Two Ton’s “home” label was Mercury, and the vast majority of the recordings shown here are on that label. This info was taken from The Mercury Labels: A Discography (vol. 1: The 1945-1956 Era), by Michel Ruppli and Ed Novitsky. Typographical errors and bizarre typographical usages are not corrected, and even I haven’t sorted out some of the quirky usages, but I have added some notes [in brackets] making corrections or additions. All records listed here are 78s unless otherwise indicated.

The leftmost number in the listings is the record company matrix number; if it is underlined, it means I have a copy of that recording. Likewise, an underscore under the record number (e.g., Merc 5066), means that I have that record (in a few cases, I have a copy of the recording but not the record itself).

DICK “TWO TON” BAKER (THE MUSIC MAKER) - NURSERY RHYME TIME:
Dick “Two Ton” Baker(p,vo) with? [piano only]

399 Pt.1: Boys and girls came out to play/
Mary had a little lamb/
One,two,buckle my shoe/
Little boy blue/
Ride a cockhorse/
Oh where has my little dog gone

Merc.7008(alb.MMP-3),MG30002
[actually MMP-4 -DB]

400 Pt.2: Simple Simon
One-two-three-four-five/
I love Little Pussy/
Sing a song of sixpence/
Jack and Jill/
Hickory dickory dock

Merc.7008(alb.MMP-3),MG30002
[actually MMP-4 -DB]

401 Pt.3: Baa baa black sheep/
Just like me/
Humpty dumpty/
Little Bo Beep/
Tom Tom/
The piper’s son
Two birds on a stone/
Bye bye bunting

Merc.7009(alb.MMP-3)
[actually MMP-4 -DB]

402 Pt.4: Hey diddle diddle/
Peas porridge hot/
Patty cake,Patty cake/
Mistress Mary/
The queen of hearts/
Little Jack Horner/
Ding dong bell
Boys and girls come out to play

Merc.7009(alb.MMP-3)
[actually MMP-4 -DB]
**DICK "TWO TON" BAKER CHRISTMAS PARTY:**
Dick "Two Ton" Baker(p,vo) with ? [Sound effects on Night before Xmas]  
September 1946

515 The night before Christmas,pt.1 Merc.7010(alb.MMP-5)
516 The night before Christmas,p2.2: Santa’s toy shop -
517 Up on the hose top/Deck the halls Merc.7011? [yes, and MMP-5] [house top -DB]
518 Jingle bells -

All titles also issued on [LP] Merc.MG30004.

**DICK "TWO TON" BAKER, HIS PIANO & HIS MUSIC MAKERS:**
Incl: Dick "Two Ton" Baker(p,vo), Little Emmy(vo) & The Maple City Four-1 (vocal quartet) [Actually, Baker on Rickety; Baker+Emma on Zip a dee; Baker+Maple City Four on Happy birthday & Auld lang Syne; also b & gtr on Zip a dee & Happy birthday; gtr, b & dr on Rickety rickshaw]

WGN Studios,Chicago,November 6,1946

617 Zip a dee doo dah(voDB,LE) Merc.3047 -
618 Rickety rickshaw man(voDB) - 1359x45(alb.A-141x45),
619 Happy birthday to you[-1] Merc.3048,5039,5039x45 -
620 Auld Lang Syne-1 - 1359x45(alb.A-141x45),
621 (Mercury Christmas number) unissued

**DICK "TWO TON" BAKER & HIS MUSIC MAKERS:**
Dick "Two Ton" Baker(p,vo) + ? [gtr, b, dr]  
WGN Studios,Chicago,January 1947

686 Managua,Nicaragua Merc.5016 -
687 I gotta gal I love (in North and South Dakota) -
688 Uncle Remus said Merc.5017 (voDB) - 7048(alb.MMP25-98),
689 Everybody has a laughing face* - 7048x45(alb.MMP25x45)

[*Actually, laughing “place.” And note that the label on the disc itself shows the matrix number as 698 and the record number as 25-89; presumably, the typesetter transposed the 98 & 89 in the two numbers.]

