recorded for Decca, three have WBC:
62511-A Good Morning Blues Solo 14 bars (mute). (SM)
Possibly the two beautiful takes of “Good Morning …” are the highlights, but the intense muted soli on “Topsy” and “Time Out” also belong to the all-time WBC masterpieces.

**BILLIE HOLIDAY & HER ORCHESTRA**  
**NYC. Sept. 13, 1937**

Buck Clayton (tp), Buster Bailey (cl), Lester Young (ts), Claude Thornhill (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Billie Holiday (vo).

Four titles were recorded for Vocalion:

- **21686-1** Getting Some Fun Out Of Life  
  Obbligato 16 bars (mute).  
  Solo 16 bars (open).  
  Obbligato 8 bars (open). (SM)

- **21687-1** Who Wants Love?  
  Obbligato 8 bars (mute). Solo 8 bars (open). Part of coda. (M)

- **21688-1** Travlin’ All Alone  
  Intro 4 bars (mute). Solo 12 bars (mute). Some weak obbligato at the end. Part of coda. (M)

- **21689-1** He’s Funny That Way  
  Solo 16 bars (mute). Part of coda (open). (SM)

It seems that WBC is developing his style, making it more sophisticated and professional without losing the very sensitive, almost puritanistic approach earlier. The lovely “… That Way” is a remarkable example of the high level of artistry WBC has achieved by now. Similarly, “… All Alone”, in a more dramatic vein, shows Buck attacking with his mute to create a quite original solo. His open soli on “… Life” and “… Love?” are also lovely, while the obbligato parts suffer from being underrecorded, a pity particular for the latter.

**COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA**  
**NYC. Oct. 13, 1937**

Buck Clayton, Bobby Moore, Ed Lewis (tp), Eddie Durham, Dan Minor, Benny Morton (tb), Earl Warren (as), Herschel Evans, Lester Young (cl, ts), Jack Washington (as, bar), Count Basie (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Jimmie Rushing (vo).

Four titles were recorded for Decca, three have WBC:

- **62682-A** I Keep Remembering  
  Weak obbligato 32 bars (mute). (M)

- **62483-A** Out The Window  
  Solo 8 bars (open). (FM)

- **62684-A** Don’t You Miss Your Baby  
  Solo 16 bars (mute). Weak obbligato 48 bars (mute). (M)

A masterly performed muted, lovely, melodic solo on “… Baby”, one of his very best with early Count! The background playing is weakly recorded, and I am not completely sure it is Buck playing.

**TEDDY WILSON & HIS ORCHESTRA**  
**NYC. Nov. 1, 1937**

Buck Clayton (tp), Prince Robinson (cl), Vido Musso (ts), Teddy Wilson (p), Allan Reuss (g), Walter Page (b), Cozy Cole (dm), Billie Holiday (vo).

Four titles were recorded for Brunswick:

- **21982-1** Nice Work If You Can Get It  
  Solo 8 bars (mute).  
  Solo 8 bars (open). (M)

- **21983-1** Things Are Looking Up  
  Intro 4 bars (open).  
  Obbligato 8 bars (mute). (SM)

- **21984-1** My Man  
  With ens 8 bars (open). (SM)

- **21985-1** Can’t Help Lovin’ Dat Man  
  Solo 16 bars (mute).  
  With ens 8 bars (open). (SM)

A lovely session with Billie at her very best, following up the Sept. 13 session, and with brilliant trumpet playing!! The muted background playing on “… Looking Up” is worth the whole get-together, and the soli on “Nice Work …” and “… Dat Man” belong to his most memorable ones. Don’t forget the open solo on the former, also a remarkable highlight!!

**COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA**  
**Cedar Grove, NJ. Nov. 3, 1937**

Personnel as above.
Broadcast from Meadowbrook Lounge, eight titles, two have WBC:

One O’Clock Jump  Solo 36 bars (open). (FM)
Good Morning Blues  Solo 14 bars (mute). (SM)

A lovely version of “Good Morning …”, almost as a third take from the Aug. 9 session! And three fine open choruses on “… Jump”!!

HARRY JAMES & HIS ORCHESTRA  NYC. Dec. 1, 1937
Harry James, Buck Clayton (tp), Eddie Durham (tb, arr), Earl Warren (as), Herschal Evans (ts), Jack Washington (as, bar), Jess Stacy (p), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Helen Humes (vo).
Four titles were recorded for Brunswick, but all trumpet soli by HJ.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  NYC. Jan. 3, 1938
Personnel as above except Karl George (tp) replaces Moore.
Two titles were recorded for Decca, one has WBC:

63123-A  Blues In The Dark  Soli 12 and 12 bars (mute) to coda. (S)

Beautiful muted soli on “… Dark”.

HARRY JAMES & HIS ORCHESTRA  NYC. Jan. 5, 1938
Four titles were recorded for Brunswick, one has WBC:

22250-1  Song Of The Wanderer  Obbligato 32 bars (mute). (SM)

One “forgotten” WBC item, a beautiful obbligato not inferior to anything from this period! However, in all fairness, we tend to forget it just because of James’ magnificent trumpet on this and the previous session!!

TEDDY WILSON & HIS ORCHESTRA  NYC. Jan. 6, 1938
Buck Clayton (tp), Benny Morton (tb), Lester Young (ts), Teddy Wilson (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Billie Holiday (vo).
Four titles were recorded for Brunswick:

22192-3  My First Impression Of You  Obbligato 32 bars (mute).  In ens 8 bars (open). (SM)
22192-4  My First Impression Of You  As above. (SM)
22193-3  When You’re Smiling  Obbligato 32 bars (mute).  In ens 8 bars (open). (FM)
22193-4  When You’re Smiling  As above. (FM)
22194-3  I Can’t Believe That YILWM  Solo 16 bars (mute).  In ens 4 bars (mute). (SM)
22194-4  I Can’t Believe That YILWM  As above. (SM)
22255-1  If Dreams Come True  Obbligato 32 bars (mute).  Solo 16 bars (open).  Coda with ens. (M)
22255-2  If Dreams Come True  As above. (M)

Another immortal swing session where Buck contributes a lot! First should be mentioned the warm and personal introductions of “… With Me”, “straight” and yet so very different! Then the hot and daring rideouts on “… True”, beautiful constructions, superficially similar but in fact really different, take 2 to be preferred. However, if you are an obbligato lover, this is the day, because six items feature Buck’s active and playful mute extensively. Of these I dare not choose a favourite item!!

BILLIE HOLIDAY & HER ORCHESTRA  NYC. Jan. 12, 1938
Buck Clayton (tp), Benny Morton (tb), Lester Young (ts), Teddy Wilson (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Billie Holiday (vo).
Four titles were recorded for Vocalion:

22281-1  Now They Call It Swing  Solo 16 bars (mute). Very weak obbligato (mute). (M)
22281-2/3  Now They Call It Swing  As above. (M)
22282-1  On The Sentimental Side  In ens 2 bars (open) to coda. (S)
22282-2  On The Sentimental Side  As above. (S)
22283-1  Back In Your Own Backyard  Intro 7 bars (open).  Obbligato 32 bars (mute).  Briefly in ens (open). (M)

22283-2  Back In Your Own Backyard  As above. (M)

22284-2  When A Woman Loves A Man  Solo 8 bars (open). (M)

What to prefer here, either the slow, beautiful, pensive open horn on “When A Woman …” or the attacking mute on “… Swing” with two very different versions, it is a matter of taste. “Back …” has a perfect intro on the perfect take 1, but weaker on the almost rehearsal take 2. Note that the change to mute makes him enter the obbligato a little late, bad production! “… Side” has nothing of interest to offer with regard to Buck.

JAM SESSION  NYC. Jan. 16, 1938
Buck Clayton, Harry James (tp), Vernon Brown (tb), Benny Goodman (cl), Johnny Hodges (as), Lester Young (ts), Harry Carney (bar), Count Basie (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Gene Krupa (dm).

Honeysuckle Rose  Solo 3 choruses of 32 bars (mute).  With ens to solo 8 bars (open). (FM)

An immortal jam session, well known to all of us, and WBC is “only” one of many giants, playing a good muted solo.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  NYC. Feb. 16, 1938
Personnel as above except Harry Edison (tp) replaces George.
Four titles were recorded for Decca, two have WBC:

63286-A  Sent For You Yesterdays  Obbligato 12 bars (open). (M)
63289-A  Swingin’ The Blues  Solo 12 bars (mute). (FM)

Buck’s main contribution here is “Every Tub” but as arranger, not as trumpet soloist! His solo on “… Blues” is while good somewhat untypical, staccato and with an unusual sharp mute.

KANSAS CITY FIVE / EDDIE DURHAM & HIS BASIE FOUR  NYC. March 18, 1938
Buck Clayton (tp), Eddie Durham (tb, elg), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm).
Four titles were recorded for Commodore:

22580-1  Laughin’ At Life  Solo 30 bars (mute). Solo 48+8 bars, (g) on last bridge. (FM)
22581-1  Good Morning Blues  Solo 15, 12 and 12 bars (mute). (S)
22582-1  I Know That You Know  Solo 32, 32 and 64 bars (open). (F)
22583-1  Love Me Or Leave Me  Solo 8 bars (mute). Solo 16+8 bars, (g) on bridge. (SM)

This magnificent session has, at least in my “circles”, been overlooked, almost neglected. The reason s not difficult to understand: The presence of Lester Young is lacking, and therefore the next Commodore session gets all the attention. From a trumpet point of view this is very unfortunate, because WBC is playing magnificently here!! In fact, he rarely has had a chance of developing his ideas like he does here, for instance on “… Know” with four choruses, and “Good Morning …” with three choruses. The tempi are very varied, and so is the trumpet playing. Note for instance that while he always plays the mute here, it is not the same one! On “… Life” he starts with the usual one on the first chorus but changes to a sharper one after the guitar chorus. Note also the strong rideout! Also the very fast “I Know …” is an excellent trumpet piece, but the master might have been rejected for the faulty opening of the second trumpet chorus. On the other side of the tempo scale is are “Love Me …” and “Good Morning …”, the last an old Buck vehicle from the Basie band but played as fresh as anytime. You really should give this session a new chance, because it is really one of the great ones!

