

The SPECIAL FEATURE ON GEORGE

No. 16

Beatles

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The Beatles BOOK

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Editorial

Hi!

WELL, YOU CERTAINLY THOUGHT UP SOME WEIRD AND WONDERFUL PLOTS FOR THE BEATLES' NEXT FILM. Anne Lindsell of Ramsgate wanted to put the boys in Space, while Alyson Street of London had them meeting a ghost and being transported back to the time of James I. The £5 prize for the best letter was won by M. E. Evans of Ebbw Vale in Wales who cast John, Paul, George and Ringo in a James Bond thriller. One point most writers were agreed on—they want the next Beatles' film to be in FULL COLOUR.

ONE THING I CAN TELL YOU. At the time of going to press no decision had been made about a story for their next film so your suggestions have arrived at just the right time. It is very probable, though, that John will have a big say in the final script which can only produce one result—some hilarious happenings!!!

EARLY LAST MONTH the boys went to the Granville studio in Fulham to appear in *Shindig* for American Television. Most of the pics in this issue were taken there and Billy Shepherd has written a special report on it to keep you up to date on Beatle news just in case the show doesn't get on to our British Television screens.

OCCASIONALLY A BEATLE PERSON WRITES to me and asks: "Don't you ever get nasty letters about the Beatles?" The answer is—of course. But, they're so pointless that there doesn't seem any point in publishing them. I have one right here on my desk now from a girl in California, who wrote to John just to tell him that she hated all of the Beatles.

THE BEATLES ARE FOUR ORIGINAL CHARACTERS who have given us some really great music. And it's up to us to see that they get full credit for everything they do. The main reason they didn't top every poll in every music paper this year, is because many Beatle People didn't know that some of the polls existed. If they had, the boys would definitely been right on top.

AND FOR ANOTHER CHANCE TO WIN A CRISP FIVER, turn to page 31, where you can read full details of how to enter for the **FOURTH BEATLES BOOK COMPETITION**. Like all the others entry is completely free. So, if you haven't won before, have a bash this time and try and win one of the **TEN CASH** prizes.

Johnny Dean Editor.

A laughing John Lennon decides to have a go on Ringo's drums. 





The Official

Beatles FAN CLUB

First Floor, Service House, 13 Monmouth Street, London, W.C.2.

Fan Club Telephone: London COVent Garden 2332

NEWSLETTER

November 1964

DEAR BEATLE PEOPLE,

A few weeks ago at the beginning of October we were able to invite just 150 London-area fan club members to watch our fabulous foursome filming a television spectacular called "Shindig" at a studio in South West London. Some of you have been telephoning to ask why you haven't seen "Shindig" on your local screens. In fact the programme was one in a new series being produced by Jack Good (remember "6.5 Special" and "Oh Boy!"?) for showing throughout America and Canada. Most of the "Shindig" shows are being made in Hollywood but the production team travelled to London last month specially to film The Beatles and several other British stars including Tommy Quickly and Sounds Incorporated. Can't give you any definite information at the moment but you may be hearing quite soon that "Shindig" is to be shown on this side of the Atlantic too. Hope so 'cos it seems to be a pretty fabulous show. Inside the studio 150 ticket-holders watched while outside there was a crowd of more than 1,000 other Beatle People waiting to greet the boys as they came out.

We selected our 150 lucky members in the fairest possible way. We flicked right through our London area index cards and pulled out names and addresses at random. We've marked all the chosen cards to make sure that other South of England members get a fair chance whenever the club is given tickets for another Beatles television show. We received the allocation of seats on Tuesday and sent out letters of invitation the same day. On Wednesday afternoon tickets had gone off to 150 members for the following Saturday's studio production.

In the meantime many, many thousands of you in all parts of the British Isles will have been to see The Beatles during their autumn concert tour since it began in Bradford on 9 October. Incidentally, members in Northern Ireland will be interested to know that John, Paul, George and Ringo decided to give up one of their very few free days during the tour to add an extra date to the concert schedule. The boys were particularly worried because it had been impossible to fit in a visit to Northern Ireland, although Scotland, England and Wales were well represented. Eventually, by doing some last minute planning with Brian Epstein, they were able to add the two Belfast concerts to the tour. Although Dublin still had to be missed off the current series of dates you can rest assured The Beatles will be back in that part of the world in the not too distant future—and the same goes for all the towns in England, Scotland and Wales which could not be fitted into the autumn tour.

Many Beatle People have been writing or telephoning to ask about this year's special Christmas Gift to club members from John, Paul, George and Ringo. But we're not saying a word! The secret will be out fairly soon and until then we're going to keep you guessing! So there! However, we can promise you that every member will receive this year's gift just before Christmas and we're sure it will be something everyone will like. One reason for not disclosing the actual gift is that we cannot promise enough will be



"Have a ciggie", says John. "We don't mind if we do", reply George and Ringo on the Shindig set.

available to include people who haven't got around to joining our list of 60,000 members until now. Those who already hold membership cards will certainly get a pleasant Christmas surprise via their local postmen, but so far as freshly enrolled Beatle People are concerned we can only promise to continue distributing the gift for as long as possible while (if you will excuse the corny phrase) supplies last out.

Here are two special notices:—

1. We receive letters from all over the world asking if local branches of the club can be authorised. But so far as overseas clubs are concerned we operate like this. One official branch is authorised for each country and it is then up to the secretary for that country to set up local area groups as required. If, for instance, you live in a particular province of Canada and you don't think anybody else is already running the club's local affairs you can write to the Canadian Branch Secretary with your offer of help.

2. To become a Beatle Person readers in the U.K. should apply for membership giving name and full postal address. Enclose FIVE SHILLINGS SUBSCRIPTION (POSTAL ORDER OR CHEQUE) PLUS A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE MEASURING AT LEAST 9 in. by 4 in. As soon as they send their application and initial subscription fee all new club members are receiving a large glossy photograph signed by the four boys and carrying a special handwritten message to Beatle People.

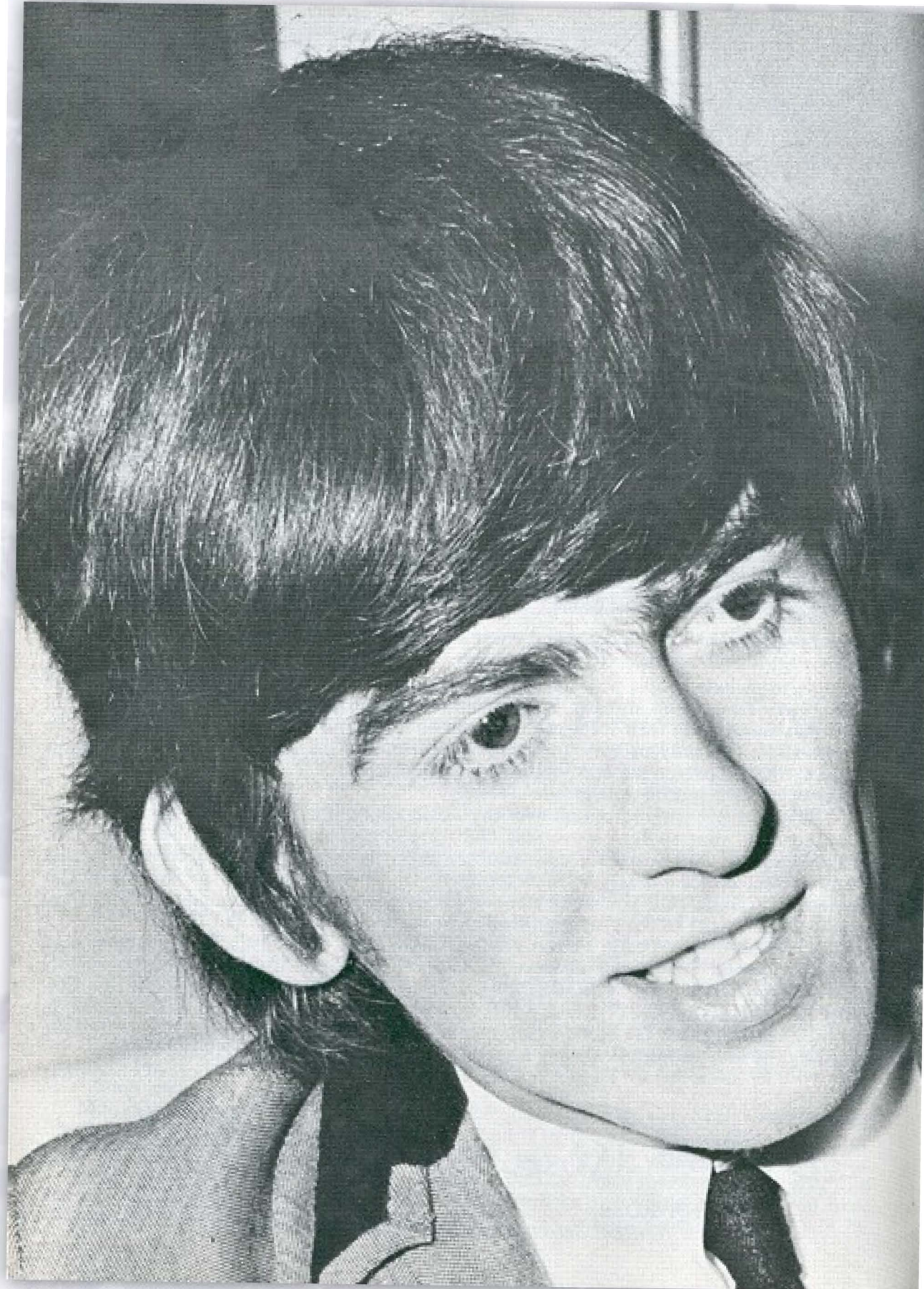
Lots of good luck,

Bettina Rose *Anne Collingham*

BETTINA ROSE,

ANNE COLLINGHAM,

Joint National Secretaries of The Official Beatles Fan Club



George speaking

A special series of four Frederick James interview features in which John, Paul, George and Ringo talk to Beatles Book readers.