**DICK "TWO TON" BAKER (THE MUSIC MAKER) SING A SILLY SONG:**
Dick "Two Ton" Baker(p,vo) + ? [“Wabbit” label 7019 and 7047 say “Dick Baker & His Music Makers,” while 5027 is just Baker, which is obviously right, since I don’t hear any other instruments] 1947

740 I like you, you’re silly/ Polly wolly doodle Merc.7018?*(alb.MMP-9)
741 The soup song/Eachy peachy pie - -
742 The tree in the woods Merc.7019?* -
743 I wuv a wabbit - -

Merc.7047(alb.MMP-24-98),5127, 7047x45(alb.MMP-24x45)

All titles also issued on Merc.MG30002.  
[740-741 are indeed Mercury 7018; 742-743 are indeed Mercury 7019]

**DICK "TWO TON" BAKER & HIS MUSIC MAKERS:**
Dick "Two Ton" Baker(p,vo) + ? [acc, gtr, b, dr, + bass cl on Bloop Bleep] 1947

832 Bloop bleep Merc.5058
A chocolate sundae on a Saturday night
Kokomo, Indiana
Chick-a-biddy boogie

DICK "TWO TON" BAKER & HIS MUSIC MAKERS:
Dick "Two Ton" Baker(p,vo) + ? [gtr, b, dr] 1947

Near You
Civilization
I’m a lonely little petunia (in an onion patch)(voDB)
Dancers in love(instr.)

DICK "TWO TON" BAKER (THE MUSIC MAKER):
Dick "Two Ton" Baker(vo, p) with ? [bass drum & sound effects] 1947

Boomer the bass drum, pt. 1
Boomer the bass drum, pt. 2
Both parts also issued on Merc. 7022x45(alb.MMP-11x45), MG30002.

DICK "TWO TON" BAKER & HIS MUSIC MAKERS:
Dick "Two Ton" Baker(p,vo) + ? [acc b, dr, + gtr on With a hey] 1947

Too fat polka
With a hey and a hi and a ho ho ho
The cocoanut song
I’m a little teapot

BEN ARONIN & “TWO TON” BAKER:
Dick “Two Ton” Baker(vo) & Ben Aronin(narr) with sound effects and music. 1947

Sparkle plenty’s birthday party, pt. 1
Sparkle plenty’s birthday party, pt. 2
[This appears to be in error: I have the disk; Two Ton isn’t mentioned on the cover, nor is he heard on the recording.]

DICK “TWO TON” BAKER:
Dick “Two Ton” Baker(vo) with Ross [actually, Ros —DB] Metzger & Frank Worth’s Orchestra. 1948

Red’s back in town
An old flame never dies
["These same two sides were issued as Metro Record Company No. 101-102 with notation “Not for Public Sale.”]

DICK "TWO TON" BAKER & HIS MUSIC MAKERS:
Dick "Two Ton" Baker(p,vo) + ? [dr, acc, bass cl, gtr; female vocal group, whistler (could be Baker)] 1948?

Deep freezer Dinah*
DICK “TWO TON” BAKER & HIS MUSIC MAKERS*:
Dick “Two Ton” Baker(p,vo) + ? [gtr b, dr, + acc on Sunflower]

2186 Roll the patrol                        Merc.5239
2187 Sunflower                                  1360x45(alb.A-141x45),
                                               Merc.25135
2188 Oogoo the worm                                 Merc.5257,5346
2189 My little pup with the
     patent leather nose and
     the wiggly waggly tail                         5292,MMP-52,MMP-52x45
[*78 labels for all four credit “Richard (Two-Ton Baker,” no mention of Music
Makers.]

DICK “TWO TON” BAKER & HIS MUSIC MAKERS*:
Dick “Two Ton” Baker(p,vo) + ? [b on Lucy; b & dr on Drop the Gun; b & gtr on
Engine]

2519 Put your shoes on,Lucy                        Merc.5266**
2520 All right Louie,drop the gun (actually, Louis) Merc.5266(2)**
2521 What the engine done                          Merc.5281
2522 Myrtle the turtle and Flip
     the frog                                      Merc.5266(1)**,MMP-52,MMP-52x45
[*Actually, credit just Two Ton Baker on the three sides I have.
**Something’s screwy here: The Mercury discography has these three songs all
on Mercury 5266, which is impossible. I have three copies of that record, and
the two songs on them are “Put Your Shoes On, Lucy” and “All Right Louie.”
The “(1)” and “(2)” after 5266 on “Myrtle” and “Louie” seem to indicate that
the compilers of the discography intended to explain this incongruity, but
there are no such notes to be found.]