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  Randall’s Island, May 29, 1938
Personnel as usual.
Broadcast, Bill Savory collection, one title has WBC:

One O’Clock Jump  Solo 24 bars. (FM)

The trumpet comes well through in spite of lousy sound.
COUNT BASIE SEXTET  
NYC. June 3, 1938
Buck Clayton (tp), Lester Young (cl, ts), Count Basie (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Helen Humes (vo; “Blues …”, “Song …”).
Seven titles were recorded for Columbia, originally unissued, later pretended to belong to the John Hammond “Spirituals to Swing” concert in Carnegie Hall, some issued only on CD:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Performance Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I Never Knew</td>
<td>Duet with (cl) 32 bars (mute). Solo 32 bars (mute).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Duet with (cl) 64 bars, except (p/b) on first bridge and (tp) solo 8 bars (mute) on the second. (F)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don’t Be That Way</td>
<td>With (ts) and (p) 48+8 bars, (ts) on last bridge. Solo 32 bars (mute). With (ts) and (p) 8 bars to coda. (M)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blues for Helen</td>
<td>Obbligato 24 and 24 bars (mute), last with (cl). (S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Be Good</td>
<td>Soli 32, 4 and 4 bars (mute). Duet with (ts) 32 bars. (FM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allez Oop</td>
<td>Soli 32 and 8 bars (mute). (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage Stomp</td>
<td>Soli 16 and 8 bars (mute). (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song Of The Wanderer</td>
<td>Obbligato with (cl) 32 bars (open). (M)</td>
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There is so much lovely coplaying between Prez and Buck on this session, that I for once limit my comments to a brief encouragement, play these seven titles and have some great pleasure!!

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  
NYC. June 6, 1938
Personnel as above.
Three titles were recorded for Decca, one has WBC:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Performance Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63920-A Doggin’ Around</td>
<td>Solo 16 bars (open). (F)</td>
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Competent solo without creating much emotion.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  
NYC. July 9, 1938
Personnel as above except Dicky Wells (tb) replaces Durham and Helen Humes (vo) added.
CBS broadcast “America Dances”, eight titles, four have WBC:

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Song Of The Wanderer</td>
<td>Soli 8 bars (mute). (M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Be Good</td>
<td>Soli 32 bars (mute). (FM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One O’Clock Jump</td>
<td>Soli 24 bars (open). (FM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Let A Song Go Out OMH</td>
<td>Weak obligato (mute). (SM)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the “Song …” we get another of the exquisite, brief, muted soli which contains so much real music!! He also mutes “Lady …” but prefers open horn on “… Jump”, both quite nice.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  
NYC. July 23, 1938
Same, with Harry James (tp) guesting on “King Porter Stomp”.
Broadcast from the Famous Door, seven titles, two have WBC:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jumpin’ At The Woodside</td>
<td>Solo 32 bars (mute). (FM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Be Good</td>
<td>Solo 32 bars (open). (FM)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NYC. Aug. 9, 1938
Same. Broadcast from the Famous Door, four titles, two have WBC:

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King Porter Stomp</td>
<td>Soli 24 and 16 bars (open). (FM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Be Good</td>
<td>Solo 56 bars (mute), cut short by announcer. (F)</td>
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</tbody>
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NYC. Aug. 12, 1938
Same. One title, no WBC.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  
NYC. Aug. 22, 1938
Personnel as above.
Four titles were recorded for Decca, one has WBC:
64474-A Jumpin’ At The Woodside Solo 32 bars (mute). (F)

Buck takes this one with no problems!

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA NYC. Aug. 23, 1938
Same. Broadcast from the Famous Door, four titles, one has WBC:

Yeah Man! Solo 32 bars (open). (F)

NYC. Aug. 24, 1938

Same. Three titles, one has WBC:

Doggin’ Around Solo 32 bars (open). (F)

NYC. Aug. 28, 1938

Same. Bill Savory collection, one title has WBC:

Honeysuckle Rose Solo 32 bars (mute). (FM)

NYC. Sept. 6, 1938

Same. Two titles:

Indiana Solo 30 bars. (open). (M)

Out The Window Solo 8 bars (mute) (behind announcer). (F)

NYC. Sept. 13, 1938

Same. Four titles, two have WBC:

Wo-Ta-Ta Solo 32 bars (open). (FM)

Indiana Solo 30 bars (open). (M)

WBC creates many nice contributions on the famous “… Door” broadcasts, as “Indiana” where he presents it rather straight, or the uptempo “… Around”, and my particular favourite “Wo-Ta-Ta”; dig this one!! Postscript: Note also a very fine solo on “… Rose”!

BILLIE HOLIDAY & HER ORCHESTRA NYC. Sept. 15, 1938
Buck Clayton (tp), Dicky Wells (tb), Lester Young (cl, ts), Queenie Johnson (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Billie Holiday (vo).

Four titles were recorded for Vocalion, no WBC on 23468-1&2 “I Can’t Get Started” but:

23467-1/2 The Very Thought Of You Soli 8 and 8 bars (mute). (SM)
23469-1 I’ve Got A Date With A Dream Intro 4 bars (open). Weak obbligato 32 bars (mute). (SM)
23469-2 I’ve Got A Date With A Dream As above. (SM)
23470-1/4 You Can’t Be Mine Solo 8 bars (open). Briefly in ens. (SM)

If one has to choose a handful of the “best” Buck items from this period, it would be impossible to avoid the incredibly beautiful and elaborate “… Thought Of You”, a true masterpiece!! Also lovely is the open horn on “… Be Mine”. The intr on “… Dream” are rather similar, and the obbligato parts are unfortunately rather weakly recorded.

KANSAS CITY SIX NYC. Sept. 27, 1938
Buck Clayton (tp), Lester Young (cl, ts), Eddie Durham (tb, elg), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm).

Five titles were recorded for Commodore:

23421-1 Way Down Yonder In New Orleans With ens 28 bars. Solo 28 bars (mute). Duet with (cl) 28 bars (mute). (FM)
23421-2 Way Down Yonder In New Orleans As above. (FM)
23422-1 Countless Blues With ens 12 bars. Solo 24 bars (mute). (FM)
23422-2 Countless Blues As above. (FM)
23423-1 Them There Eyes Duet with (cl) 32 bars (mute). Solo 32 bars (mute). In ens 4 bars. (FM)
23423-2 Them There Eyes As above. (FM)
I Want A Little Girl
Solo 32 bars (mute).
Solo 16 bars (open). (SM)

I Want A Little Girl
As above. (SM)

Pagin’ The Devil
Solo 12 bars (open). (SM)

Pagin’ The Devil
As above. (SM)

The general status of this session is undisputable, it is one of the greatest in jazz!! However, Prez has always taken so much attention from the other participants, that it is quite a revelation to try to “avoid” Prez and listen to what the others are doing! Buck solos magnificently on all items, and it is quite difficult to present highlights. However, his lovely and very different choruses on “… Little Girl” are excellent candidates. In fact, the existence of alternate takes on this session has not only doubled but tripled its value!! Buck shows that he is improvising from start to end; his flashing mute on “… Eyes” for instance! And the lovely duets with Prez’ clarinet!! After listening closely I find only one faulty item, the take 2 of “… Devil”, where the reject certainly is mostly due to Buck! But apart from this, a lovely session for trumpet lovers this is, even if they don’t like Prez!!!

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
NYC. Oct. 9, 1938
Personnel as above. Broadcast from the Famous Door, one title:

Yeah Man!
Solo 32 bars (open). (F)

Colourful solo this one!

COUNT BASIE SMALLBAND
NYC. Oct. 11, 1938
Buck Clayton (tp), Herschel Evans, Lester Young (ts), usual (rhythm).
Broadcast from the Famous Door, Bill Savory collection, one title:

Rosetta
Solo 32 bars. (F)

Announced as “a Count Basie jam session”, this is really a treasure. WBC is sandwiched between the two tenorsax players and plays a good solo.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
NYC. Oct. 30, 1938
Personnel as usual.
Broadcast from the Famous Door, Bill Savory collection, one title has WBC:

Shout And Feel It
Solo with orch 16 bars. (FM)

NYC. Nov. 6, 1938

Same. One title:

Good Morning Blues
Solo with orch 14 bars (mute). (SM)

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
NYC. Nov. 15, 1938
Personnel as above.
“Camel Caravan Show”, one title:

Lady Be Good
Solo 32 bars (mute). (F)

And this one is colourful too!

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
NYC. Nov. 16, 1938
Wilbur “Buck” Clayton (tp), Harry Edison, Ed Lewis (tp), Dan Minor Benny Morton, Dicky Wells (tb), Earl Warren (as), Herschel Evans, Lester Young (ts), Jack Washington (as, bar), Count Basie (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Helen Humes, Jimmie Rushing (vo).
Five titles were recorded for Decca, but no WBC.

KANSAS CITY SIX
NYC. Dec. 23, 1938
Buck Clayton (tp), Lester Young (cl, ts), Count Basie (p), Leonard Ware (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm).
“Spirituals To Swing” concert in Carnegie Hall, one title:

After You’ve Gone
Duet with (ts) 40 bars to solo 80 bars (open). (F)

A long and well contrived trumpet solo in a very “friendly environment”, a most valuable recent discovery!

