

TAYLOR'S RESTAURANT

[Re: Elvis coming back to Sun Studios after signing with RCA]

JC: He was [famous] at that time. He was big. This was in 57 - 58..he was really big. Internationally. He lived in Memphis and people were hanging out. So he'd come down and hang out. In fact, the day he got drafted, he came by to tell us. We were the first ones he told I think. (laughs) One day me and this guy , we were having a little crap game back in the control booth Elvis walked in with his motorcycle gear on and we thought he was a cop. (laugh) And Johnny Cash... they'd all come by , there was a restaurant next door... that was a whole part of that Sun thing ... there was a restaurant right next door. And the restaurant was a part of the flow of the whole thing. A lot of songs were finished over there.

S: Oh, what was the name of it?

JC: Taylor's. Jerry Lee would come by and hang out at the studio and then go on and eat, next door. Jerry Lee would come by to have country fried steak, yeah.

S: Uh huh... that's gravy and stuff on it?

JC: Yeah.

Q: Did they serve kind of homestyle food?

JC: Yeah and they had spaghetti and good hamburgers... .and a lot of Sun Records on the juke box. (laugh) We'd sit over there a lot and drink coffee. It was a meeting place. It was a part of the studio really. Every studio ought to have a restaurant. Now, down in Beaumont we had a restaurant right across the street which was a hang out.

Q: That's not true in Nashville.

JC: No, they don't have a studio with a restaurant next door. That's what they need, I think.

Q: Hummm

JC: I'm gonna put a studio in the attic and have a restaurant in the kitchen. (laugh)

Q: That's kind of the thing about Nashville studios, you know there's ... like Music Row is not a big area to hang out because it doesn't have places to eat and... it's very office oriented.

JC: Yeah, that's the problem... Yeah, too much. You've got to have a place where people gather to do something other than do their musical thing. Eat.

Sun was a happening place. It was a hang out place. That's where it happens - where you get certain people hanging out during a certain period of time. Get the right combination and then the music flows. I've been around a couple of places where it's been flowing. As far as Nashville is concerned, I feel closer to that right now than I ever have - with the attic [studio]. I'm about to reassemble all the elements you need with the recording kind of thing, you got to have a bathroom next to the control room - you need a restaurant close by, or a fully stocked kitchen. So we got a nice kitchen here.