DICK “TWO TON” BAKER*:
Dick “Two Ton” Baker(p,vo) + ? [gtr, b, acc, dr]

2751 The beautiful blonde from [gtr, b, acc, dr]
     bashful bend                                               Merc.5292

DICK “TWO TON” BAKER:
Dick “Two Ton” Baker(p,vo) with ? [acc, b, dr]

2760 Ev’rybody kissed the bride                        Merc.5306

DICK “TWO TON” BAKER:
Dick “Two Ton” Baker(p,vo) + ? [acc, b, dr on Stinky Cheese; acc, dr & vcl
chorus on Ellie]

2771 I like stinky cheese                      Merc.5306,MG25135
2772 Ellie the elegant elephant
     Merc.MMP-53*,MMP-53x45
     [*actually, 78 is MMP 53-79]

DICK “TWO TON” BAKER:
Dick “Two Ton” Baker(p,vo) + ? [acc, gtr, b, dr]

2861 Gus the gopher                                    Merc.5346,MMP-51-79
2862 Why fall in love with a
     stranger                                             Merc.5329
“TWO TON BAKER” & TINY HILL:
Dick “Two Ton” Baker, Tiny Hill (vo) with ? [p, gtr, b, dr on Bigger Man; p, banjo, b, dr on Dixie]

1949

2878-2 I’m a bigger man than you Merc.5324
2879 Nobody loves a fat man unissued
2880 Cryin’ jag rag
2881 Are you from Dixie? Merc.5324

DICK “TWO TON” BAKER:
Dick “Two Ton” Baker (p, vo) + ? [acc only on Looey; acc, b, dr on Pansy]

1949

2921 Looey the local locomotive Merc.MMP-53 1 [actually, 78 is MMP 53-79]
2922 I’m just a little pansy in a flower pot Merc.5329
2923 Under the mistletoe unissued
2924 Our body is a little house, pt.1 Merc.MMP-54-79, MMP-54x45
2925 Our body is a little house, pt.2 - -

[As of 4/8/17, when I finally found Myrtle the Turtle, “Our body” is the last known Two Ton recording that I’ve never found.]

“TWO TON” BAKER:
Dick “Two Ton” Baker (p, vo) with ? [fem. vcl 1 on all four Gus sides; gtr, dr, b, acc on the part of 2986 that’s a repeat of 2861]

1950

2986  Gus the gopher and his pal, pt.1 Merc.MMP-59
2987  Gus the gopher and his pal, pt.2 -
2988  Gus the gopher saves Christmas, pt.1 Merc.MMP-60
2989  Gus the gopher saves Christmas, pt.2 -

[1 May 2006 email from Tim Gainer says that his mother, Elmira Roessler, was the uncredited voice of Gus the Gopher.
2 Actually, titles on discs are “You Got to Be a Hero Nowadays,” parts 1 & 2; record number is MMP 59 on decorative sleeve, but 59-79M on record label. Note that 2986 seems to be just a repeat of the 2861 Gus the Gopher song with an added “gopher palaver” introduction spliced on.
3 Actually, titles on discs are “It’s a Merry Christmas After All,” parts 1 & 2; record number MMP 60-79M on record label.]