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
same
Personnel as Nov. 16 except Shad Collins (tp) added) and Hot Lips Page (tp) guesting.
Six titles, two have WBC:
That Rhythm Man Solo with orch 32 bars (mute). (F)
Swingin’ The Blues Solo with orch 24 bars (mute). (F)

More ordinary these contributions.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
Personnel as Dec. 23.
Two titles were recorded for Decca, one has WBC:

64851-A  My Heart Belongs To Daddy  Solo with orch 32 bars (mute). (SM)

A lovely piece of trumpet playing!!

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
Same except Chu Berry (ts) replaces Evans.
Seven titles were recorded for Decca, but no WBC.

BASIE’S BAD BOYS
Buck Clayton, Shad Collins (tp), Dan Minor (tb-24511), Lester Young (cl, ts),
Count Basie (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Jimmie Rushing (vo). Date erroneously given as April 26, 1939.
Four titles were recorded for Columbia:

24510-1 I Ain’t Got Nobody  Solo 32 bars (mute). (F)
24511-1 Goin’ To Chicago  Solo 12 bars (open). (M)
24512-1 Live And Love Tonight  Solo 32 bars (mute). (M)
24513-1 Love Me Or Leave Me  Solo 32 bars (open). (FM)

Rather unusual playing on this date. On “Love Me …” he plays open horn with a
light, almost feathery touch, and the charming open solo on “… Chicago” has an
almost flugelhorn-like sound. His melody presentation on “… Tonight” is nice
but not particularly remarkable. On “… Nobody” his staccato playing may easily
mislead us to identify it as Collins’, both playing mute, but when the latter enters
towards the end, one can tell the difference easily.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
Personnel as Feb. 3 except Buddy Tate (ts) replaces Berry.
Seven titles were recorded for Columbia, two have WBC:

24240-1 Baby, Don’t Tell On Me  Solo 24 bars (mute). (M)
24240-2 Baby, Don’t Tell On Me  As above. (M)
24241-1 If I Could Be With You  Solo 18 bars (mute). (SM)
24241-2 If I Could Be With You  As above. (SM)

On March 19 we have some of the most successful soli Buck ever recorded with
the Count! It seems that although he played like a star from the recording debut,
he continued to develop. There seems to be a depth in his playing now, which
was only “almost” there before. The “If I Could …”s are magnificent, but the
“Baby …”s even more so! The two takes of the last title are very different and
both quite lovely, but the previously unissued take 2 seems to have a slight plus.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
Personnel as usual.
Broadcast, Bill Savory collection, one title:

Swinging The Blues  Solo 24 bars. (F)

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
Same. Four titles were recorded for Columbia, but no WBC.

NYC. May 19, 1939

Same. Four titles but no WBC.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
Personnel as usual.
Broadcast, Bill Savory collection, three titles have WBC:

Jumpin’ At The Woodside Solo with orch 32 bars. (F)
Shout And feel It Solo with orch 16 bars. (FM)
Topsy Solo with orch 16+8 bars, orch on bridge. (FM)
unknown dates

Bill Savory collection, two titles, I just randomly put them here:

One O’Clock Jump            Solo 8 bars. (M)
One O’Clock Jump            Solo 8 bars. (M)

Good and typical contributions by WBC.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA     Chi. June 4, 5, 10, 1939
Same. Broadcasts from Hotel Sherman, one title has WBC:

Darktown Strutters Ball       Solo 40 bars. (FM)

Chi. June 24, 1939

Same. Four titles, two have WBC:

2633-A You And Your Love       Solo 12 bars (mute). (M)
2634-A How Long Blues          Solo 16 bars (mute). (SM)
2634-B How Long Blues          As above. (SM)

NYC. July 15, 1939

Same. Broadcast “America Dances”, ten titles, two have WBC:

Swinging The Blues            Solo 24 bars. (FM)
Time Out                      Solo 20 bars (mute). (M)

NYC. Aug. 4, 1939

Same. Four titles were recorded for Vocalion, one has WBC:

24979-A Song Of The Islands    Solo 30 bars (mute). (M)

NYC. Sept. 5, 1939

Sparsely distributed WBC soli and most of them not amongst the most memorable. “How Long …” is lovely, but the two takes are rather similar. In “Song …” he presents the melody nicely and cozily but not too exciting. The broadcast “Swinging …” is rather weakly recorded, but “Time Out” is the real earopener!

COUNT BASIE’S KANSAS CITY SEVEN

NYC. Sept. 5, 1939
Buck Clayton (tp), Dicky Wells (tb), Lester Young (ts), Count Basie (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm).
Two titles were recorded for Vocalion, one has WBC:

25296-1 Dickie’s Dream        Solo 32 bars (mute). (FM)
25296-2 Dickie’s Dream        As above. (FM)
25296-4 Dickie’s Dream        As above. (FM)
25297 Lester Leaps In         Coda 4 bars (open). (F)

The three “… Dream’s” are so wonderfully different, the more takes, the better!!

THE QUINTONES ACC. BY
BUCK RAM’S ORCHESTRA

NYC. Sept. 5, 1939
Buck Clayton (tp), George Koenig (cl), Clark Galehouse (ts), Les Burness (p), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), The Quintones (vo-group).
Two titles were recorded for Vocalion:

1076-A Sly Mongoose            Solo with orch 16 bars (mute). (FM)
1078-A When My Sugar Walks Down The Street  Solo 24 bars (mute) with (vo) comments. (FM)

Commercial sides but certainly good trumpet soli here!

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
Glendale, Ca., Nov. 3, 1939
Personnel as usual.
Broadcast from Glendale Civic Auditorium, two titles have WBC:

Swinging The Blues            Solo 24 bars. (F)
One O’Clock Jump              Solo 8 bars. (M)

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
L.A. Nov. 6/7, 1939
Personnel as March 19.
Eight titles were recorded for Okeh, one has WBC:

26283-A Someday, Sweetheart Solo 30 bars (mute). (M)

An elegant and delicious solo of the very best quality on “… Sweetheart”, so typical of Buck, with a lot of intricate details!

BILLIE HOLIDAY & HER ORCHESTRA  NYC. Dec. 13, 1939
Buck Clayton, Harry Edison (tp), Earl Warren, Jack Washington (as), Lester Young (ts), Joe Sullivan (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Billie Holiday (vo).
Four titles were recorded for Vocalion, two have WBC:

26341-A Night And Day Intro 4 bars (open). (SM)
26341-B Night And Day As above. (SM)
26343-A You’re Just A No Account Part of intro 2 bars (open).
Solo 8 bars (open). (SM)

A strong and beautiful solo on “… Account”. The intros on “… Day” are rather similar.

KANSAS CITY SIX  NYC. Dec. 24, 1939
Buck Clayton (tp), Lester Young (ts), Charlie Christian, Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm).
Three titles were recorded at John Hammond’s second “Spirituals to Swing” concert in Carnegie Hall:

Pagin’ The Devil Solo 24 bars (mute) with (ts)-acc. to coda. (SM)
Way Down Yonder In New Orleans Solo 28 bars (mute). Acc. (ts) 28 bars to coda. (FM)
Good Morning Blues Soli 12 and 24 bars (mute) With (ts)-acc. to coda. (SM)

Now, this is historical!! A sextet of real stars with results so memorable that they never will be forgotten!! While “Way Down …” “only” is sort of another take of the Commodore performance with “only” brilliant trumpet playing, the two slow medium titles have Buck playing his mute out of this world, with Prez being close all the time. Heavenly music!!

THE QUINTONES  NYC. Feb. 2, 1940
Buck Clayton (tp), unknown (as), (ts), (rhythm). Personnel listed in Rust and Lord is wrong.
Four titles were recorded for Vocalion, no trumpet on 1131-A “The Five Little Quints” but:

1130-A Honey Bunny Boo Solo 8 bars. (M)
1132-A Harmony In Harlem Solo 16 bars. (M)
1133-A Midnight Jamboree Solo with ens 8, 8 and 4 bars. (M)

Fine trumpet soloing here, certainly by WBC, but not much help from the rhythm section.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  Boston, Feb. 20, 1940
Buck Clayton, Harry Edison, Al Killian, Ed Lewis (tp), Vic Dickenson, Dan Minor, Dicky Wells (tb), Earl Warren (as), Buddy Tate, Lester Young (ts), Jack Washington (as, bar), Count Basie (p), Freddie Green (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm), Helen Humes, Jimmy Rushing (vo).

NBC broadcast from Southland Café, eight titles, three have WBC:

Darn That Dream Solo 8 bars (open). (SM)
Baby Don’t You Tell On Me Solo 24 bars (mute). (S)
If I Could Be With You Solo 8 bars (mute). (M)

From the NBC broadcast there is some brief but important Buck to be noted. “Darn …” has a beautiful open solo, a very expressive and selfconfident performance of a sort rarely heard before but which seems to be more usual in the forties. “Baby …” is a very different thing compared to the studio session, same kind but more daring, and the same can be said for the beautiful “If I Could …”.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  Boston, March 1, 1940
Same.
Broadcast from the Southland Theatre Restaurant, three titles, one has WBC.

Indiana

Break to solo 30 bars (open). (FM)

**Boston, March 5, 1940**

Same. Two titles but no WBC.

**Boston, March 7, 1940**

Same. Two titles but no WBC.

**Boston, March 9, 1940**

Same. Four titles, one has WBC:

Topsy

Solo 16+8 bars (mute), orch on bridge. (FM)

**Boston, March 12, 1940**

Same. Three titles, one has WBC:

Doggin’ Around (NC)

Solo 32 bars. (F)

**Boston, March 13, 1940**

Same. One title but no WBC.

Juicy playing on “Topsy” seems to be the highlight from Southland.

**COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA**

NYC. March 19/20, 1940

Personnel as Feb. 20.

Eight titles were recorded for Columbia, one has WBC:

26659-A Easy Does It

Solo 24 bars (mute). (M)

**NYC. May 31, 1940**

Same except Tab Smith (sop, as) added.

Four titles, but no WBC.

**Chi. Aug. 8, 1940**

Personnel as Feb. 20.

Five titles, three have WBC:

3254-A Evenin’

Solo 16 bars (mute). (M)

3258-A It’s Torture

Solo 8 bars (mute). (S)

3259-A I Want A Little Girl

Solo 8 bars (mute). (SM)

The muted WBC at his very best! “… Torture”, an otherwise not very exciting record, is enlivened and maybe immortalized by the beautiful trumpet solo, and the same goes for the two other items where Buck is introducing.

**BENNY GOODMAN SEPTET**

NYC. Oct. 28, 1940

Buck Clayton (tp), Benny Goodman (cl), Lester Young (ts), Count Basie (p), Charlie Christian, Freddie Green (g), Artie Bernstein (b), Jo Jones (dm).

Five titles were recorded for Columbia:

Ad-Lib Blues

Solo 24 bars (mute). (M)

I Never Knew

Solo 32 bars (mute). (FM)

Charlie’s Dream

Solo 32 bars (mute). (FM)

Wholly Cats

Solo 24 bars (mute). (FM)

Lester’s Dream

Solo 32 bars (mute). (FM)

WBC deserves his participation in this gorgeous session, playing wonderful muted soli on all items, dig these!

**COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA**

NYC. Oct. 30, 1940

Personnel as above. Four titles were recorded for Okeh, one has WBC:

29001-1 Draftin’ Blues

Solo 16 bars (mute). (SM)

29001-2 Draftin’ Blues

As above. (SM)

29001-3 Draftin’ Blues (NC)

As above. (SM)

29001-4 Draftin’ Blues (NC)

As above. (SM)

Do we really need four takes of “Draftin’ …”? Oh yes!! The breakdowns are not due to Buck who plays so good! This is really subtle art; even if he introduces the
record and has a well defined role to play, he manages yet to make beautiful variations. He uses a rather sharp mute here. Take 3 is to be preferred!

**COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA**

NYC. Nov. 19, 1940

Same. Four titles, two have WBC:

- 29088-1  Love Jumped Out  Solo 16 bars (mute). (M)
- 29088-2  Love Jumped Out  As above. (M)
- 29088-3  Love Jumped Out  As above. (M)
- 29089-1  My Wanderin’ Man  Solo 12 bars (mute). (SM)
- 29089-2  My Wanderin’ Man  As above. (SM)

Again the difference between the takes are astonishing! For “Love …” note in particular the beginning of the second eighth, they are very different. For “… Man” the middle four gives the evidence. My favourites are in both cases take 2. in general, the trumpet playing here is exquisite!

**JAM SESSION**

NYC. Dec. 7, 1940

Buck Clayton (tp), probably Herbie Fields (cl, ts), Earl Warren (as), Buddy Tate (ts), Clyde Hart (p), unknown (b), J. C. Heard (dm).

Recorded by Jerry Newman, four titles, “Tea For Two” was not available but:

- I Got Rhythm  (F)
- China Boy  (FM)
- Lady Be Good  Solo/straight 32 bars. Solo 32 bars (NC). Solo 3 choruses of 32 bars to coda. (FM)

These titles were documented in my ‘History of Jazz Tenor Saxophone – Vol. 3’, but I forgot to put them in here, sorry, and I have no idea were they are now, probably belonged to the collection of the late Johs Bergh. Postscript of June 7, 2014: Found Lady Be Good”! Exciting to hear WBC in such jam surroundings, and he plays strongly, although the rhythm section gives meagre support.

Possibly same personnel. Found this one on a cassette recently:

- Blues  Solo 24 bars. (M)

This sounds like belonging to the jam session above but was not listed previously. WBC plays competently, no more.

**COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA**

NYC. Dec. 13, 1940

Personnel as above except Tab Smith (as) added, Paul Bascomb (ts) replaces Young.

Four titles were recorded for Okeh, one has WBC:

- 29246-1  It’s The Same Old South  Solo 16+8 bars (open), orch on bridge. (M)
- 29246-2  It’s The Same Old South  As above. (M)
- 29246-3  It’s The Same Old South  As above. (M)

NYC. Jan. 20, 1941

Same except Ed Cuffee (tb), Don Byas (ts) replace Dickenson and Bascomb. Two titles were recorded for Okeh but no WBC.

NYC. Jan. 22, 1941

Same. Three titles but no WBC.

NYC. Jan. 28, 1941

Same. Six titles, two have WBC:

- 29583-1  The Jitters  Solo 16 bars (mute). (F)
- 29583-2  The Jitters  As above. (F)
- 29583-r  The Jitters  As above. (F)
- 29585-1  Undecided Blues  Solo 12 bars (mute). Obbligato 36 bars (growl/mute). (SM)

In a variety of settings we have a lot of very good trumpet. The “Undecided …” has some beautiful slow medium muted blues. On the other side of the tempo
scale, there are three quite different, very fast versions of the Tab Smith feature “Jitters”. “… South” has Buck in the introduction, rather straight and not very exciting.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
NYC. April 10, 1941
Same with Coleman Hawkins (ts) guesting. Five titles were recorded for Okeh, two have WBC:

3680-1 Feedin’ The Bean Soli 24 and 12 bars (mute/growl). (M)
3680-2 Feedin’ The Bean As above. (M)
3681-1 Goin’ To Chicago Blues Solo 24 bars (mute). (SM)

“Goin’ …” has some beautiful slow medium muted blues. The real gasser however is “… Bean”, where Buck precedes just ‘him’ with two beautiful muted choruses of which the last is growled. The two opening statements are just magnificent and just so different!!

JAM SESSION AT CARNEGIE HALL
NYC. April 23, 1941
“Monster” personnel including Buck Clayton (tp), J. C. Higginbotham (tb), Tab Smith (as), Don Byas (ts) to be heard as solists. Café Society concert, two titles:

One O’Clock Jump Solo 24 bars. (FM)
Blues Possibly no solo. (M)

Competent solo on “… Jump”. “Blues” has been available only in a five minutes version, half of the original, and although there is a lot of trumpet playing involved, I cannot hear WBC on this one.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
NYC. May 21, 1941
Personnel as above. Four titles were recorded for Okeh but no WBC.

NYC. July 2, 1941
As above except Eli Robinson, Robert Scott (tb) replace Cuffee and Wells. Four titles were recorded for Okeh, two have WBC:

30833-1 Fancy Meeting You Solo 16 bars (open). (M)
30834-1 Diggin’ For Dex Solo 2 bars (mute). (FM)
30834-2 Diggin’ For Dex As above. (FM)
30834-3 Diggin’ For Dex As above. (FM)

A pretty nice “Fancy …”.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
NYC. July/August 1941
Same plus Dicky Wells (tb). Film soundtracks but no WBC.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
NYC. Sept. 19, 1941
Same. Broadcast from Café Society Uptown. Five titles but no WBC.

NYC. Sept. 20, 1941
Same. Eight titles, one has WBC:

I Guess I’ll Have To Dream The Rest Solo 4 bars (open). (SM)

NYC. Sept. 23, 1941
Same. Six titles, two have WBC:

Diggin’ For Dex Break. (FM)
Love Jumped Out Solo 16 bars (open). (M)

Funny how some people can make more out of 4 bars than most of us in a lifetime, play “I Guess …”!!

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
NYC. Sept. 24, 1941
Personnel as above. Four titles were recorded for Okeh, two have WBC:

31353-1 My Old Flame Solo 8 bars (open). (S)
31353-2  My Old Flame  As above. (S)
31354-1  Fiesta In Blue  Featurenumber for WBC, soloing whole record through, open, mute and growl. (SM)
31354-2  Fiesta In Blue  As take 1. (SM)
31354-3  Fiesta In Blue (NC)  As take 1 until breakdown appr. 2/3 of the record. (SM)
31354-4  Fiesta In Blue (NC)  As take 3. (SM)
31354-5  Fiesta In Blue  As take 1. (SM)

The main feature is “Fiesta …”, a kind of “Concerto For Buck”. It is a nice, enjoyable title which seems to have had delivery problems, since they had to make five takes (at least) to make it run properly. On two takes Buck runs into trouble at the high open horn passages around 1:50 and has to give in. Of the three complete takes, the decision on 78 rpm. issue seems to be a wise one. The final result is an evidence of a great trumpeter. However, I wonder if the effort was really worth it, because a heavily arranged piece like “Fiesta …” cannot, even with its variations, really compete with the brief to-the-point soli on an ordinary jazz record. Anyway, that’s the way I feel 68 years later. For instance, take “… Flame”, a rather submediocre ballad, but with two beautiful and very different, rather reticent but very elaborate soli.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  NYC. Sept. 29, 1941
Same. Broadcast from Café Society Uptown, three titles, one has WBC:

Jumpin’ At The Woodside  Solo. ( )

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  NYC. Oct. 1, 1941
Personnel as above.
Three titles were recorded for Okeh, one has WBC:

31373-1  King Joe  Pt 1  Solo 12 bars (open). (SM)
31373-2  King Joe  Pt 1  As above. (SM)

NYC. Oct. 2, 1941

Same. Six titles, two have WBC:

I Want A Little Girl  Solo 8 bars (mute). (SM)
Topsy  Solo 16+8 bars (open), orch on bridge. (FM)

NYC. Oct. 6, 1941

Same. Seven titles, one has WBC:

One-Two-Three O’Lairy  Solo. ( )

NYC. Oct. 7, 1941

Same. Six titles, one has WBC:

Blue Lou  Solo. ( )

NYC. Oct. 10, 1941

Same. Four titles but no WBC.