“SINCE this is the last of these BEATLE-SPEAKING features for the time being, I'd like to round off the series with something a bit different. Most of the time—and particularly when we're on tour—we have some sort of press conference on an average of one per day. As you know, we had five weeks of non-stop concert dates in America and Canada followed almost immediately by our present one-nighter tour of Britain. So quite a few questions and answers have been flung to and fro between us four and the world's press reporters in the last couple of months. On my two pages I'd like to hold a small press conference of my own. I'll ask the questions and I'll try to answer them as well (if they're not too tricky!). Some of them will be questions I've wanted the reporters to get around to asking and some of them will be questions which have cropped up most frequently in the letters we get from Beatle People.

Right. Here we go. On the left—George Harrison, guitarist of The Beatles pop group all ready to give exclusive comments. On the right—George Harrison, press interrogator and occasional *Daily Express* columnist. Who will win this battle of wits? Harrison the shrewd question-master or Harrison the Beatle?

Q.—You've been called 'the most easy-going Beatle'. What do you take that to mean?

A.—I suppose it means a lot of things which are true. I'm slow. I like to take my time whether it is to think out a reply or to tune up my guitar. I hate trying to dart from one subject to another. I get some sort of personal satisfaction out of finishing one thing before I start another.

Q.—Does that mean you don't make friends very easily?

A.—On the contrary. I'm extremely interested in people. I think I make an easy target for folk who like to talk about

themselves. It takes a long time for them to bore me because I enjoy listening to new ideas and different opinions. That's what life is for—to find out fresh things and learn new facts.

Q.—Surely your life with The Beatles has put a stop to that?

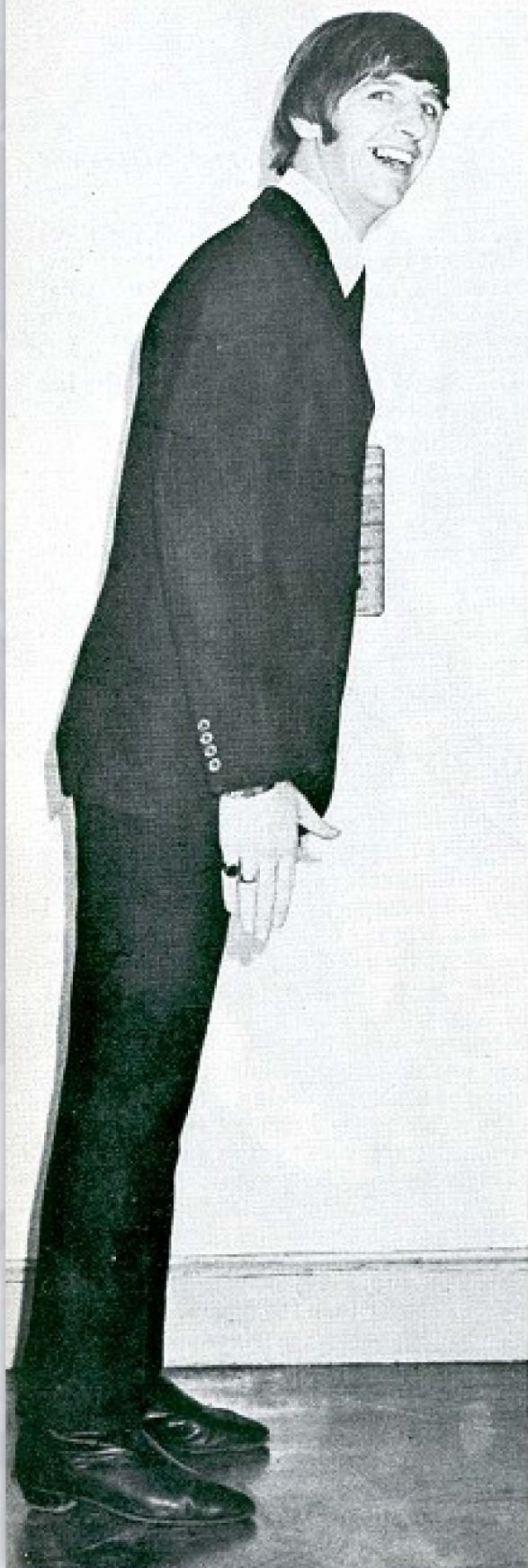
A.—No. By nature I hate rushing so the pace of things is the one drawback to being a Beatle. But don't forget that I've been with John and Paul for more than six years now and we know each other inside out. Our individual characteristics—and I include Ringo in this, of course—balance against one another remarkably well. It is because our personalities work at different pressures that we get on so well together as a team.

Q.—Are you the most musical of The Beatles?

A.—Depends what you mean. People have said I am just because I admit to liking Segovia's guitar playing and they think that's all very highbrow and musical. I believe I love my own guitar more than the others love theirs. For John and Paul song-writing is pretty important and guitar playing is a means to an end. While they're making up new tunes I can thoroughly enjoy myself just doodling around with a guitar for a whole evening. I'm fascinated by the new sounds I can get from different instruments I try out. I'm not sure that makes me particularly musical. Just call me a guitar fanatic instead and I'll be satisfied!

Q.—You are the youngest Beatle. Do you feel younger than the others?

A.—There again it is important to remember that we've been close friends since school days. A year or two either way doesn't make the slightest difference in our age group. It would if you were talking about a George aged eight and a John aged eleven, but as a group we've all had just



about the same amount of experience and, of course, we've shared all the same adventures.

Q.—What do you think about fans?

A.—A lot of rot is talked about kids getting out of hand and suchlike. Even a kid who is quiet on her own takes the opportunity of letting off as much steam as possible when she's with the gang. It doesn't mean she's out of control—just that she's learnt how to have fun. Boys are the same. They let off the same steam in different places. Girls outside stage doors or in the front stalls. Boys inside a football ground or at a boxing match. But whatever way you look at it The Beatles (and every other artist in the Top Twenty) rely entirely on the fans. It would be no good finding a good song and making a terrific recording of it if there were no fans around to decide whether they liked it or not. To any artist fans are vitally important. An artist who did well and then wanted to forget about his fans might as well forget about his fame at the same time.

Q.—Do you spend most of the money you earn?

A.—I am interested in money. When I hadn't very much of it I was just as interested in what a small amount could be made to do. Naturally anybody spends more or less according to his income, so, I suppose I spend plenty by some standards. On the other hand I hate the idea of just getting rid of money because it is in your pocket. I like to keep as small a wallet as possible in case I'm tempted to waste cash on unnecessary things. I haven't got a very good business head, but if my life had been entirely different and I'd only had a little savings in the bank, I reckon I'd have made a success of some small business by taking advice from somebody. I'd have asked

what I ought to do with my saved-up money to make it grow.

Q.—Have you grown away from your parents because of the life you lead?

A.—An unfair leading question that! I have not grown away from my parents at all. In fact I think a boy who spends some of his time away from home grows even closer to his relatives. They are not taken for granted so much if they're not around every day. I don't live in Liverpool any more but I can't really say I live in London or anywhere else either. In this game it is a matter of staying overnight in dozens of different places each month, and you have to learn to set down your boots and your luggage wherever it's most convenient.

Q.—What about the other side of the same question. Don't your parents get caught up with your life whether they like it or not?

A.—I can only answer half of that question because my mother and father are *caught up* in the success of The Beatles but they don't mind it a bit. In fact they're very, very helpful about it all as a lot of Beatle People will know. They deal with a lot of my fan mail when I'm away from home and their back room looks like a G.P.O. sorting office half the time!

