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**The day the squirrel went berserk**

by Ray Stevens (1939-) Click [HERE](#) to hear Ray's original recording! (MP3, 5.21 MB) When I was a kid, I went on a trip every summer, all the way to Mississipp to visit my grandmother and her antebellum world. I ran barefoot all year long climbing, free as a song. One day I accidentally caught myself a squirrel. I stuffed it into an old shoebox and drilled a few holes in the top. When Sunday came, I snuck him into church. I was sittin' way back in the last bench, Showin' him on my good friend Hugh, when that squirrel got loose and went completely berserk! What happened next is hard to say; Some thought it was heaven, others thought it was hell, but the fact that something was between us was clear to see! As the choir sang I Surrender All, a squirrel ran out onto the covers of Harv Newman; Harv jumped to his feet and said, Something got to me! The day a squirrel went crazy in the first self-service church in that sleepy town of Pascagoula! It was a fight for survival that erupted in the revival they were jumpin' pews and shoutin' Aleluja! Well, Harv hit passing dancin' and screamin', some thought he had religion, others thought he was a demon, and Harv thought he had Weed Eater loose in his fruit looms! He fell to his knees to plead and beg, and the squirrel ran out of his leg undetected, to the other side of the room, all the way to Amen Pew, where Sister Bertha Better-Than-You sat, who watched all the commas with sadistic glee, but you should have seen the look in her eyes when that squirrel jumped over his garter and crossed her thighs and jumped to her feet and said, Sir, have mercy on me! While the squirrel was doing laps in her dress, she began to cry, then confess the sins that would make the sailor blush with shame! She talked about gossip and church dissent, but what got the most attention was when she talked about her love life, and then she started naming names! The day a squirrel went crazy in the first self-service church in that sleepy town of Pascagoula! It was a fight for survival that erupted in the revival they were jumpin' pews and shoutin' Aleluja! Well, seven deacons and a pastor were rescued, and \$25,000 was raised, and fifty volunteered for on-site missions in congo! And even without the invitation there were at least five hundred rededications, and we all get rebaptized, whether we need it or not! Now that you've heard the biblical story, I. How he grew water for Moses to pass; Oh, the miracles God did in this old world. But the one I'll remember until my dying day is how he put that church back on a narrow path with a half-crazy Mississippi squirrel! The day a squirrel went crazy in the first self-service church in that sleepy town of Pascagoula! It was a fight for survival that erupted in the revival they were jumpin' pews and shoutin' Aleluja! Ray Stevens' Mississippi Squirrel RevivalSingl from He Thinks He's Ray StevensB-sideNed Nostril[1]ReleasedDecember 1984 (1984-12)GenreCountry, noveltyLength3:45LabelMCASongwriter(s)Cyrus Buddy Kalb, Carlene Kalb[1]Producer(s)Ray StevensRay Stevens single chronology I'm Kissin' You Goodbye (1984) Mississippi Squirrel Revival (1984) It's Me Again, Margaret (1985) Mississippi Squirrel Revival is a song by American country singer Ray Stevens. It's a single from his 1984 album He Thinks He's Ray Stevens. Content A boy visiting relatives in Pascagoula, Mississippi, catches a wild squirrel, which he sneaks into the First Self-Ordered Church during Sunday Mass. When the squirrel escapes from its box, it head into the jumpsuit of one of the other parishioners, who jumps in shock and discomfort (thinking he had Weed Eater loose in his Fruit looms). The rest of the congregation believes he was possessed, either by a demon or by the Holy Ghost; it is understood that the vicar is inclined to believe that this is the latter. In the front bench, Bertha Better-N-You's sister, a holy parishioner who has watched a previous incident with a sadistic glow, panics when a squirrel suddenly bumps into her dress. In fear, he breaks down in tears and begins to confess all his sins, including naming the names of paramours that bring shame to the entire church. After the ordeal, the church experiences a sudden renewal and wave of baptisms, rededications, increased forties and volunteers to go on foreign missions. Now the adult singer looks back at the incident as an example of one of God's miracles. [2] History Originally, the Mississippi Squirrel Revival wasn't supposed to be a single, but it was hastily released when various radio stations began playing it. Stevens felt his release would help reestablish him as a new artist after several albums mostly composed of serious