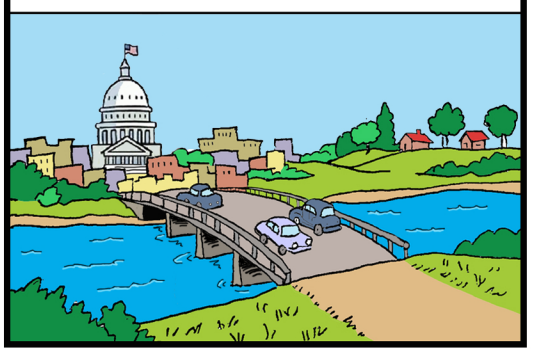
ANACOSTIA DELTA

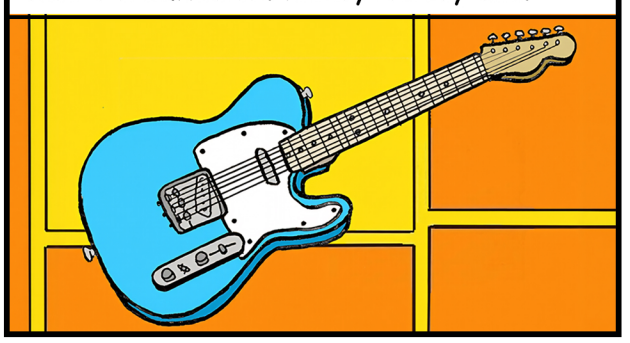
History of Washington DC's Guitar Sound

By Mark Lindblom

The Anacostia River cuts Washington DC in half. Both side are connected by bridges yet often feel like different cities.



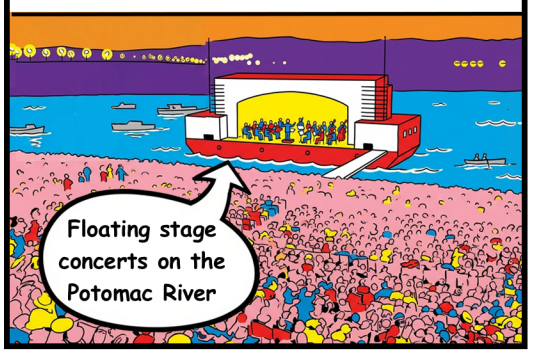
Anacostia Delta is a homegrown DMV sound. Telecaster guitar driven and shaped by generations of gospel, jazz, swing, country, rockabilly, and rock 'n' roll musicians. History in every note.



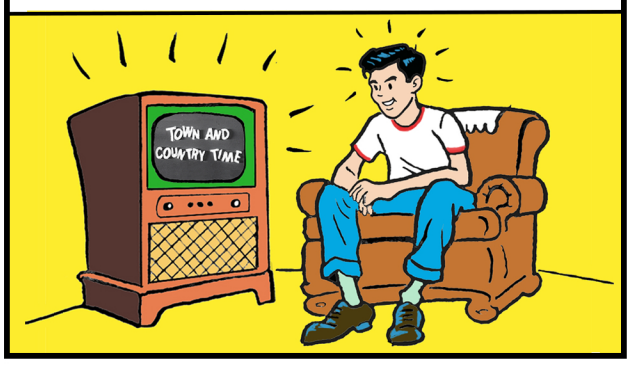
In the 1920s, D.C.'s U Street hosted a world-class jazz scene, where a young Duke Ellington held court nightly. The strip was nicknamed "Black Broadway." Jazz is still a staple on DC radio.



Swing music dominated the '30s & '40s. When it's popularity faded, some musicians stayed in the DMV, weaving their sound into the city's musical identity.



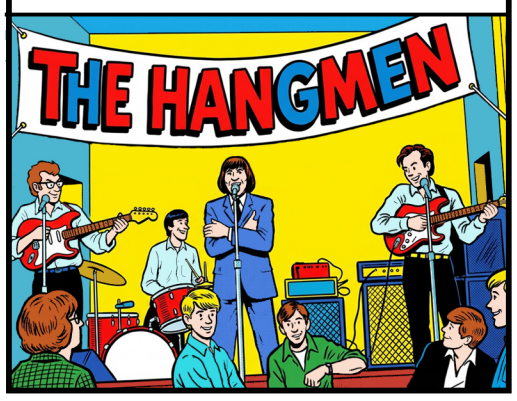
After WWII, Southern newcomers chased jobs and brought their country & western and bluegrass music. It became the favored music city-wide & in blue-collar nightclubs.



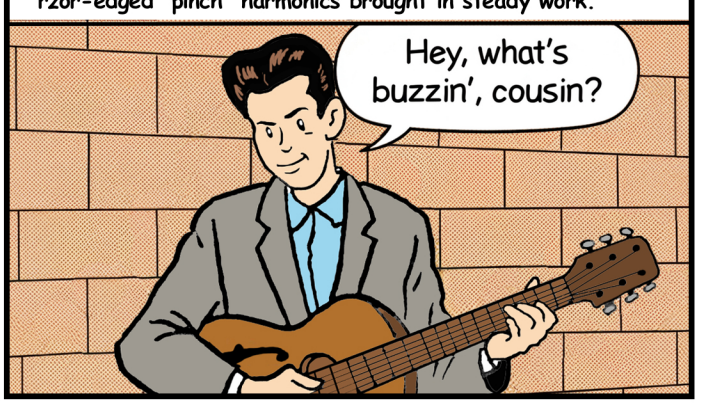
Rockabilly hit in the mid 1950s, blending country and hillbilly with R&B. Local star Link Wray's Rumble pushed distorted guitar and power chords into the birth of rock 'n' roll.