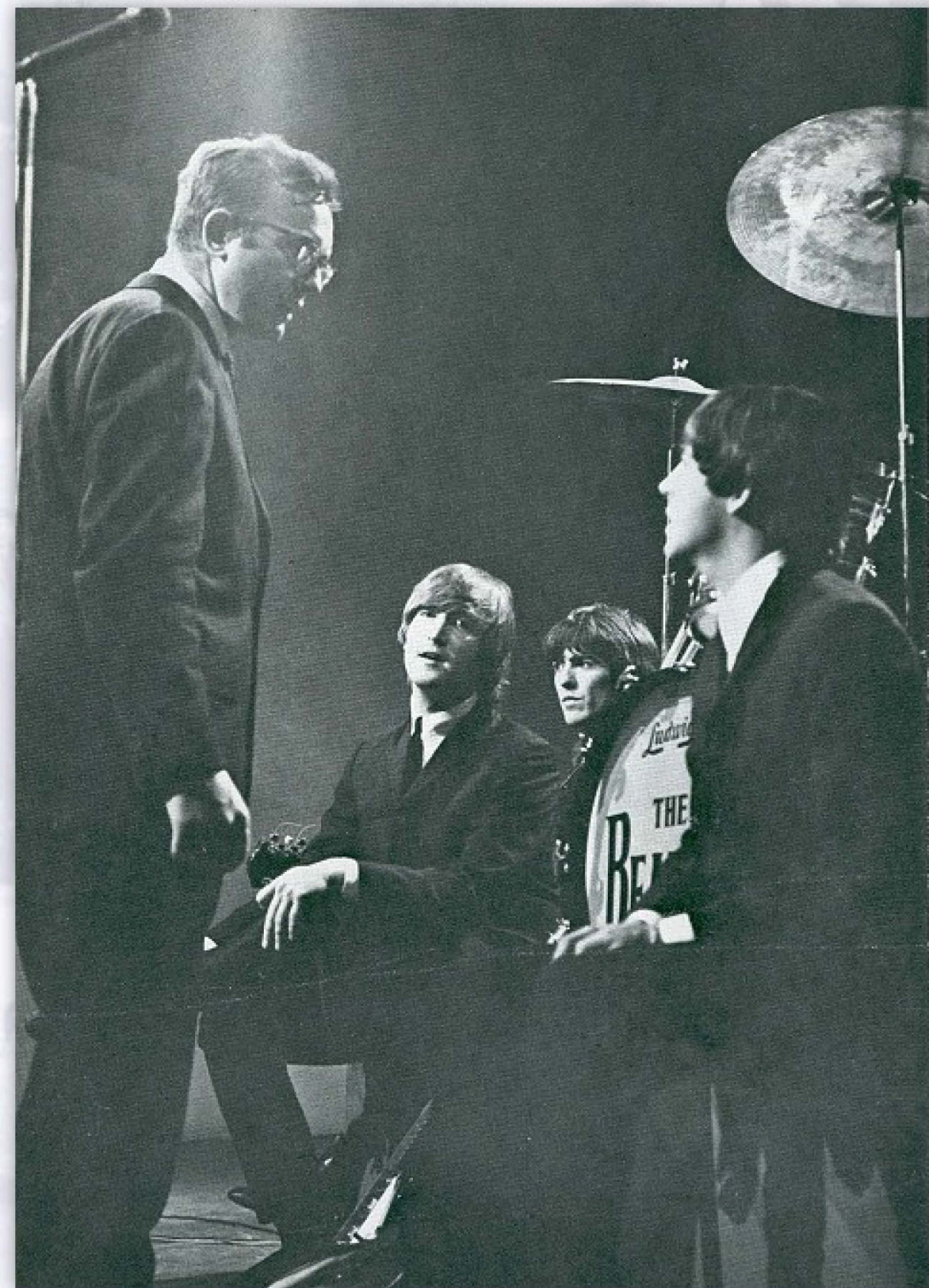
Q.—Final question. What type of Press interviews do you think are the most useful?

A.—This sort!!! In the last four months each of us has had a couple of pages to say exactly what he likes to Monthly Book readers. We've all been able to open up and talk about some of the things which get left out of ordinary press conferences because of time shortage—reporters' time shortage just as much as ours. I hope we'll have another session like this one fairly soon."

THE BEATLES BOOK FOLDER

It is covered in light-grey leathercloth and is embossed in black with the heads of the boys on the front and with the words *The Beatles Book* in gold on the spine. Each folder will hold at least 13 copies. Price is 12/6 including Postage and Packing. Send your P.O. (Crossed with the words *The Beatles Book*) to 244 Edgware Road, London, W.2. and we'll get one to you by return post.

Odd moments backstage at the "Shindig" show. Ringo tries the leaning trick, seeing how far he can go before he over-balances, while Paul whipped out a couple of six-shooting hands and shot Beatles Book photographer, Leslie Bryce.



SHINDIG

An on-the-spot report by Billy Shepherd

The old Granville Theatre, Walham Green—in the heart of Fulham—used to be a home of variety in London. Acrobats, jugglers, red-nosed comedians . . . many a Saturday evening audience just about lifted the rafters by joining in on community singing. But the rafters were never stretched so high as the Saturday afternoon the Beatles called in. The walls and the roof fairly bulged.

For the Granville is now a television studio. And it was used by ace producer Jack Good to tele-record a special British edition of his wham-bang "Shindig" show, a top-rated American programme. The Beatles topped. The audience jam-packed. And the excitement was intense. On the spot to see it all: Beatles Book picture man Leslie Bryce and yours truly.

George Harrison ambled over for a chat. "No good, I'm not really awake yet," he said slowly rubbing his eyes. "The choke isn't out—that's the trouble. . . ."

Kansas City

I bump into Paul McCartney. And ask him what the Beatles are going to do in the show. "Oh, we've lined up 'Kansas City', 'I'm A Loser' and 'Boys'. Just the three." How come "Kansas City" is included—a bit of a surprise. Says Paul: "Well, Jack Good asked John what we would be starting with and John came out with 'Kansas City'. Jack said 'Great'—so it's IN."

The Beatles go on stage, through the maze of cameras, trailing wires and odd bits of scenery. Up goes the yell . . . "John . . . Paul . . . George . . . Ringo . . ." The boys yell back: "Tom . . . Harry . . . Fred." John sidles up to a spare microphone and sings, sexily: "Could I Forget You." Someone shouts: "I could." John puts on a VERY hurt look.

As the engineers balanced odd bits of sound through the microphones, John

strummed an acoustic guitar and launched himself into "House Of The Rising Sun", very close to one mike. As he came to the word "Down", he suddenly roared it at the top of his voice. Everybody jumped about a foot in the air with the shock of it all. John just grinned back at them.

Jack and John

And in mid-grin, Jack Good rushed on stage, stuck his face about twelve inches from John's and said, with dignity: "You rang, sir?" The pre-show fun was hotting up.

Lots of chat among the Beatles about what clothes to wear. They had what they call "our OLD Palladium suits and our NEW Palladium suits". They tend to argue a lot about clothes, but settled on the NEW suits . . . the trousers, they felt, didn't match properly on the OLD ones.

Carole Deene was in the audience. In the show, additionally, were Sounds Incorporated, Sandie Shaw, P. J. Proby—and blonde ex-Vernon Girl Lyn Cornell. Turned out that Lyn, now married to drummer Andy White, used to live very near Paul in Liverpool, so they had a happy fifteen minutes talking over old memories. They used to play with the same friends.

Jack Good buzzed about energetically, checking final details, encouraging the artists, cajoling the audience. In the tiny space by the side of the stage about twenty of us, including the artists, stood. A yell went up for the Beatles. Paul, putting on his ripest Cockney accent, said: "Come on Beatles, where ARE you?"

It was a good, big, brash show, with the Beatles turning in a marvellous act. The American critics loved it. They weren't the only ones. It was a whole lotta fun just being there, watching the whole process through from start to finish.

◀ Jack Good discusses their act with the Beatles at "Shindig".

SHINDIG PIX



Odd shot. Those are Paul's hands holding a pair of drum sticks which appear to be growing out of Ringo's ears.



Everyone on the set, including The Karl Denver Trio, Lyn Cornell, Sounds Incorporated and the Beatles—for the finale.



Paul and Ringo in their dressing room chatting to new girl star Sandie Shaw.



John and Paul singing "I'm a Loser".



George getting ready to leave after the show.



Here is Valerie and the other competition winners at that memorable meeting with the Beatles at the Gaumont, Wolverhampton, on Tuesday, November 19th, 1963. Valerie is on Ringo's left.

My Meetles with the Beatles

by Valerie Lloyd

IF anyone ever asked me what was the most thrilling day of my life, I would say, without a doubt, Tuesday, November 19, 1963. Why? Because that is the day I met the Beatles.

I was lucky enough to be one of the winners of a competition run by a musical paper. The prize was two tickets to see the Beatles' show in Wolverhampton, and to meet them beforehand, in their dressing-room.

The winners' names were printed on the Thursday, and I was thumbing through at the tea-table, when suddenly I caught sight of my name at the top of the list.

"Mum!" I screamed through a mouthful of cream cake, "I've won!" . . . My mother picked herself up from the floor, and went straight to phone my father (who was still at work) and my brother (who lives near Wolverhampton), and just about anyone else she could think of!

I tried to keep sane over the weekend, but I was such a mixture of excitement, apprehension and sheer shock, that I don't know how I survived till Tuesday.

TUESDAY CAME

Well, Tuesday came. I didn't go to school; I would never have been able to concentrate on lessons, anyway.

