

The Beatles

MONTHLY BOOK

No. 51

OCT.
1967
5th
YEAR

GEORGE IN
CALIFORNIA

VISITING
JOHN



EVERY MONTH

Price TWO SHILLINGS

The Beatles BOOK

The Beatles' Own Monthly Magazine

No. 51, OCTOBER 1967

EDITORIAL

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THE DEATH OF BRIAN EPSTEIN at the end of August saddened everyone who has been associated with the Beatles over the past five years. One simple fact emerges from all that has been said and written about Eppy, as the Beatles called him. The greatest show business phenomenon of the 20th century, might never have been heard of if Brian had not had the complete faith in four unknown lads that he did have during the difficult years before the Beatles became successful. And for that one achievement he will never be forgotten. A selection of the many tributes which appeared in newspapers and magazines are included in this issue.


THE BEATLES decided against going to India at the beginning of September to stay with the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. They realised that if they did go it would have meant a long delay in the preparation of their special TV show, so they stayed in England to complete it. As you know by now, the TV show, which is due for screening at Christmas time, takes the form of a mystery tour and during the early part of September the Beatles spent a lot of time compiling a list of people who would get onto the TV coach at the start of the tour. When they counted up the names they'd put down they found they had nearly sixty names, but the coach would only seat about forty five so, they had to get down to some hard pruning.

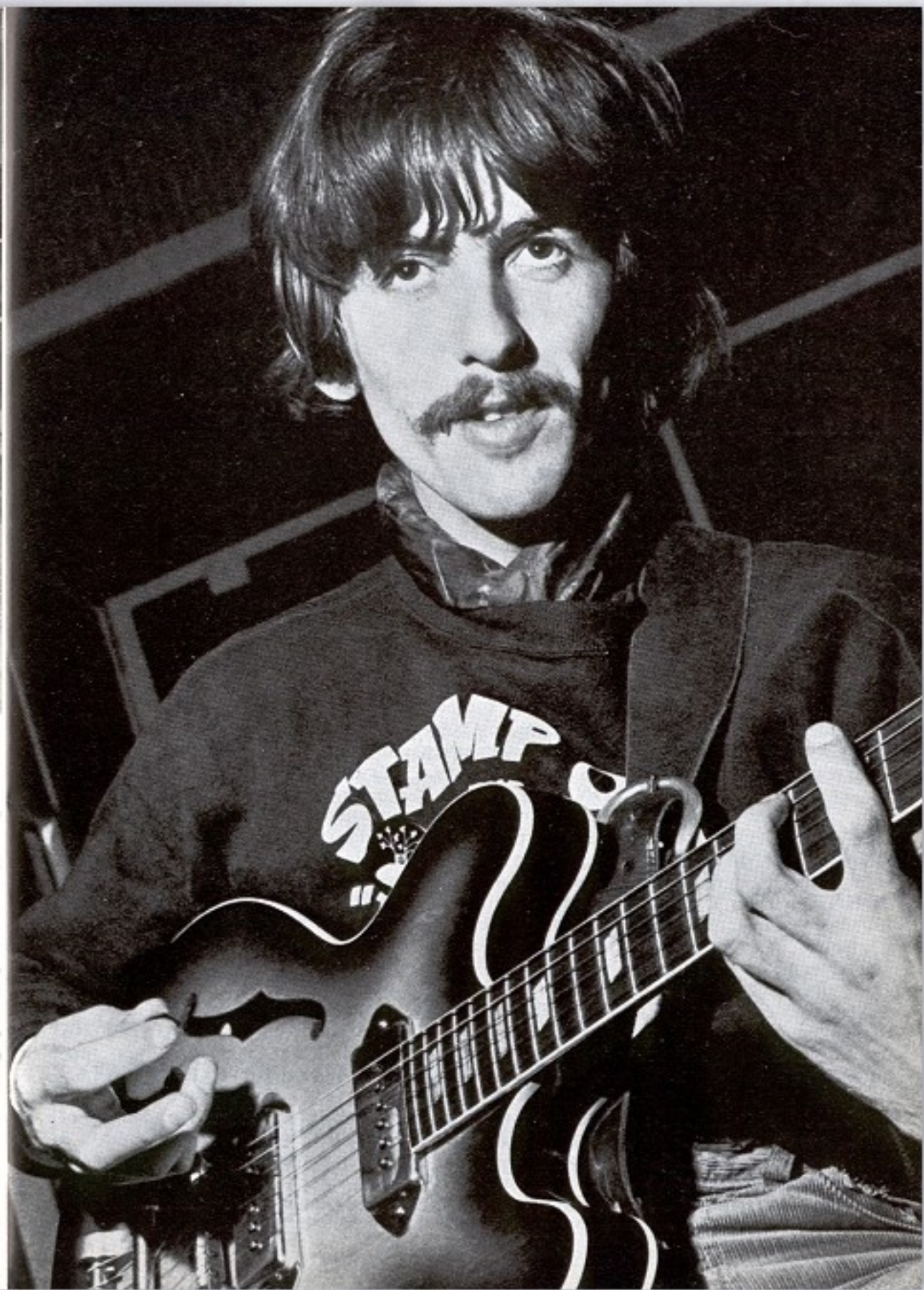
ALL THE BOYS have been busy thinking up ideas for the special and John, Paul and George have been doubly occupied writing new songs. Many of the titles are absolutely fascinating and I believe that the next LP will be even better than "Sergeant Pepper", which is really saying something.

