

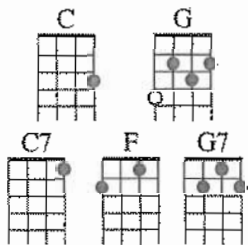
Nashville Cats



Lovin' Spoonful

Recording pioneer Sam Phillips died July 31, 2003, at age 80. Phillips is best known for discovering and first recording Elvis Presley, but his contributions to the founding and development of rock n' roll go far beyond just that. Phillips was the founder and head of Sun Records, whose recording studio in Memphis, Tennessee was also declared a national historical site on July 31. Sun 45s, with their distinctive yellow label and mocha-brown rising sun logo, were a mainstay of southern-based rock n' roll, rockabilly and country in the 1950s. The label's role is immortalized in the Lovin' Spoonful's song "Nashville Cats," where the young northern boy is knocked out by country music songs, "and every one of them was a yellow sun record from Nashville." Classics recorded on "Yellow Sun Records" include Jerry Lee Lewis' "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On" and "Great Balls of Fire;" Carl Perkins' "Blue Suede Shoes," "Honey, Don't" and "Everybody's Trying To Be My Baby" (introduced to a new generation of rockers by Beatles covers); and the pioneer recordings respectively of Johnny Cash and Roy Orbison, "I Walk The Line" and "Ooby Dooby."

- George Fish



Ukulele Club of Santa Cruz
July 2009

Nashville cats... play clean as country water
 Nashville cats... play wild as mountain dew
 Nashville cats... been playin' since they's babies
 Nashville cats... get work before they're two-ooo

Well there's... 13 hundred and 52 guitar pickers in Nashville
 And they can pick more notes than the number of ants on a Tennessee ant hill
 Well there's... 13 hundred and 52 guitar cases in Nashville
 And any one that unpacks his guitar can play twice as better than I will
 Yes I was just 13... You might say I was a musical proverbial knee-high
 When I heard a couple new soundin' tunes, on the tubes and they blasted me sky-high
 And the record man said every one is a yellow sun record from Nashville
 And up north here aint nobody buys em.. and I said "But I will!" ...and it was..

Nashville cats... play clean as country water
 Nashville cats... play wild as mountain dew
 Nashville cats... been playin' since they's babies
 Nashville cats... get work before they're two-ooo

Well there's... 16 thousand 821 mothers from Nashville
 All their friends play music, and they ain't up-tight if one of the kids will
 Because it's custom-made for any mother's son to be a guitar picker in Nashville
 And I sure am glad I got a chance to say a word about the music and the mothers from Nashville, and...
 Nashville cats... play clean as country water
 Nashville cats... play wild as mountain dew
 Nashville cats... been playin' since they's babies
 Nashville cats... get work before they're two-ooo 'pick it'