

HEY! WHERE IS THAT DINER ANYWAY? The "Gonna Ball" Photo Session: Mystery Solved.

On 19 November 1981, Stray Cats released their second LP. Called "Gonna Ball", the album was recorded in the unusual location of Monseratt and featured guest appearances by Rolling Stones keyboardist, Ian Stewart and Little Richard's saxophone player, R&B legend, Lee Allen.

As evidenced below, the LP's sleeve continued the Cats' tradition of great photography and striking graphics.



(above) front cover of 12" LP



(above) back cover of 12" LP

What has long puzzled Stray Cats fans is the location of the brilliant diner featured on the album's packaging. As you can see below, the location of the *Airline Diner* is stated to be "Jackson Heights, New Jersey".

Well (imagine this!) Arista Records U.K. did it again. Continuing their fan-frustrating habit of mislabeling song titles and misspelling people's names, (poor tattoo artist Dennis Cockell was called "Cockerell" and "Cockadoo" before they finally got his surname correct!) the folks who did the design layout for "Gonna Ball" not only got the diner's location wrong, but they also moved Jackson Heights, New York to New Jersey in the process. Well, we're here to solve the mystery for you.

Very Special Thanks... Airline Diner (Jackson Heights, N.J.) Harleys By Stray Cats

The famous Airline Diner is located in the Elmhurst section of Queens, New York. That area of Queens also happens to be the hometown of "All In The Family" star Carroll O'Connor. The diner is still open for business and in recent years has appeared in more than a few films. If you've seen "Goodfellas" with Ray Liotta and Joe Pesci, you may recall seeing the "Airline" in one of the movie's more memorable scenes.

The diner changed it's name to "The Jackson Hole" sometime in the early 1990's. It's located in the shadow of New York's La Guardia Airport and as shown in the photos below (that were taken last week) the place still looks brilliant! Check out the little bush on the cover of "Gonna Ball", the one one between the wall and the front tire of one of the Harley's. Now look at the photos below. Time marches on, but they're still serving burgers at the Airline Diner!

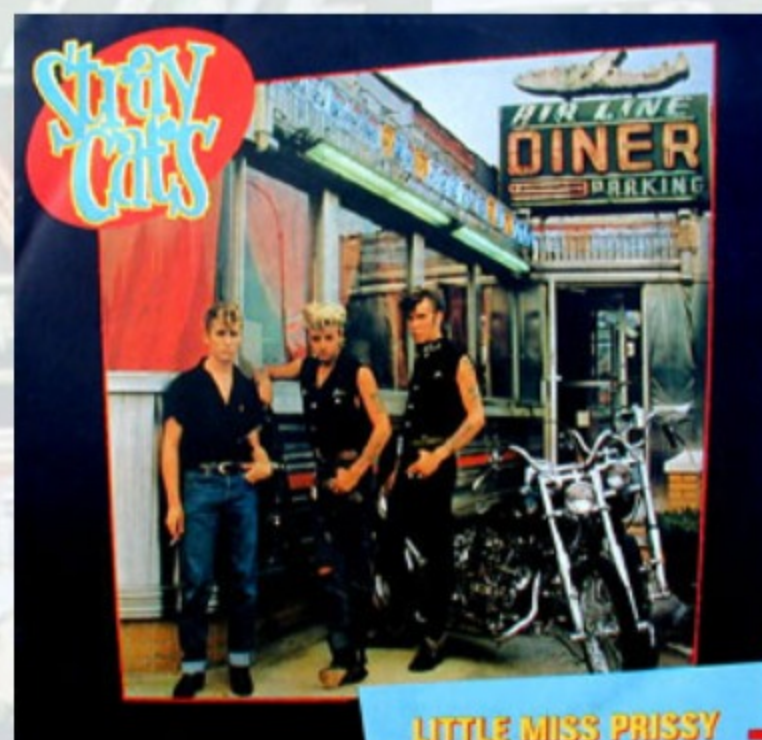


Massive thanks to Kew Garden's own John "Budgie" Ritchie for visiting the Airline Diner, taking the photos and NOT ruining his diet! Thanks JR!

Other Stray Cats' releases that feature photos taken at the Elmhurst Airline Diner-



From 1983, a French EP that contains the tracks:
-Built For Speed
-Stray Cat Strut
-Sweet Love On My Mind (live)
-Drink That Bottle Down (live)



From 1981, German 7" single
-Little Miss Prissy
-Cross That Bridge



From 1981, German 7" EP
-Gonna Ball
-Sweet Love On My Mind (live)
-Something Else (live)