NYC. Oct. 14, 1941

Same with Dinah Shore (vo). Broadcast, three titles but no WBC.

NYC. Oct. 20, 1941

Same. Four titles but no WBC.

NYC. Oct. 21, 1941

Same. Three titles, one has WBC:

Goin’ To Chicago  Solo 24 bars (mute). (SM)

NYC. Oct. 25, 1941

Same. Three titles, one has WBC:

Swinging The Blues  Solo 24 bars. (F)

Beautiful “… Girl” and “… Chicago”, a forceful “Swinging …”, and a groovy “Topsy” as the highlight.
COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA

NYC. Nov. 3, 1941
Same. Three titles were recorded for Okeh, two have WBC:

31642-1 I Struck A Match In The Dark Soli 6 and 6 bars (mute). (SM)
31644-1 All Of Me Solo 16 bars (open). (SM)
31644-2 All Of Me As above. (SM)
31644-3 All Of Me As above. (SM)

NYC. Nov. 17, 1941
Same. Four titles, one has WBC:

31767-1 More Than You Know Solo 8 bars (mute). (S)
31767-2 More Than You Know As above. (S)

NYC. Jan. 21, 1942
Same. Four titles, two have WBC:

32274-1 One O'Clock Jump Solo 6 bars. (M)
32274-2 One O'Clock Jump As above. (M)
32277-1 For The Good Of The Country Solo 8 bars (mute). (FM)
32277-2 For The Good Of The Country Solo 16 bars (mute). (FM)

Chi. April 3, 1942
Same except Jerry Blake (as) replaces Smith. Three titles, one has WBC:

4227-1 Time On My Hands Solo 6 bars (mute). (SM)

A session of “the blues” but not a single real twelve bars blues item! Not that it matters, we are very pleased to have a small group recording session inbetween all the bigband studio sessions and broadcasts. The session is maybe too loosely planned, and personally I don’t find the songs here the most convenient vehicles for Buck, but he makes the most out of it, even if Don Byas certainly is the star of the date. I prefer the nice slow solo on “Sugar …”, although it is a corny song, but also the longest solo on “Royal …” and the muted one on Bugle …” are first rate.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA

LA. July 24, 1942
Personnel as usual. Four titles were recorded for Columbia:

874-1 Royal Garden Blues Solo 8 bars (open). With ens. Solo 24 bars (open). (FM)
875-1 Bugle Blues With ens. Solo 4 bars. Solo 16 bars (mute). With ens. (open). (FM)
876-1 Sugar Blues Solo 18 bars (open). (S)
880-1 St. Louis Blues With ens 16 bars (mute). Solo 12 bars (mute/growl). (SM)

A session of “the blues” but not a single real twelve bars blues item! Not that it matters, we are very pleased to have a small group recording session inbetween all the bigband studio sessions and broadcasts. The session is maybe to loosely planned, and personally I don’t find the songs here the most convenient vehicles for Buck, but he makes the most out of it, even if Don Byas certainly is the star of the date. I prefer the nice slow solo on “Sugar …”, although it is a corny song, but also the longest solo on “Royal …” and the muted one on Bugle …” are first rate.

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA

LA. July 27, 1942
Personnel as usual. Seven titles were recorded for Columbia, three have WBC:

889-1 Ride On Soli 4, 4 and 4 bars (open/growl). (S)
891-1 Time On My Hands Solo with orch 6 bars (mute). (SM)
894-1 For The Good Of The Country Solo 16 bars (mute). (FM)
The three items have some exceptional trumpet. Dig the nice, slow open horn on “Ride On”, surprise!

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  
**Southgate, Ca., Aug. 20, 1942**
Similar. Broadcast from Trianon Ballroom, two WBC soli:
- Diggin’ For Dex  
  Solo 2 bars. ( )
- Rhythm Man  
  Solo 32 bars. ( )

**Hollywood, Aug. 21, 1942**
Same. Columbia soundtrack for “Reveille For Beverley”:
- One O’Clock Jump  
  Solo. ( )

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA
**Southgate, Ca., late Aug./early Sept. 1942**
Same. Broadcast from Trianon Ballroom, two titles with WBC:
- Swinging The Blues  
  Solo 24 bars. ( )
- King Porter Stomp  
  Solo. ( )

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  
**1943**
Personnels including Buck Clayton (tp).
Information from Sheridan’s “Count Basie – A Bio-Discography” gives WBC soloing on the following items:

**NYC. Jan. 19, 1943**
WMCA “Pabst Blue Ribbon broadcast”. Two titles have WBC:
- Why Don’t You Do Right?  
  Obbligato. ( )
- Swingin’ The Blues  
  Solo. ( )

**L.A. June 7, 1943**
AFRS Jubilee No. 28. Two titles have WBC:
- Green  
  Solo. ( )
- One O’Clock Jump  
  Solo. ( )

AFRS “Down Beat” transcriptions, several issued on VDisc:
- Rhythm Man  
  Solo with orch 32 bars. (F)
- Blue Lou  
  Solo with orch 32 bars. (M)
- Yeah! Man  
  Solo with orch 32 bars. (F)
- Jazz Me Blues  
  Solo. ( )

**Hollywood, June/July 1943**
Buck Clayton left Count Basie in late November 1943 for military service.

KANSAS CITY SEVEN  
**NYC. March 22, 1944**
Buck Clayton (tp), Dicky Wells (tb), Lester Young (ts), “Prince Charming” alias Count Basie (p), Freddie Green (g), Rodney Richardson (b), Jo Jones (dm).
Four titles were recorded for Keynote, no WBC present on 23-1 “Lester Leaps In” but:

- After Theatre Jump  
  Soli 32, 4 and 4 bars. (FM)
- Six Cats And A Prince  
  Solo 32 bars. (M)
- Six Cats And A Prince (NC)  
  As above. (FM)
- Six Cats And A Prince  
  As above. (FM)
- Destination K. C.  
  Soli 64 and 4 bars. (F)
- Destination K. C.  
  As above. (F)

This is the Count Basie approach to jazz music at its very best! Maybe this is also the first real “mainstream” session, these were originally 12” rpm. records, giving some extra blowing space. The session is just a long Xmas party with most swinging jazz by its best performers! WBC is fighting with the others for good results, using open horn on this session. Note how different he plays on the different takes, he was certainly a great improviser! I have no particular preferences here, or maybe “… K. C.”, to be sure, play everything!!
COLEMAN HAWKINS & HIS ALL AMERICAN FIVE
NYC. Oct. 17, 1944
Buck Clayton (tp), Coleman Hawkins (ts), Teddy Wilson (p), Slam Stewart (b), Denzil Best (dm).
Four titles were recorded for Keynote:

64-1 I’m Yours  Solo 24 bars (open) with (ts) acc. (M)
64-2 I’m Yours  As above plus duet 8 bars to coda. (M)
64-3 I’m Yours  As take 2. (SM)
65-1 Under A Blanket Of Blue  Solo 8 bars (mute). Duet 8 bars to coda. (SM)
66-1 Beyond The Blue Horizon  Solo 32 bars (open) with (ts) acc. Solo 32 bars (mute). In ens 8 bars (open) to coda. (F)
66-2 Beyond The Blue Horizon  As above. (F)
66-3 Beyond The Blue Horizon  As above. (F)
67-1 A Shanty In Old Shanty Town  Solo 32 bars (open). (FM)
67-2 A Shanty In Old Shanty Town  As above. (FM)
67-3 A Shanty In Old Shanty Town  As above. (FM)

Compared to the previous session, this is quite another world, equally exciting, but yet so different! WBC seems to thrive equally good in the company with Hawk as with Prez, and even as second in command he gets several solo opportunities. For highlights I suggest his muted trumpet soli on “… Horizon” and his open horn on “… Town”, compared the takes!!

LEONARD FEATHER’S ALL STARS
NYC. Dec. 1, 1944
Buck Clayton (tp), Edmond Hall (cl), Coleman Hawkins (ts), Leonard Feather (p), Remo Palmieri (g), Oscar Pettiford (b), Specs Powell (dm).
Four titles were recorded for Continental, one has WBC:

9001 Scram  Solo 64 bars. (M)

Only one opportunity here but a beautiful, long solo on “Scram”!

HORACE HENDERSON & HIS ORCHESTRA
NYC. March 16, 1945
Buck Clayton (tp), Eddie Bert (tb), Hank D’Amico, Aaron Sachs (cl), Horace Henderson (p), Hy White (g), Billy Taylor (b), Specs Powell (dm).
Four titles were recorded for Keynote, sold to Jamboree:

HL86 ‘Deed I Do  Break to solo 32 bars. (FM)
HL87 Make Love To Me  Breaks. Solo 32 bars. (FM)
HL88 A Bunch Of Rhythm  Solo with orch 16 and 8 bars to coda. (S)
HL89 Smack’s Blues  Solo 24 bars. (M)

Good muted contributions on “Make Love …” and “… Rhythm” without being particularly noteworthy. Best is the solo on “… Do”, and also “… Blues” has its merits in spite of an unsure opening.

TRUMMY YOUNG & HIS LUCKY SEVEN
NYC. May 2, 1945
Buck Clayton (tp), Trummy Young (tb, vo-“I’m …”), Ike Quebec (ts), Ken Kersey (p), Mike “Lord Byron” Bryan (g), Slam Stewart (b), James Crawford (dm).
Four titles were recorded for Duke, no trumpet on “Behind The Eight Bar” but:

Good ‘n Groovy  Solo 16 bars. (M)
Rattle And Roll  Solo 24 bars. (FM)
I’m Living For Today  Solo 8 bars. (M)

Here we have WBC at his very middle-forties best, wailing with open horn in good medium tempi!