DICK “TWO TON” BAKER [actually, “Two Ton Baker and the Temp Tones”]:
Dick “Two Ton” Baker (p, vo) with ? [accordion, guitar, clarinet, bass, drums]

1950

3138 The bicycle song Merc.5368
3139 I’ve got tears in my eyes - [actually, “ears”]
3140 Music! Music! Music! Merc.5369
3141 Chattanooga shoe shine boy - [actually, “Chattanoogie” — and yes, that’s the correct title of the song; just check your old Red Foley records]

DICK “TWO TON” BAKER:
Dick “Two Ton” Baker (p, vo) with ? [flute, bass cl, muted tp, gtr, glockenspiel or xylophone, Hammond organ, dr + others? Add female vocal chorus for Cinderella & One little candle]

1950

3208 Peter Cottontail Merc.5397, MMP-77
3209 Cinderella work song - -
3210 One little candle on a two layer cake Merc.5426, 8-50, MG25135
The boy with the rip in his pants - - MMP-63
[also have 45 rpm copies of 5397 & 5426.]

DICK "TWO TON" BAKER:
Dick "Two Ton" Baker (vo) with The Mercury Studio Orchestra. 1950
3434 Kansas City Kitty Merc.5445
3435 Let's do it again - -

DICK "TWO TON" BAKER & JERRY MURAD’S HARMONICATS:
Dick "Two Ton" Baker (vo) with Jerry Murad, Al Fiore, Don Les (hca) + ? [acoustic gtr, xy, bassoon on the oom-pah, but no tuba!]
1950
3762 Frosty the snowman (voDB) Merc.MMP-76,MMP-76-45
3763 Tubby the tuba song (voDB) - -
[The uncredited "little girl" voice on Frosty sounds very much like Elmira Roessler, the voice of Gus the Gopher.]

DICK "TWO TON" BAKER:
Dick "Two Ton" Baker (vo) & Jerry Murad’s Harmonicats: Jerry Murad, Al Fiore, Don Les (hca) + ? [p, gtr, xy; p presumably Baker] 1951*
3896 Please say goodnight to the guy, Irene Merc.5527,5527x45
3897 Dingya d' dingya-1

-1: as by Jerry Murad’s Harmonicats & “Two Ton” Baker.

[*Date should be 1950, as I found a Mercury ad in Billboard for October 21, 1950, listing this as among its best-sellers.]

DICK "TWO TON" BAKER:
Dick "Two Ton" Baker (vo) with David Le Winter Orchestra. 1951
3918 The thing Merc.5548,5548x45,
1361x45 (a1b.A-141x45), MG25135
[Note that all the Mercury listings above are from a published Mercury discography; until proven otherwise, I presume it’s complete. All the listings that follow, however, are here because I’ve stumbled across the recordings. There could be others on these and other labels. Please help me find them.]

ON THE DECCA LABEL (78)

HOOSIER HOT SHOTS AND TWO TON BAKER
Paul "Hezzie" Trietsch (whistle); Ken Trietsch (gtr), Charles "Gabe" Ward (cl); Gill Taylor (b); unknown, trombone; Dick "Two Ton" Baker (p/vo)
Prob. Chicago, Ill., Nov. 13, 1945
73119 You Two Timed Me One Time Too Often Decca 18738
[A side of Decca 18738 is "Someday (You'll Want Me to Want You)" by the Hoosier Hot Shots and Sally Foster]
73120 Sioux City Sue Decca 18745
[B side of Decca 18745 is "There's a Tear in My Beer Tonight" by the Hoosier Hot Shots and Sally Foster.]
ON THE CORAL LABEL (78)

DICK “TWO TON” BAKER WITH ORCHESTRA DIRECTED BY LEW DOUGLAS

July-Aug 1952?

83034  (I’m Afraid to Marry) Marietta          Coral 60807*
83035  Give Me Back                           -
*Marked “Sample copy--not for sale.”

DICK “TWO TON” BAKER VOCAL WITH MUSICAL EFFECTS
Baker (vo/p) plus violin, kettle drum, mandolin, saxophone, trombone, cl, flute, b.

1953?

83036  At the Music Shop, Pt. 1               Coral 69023
83037  At the Music Shop, Pt. 2               -

DICK TWO TON BAKER WITH ORCHESTRA DIRECTED BY REMO BIONDI

1953

?       Fuzzy Wuzzy                                Coral 69025
83673  Bert the Turtle (The Duck and Cover Song)*

*Have this song as reissued on DVD/CD documentary Atomic Platters: Cold War Music from the Golden Age of Homeland Security; don’t have the disc.