My parents took me down to Wolverhampton by car, and I met my brother (who was coming with me) and the other two winners and their companions, in the theatre.

After what seemed an eternity we were taken to meet the

Beatles. Their dressing-room was so small that we had to go in three at a time. My brother and I, and another boy, went last.

The first thing I saw was an orange face (stage make-up) almost completely veiled by a floppy mop of hair. This was George. I shook hands with him and the rest of The Beatles, and Ringo, because he's rather small, got up on a chair and started shaking hands with everyone (including John, Paul and George) all over again! Paul said, "It's still him, only he's grown a bit!"

Oh, yes, and Paul, with the sexiest of voices, said "How ya doin' luv?" Well! What would you do? I couldn't think of anything to say, and just turned a muted shade of puce!

Paul was doing a "Caruso" act, and someone said "I thought John was the singer", and John, with shattering gusto, belted out some unintelligible tune (and by no stretch of the imagination could it have been the latest Lennon-McCartney composition!). George handed round a tin of humbugs "as eaten by Ma-somebody-or-other (I think it was Cooper) in the eighteenth century".

QUESTIONS FROM PAUL

Paul asked me what relation Christopher (my brother) and I were, and where we came from.

When I told him "Shrewsbury" he said, "That's a long way, isn't it? How did you come?" I said that Dad had brought me, and he replied, "Oh, very posh, got a car!" I laughed and he repeated, in pure Liverpudlian, "A CA-A-A-AR!"

What struck me about the Beatles was the way they put

people at ease. They made us feel really welcome, and seemed really interested in us. There was nothing "uppity" about them. They were a normal, ordinary, down-to-earth bunch.

I gave them a drawing I'd done of all four of them, and Paul said it was the best he'd seen. My head's never been quite the same size ever since!

REMEMBER

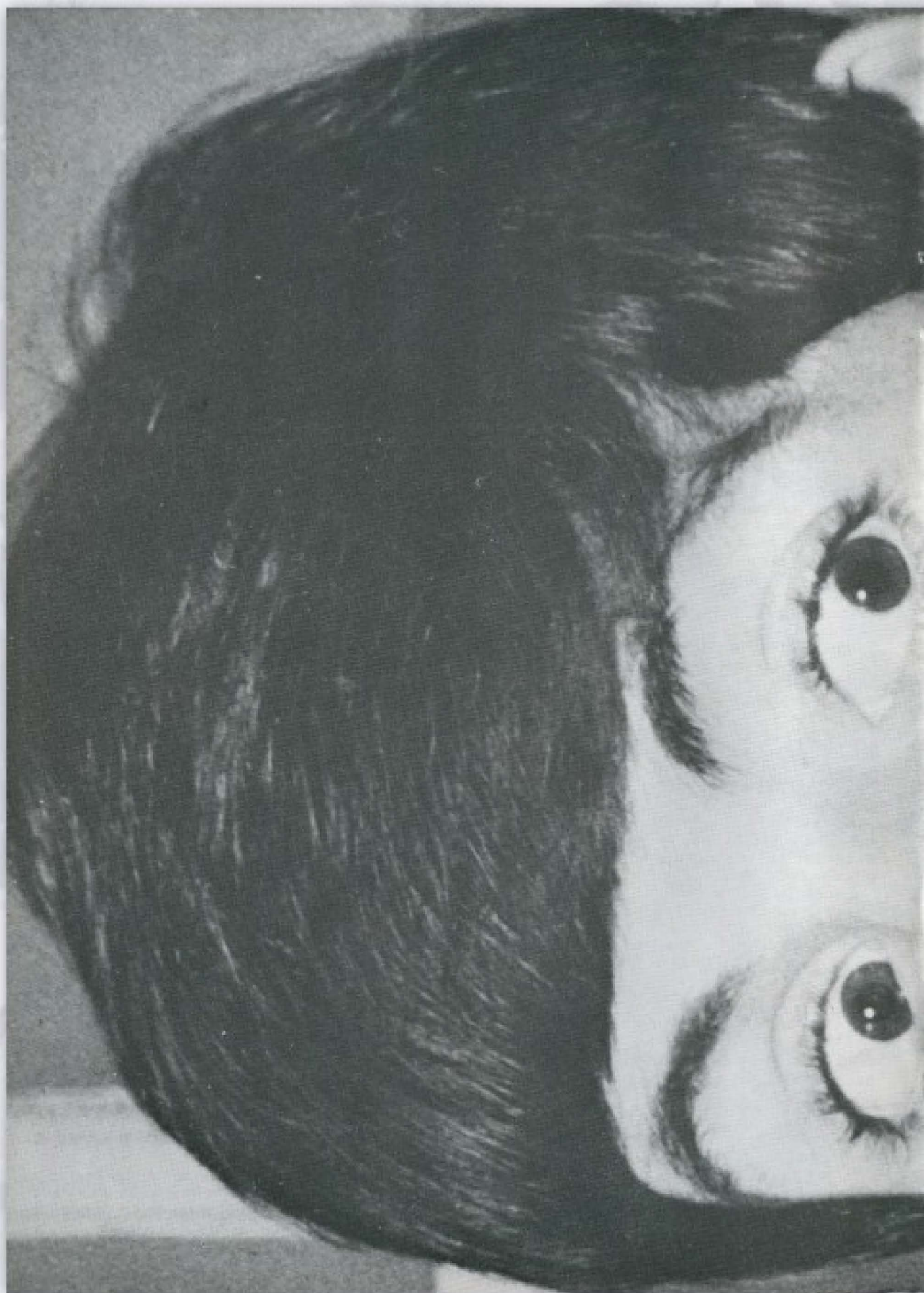
By the way, Beatles, do you remember all this? I suppose it's a bit much to ask, but I've heard that you've got good memories. What became of the drawing? Have you still got it? I remember when I gave it to you George said "Yoo've woon anoother 'oom-boog!" That made me laugh!

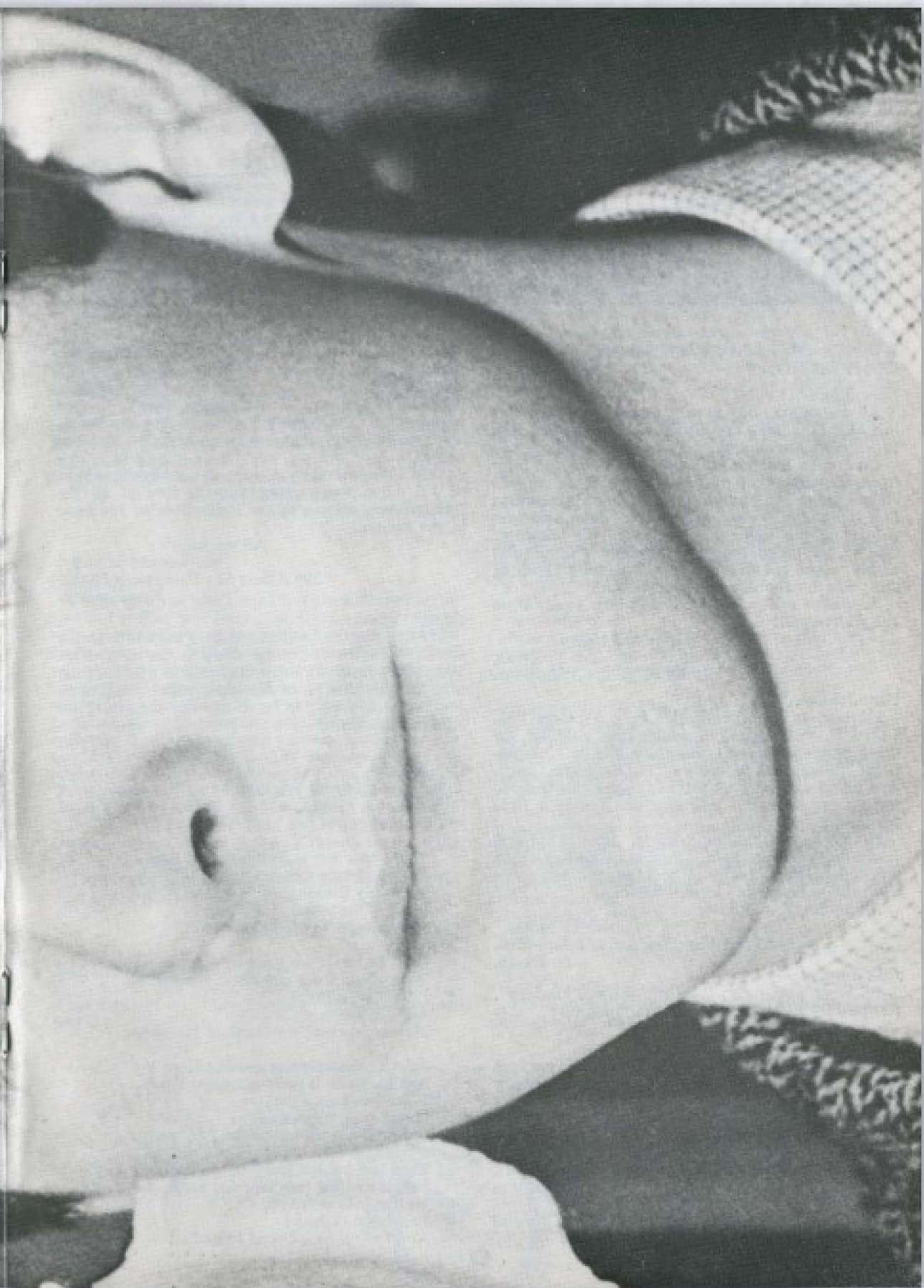
Anyway, soon it was time to go, and after collecting their autographs (John put "The balancing dog" next to his—I never did know what that meant!)—we had our photos taken on the steps outside the dressing-room. That's one of them you see here. I'm on Ringo's right, and my brother is on his left.

