

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MAMA



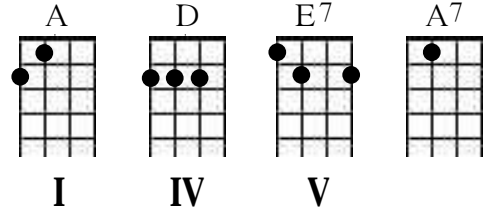
Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup
Born August 24, 1905, Forest, Mississippi
and died March 28, 1974 at age 69

During the 40s and early 50s Arthur Crudup was an important name in blues, his records selling particularly well in the south. For much of his early life Crudup worked in various rural occupations, not learning to play the guitar until he was 32. Allegedly, Crudup was playing on the sidewalk in Chicago when he was spotted by a music publisher. During the next 12 years, Crudup recorded approximately 80 tracks for Victor Records, including songs that became blues standards. "Mean Old Frisco" was later picked up by artists as diverse as Brownie McGhee (1946) and B.B. King (1959), and was one of the first blues recordings to feature an electric guitar, but by 1954 Big Boy's heyday was over. When he was contracted to record an album of his hits in 1962, the project had to be delayed until the picking season was over, Crudup having given up music and gone back to working on the land.

Arthur Crudup was an idol for the young Elvis, and wrote several of Presley's hits, including "That's All Right Mama," which the young Elvis heard Arthur play on Beale Street in Memphis's Handy Park. Two of Crudup's other compositions, "I'm So Glad You're Mine" and "My Baby Left Me" were also recorded by Elvis Presley, but it is not likely that Crudup benefited much from any of this. A second career bloomed for Big Boy with the interest in blues among white audiences in the mid-60s. This prompted appearances at campuses and clubs in the USA and Crudup even journeyed to Europe - always encouraged to perform in a country style. It appears likely that, with his superior lyric and wide cross-racial popularity, Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup gave lots more to the blues than he ever received in return.



On July 6, 1954
Elvis Presley's first single -
"That's All Right Mama,"
was released by Sun Records



A
Well, that's all right, mama

A
That's all right for you

A A7
That's all right mama, just anyway you do

D
Well, that's all right, that's all right.

E7 A
That's all right now mama, anyway you do

A
Mama she done told me,

A
Papa done told me too

A A7
Son, that gal your foolin' with, she ain't no good for you'

D
But, that's all right, that's all right.

E7 A
That's all right now mama, anyway you do

A
I'm leaving town, baby

A
I'm leaving town for sure

A A7
Well, then you won't be bothered with me hanging 'round your door

D
Well, that's all right, that's all right.

E7 A
That's all right now mama, anyway you do