FREDDIE GREEN  HIS KANSAS CITY SEVEN
NYC. May 7, 1945
Buck Clayton (tp), Dicky Wells (tb), Lucky Thompson (ts), Sammy Benskin (p), Freddie Green (g), Al Hall (b), Shadow Wilson (dm), Sylvia Syms (vo-4907).
Four titles were recorded for Duke, two never found but:
I’m In The Mood For Love  Obbligato 32 bars (open). (S)
Sugar Hip  Solo 16 bars (mute). (M)

Beautiful Lucky on “… Love” but Buck’s obbligato is unfortunately weakly recorded. More interesting is the fine muted solo on “… Hip”!

COUNT BASIE & HIS ORCHESTRA  NYC. May 14, 1945
Bigband personnel including Buck Clayton (tp) as guest. Seven titles were recorded for VDisc, two have WBC:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Bars</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1356  High Tide</td>
<td>Solo 32 bars (M)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1686  Tippin’ On The Q. T.</td>
<td>Solo 16 bars (M)</td>
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</table>

Nice meeting with an old employer!

BUCK CLAYTON QUINTET  NYC. June 7, 1945
Buck Clayton (tp), Flip Phillips (ts), Teddy Wilson (p), Slam Stewart (b), Danny Alvin (dm). Four titles were recorded for Melrose:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Bars</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>105  Diga Diga Doo</td>
<td>Duet with (ts) 32 bars. Soli 32 and 8 bars. (FM)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106  Love Me Or Leave Me</td>
<td>Duet with (ts) 32 bars. Solo 8 bars to coda with (ts). (S)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107  We’re In The Money</td>
<td>Duet with (ts) 32 bars. Soli 32 and 4 bars. (FM)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>108  Melrose Blues</td>
<td>Duet with (ts) 12 and 12 bars. (S)</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Incredible enough but this is the first recording session under Buck Clayton’s own name, after more than ten years as one of jazz’ greatest trumpeters! Mostly he plays duet with Flip, not at all a bad idea, and in general this is a very good session for all involved. WBC’s contributions are all first rate, in slow tempo with the duet on “Love Me …” as the highlight, or in upper tempo with “Diga …”.

DON BYAS ALL STARS  NYC. June 27, 1945
Buck Clayton (tp), Don Byas (ts), Johnny Guarnieri (p), Eddie Safranski (b), Denzil Best (dm). Four titles were recorded for Jamboree:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Bars</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7005  Little White Lies</td>
<td>Break. Duet with (ts) 16+8 bars, (ts) on bridge. (M)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7006  Deep Purple</td>
<td>Solo 16 bars. (S)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7007  Them There Eyes</td>
<td>Solo 64 bars. With (ts) 8 bars to coda. (F)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7008  Out Of Nowhere</td>
<td>Intro 2 bars. Solo 8 bars. (S)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

An excellent session with so much fine tenorsax playing! But WBC’s has some brilliant soloing on open horn, rarely better in fast tempo as on “Them …”, a long solo, and magnificent slow and majestic contributions on “Deep …” and “… Nowhere”, these are some of the best he ever made!!

IKE QUEBEC SWING SEVEN  NYC. July 17, 1945
Buck Clayton (tp), Keg Johnson (tb), Ike Quebec (ts), Ram Ramirez (p), Tiny Grimes (g), Grachan Moncur (b), J. C. Heard (dm). Four titles were recorded for Blue Note:

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Bars</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>246-0  I’ve Found A New Baby</td>
<td>Solo 16+8 bars (mute), ens on bridge. Solo 32 bars (open). (F)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>246-1  I’ve Found A New Baby</td>
<td>As above. (F)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>247-0  I Surrender Dear</td>
<td>Solo 8 bars (mute). (S)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>247-1  I Surrender Dear</td>
<td>As above. (S)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>248-1  Topsy</td>
<td>Soli 32 and 16 bars (mute). (FM)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>249-0  Cup-Mute Clayton</td>
<td>Solo/ens 32 bars (mute). Solo/ens 24 bars (open). (M)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Lots of first rate trumpet playing here! The highest highlights are the beautiful muted soli on “… Dear” (and dig the piano soli here!!), vow!! In upper tempi, the
session seems a bit forced, but WBC is definitely the main soloist here, and the way he swings “Topsy” bring back the memories of the thirties, dig this!

TRUMMY YOUNG  
NYC. July 18, 1945  
Buck Clayton (tp), Henry Wells, Trummy Young (tb, vo), Bill Stegmeyer (as-1519), Willie Smith (as-1563), Don Byas (ts), Ken Kersey (p), Mike Bryan (g), Bob Haggart (b), Jimmy Crawford (dm).

Five titles were recorded for VDisc, two issued:

- 1519  Four Or Five Times  Straight with ens 16 bars (mute). Obbligato 16 bars (mute). Solo with ens 16 bars (open). (SM)
- 1563  I Want A Little Girl  Soli 32 and 8 bars to coda. (SM)

Fine WBC here, although a few occasional fluffs. Although “… Girl” is a well known vehicle, I prefer “… Times”.

TEDDY WILSON Sextet  
NYC. Aug. 14, 1945  
Buck Clayton (tp), Ben Webster (ts), Teddy Wilson (p), Al Casey (g), Al Hall (b), J. C. Heard (dm).

Four titles were recorded for Musicraft:

- 5296-1 If Dreams Come True  Duet with (ts) 32 bars. (M)
- 5296-5 If Dreams Come True  As above. (M)
- 5297-1 I Can’t Get Started  Solo 8 bars. Duet with (ts) 8 bars to coda. (SM)
- 5297-2 I Can’t Get Started  As above. (SM)
- 5298-2 Stompin’ At The Savoy  Acc. (ts) 16+8 bars (mute), (p) on bridge. Solo 32 bars (open). (F)
- 5298-3 Stompin’ At The Savoy  As above but all (open). (F)
- 5299-3 Blues Too  Solo 12 bars. Duet with (ts) 12 bars. (S)

A very enjoyable swing session with memorable contributions from all. WBC prefers the open horn here, except for some rather straight “… True”. The foremost item is “… Started”, beautiful trumpet on the two versions, and also “Blues …” has some magnificent playing in slow tempo. In the upper range, excellent, colourful soloing on “… Savoy”, small fluff on take 2.

CHARLIE VENTURA Sextet  
NYC. Aug. 15, 1945  
Buck Clayton (tp), Charlie Ventura (ts), Billy Rowland (p), Ed Yance (g), Al Hall (b), Specs Powell (dm).

Four titles were recorded for Black & White, no BC on 448 “Out You Go” but:

- 445  Let’s Jump For Rita  As below. (M)
- 445-alt. Let’s Jump For Rita  Soli 32 and 4 bars. (M)
- 446  Tammy’s Dream  Solo 24 bars. (SM)
- 447  C. V. Jam  Solo 32 bars. (FM)
- 447-alt. C. V. Jam  As above. (FM)

A magnificent session with a most effective rhythm section in the upper tempo titles, and BC explodes on “… Jam”, particularly the original (note that the solo sequence is different for the two takes) and “… Rita”, then takes two beautiful blues choruses (with a small fluff) on “… Dream”. I really am fond of this session with the schmaltzig CV in lead, dig it!

J. C. HEARD Quintet  
NYC. Aug. 17, 1945  
Buck Clayton (tp), Flip Phillips (ts), Johnny Guarnieri (p), Milt Hinton (b), J. C. Heard (dm).

Four titles were recorded for Keynote:

- 105-3 Why Do I Love You?  Duet with (ts) 32 bars (mute). Solo 32 bars (open). (FM)
- 105-4 Why Do I Love You?  As above. (FM)
- 106-4 All My Life  Duet with (ts) 16+8 bars (open),
Sophisticated swing session with excellent contributions by all. WBC teams up very well with Flip in their duet parts on three titles, and he has lovely laidback soli on “Groovin’ …” and “… Use?”

SIR CHARLES THOMPSON & HIS ALL STARS    NYC. Sept. 4, 1945
Buck Clayton (tp), Charlie Parker (as), Dexter Gordon (ts), Sir Charles Thompson (p), Danny Barker (g), Jimmy Butts (b), J. C. Heard (dm).
Four titles were recorded for Apollo:

1030    Takin’ Off                         Solo 16 bars (open). (M)
1031    If I Had You                         Solo 14 bars (open). (S)
1032    20th Century Blues                   Straight 4 bars (open). (S)
1033    The Street Beat                     Solo 16 bars (open). (FM)

How did Sir Charles manage to put these famous people together for a record session? As such it is very exciting with memorable contributions also by Dexter and Bird. Note in particular the beautiful trumpet solo on “… Had You”, delivering it to Dexter on a plate!! Fine solo also on “… Beat”.

HOT LIPS PAGE & HIS ORCHESTRA    NYC. Sept. 1945
Hot Lips Page (tp, vo), Buck Clayton (tp, arr), unknown (tp), Benny Morton, J. C. Higginbotham, Sandy Williams (tb), Earl Bostic, unknown (as), Don Byas, Ben Webster, unknown (ts), Rufus Webster (p), unknown (elg), (b), Buford Oliver (dm).
Eight titles were recorded for Continental, 3402 “Big Trees Blues” has not been available, one has WBC:

3403    Florida Blues                      Solo 12 bars. (M)

This is a typical WBC solo amongst all the fine Hot Lips contributions!