Oh, yes, and before we went George said "Try and keep 'em (the kids) quiet". He *must* have been joking!

We said goodbye and went to our seats in the front row. The Kestrels, the Vernons Girls, and the Brook Brothers were on the bill. You can guess that when the Beatles came on, and throughout their act, there was continual screaming; so loud that you had a job to hear what The Beatles were singing. And we were in the front row!

When the show was over my head was spinning like a top, but in spite of that it was a wonderful evening, one that I shan't forget for a long, long time.







LETTERS *from* BEATLE PEOPLE

WINNER OF FILM SUGGESTION COMPETITION

Dear Johnny,

After seeing the Beatles now historical performances in a H.D.N. I think they should now turn their hands to a thriller namely "From Liverpool With Love".

Can't you imagine it? Paul with one eye-brow raised demurely as a blonde emerges from the sea. Ringo fixing his cool ironical stare on a scorpion that is inching its way up his arm. John with eyes glinting in the sunlight as he raises his telescopic rifle to his broad shoulder. George with a snarl on his rugged countenance as he crashes a gleaming aeroplane on the deserted moorland.

Boy, what a film, but I couldn't bear to see them being tortured!!!

Love and kisses,

M. E. Evans,
26 Eureka Pl., Ebbw Vale, Mon.

Dear Johnny,

I'd love to see the Beatles in a Western film. I think it would be more popular than a thriller, for many reasons. A story something like the "Magnificent 7", only with the title of "The Fantastic Four". And please could we see them in colour this time, so we can see their true colouring and maybe a little tomato ketchup?

Here's hoping we see George, John, Paul and Ringo with silver spurs, shining six-shooters in jewelled holsters, colourful neckties and ten-gallon hats, riding beautiful chestnut horses.

All my lovin' to the Boys,

Eileen Osborne,
4 West View Terrace, Bideford East,
N. Devon.

John answers:—

What do you mean "A little tomato ketchup". Are you trying to get one of us bumped off?"

Dear Beatles (especially George),

As yet I haven't seen a letter from one of your fans from New Zealand on the "Letters from Beatle People" page, so I thought I'd write to let you know you have got hundreds of faithful fans here in New Zealand.

I know you didn't think it a very exciting place, but we are all dying to know if you are coming back here to see us one day. Please do try cos we all love you so much.

Your film has just been released here and it's real gear! Are you making another film soon?

For this last week I have been wakened in the morning with "Hard Day's Night" playing over the radio, then Ringo, my cat, jumps on my bed and licks my face, as if to say "Wake up and listen". I open my eyes to see George's handsome face staring at me from his photo, standing by my bed. It's absolute heaven.

Well I don't want to take up all your precious time so I'll finish now, sending you the love of all the New Zealand fans, with the hope of seeing you soon in the future.

All my lovin'

Marionneke deJonge,
399 Albert St., Palmerston North,
New Zealand.

George answers:—

We like playing to Beatle People anywhere in the world. It's the travelling that's a bit of a drag. We all find it very difficult to sit still in a jet for long and the trip back from Australia took forty hours. I really would like to have another look at New Zealand though.

Dear Beatles,

We have all been very keen on writing Beatleverse for the last few weeks and would like to know what you think of one of our "better" efforts.

There once was a Beatle named Paul
Whose picture I hung on my wall,
When my friends said "Oh dear!"
I said "Nonsense! He's gear!"
I don't need your opinion at all!"

Next to Paul then I put up George Harrison
With whom there can be no comparison.
I think he is great
And I really can't wait,
To meet up with the fabulous Harrison.

John Lennon became number three
And his smile is quite gorgeous to see.
When he sings, I declare
How I wish I was there!
For he really does something to me.

Then last but not least, Ringo Starr
I must say just how fab. you are.
His drum beat is fine,
Fantastic! Divine!
And I think he is bound to go far!

I could say goodness knows how much more
At the risk of becoming a bore.
But I think that's enough
Of this limerick stuff,
So—our love to the fabulous four!

With love from three "elderly" Beatle fans,
average age 20½.

P.S.—Alison sends a big hug to Ringo.
Caroline sends a big hug to George.
Dinah sends a big hug to Paul.
And we all send an extra big hug to John.

To John, Ringo, George and Paul,
Dear Fellas,

We would like to explain to ya' all why you received such a poor reception in our city and tell you how sorry we are. Just before your arrival we were struck by hurricane Dora. During your visit 96% of Jacksonville was without electricity and so no one received any information on your arrival. Also our news stations gave out no information on you because they thought that you must have been sick of all the mobs and cameramen. We are very sorry about everything and Jacksonville really "loves ya".

Sorry 'bout that,
Gisi Moore and Diane Hendren,
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Paul,

I hope that you won't mind too much me writing to you as I realise how busy you are. I only want to tell you how nice your dad was to me when I met him at your house in July. It was only then that I realised what he must have to put up with from fans like me. He did think I was a little old, but at 17, I still think as much of you as I did at 15. The same day I met him I was troubled with reporters who had previously been bothering him. I am sure my patience would have ran out before nightfall, but that is when he spoke to a nobody like me. He looks very like you, only shorter.

If you take after his calm, charming personality, I know that my suspicions of you are correct. When you see your dad, PLEASE PAUL. I wonder if you would do me a favour by thanking him for cheering me up no end.

Thanking you in anticipation, I will always remain your fan (a grateful fan),

Jean,
49 Rydal Road, Claremont Est.,
Newcastle 5.

Paul answers:—

Good old dad. Glad to see he took care of you Jean. He really likes meeting people as much as I do.

Dear Johnny,

Having been in the somewhat grotty position in August of being on holiday, I was unable to get the August edition of 'THEM' monthly. (The shame of it... you won't spread it around will you?)

Anyway, what I really want to tell you is that the 1/9 postal order enclosed isn't an early Christmas present, it's the necessary for the August edition of our beautiful book. So please, will nice, kind, flotty (that's a compliment, believe me) Johnny send the mag-wag to Di-Di.

Before I round off this rubbish might I just add that it is my candid opinion that George is adorable. Also, to use the exact words of a woman I heard on the good ol' London Transport the other day: "That Paul Macwhatsit is the most ansome feller out". I don't think I need to mention George and the other one with the kissable konk (i.e. RINGO... don't mind me, I've got a thing about noses). They've had the dictionary thrown at them already, the darlings... sigh....

One last thing, please excuse this awful typing but my handwriting is even worse. Also, please excuse this longwinded nonsense but I'm afraid I do it all the time.

Diane Dickinson,
45 The Chase, Green Lane,
Norbury, London, S.W.16

(One of the nuts in the photo in January edition who has since reached the ripe old age of 17 and is still a devoted fan.)

Ringo answers:—

Now I've got a "kissable konk". I've heard it called some things before but that's the best yet, thanks Di-Di. What happened to your group?

Dear Beatles Book Staff and Beatles,

Recently I had a brainwave. The last one I had paid off well so perhaps this one will.

I have read that the Beatles are doing another Christmas show this year. Why not have it televised, say for Christmas Day?

I am sure lots of fans, like myself, would really appreciate this as we have no other chance of seeing the show. I know we can see them on their one night stands but that isn't the same thing is it? Anyway, I just know it would go down well with lots of people over the country.

Please think about it.

Leila Moore,
95 Buller Rd., Belgrave Rd., Leicester.

Johnny Dean answers:—

That's a great idea Leila. Let's hope that it can be organised.







by Billy Shepherd and Johnny Dean

The Beatle hair-cuts were the obvious headline-coppers in 1963, but the fact is that early on there really was **NO** Beatle style in the way there is now. Early pictures of the boys in 1962 showed them with no particular fringe. It was Paul who said: "We worked in clubs for long spells. When you're really sweating, your hair just tends to fall forward. That's natural. But we didn't have any fetish of combing it forward.

"Lots of pictures show us with our foreheads displayed. That wouldn't happen now. Not if **WE** can help it."

That Christmas of 1962, when "Love Me Do" was hovering harmlessly, had the Beatles still in the Star Club at Hamburg. Messages started appearing in the Trade papers here—"The Beatles Send Christmas Greetings". And many people wondered what the heck the boys were doing . . . or alternatively **WHO** the boys were.

