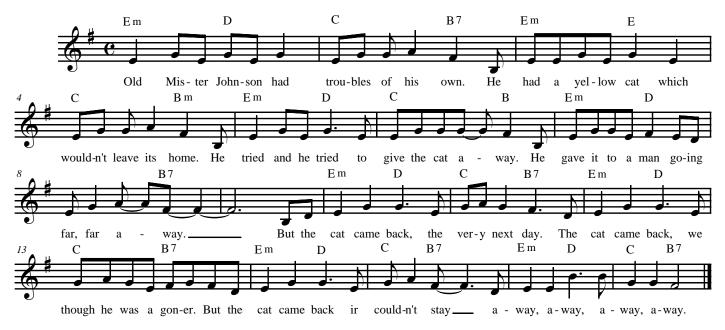# Cat Came Back, The

Old-time Song; Words and music by Harry S. Miller with later folk additions; **DATE:** 1893; **RECORDING INFO:** Fiddlin' John Carson 1924; Riley Puckett; Fiddlin' Doc Roberts; **OTHER NAMES:** And The Cat Came Back; Cat; **NOTES**: Some say that the minstrel show circuit of the late 1800's was the first pop-song movement in American history. Henry S. Miller, a Chicagoan, was a very popular composer during this time, specializing in comical and novelty songs. Just like the cat in the song. The Cat Came Back endures to this day because of and despite many changes and adaptations. The chords and melody used today (and in this arrangement) are quite different than the original.

Old   Mis-ter John-son had   trou-bles of his   own.   He   had a yel-low cat   which would-n't leave its   home. He   tried and he tried   to   give the cat a - way. He   gave it to a man go-ing far, far a - way.____   But the   cat came back,   the   ver-y next day.   The   cat came back,   we though he was a gon-er. But the   cat came back   ir could-n't stay____   a - way, a-way,   a - way, a-way.

Em   D   C   B7
Old Mister Johnson had troubles of his own

    Em   E   C   Bm
He had a yellow cat which wouldn't leave its home;

    Em   D   C   B
He tried and he tried to give the cat away,

    Em   D   B7
He gave it to a man goin' far, far away.

            Em   D   C   B7
CHORUS: But the cat cam back the very next day,

    Em   D   C   B7
The cat came back, we thought he was a goner

        Em   D   C   B7
But the cat came back; it just couldn't stay away,

    Em   D   C   B7
Away, away, away, away.

The man around the corner swore he'd kill the cat on sight,
He loaded up his shotgun with nails and dynamite;
He waited and he waited for the cat to come around,
Ninety-seven pieces of the man is all they found. CHORUS:

He gave it to a little boy with a dollar note,
Told him for to take it up the river in a boat;
They tied a rope around its neck,
        it must have weighted a pound
Now they drag the river for a little boy that's drowned.

He gave it to a man going up in a balloon,
He told him or to take it to the man in the moon;
The balloon came down about ninety miles away,
Where he is now, well I dare not say.

He gave it to a man going way out West,
Told him for to take it to the one he loved the best;
First the train hit the curve, then it jumped the rail,
Not a soul was left behind to tell the gruesome tale.

The cat it had some company one night out in the yard,
Someone threw a boot-jack, and they threw it mighty hard;
It caught the cat behind the ear, she thought it rather slight,
When along came a brick-bat and knocked the cat out of sight.

Away across the ocean they did send the cat at last,
Vessel only out a day and making water fast;
People all began to pray, the boat began to toss
A great big gust of wind came by and every soul was lost.

On a telegraph wire, sparrows sitting in a bunch,
The cat was feeling hungry, thought she'd like 'em for a lunch;
Climbing softly up the pole, and when she reached the top,
Put her foot upon the electric ire, which tied her in a knot.

They gave the cat to a man in a balloon
And old him to give him to the man in the moon;
But the balloon it busted and everybody said
Ten miles away they picked the man up dead.

The atom bomb fell just the other day,
The H-bomb fell in the very same way;
Russia went, England went, and then the U/S/A.
The human race was finished without a chance to pray.