PRIVATE RECORDING (78)

DICK BAKER (piano, vocal)

Prob. late 1950s

Rock Roll and Jump
You’re Hitting Me Right Where I Live

Privately recorded 78 made at Webb Recording Co, 55 W. Wacker Dr, Chicago 1, Ill.

ON THE MOPPET Label (45s)

TWO-TON BAKER
Baker plus gtr, dr, b.

1950s?

KS-5   The Froggy Song                         Moppet 7003
KS-6   Clink Clank (in My Piggy Bank)         -
KS-7   I’m a Little Weenie                    Moppet 7004
KS-8   Rub-a-Dub-Dub (in a Tub)              -

These four songs also issued as Side B of a 10” LP, Imperial DJ-ET 101, which, with DJ-ET 102, was a promotional set with a different children’s performer on each side. Imperial was part of the same West Coast family of labels as Moppet.

ON THE HEARTBEAT Label (45s)

“TWO TON” BAKER, THE MUSIC MAKER
Baker p, vo plus HB-3 = acc/bjo/b/vo chorus; HB-9 = tp on Wonderful Mother, tp & bongos on Mother of Mine; HB-12 = dr or rhythm machine, Hammond organ on St. James; H-23, H-41, H-51 = same quartet as LP below; H-33 = Hammond organ; H-49 = gtr/tp/b/dr.

Late 1950s-1960s

[no #]   No Beer in Heaven!                   HB-3
[no #]   Lawrence Welk Polka                      -
[no #]   Big Daddy Piano                          HB-5

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<td>Ping Pong Banjo</td>
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<td>My Wonderful Mother</td>
<td>HB-9</td>
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<td>Scotch and Soda</td>
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<td>NO8W-1910</td>
<td>Hot Lips</td>
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<td>My Blue Heaven</td>
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<td>You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby</td>
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<td>I’m a Lonely Little Petunia</td>
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<td>I’m Forever Blowing Bubbles</td>
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<td>Five Foot Two</td>
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<td>NO7W-7424</td>
<td>Barking Dog</td>
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<td>NO7W-7427</td>
<td>The Music Goes ’Round and Around</td>
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<td>P3KM-4927</td>
<td>Sunny Deb</td>
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<td>P3KM-4928</td>
<td>Satin Doll</td>
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<td>P3KM-6813</td>
<td>Luck Be with You (Kenahora—Knock On Wood)</td>
<td>H-56</td>
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<td>P3KM-6814</td>
<td>The Ducky Dance (Waddle, Waddle)</td>
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[*I have tape copies of H-49, but no disk]*

ON THE SUNNY LABEL

“TWO TON” BAKER, THE MUSIC MAKER (45s)
Two Ton Baker, p, vo; 504 = dixieland band; 513AB & 515-A = same quartet as LP below; 515-B = drums & various rhythm; 518 = quartet as LP + Hammond organ; 523 = trick (thumbtack) piano, tuba, bjo, dr

late 1960s–early ’70s?

* Las Vegas SR-504
  - When My Sugar Walks Down the Street
  - It’s Al Jolson Time (medley) S-513
  - It’s George M. Cohan Time (medley) S515
  - Sentimental Journey S-518
  - Right On!
  - It’s Eddy Howard Time S-516
  - It’s Ted Lewis Time
  - The Party’s Over S-518
  - Silver Dollar/You’re Nobody
  - ’Till Somebody Loves You
  - China Town S-523
  - Down Yonder
  - South S-528
  - Makin’ Whoopee

*No Sunny 45s have matrix numbers.*

A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY WITH TWO TON BAKER (LP)

Sentimental Journey

Love Medley:
  - I Can’t Give You Anything but Love
  - My Blue Heaven
  - Sweet Georgia Brown
  - It’s Only a Shanty in Old Shanty Town
  - Alexander’s Rag Time Band
  - I’m a Lonely Little Petunia
  - Too Fat Polka
  - If I Could Be with You / Lazy River