But that was another case of Brian Epstein working on their behalf. He had already developed his ideas on the best way to get the Beatles really well-known.

Worried About Follow-Up

So as the boys worried and wondered about the follow-up to "Love Me Do", one thing really became obvious. And this is a tribute to the early fans . . . the first Beatle-people in Britain. They hadn't seen "Love Me Do" go all that high in the charts, but they **KNEW** quite clearly that this Liverpoolian quartet had enormous potential. Those fans were way ahead of everybody else. And the Beatles will never forget that so-strong support from a fairly small number of fans.

They'd tried out "Please Please Me" at their first disc session but it was getting late

and they'd only run through it a couple of times. Another complete session was laid on for it as the follow-up.

After it was well-and-truly "in the can", recording boss George Martin announced to the boys: "You've got a Number One hit there". Typically, the Beatles were sarcastic to him. They were sure he was joking, just trying to keep up their spirits. "Gerroff", roared John at the conclusion of that now-historic session. The others just grinned knowing Beatle-grins.

Not Top of Bill

What's more, **THEIR** point of view was borne out by their bookings. They weren't top of the bill stars in those days. They were an "assistant" act to star names. They didn't get top money—but as "Please Please Me" started its rocketing way to the top, promoters were to get a very big shock from their "down-the-bill" artists, the Beatles.

The Beatles returned from Germany in the winter months early in 1963 and went straight out on a tour of Scotland, with Helen Shapiro topping the bill. It was the coldest spell in many, many years. But the boys' performances led to another spot of embarrassment.

◀ Bet you've never seen Paul and Ringo in this position before, apparently sitting in mid-air. They've jammed their feet against the opposite wall to hold themselves up.



Helen Shapiro was the big star of the first tour in which the Beatles appeared in 1963.

Backstage Problems

That tour of Scotland, in Arctic conditions, led to a series of problems back-stage . . . though the problems really stemmed from the Beatles' fast-growing popularity. The boys, technically, were second on the bill—Helen Shapiro, who'd been making hit discs since BEFORE she'd even left school, was the bill-topper.

So the Beatles closed the first half. Helen finished the show. But the Beatles went like a bomb. With no disrespect to Helen, it was obvious that the Beatles deserved to close the bill. It was suggested to them.

In the comparative calm of their dressing-room, they talked it over. Said George: "It looks as if we've sort of pushed ourselves too much. I mean, people'll say we're getting all big-time or that we just pushed ourselves in. Anyway, it doesn't look too good for Helen. . . ."

But the management, towards the end of the tour, DID insist that the boys went on last.

Determination

One of the most noticeable things about the boys, behind the spotlight, in those days, was this determination not to become big-headed. They sensed, obviously, that they were on the way to becoming big names, but they didn't want their heads to get swollen, too. They remembered some of the artists they'd met on the way through Liverpool, or Hamburg, and remembered "sending 'em up something rotten".

On that Scottish tour, it was clear that Ringo still felt rather out of things. He recalls: "Everybody was very friendly, of course, but I didn't have much to say for myself because I hadn't shared those earlier things with John, Paul and George. They'd natter on into the early hours of the morning about the good old Hamburg days—it was sort of like the meetings of a secret society.

Ad-Libbing or Fun-Raising

Backstage one evening they discussed whether they'd go for dignity or

ad-libbing fun-raising when they got back to Liverpool and London . . . to a series of important Press interviews that Brian Epstein had lined up for them. And it didn't take them long to plump for playing everything by ear . . . but not to ramble on with the usual stereo-typed answers given by most pop stars. Said John: "There's too much darned stupidity in this business. People are scared to just act themselves."

First national newspaperman to spend a lot of time with the boys said afterwards: "It was chaos. I'd been used to the usual old stock answers to the old stock questions. But these boys simply took over. I had an uneasy feeling that John was actually interviewing ME."

Tried To Explain

"I tried to explain all about this interview to my editor but I soon realised it was not going down too well. George was the one who seemed to remember most things and he was the steady influence in

a way. They weren't actually TRYING to be different. They simply WERE different".

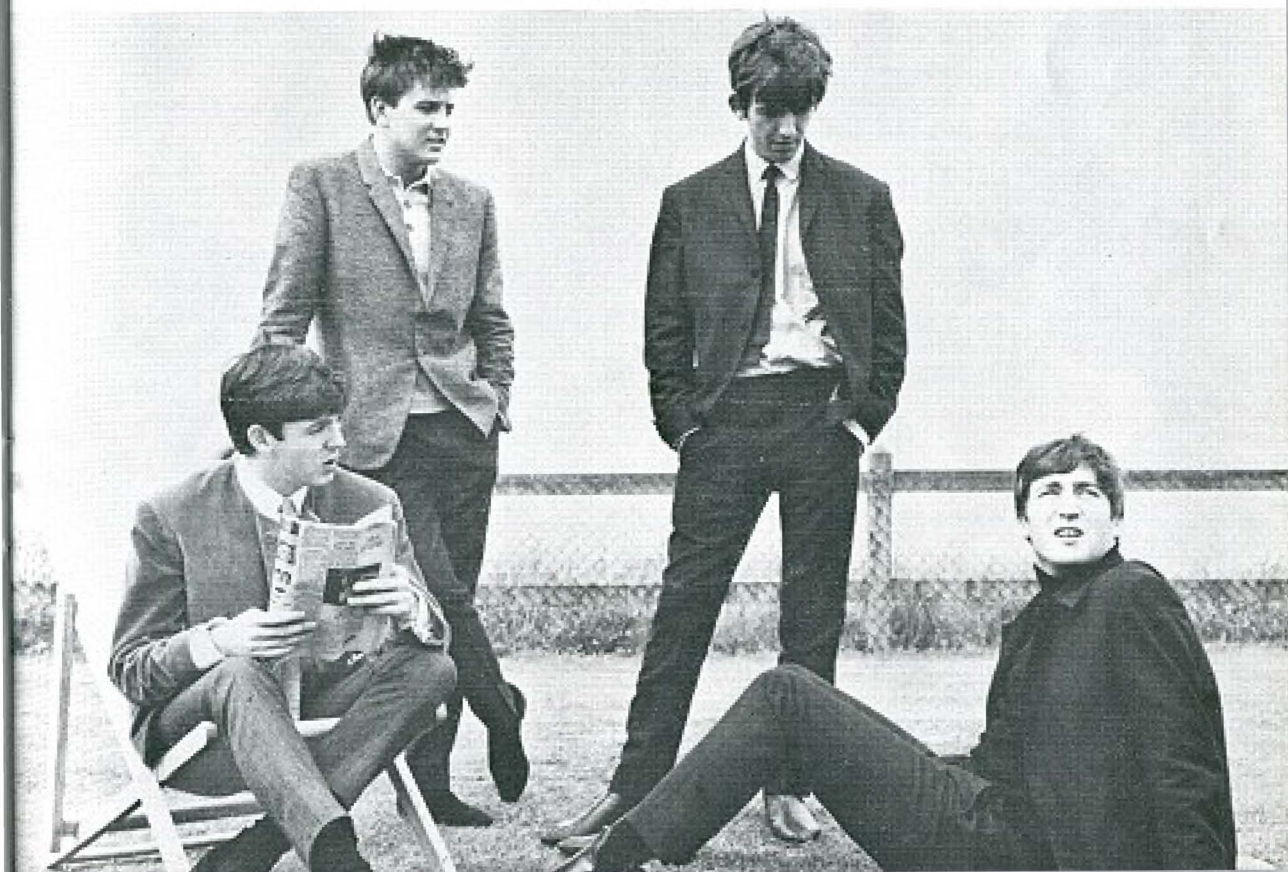
And Brian Epstein's order to his press officer was: "Let them have their head", was the instruction. "Don't try to make them conform, because then they'll just become the same as every other group on the scene."

Secretly, though, the Beatles were still scared of meeting important people—and of coping with the Press men. John recalls: "It was strange suddenly realising that what we ate for breakfast was of importance to people. Mind you, we felt stupid answering things about the sort of girls we liked most . . . I mean, we liked all of them!"

Most important of all was the attitude of Brian Epstein. He had had no experience of managing pop groups, so he brought a completely fresh approach to the business. The thing that impressed him, right from the start, about the Beatles was their complete individuality. That was something he was determined to keep going.

To be continued next month

A pic of Paul, George and John with Billy J. Kramer taken in the early months of 1963, when they were all enjoying their first big chart successes.





