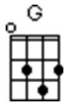
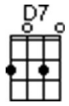
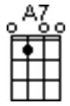
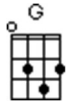


My Little Grass Shack (GCEA)

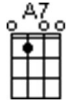
Tommy Harrison, Bill Cogswell, and Johnny Noble, 1933



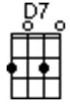
A7 / D7 / G / / / A7 / D7 / G / / / I want to go /



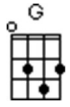
G / / / G / / / back to my little grass shack in Kealahou, Ha-



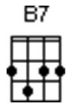
A7 / / / A7 / / / -wai' ... i I want to



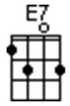
D7 / / / D7 / / / be with all the kanes and wahines that I used to



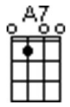
G / / / G / / / know ... so long a-go I can



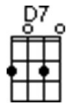
B7 / / / B7 / / / hear the old guitars a-playing on the



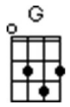
E7 / / / E7 / / / beach at Hōnaunau I can



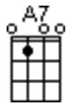
A7 / / / A7 / / / hear the old Hawaiians saying "E komo



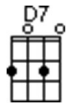
D7 / / / D7 / / / mai no kāua i ka hale welakahau." It won't be



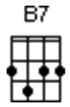
G / / / G / / / long 'til my ship will be sailing back to



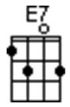
A7 / / / A7 / / / Ko---na a



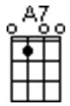
D7 / / / D7 / / / grand old place that's always fair to



B7 / / / B7 / / / see ... (you're telling me) I'm



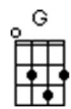
E7 / / / E7 / / / just a little Hawaiian and a homesick island boy, I



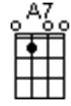
A7 / / / A7 / / / want to go back to my fish and poi, I want to go

My Little Grass Shack (GCEA)

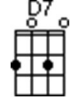
Tommy Harrison, Bill Cogswell, and Johnny Noble, 1933



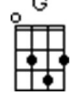
G / / / G / / /
back to my little grass shack in kealakekua, Ha-



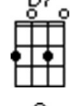
A7 / / / A7 / / /
-wai'...i where the



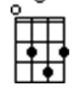
D7 / / / D7 / / /
humu-humu nuku-nuku a pua'a go swimming



G / / / G / / /
by where the



D7 / / / D7 / / /
kama'aina teach the malihini how to eat fish and



G / / / G / / /
poi

NOTES:

Back in 1933, Bill Cogswell wrote new lyrics to the tune of "Back in Hackensack, New Jersey" to create a hapa-haole song for the Fourth of July canoe races in Kealakekua Bay, The musicians played it, the singers sang it, the dancers hula'ed it, and everyone had a good time.

Tommy Harrison, who wrote the music to "Back in Hackensack," gave the lyrics and music to Johnny Noble and asked him to see if he could improve on it. Noble resisted, but found the lyrics inspired something, and so finally agreed. He had to change the melody some to avoid copyright issues, but after trying out a bunch of different ideas and working it over and over, he thought that he had put together something that sounded and felt very satisfying.

A recording by Ted Fio Rito and his orchestra reached number one on the charts the next year.

After the intro, each chord fills two bars = eight beats. If you plan your fingerings, sometimes a finger can stay on the same string and just slide up or down a fret ("guide finger").

For an example, I usually use my middle and ring fingers for the D7 chord, because getting there from A7 (index finger) is easy, and then getting from D7 to G is easier and faster because you keep your ring finger on the same string; just slide it up one fret, while the other fingers jump.

People arrange this in different ways: sometimes people repeat the "humuhumunukunukuapa`a" lines, or sing the whole thing twice. Sometimes we sing the whole thing twice, and go double-speed on the repeat.

Or you could certainly finish with that Hawaiian turnaround A7-D7-G.

It occurred to me last night, as I was falling asleep, that, if you sing "kanes and wahines" you should then also sing "kama`ainas teach the malihinis" to be consistent, right?