material. Stevens felt that novelty music was experiencing a revival in the mid-1980s after a period in the early 1980s where it wasn't that popular. [3] As with many of Stevens' other songs, a music video was produced a few years later, with songwriters in prominent roles; Cyrus Buddy Kalb played the squirrel's first target. Carlene Kalb played the holy sister Bertha. Performance Chart Chart (1984-85) Peakposition U.S. Billboard Hot Country Singles[1] 20 Canadian RPM Country Tracks 32 References ^ a b c Whitburn, Joel (2012). Hot Country Songs 1944 to 2012 Record Research, Inc. p. 322. ISBN 978-0-89820-203-8. ^ Sandy Neese (December 1, 1984). Looney squirrel song pleases Stevens, fans. The Tennessean. P. 1D, 4D retrieved february 26, 2019 ^ Stevens Nuts over Squirrel. Billboard: 39, 42 December 1984 External Links Lyrics of this song in MetroLyrics Ray Stevens - Mississippi Squirrel Revival on YouTube pulled from the commercial About 20 years after Ray Stevens wrote the Mississippi Squirrel Revival, something very similar actually happened. The famous song spoke of visiting Mississippi and experiencing the day a squirrel went crazy at the First Self-Service Church in that sleepy town of Pascagoula. Ironically, the squirrel really went crazy at the First Baptist Church in the sleepy town of Poplarville. Although it doesn't rhyme with allelujah, Poplarville and Pascagoula are both in southern Mississippi, and since Poplarville, with a population of 2,500, is about 10 times smaller than Pascagoula, it qualifies well as a sleepy city. And what happened there made Ray Stevens sound like a prophet. I was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Poplarville from 1991-99. A few months before I moved to Georgia, we had squirrel problems around a church in Poplarville. One day the deacon and I chased one into the choir room, where he bought his freedom by flying out the window and landing on the street two floors down. On another occasion, the squirrel entered the transformer and sacrificed its life to put the church in the dark. After I moved to Georgia, Butch Knight became pastor of a church in Poplarville. During Brother Butch's service, Poplarville had a major squirrel incident. He says it all started on a Sunday morning in January 2002, about three minutes before worship began. The vicar noticed several members of the choir standing and watching something. Then he heard a scream, and he saw a squirrel jumping to the top of a grand piano. His thick tail waved, and he held his little hands in front of him, as if greeting the community. Church people went after him, taking off their suit coats and sporting coats and throwing them at the squirrel, without thinking that if they caught the squirrel, he could chop their expensive coats to pieces. The squirrel began to make circles in front of the attic of the choir, trying to escape. One man in the choir targeted the deadliest missile he could find on a squirrel: the national anthem. How he missed a creature with a loud voice, pastor how he wanted to tell his children's sermon about the sanctity of life by explaining why they killed a squirrel in a church. I'll tell you if the squirrel survived in next Friday's column. Copyright 2009 by Bob Rogers. E-mail brogers@fbcrcincon.com. Read this column every Friday for a mixture of religion and humor. For more Holy Humor, go to the website www.fbcrcincon.com. Like a country song that came to life, a squirrel stormed a church in Alabama last week, creating chaos and confusion as parishioners tried to catch it with a yield plate. Similar to Ray Stevens' 1984 song The Mississippi Squirrel Revival. In the background, squeals can be heard as senior pastor Bill Brunson addressed the crowd. VHUMC posted the footage from their live-stream camera on Facebook. Let me share with you years ago Ray Stevens sang a song called 'Mississippi Squirrel Revival', when a squirrel went crazy in the first self-service church in the sleepy town of Pascagoula, Brunson said from the pulpit as people in the congregation and online watched. Just so you know, the scream you heard was because the squirrel came through our stained glass window... and entered the balcony and encourages our members to get a little more spiritual than usual. I like that we're trying to trap him with an offer plate now, Brunson joked. The vicar then pleaded for help. If you have any squirrel capture skills, if it's your spiritual gift, move to the balcony and assist in hunting, he said before continuing with services. Additional videos on the Facebook page show the squirrel eventually rushing through the church door. For more crazy outdoor stories, visit The Realblog and check out Realtree's Facebook page. It's a page.

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