**THIS
MONTH'S
BEATLE
SONG**

LITTLE CHILD

Written and Composed by **JOHN LENNON** *and* **PAUL McCARTNEY**

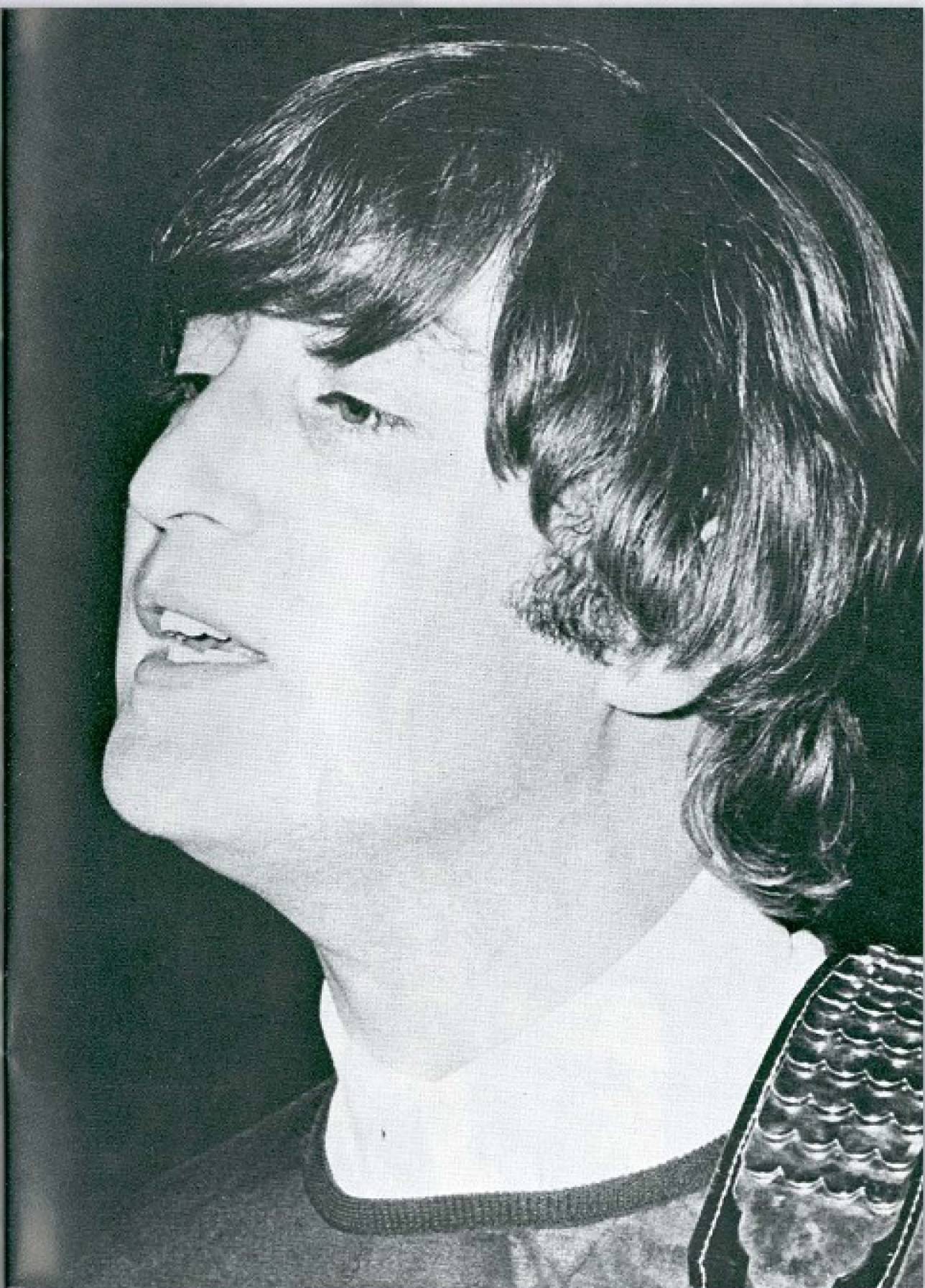
Recorded by The Beatles on their second L.P., "WITH THE BEATLES," released on
22nd November, 1963

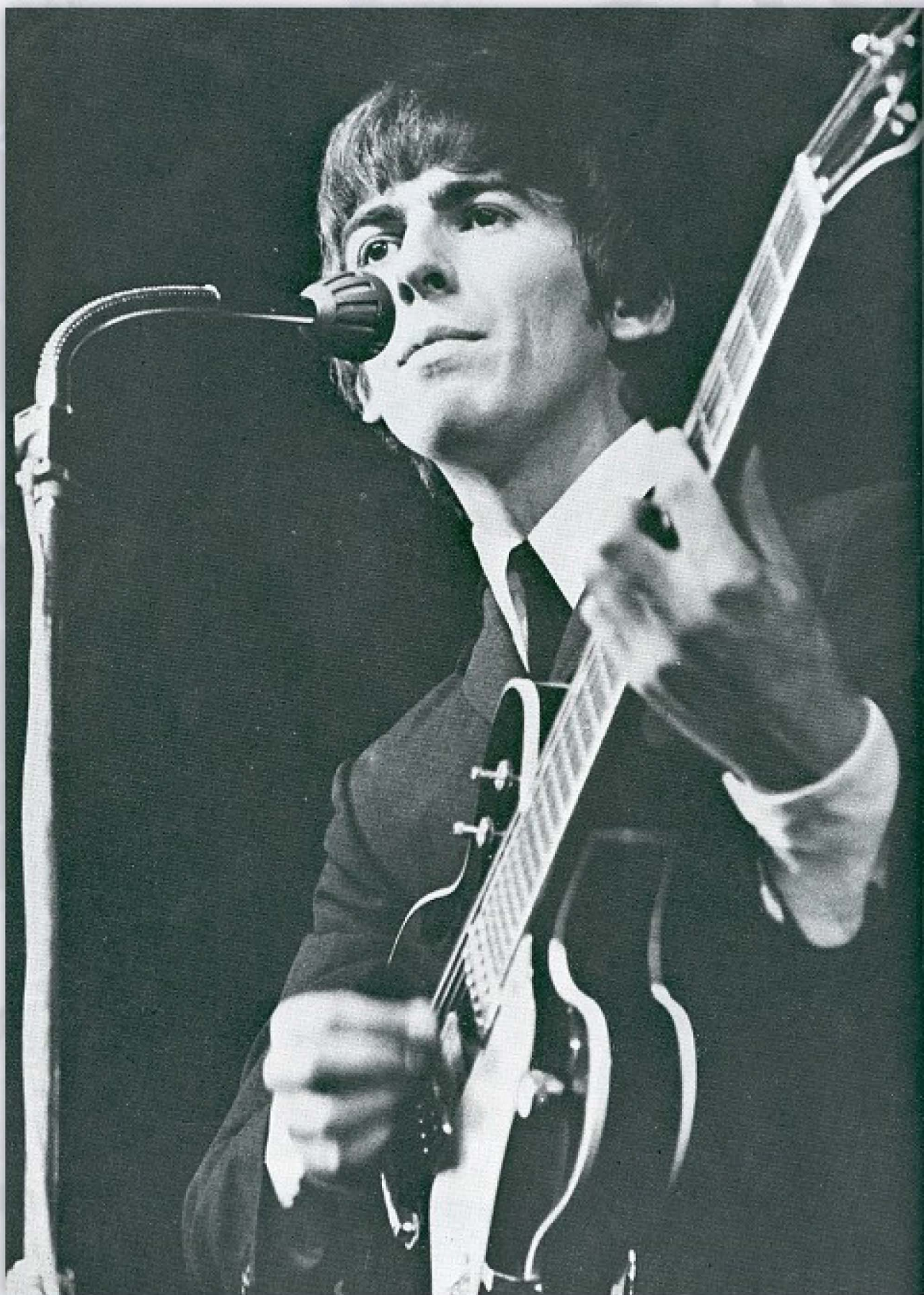
Little Child, Little Child,
Little Child won't you dance with me,
I'm so sad and lonely,
Baby take a chance with me.

If you want someone to make you feel so fine,
Then we'll have some fun when you're mine, all mine,
So come on, come on, come on.
Little Child, Little Child, etc. . . .

When you're by my side you're the only one,
Don't you run and hide, just come on, come on,
So come on, come on, come on.
Little Child, Little Child, etc. . . .

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BEATLE Pen Pals

(Addresses are in England unless otherwise stated)

Joyce Kirsch, 2001 State, Alton, Illinois, U.S.A., wants a p. p. anywhere.

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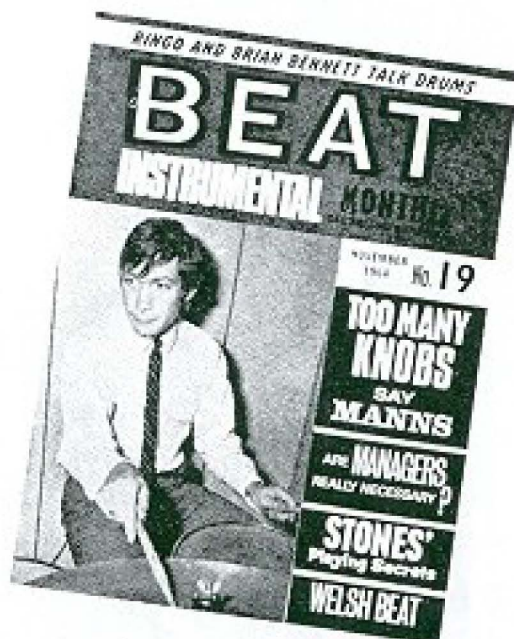
Maureen Lamore, Lorraindene, 27 St. Johns Road, Farnham, Surrey, wants p. p. in America and Australia.