JAZZ AT THE PHILHARMONIC    LA. April 22, 1946
Buck Clayton (tp), Charlie Parker (as- “… Blues”, “I Got …”), Willie Smith (as), Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young (ts), Ken Kersey (p), Irving Ashby (g), Billie Hadnott (b), Shadow Wilson (dm). Ray Linn (tp) added on “… Rag”.
Five titles were recorded at the Embassy Theatre:

JATP Blues                               Solo 5 choruses of 12 bars. (M)
I Got Rhythm                              Solo with ens 32 bars. Solo 3 choruses of 32 bars. (FM)
I Surrender Dear                          Solo 32 bars. (S)
I’ve Found A New Baby                     Solo 3 choruses of 32 bars. (F)
Bugle Call Rag                           Soli 4 and 4 bars. (F)

One of the greatest JATP concerts ever to be preserved, with so many great contributions from the jazz greats. WBC takes his responsibility and plays with great inspiration. In a concert setting there are some fluffs here and there which does not really matter, but it is not quite his style to push it as hard as on the second chorus of “… Baby”. His soli in general are good enough, no problems. And he produces a real masterpiece in slow tempo, “… Dear”, so beautiful!!!

JUBILEE ALL STARS    Hollywood, ca. April 22/23, 1946
Buck Clayton (tp), Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young (ts), Ken Kersey (p), Irving Ashby (g), Billie Hadnott (b), Shadow Wilson (dm).
AFRS Jubilee 190 and 192, probably only one concert, three titles:

I Got Rhythm                              Solo/straight with ens 32 bars. Solo 3 choruses of 32 bars. Solo 8 bars. (FM)
Lady Be Good                              Solo/straight with ens 32 bars. Solo 32 bars. With ens 16 and 8 bars. (FM)
Sweet Georgia Brown                       Solo/straight with ens 32 bars. Solo 3 choruses of 32 bars. With ens incl. soli 8 and 4 bars. (FM)
same date

Buck Clayton (tp), Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young (ts—“… Woman”), Ken Kersey (p), Billy Hadnott (b), Shadow Wilson (dm), Helen Humes (vo).

My Old Flame Solo 48 bars. (S)
Don’t Blame Me Intro 4 bars. (S)
Unlucky Woman Obbligato parts. (S)

The main item is the brilliant feature number “… Flame”, a lovely open horn solo in a very slow tempo, perfect. WBC at his very best!! Note also the fine intro on “… Blame Me” and good background on “… Woman”, where we also can hear the tenorsax boys faintly in the background. The three other items are typical JATP performances, and in general treat them very well, particularly “Sweet …” is very pleasant, swinging pointy.

JAZZ AT THE PHILHARMONIC

NYC, May 27, 1946

Buck Clayton (tp), Coleman Hawkins, Illinois Jacquet, Lester Young (ts), Ken Kersey (p), Curly Russell (b), J. C. Heard (dm).

Five titles were recorded at Carnegie Hall:

Philharmonic (Carnegie) Blues Solo with ens 24 bars.
Solo 6 choruses of 12 bars. (M)
Oh, Lady Be Good Solo with ens 32 bars.
Solo 3 choruses of 32 bars. (F)
I Can’t Get Started Solo 32 bars. (S)
Sweet Georgia Brown Solo 3 choruses of 32 bars. (F)
Slow Drag Solo with ens 24 bars. Solo 24 bars. (S)

WBC fits nicely into the ‘philharmonics’, plays with enthusiasm and great competence and has few problems even with faster titles, although there are some occasional fluffs like in the beginning of the second chorus on “… Blues”. Three choruses on each of “Lady …” and “Sweet …” are quite pleasant. The real highlights though are in slow tempo, lovely laidback blues on “… Drag”, and his chorus on “… Started” is magnificent!!

HELEN HUMES ACC. BY
BUCK CLAYTON ALL STARS
L.A. May 1946

Buck Clayton (tp), Charlie Beal (p), Barney Kessel (g), Red Callender (b), Shadow Wilson (dm), Helen Humes (vo).

Three titles were recorded for Black & White:

414 If I Could Be With You Obbligato 12+18 bars (mute). (S)
415 I Don’t Know His Name Obbligato 24 bars (mute).
Solo 24 bars (open). (M)
416 Drive Me Daddy Obbligato 12 and 8 bars (mute). (S)

Apart from fine background muted playing, here you should note particularly “… His Name” with a sparkling trumpet solo!

JAZZ AT THE PHILHARMONIC

NYC, June 3, 1946

Buck Clayton (tp), Ken Kersey (p), Al McKibbon (b), J. C. Heard (dm).

One title was recorded in Carnegie Hall:

My Honey’s Loving Arms Solo 3 choruses of 32 bars. (M)

same date

Buck Clayton (tp), unknown (tb), Coleman Hawkins, Illinois Jacquet, Lester Young (ts), Ken Kersey (p), John Collins (g), probably Curly Russell (b), J. C. Heard (dm), Billie Holiday (vo). Three titles:

I Cried For You Obbligato 40 and 8 bars (mute). (M)
Fine And Mellow Obbligato 36 bars (open). (S)
He’s Funny That Way Briefly in ens (open). (S)

A fine but not perfect solo on his feature number “… Loving Arms”. On the three Billie Holiday items, the background is not very clearly recorded, but fine efforts are clearly evident both on “… Mellow” and “… Way”, well worth noticing.
JAZZ AT THE PHILHARMONIC

NYC. June 17, 1946

Buck Clayton (tp), Trummy Young (tb), Lester Young (ts), Ken Kersey (p), John Collins (g), Rodney Richardson or Curly Russell (b), J. C. Heard (dm).

Three titles were recorded at Carnegie Hall:

Blues (NC) No solo.
Just You, Just Me (NC) No solo.
I Got Rhythm Solo with ens 16+8 bars (open), (tb/p) on bridge. (FM)

Not very exciting this one with so much treasures around.

BUCK CLAYTON’S BIG FOUR

NYC. June 26, 1946

Buck Clayton (tp), Scoville Brown (cl), Tiny Grimes (g), Sid Weiss (b).

Five titles were recorded for HRS:

1042-4 Dawn Dance Solo 32 bars (mute). (FM)
1043-3 Wells-A-Poppin’ Solo 32 bars (mute). (FM)
1044-2 On The Sunny Side Of TS Soli 32 and 16 bars (open). (S)
1045-2 It’s Dizzy Soli 32 and 8 bars (mute). (M)
1046-1 Basie’s Morning Bluesicale As below. (SM)
1046-2 Basie’s Morning Bluesicale Solo 24 bars (mute). (SM)

A delicate session without drums and fine ensemble playing, almost like hearing Prez on clarinet, did they have Commodore in mind? Lots of very beautiful muted trumpet playing, yet the highlight to me is a very slow version of “… Street” with open horn, masterpiece!

BUCK CLAYTON’S BIG EIGHT

NYC. July 24, 1946

Buck Clayton (tp), Trummy Young, Dicky Wells (tb), George Johnson (as), Billy Taylor (p, cel-1048), Brick Fleagle (g), Al McKibbon (b), Jimmy Crawford (dm).

Five titles were recorded for HRS:

1074-4 Saratoga Special As below. (FM)
1074-6 Saratoga Special Solo with ens 16 bars. (FM)
1048-3 Sentimental Summer Solo/straight 16 bars (mute). (S)
1049-3 Harlem Cradle Song As below. (SM)
1049-5 Harlem Cradle Song Solo/straight 32 bars. (SM)
1050-2 My Good Man Sam Solo 24 bars. (M)
1051-3 I Want A Little Girl Solo 32 bars (mute). Solo 8 bars (open) to coda. (M)

A pleasant session but somewhat overarranged. Only two titles have exciting trumpet, the forceful “… Sam” with open horn and a beautiful muted “… Girl”.

TEDDY WILSON OCTET

NYC. Aug. 19, 1946

Buck Clayton (tp), Scoville Brown (cl, as), Don Byas (ts), George James (bar), Teddy Wilson (p), Remo Palmieri (g), Billy Taylor (b), J. C. Heard (dm), Sarah Vaughan (vo-5652.53).

Four titles were recorded for Musicraft:

5652 Penthouse Serenade No solo. (S)
5653 Don’t Worry ‘Bout Me Obbligato parts (mute). (S)
5654 I Want To Be Happy Soli 4 and 20 bars (open). (F)
5655 Just One Of Those Things No solo. (F)

This is Teddy Wilson’s session, and Sarah Vaughan’s, good enough, but the rest is just a backup band. However, nothing wrong with WBC’s modest contributions here.

BENNY CARTER & HIS CHOCOLATE DANDIES

NYC. Aug. 23, 1946

Buck Clayton (tp), Al Grey (tb), Benny Carter (cl, as, arr), Ben Webster (ts), Sonny White (p), John Simmons (b), Sid Catlett (dm, vo-2695).

Four titles were recorded for Victor:
A good swing session, although not particularly remarkable for its trumpet playing, best is “… It Be?”

TRUMMY YOUNG’s BIG SEVEN
NYC. Sept. 3, 1946
Buck Clayton (tp), Trummy Young (tb), Buster Bailey (cl), George Johnson (as), Jimmy Jones (p), John Levy (b), Cozy Cole (dm).
Four titles were recorded for HRS:

1052-3 Fruite Cutie As below. (M)
1052-4 Fruite Cutie Solo 8 bars (open). (M)
1053-2 Blues Triste Straight 12 and 12 bars (mute)
1053-3 Blues Triste As above. (M)
1054-3 Johnson Rock Solo 16 bars (open). (M)
1055-2 Lucky Draw Solo 8 bars (mute). (S)

Again a pleasant session but not quite as exciting as the previous one. Nevertheless WBC’s rather brief contributions are well worth noticing.