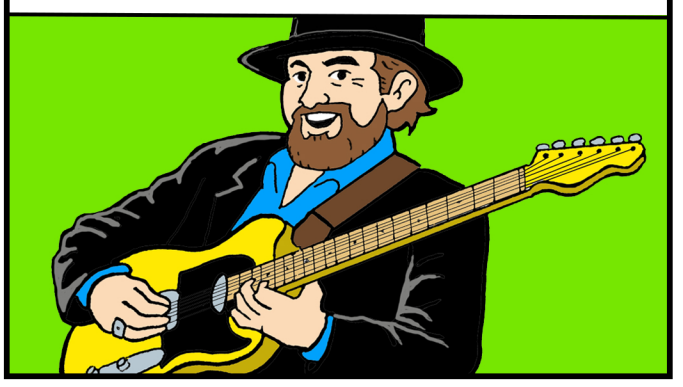
Local teen bands filled DC with rock' n' roll in the '60s, priming the scene for the two guitarists who would shape the Anacostia Delta sound.



Born in 1939, Roy Buchanan absorbed the sounds of gospel and California honky tonks. He played with L.A. innovators as a teen. By 1961, he settled in D.C., where his rzor-edged "pinch" harmonics brought in steady work.



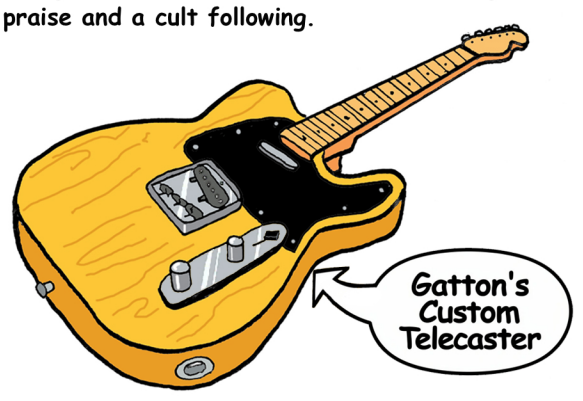
But a 1968 Jimi Hendrix concert knocked Roy off balance and inspired him to double down on his own rootsy chicken pickin' style. This groundbreaking sound made Buchanan a DMV legend. He played his Telecaster, Nancy, until his death in 1988.



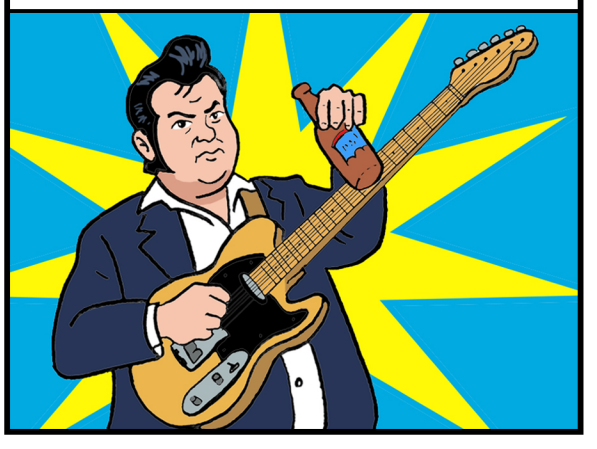
Born in 1945, Danny Gatton grew up in Southwest DC. His guitar playin' dad and nonstop radio listening sparked the boy's passion. Danny started guitar at age 9 and was playing in a neighborhood group by 13.



He sessioned in Nashville during the mid 1960s but returned a few years later. His turbo-charged 1978 "Redneck Jazz" album brought praise and a cult following.



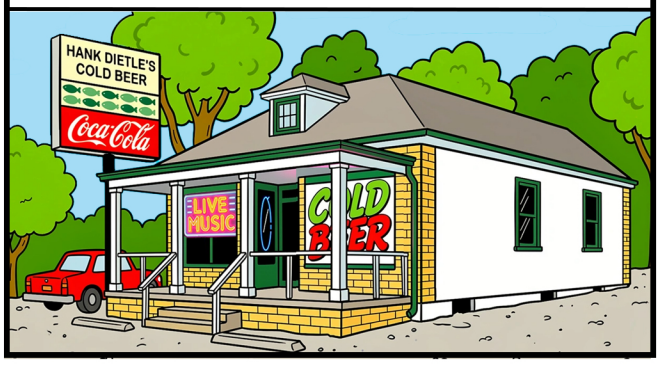
Gatton called his sound "Anacostia Delta" and championed it until his 1994 death.



Anacostia Delta continues in DC today. Picked up by a new generation of DC guitarists including Dave Chappell, Chick Hall Jr., Anthony Pirog, and others.



So, what are you waiting for? Soak in the atmosphere yourself at local spots like Blues Alley, JV's, Hank Dietle's, Palisades Hub Cap Centre, or any VFW around town.



Anacostia Delta is still going strong and seeing it live is a must-hear experience!



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