Medley:
  - Red Roses for a Blue Lady
  - One Dozen Roses
Anytime
Medley:
  For Me and My Gal
  Carolina in the Morning
  Oh You Beautiful Doll
Medley:
  Pretty Baby
  I Don’t Know Why
  Honey
  You Made Me Love You
Medley:
  Silver Dollar
  You’re Nobody Till Somebody Loves You
Eddy Howard Time:
  If I Knew Then
  Careless
Ted Lewis Time:
  Me and My Shadow
  When My Baby Smiles at Me
Satin Doll

Two Ton Baker, p/vo; Seymour Schwartz, cornet; Paul Friedman, b; Phil Stanger, dr. Sunny S-5001, 1972. LP evidently compiled from 45s made at previous sessions for the Heartbeat label.

Instrument abbreviations above:  p = piano; vo = vocal; b = string bass; gtr = electric guitar, acc = accordion; dr = drums; cl = clarinet; xy = xylophone; tp = trumpet; bjo = banjo

TRANSCRIPTION DISCS

Transcription discs were specially recorded and sent through the mail to subscribing radio stations for later playback. There were transcription discs in the 78 era, but Two Ton’s were all 33 1/3 rpm discs, some of which were 16" in diameter, a size that radio station turntables could handle but that never caught on with home machines. Also, transcription discs typically didn’t have grooves leading from one track to the next. It was felt—rightly, I’m sure—that if an engineer’s attention lapsed, it was better to have a few extra seconds of dead air than to have the next show start unexpectedly.

CROSLEY & BENDIX FIVE-MINUTE RADIO SHOWS, 1955
Labeled “Two Ton” Baker the Crosley Music Maker or “Two Ton” Baker the Bendix-Washer Music Maker, 5-Minute Radio Shows, Pressed by RCA Victor Division of Radio Corporation of America, Frederick Jack Productions, 520 North Michigan, Chicago, Ill.

Each disc has five shows plus a “closing theme” track. I have five of them:
  Show Record No. 1  – for Crosley
  Show Record No. 2   "
  Show Record No. 15 – for Bendix
  Show Record No. 20  "
  Commercial Record No. 22 – for Bendix (12" disc; others are 16")

THE “76″ SPOTS, 1957
Labeled “76″ Spot Announcements featuring Two-Ton Baker, Modern Recording Studio, 55 Wacker Dr., Chicago 1, Ill., Produced by American “76″ Company, Skokie, Ill. Each side of each disc has six 60-second jingles for the beverage, which seems to have been a lemon-lime 7-Up clone. All are 12" discs.
  MR-1096/1097 [no series label]
  MR-7661B/7662B – Series B
TUNE FOR TODAY, Early 1950s?
I never had the actual discs in hand for this set, just 48 of the shows. Each ran 4 1/2 minutes: one minute intro, one minute piano interlude for local announcements or commercials, then the tune for the day.

WEATHER FORECASTS WITH TWO TON BAKER, date unknown

YOUR FAVORITE SONGS, 1955

RADIO SHOWS
Not strictly “discographical” material, but some of Two Ton’s radio shows have survived, so I’ll document them here. As with everything else, I’m eager to acquire more.

Mutual Network Show
Two Ton Baker did a 15-minute show from Studio 2 in his “home” station of WGN that was fed to subscribing stations all over the country on the Mutual Broadcasting System. I have three shows, all of which came from nostalgia radio host Chuck Schaden in Chicago. (The dates are from Schaden, but the second one is suspect, as Baker refers to something happening on Aug. 8 as if it were a few days in the past.)

August 1, 1947 — songs are
   Smile Right Back at the Sun
   My Blue Heaven
   Dancers in Love (Stomp for Beginners)
   Red Sails in the Sunset

August 5, 1947
   Ragtime Cowboy Joe
   You’re the Only Star in My Blue Heaven
   Bloop Bleep
   Gimme a Little Kiss

August 18, 1947
   Mazel
   Dream
   I Do Do Do Like You
   Let the Rest of the World Go By

   Interview by Chuck Schaden

On his “Those Were the Days” show on May 2, 1972 (WLTD, Evanston), Schaden did a 15-minute telephone interview with Two Ton.