TEDDY WILSON OCTET
NYC. Sept. 7, 1946
Buck Clayton (tp), unknown (cl), Allen Eager (ts), George James (bar), Teddy Wilson (p), Bill D’Arango (g), Billy Taylor (b), unknown (dm).
CBS “Nite Life” broadcast, two sides, one has AE:

Air Mail Special Solo 16 bars. (F)

Nice and typical trumpet solo on this broadcast.

ESQUIRE ALL-AMERICAN AWARD WINNERS
NYC. Dec. 4, 1946
Buck Clayton, Charlie Shavers (tp), J. J. Johnson (tb), Coleman Hawkins (ts), Harry Carney (bar), Teddy Wilson (p), John Collins (g), Chubby Jackson (b), Shadow Wilson (dm), Leonard Feather, Billy Moore (arr).
Four titles were recorded for Victor, no WBC on 3369-1 “Indiana Winter”, 3370-1 “Indian Summer” and 3371-2 “Blow Me Down” but:

3372-1 Buckin’ The Blues Solo 12 bars (mute). With ens 12 bars (mute) to coda. (S)

Buck gets less blowing space than Shavers, imagine! However, he takes the only opportunity seriously, beautiful!

JAZZ AT THE PHILHARMONIC
Pittsburgh, March 5, 1947
Buck Clayton (tp), Trummy Young (tb), Willie Smith (as), Flip Phillips (ts), Ken Kersey (p), Benny Fonville (b), Buddy Rich (dm).
Two titles were recorded at Syria Mosque:

How High The Moon Solo with ens 24 bars. Solo 64 bars. Soli 8 and 8 bars to coda. (FM)

Bell Boy Blues Solo 7 choruses of 12 bars. (FM)

Competent solo on “… Moon” but somewhat forced and too much riffing. And he has played much better and relaxed blues than this, again too much noise in the background.

HELEN HUMES ACC. BY BUCK CLAYTON’s ORCHESTRA
NYC. June 24, 1947
Buck Clayton (tp), George Matthews (tb), John Hardee (ts), Ram Ramirez (p), Mundell Lowe (g), Walter Page (b), Jo Jones (dm).
Four titles were recorded for Mercury, no WBC on 860-1 “Blue And Sentimental” but:

859-1 Jet Propelled Mama As below. (SM)
859-4 Jet Propelled Mama Obbligato parts. (SM)
861-3 I Just Refuse To Sing The Blues As below. (S)
861-5  I Just Refuse To Sing The Blues  Obbligato parts. (S)
862-2  They Raided The Joint  As below. (S)
862-4  They Raided The Joint  Obbligato parts. (M)

Surprisingly enough, WBC limits himself to some nice background playing on
this session. For a highlight play “… The Blues” take 3, lovely!

**JAZZ BAND  NYC. Nov. 19, 1947**
Buck Clayton (tp), Edmond Hall (cl), Teddy Wilson (p), Sid Weiss (b), Jimmy
Crawford (dm), Canada Lee (narr).
One title was recorded for Young Peoples Records:

410B  Jazz Band  Duet with (cl) 4 bars. (S).
Soli with (cl) acc. 12, 12 and 36 bars. (FM)

This is a real jazz record with fine trumpet playing as well as by Edmond and
Teddy!

**TEDDY WILSON QUARTET  NYC. Dec. 3, 1947**
Buck Clayton (tp), Teddy Wilson (p), Billy Taylor (b), Denzil Best (dm).
One title was recorded for Musicraft:

5998  The Sheik Of Araby  Soli 32 and 24 bars. (F)

Good playing with open horn here!

**HELEN HUMES ACC. BY BUCK CLAYTON’s ORCHESTRA  NYC. Dec. 31, 1947**
Buck Clayton (tp), Scoville Brown (cl), Rudy Williams (ts), Teddy Wilson (p),
Jimmy Butts (b), Denzil Best (dm), Helen Humes (vo).
Four titles were recorded for Mercury:

1641-3  Mad About You  As below. (S)
1641-5  Mad About You  Obbligato parts. (S)
1642-1  Jumpin’ On Sugar Hill  Solo 8 bars. (M)
1643-2  Flippity Flop Flop  As below. (SM)
1643-3  Flippity Flop Flop  Solo 12 bars. (SM)
1644-2  Today I Sing The Blues  As below. (S)
1644-3  Today I Sing The Blues  Intro 4 bars. Coda. (S)

From a trumpet point of view, this Humes session is much more interesting than
the previous one, here there are several instances of very fine trumpet playing!
My favourite is “… Flop”!

**JOE BUSHKIN  NYC. July 1, 1948**
Buck Clayton (tp), Fred Ohms (tb), Peanuts Hucko (cl), Bill Vitale (ts), Ernie
Caceres (bar), Joe Bushkin (p), Jack Lesberg b), Morey Feld (dm).
One title was recorded for VDisc:

The Song Is Ended  In ens 32 bars. Solo 32 bars,
last 16 bars with ens. (M)

Competent but not particularly remarkable solo.

**FRANKIE LAINE ACC. BY CLARE FISCHER’s ORCHESTRA  NYC. Nov. 15, 1948**
Buck Clayton (tp), Eddie Bert (tb), Eddie Barefield (cl), Jimmy Carroll (ts), Clare
Fischer (p), Mundell Lowe (g), unknown (b), (dm), Frankie Laine (vo).
Two titles were recorded for Mercury, no WBC on “It Can Only Happen Once”
but:

Rosetta  Obbligato parts before and
after solo 16 bars. (FM)

A strong, fine solo on this “Rosetta”!

**SKIP HALL & HIS BAND  NYC. 1949**
Buck Clayton (tp), George Stevenson (tb), Vincent Bair-Bey (as), Buddy Tate
(ts), Dave McRae (bar), Skip Hall (p, arr), Walter Page (b), Herbe Lovelle (dm).
Six titles were recorded for Jamboree, four issued, two have WBC:

1001  Two Left Feet  Solo 12 bars (open). (M)
Two good trumpet soli of the very forceful kind.

**BUDDY TATE ** NYC. early 1949
Buck Clayton (tp, arr), Eli Robinson (tb), Burnie Peacock (as), Buddy Tate (ts), Skip Hall (p), Jimmy Butts (b), Harold Austin (dm), Dick Barrow (vo-161).
Four titles were recorded for Supreme, two issued, one has WBC:

158 Swingin’ With Willie And Ray Solo 8 bars (open). (M)

He is not so successful with this one, too violent.

**DINAH WASHINGTON ACC. BY MITCH MILLER’S ORCHESTRA ** NYC. 1949
Personnel including Buck Clayton (tp), Dinah Washington (vo).
Two titles were recorded for Mercury, one has WBC:

253-3 Am I Really Sorry? Brief break. (S)

**SY OLIVER & HIS ORCHESTRA ** NYC. Feb. 17, 1949
Bigband personnel including Buck Clayton (tp).
Two titles were recorded for Decca, but no WBC.

**SAMMY PRICE & HIS ROCKING RHYTHM ** NYC. July 7, 1949
Buck Clayton (tp), Vincent Bair-Bey (as, bar), Buddy Tate (ts), Sammy Price (p), Billy Taylor (b), Sid Catlett (dm), Jesse Perry (vo).
Four titles were recorded for Vocalion, two issued, no WBC on “Back Street” but:

Tain’t Nobody’s Business Solo 8 bars (open). (S)

Nice slow solo on this one.

**BILLIE HOLIDAY WITH BUSTER HARDING & HIS ORCHESTRA ** NYC. Aug. 17, 1949
Bigband personnel including Buck Clayton, Emmett Berry, Jimmy Nottingham (tp), Billie Holiday (vo).
Two titles, “Tain’t Nobody’s Business If I Do” and “Baby, Get Lost”, were recorded for Decca, but no trumpet soli.

**LOUIS ARMSTRONG WITH SY OLIVER’S ORCHESTRA ** NYC. Sept. 1, 1949
Bigband personnel including Louis Armstrong (tp, vo), Buck Clayton (tp).
Two titles were recorded for Decca, but no WBC soli.

**BILLIE HOLIDAY WITH SY OLIVER & HIS ORCHESTRA ** NYC. Sept. 8, 1949
Bigband personnel including Buck Clayton, Shad Collins, Bobby Williams (tp), Billie Holiday (vo).
Two titles, “Do Your Duty” and “Gimme A Pigfoot”, were recorded for Decca, but no trumpet soli.

I have decided to close the Buck Clayton solography here, at least for the time being. However, there are numerous excellent WBC recording sessions in the US and Europe in the years to come!

Late history:

On 24th September 1949 sailed for first tour of Europe, led own band in France, returned to U. S. A. in June 1950. Long spells with Joe Bushkin Quartet, also worked with Tony Parenti, and led band on tours with Jimmy Rushing. Returned to Europe in 1953, worked mainly with Mezz Mezzrow. Throughout the 1950s achieved considerable success with own specially formed recording groups. Appeared with Benny Goodman in ‘The Benny Goodman Story’, also played with Goodman in New York in 1957. To Brussels in summer 1958 to work with Sidney Bechet at the World’s Fair Concerts. Toured Europe early in 1959, in late 1959 joined Eddie Condon’s Band; during the 1960s played for Condon on several occasions, including tour of Japan, Australia, etc., in the spring of 1964. Tour with Jimmy Rushing in summer of 1962, worked with Peanuts Hucko early in 1964. During the 1960s Buck made annual tours of Europe and was featured at major jazz festivals throughout the U.S.A. From 1967 illness interfered with his career, but he continued to provide arrangements for various groups. Later he recommenced playing and made a tour of Africa under the auspices of the State Department (1977). He taught at Hunter College, CUNY, in
the early 1980s and led the Countsmen on a tour of Europe in 1983; in 1987 he led his own big band, which played his own compositions and arrangements. (Ref. also The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz).

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