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In the NOVEMBER Issue of BEAT INSTRUMENTAL

RINGO STARR Talks drums with
Shadow BRIAN BENNETT — and
there's also a special feature
on GEORGE HARRISON

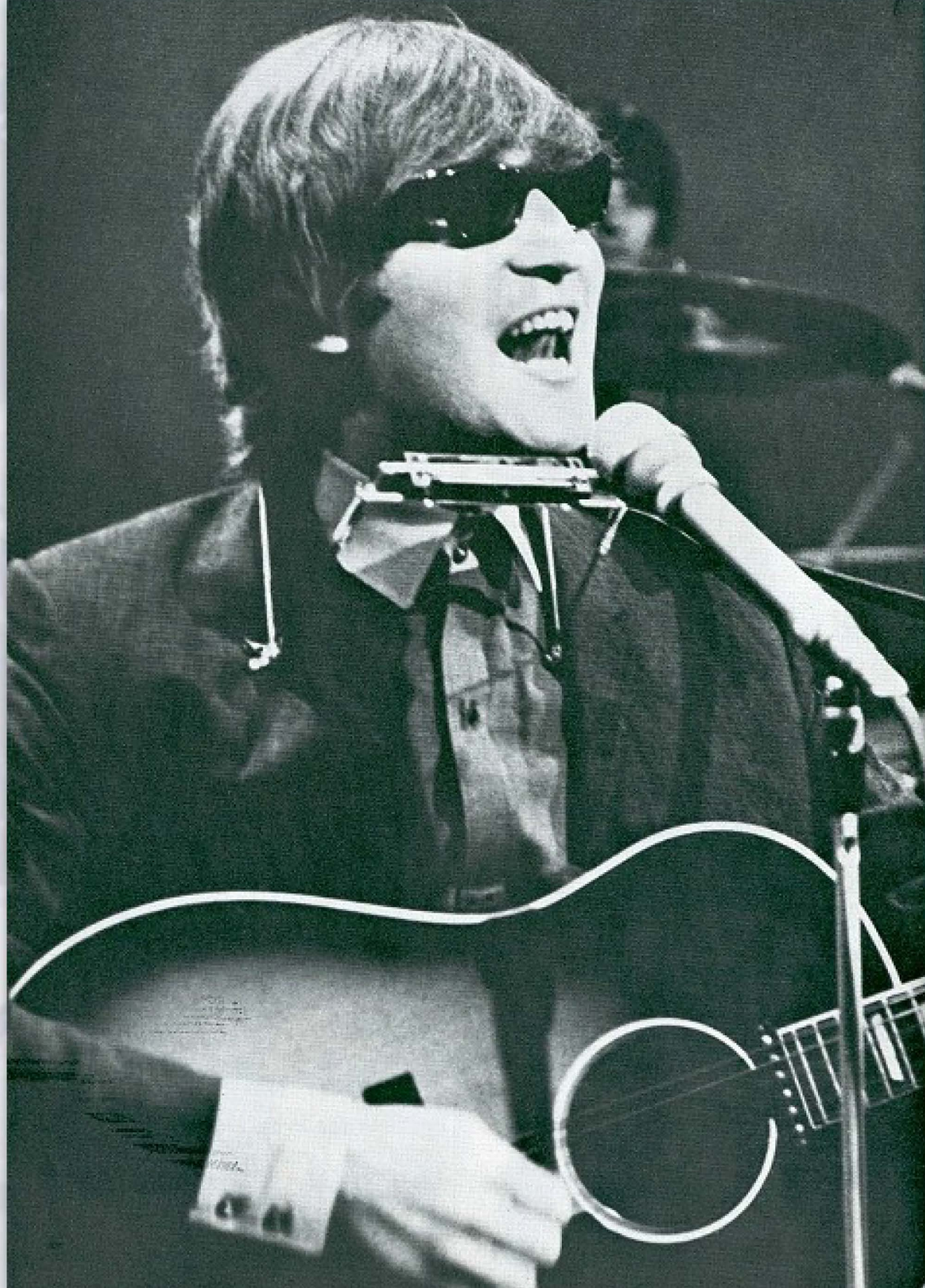


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*for Every Guitarist and
Every Drummer — Every Month*

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MESSAGE FROM JOHN

Thanks very much for all the cards and presents you sent me for my birthday.

JOHN'S DRAWINGS FOR CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

John has personally done the drawings for the front and back covers of the programme for the Beatles' Christmas Show at the Odeon, Hammersmith.

Also, there will be a special spread of pix by Beatles Book photographer, Leslie Bryce.

JOHN'S WAY ROUND

The Beatles often track on an extra Harmonica or guitar bit when they are recording in the studio. But this creates problems when they want to perform the number on stage because it's almost impossible to play two instruments at once. I said "almost" because on the left you can see how John got round it when they were playing "I'm A Loser"

during the recording of Shindig. John produced a strange contraption, which fitted round his neck and held his harmonica. The result: he could sing the words or blow his harmonica at the same time as he played his guitar.

GEORGE'S STUDIO

George decided that he wanted to put all his guitars, amplifiers and other musical gear into one big room at his new house. So, he's had one wall knocked down and the result is a sort of small recording studio.

He also likes to have the ends of his guitar strings sticking all over the place. Says they're useful to stick "ciggies" onto, especially when there's no convenient ashtray near.

RINGO CAN DRIVE

Yet another Beatle has entered the car-buying stakes. Ringo passed his driving test at the first attempt at the beginning of October. The exact times and places of Ringo's driving lessons were a closely

guarded secret, otherwise they would probably have turned into big autograph sessions instead. Now Ringo's doing the rounds of the car showrooms, looking at all the latest models, trying to make up his mind what to buy. Will he go for a sports car like Paul and George or will it be a saloon like John's?

WHO'S GOT MY TIE?

It's pandemonium in the Beatles' dressing room before a show. And there's almost always a cry of, "Got a tie Neil?" Yes, road manager Neil always has a tie. In fact he's given them dozens of ties over the past few months. "I'm beginning to get a strong feeling that they're all going to open tie shops one of these days and they're busy stocking-up!!!" he says.

NEW L.P. IN THE CAN

The boys have now recorded enough new material to produce another L.P. In fact, they crammed more recording sessions into the first two weeks of October than they'd done in the previous two months.



FOURTH BEATLES BOOK COMPETITION

TEN PRIZES OF £5 TO BE WON

TO ENTER: Answer the following questions

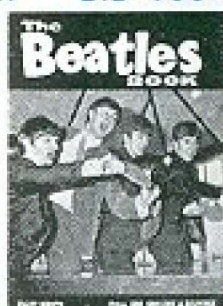
1. In what national music paper did "Love Me Do" first enter the record charts and at what number?
2. How many trips did the Beatles make to Germany up to the end of 1963?
3. Give one reason why John decided that he wouldn't wear his glasses on stage?
4. On what date was "Please, Please Me", the boy's first L.P. released?
5. Was "Twist And Shout" recorded first, last, or in the middle of the session for their first L.P.?

ALL THE ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND IN THE BEATLES' OWN PAPERBACK BOOK "The True Story Of The Beatles"

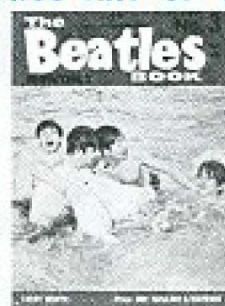
PRINT YOUR ANSWERS ON A POSTCARD AND SEND IT TO:—

Fourth Beatles Book Competition, 244 Edgware Road, London, W.2 (to arrive not later than 5th December). All postcards with five correct answers will be placed in a grand draw, which will be made by The Beatles. The winners will be announced in The Beatles Book No. 18, but prizes will be posted to the winners before Christmas.

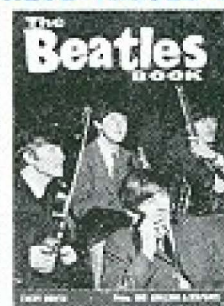
DID YOU MISS ANY OF THESE ISSUES OF THE BEATLES BOOK???



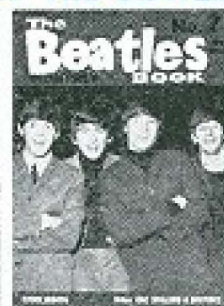
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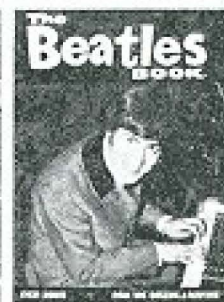
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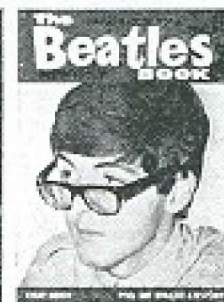
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Send P.O.'s and details to Beatles Book Back Issues, 244 Edgware Road, London, W.2. (We regret that Issues No. 1, 4 and 5 are completely out of stock and CANNOT be supplied.)

THE **Beatles** BOOK

No. 16

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