DON'T MISS the next issue of the Beatles Book whatever you do because it will contain lots of exclusive pictures taken on the mystery tour and we'll also be running another great Beatles' Book competition to tie in with the TV special.

THE FIRST PART of the visit to John Lennon's home is included in this issue, which will save me from all his fans, who have threatened to finish me off if I did not publish it soon. The remainder will appear next month.

Johnny Dean Editor.

George with one of his favourite guitars. 





THE OFFICIAL
Beatles FAN CLUB

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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

DEAR BEATLE PEOPLE,

BEATLE BITS: Before and after the birth of **JASON, MAUREEN** occupied a private room—Ward D in the West Wing of the 4th floor at Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, Hammersmith, West London—used not too long ago by **Virginia McKenna** when she had her baby . . . **NEIL ASPINALL** was Best Man at the wedding of his younger brother, David, on Saturday September 2. Our congratulations and good wishes for the future to Barbara and David . . . By the time this Newsletter appears in print **THE BEATLES** will be finishing off their final week's work on the production of "Magical Mystery Tour", the hour-long colour television show which they have created and filmed themselves. We're likely to see it in Britain around Christmas and, of course, it will be screened by different TV stations all over the world as well . . . For those who want their facts right for scrapbook purposes—**JASON** was born at 3.25 p.m. on Saturday August 19, weighed 8lbs. 5½ozs. and started life with a fair crop of dark-brown hair! . . . In "How I Won The War" **NEIL** takes the non-speaking part of the orange-coloured "ghost soldier" . . . **RINGO AND MAUREEN** have asked me to thank all Beatle People who sent through cards, presents and telegrams of good wishes for **ZAK'S** second birthday on September 13 . . . **JOHN** particularly anxious to celebrate his 27th birthday (October 9) in India. All the four boys expect to return home after their two-month stay in the East a few weeks before Christmas . . . Busy time for Beatle-type birthdays—**CYN** celebrated hers on September 10 and wants me to thank you on her behalf for greetings and gifts received . . . **MAUREEN** chose the name **JASON** because (as Ringo says) "it was her turn" . . . Fantastic Eastern designs painted all over **GEORGE'S** red Mini-Cooper outdo even the splendour of **JOHN'S** Rolls! . . . On new Mercury label LP record **PETER KNIGHT AND HIS ORCHESTRA** present interesting instrumental arrangements of the entire "Sgt. Pepper" album programme . . . Precisely five years ago this week (Friday October 4 1962) **THE BEATLES** issued their first Parlophone single, "LOVE ME DO".

FAN CLUB NOTES: Spending a few leisure days in Leicester, I had the pleasure of meeting that county's Area Secretary **BARBARA MEDHURST** and we had long chats. I want to meet all our hard-working voluntary Area Secretaries in the same way in the not too distant future but at the moment club work in the office must come first. . . Anonymous Beatle Person from Leeds has sent us a lengthy article on how much The Beatles deserve the



Ringo and Paul wait for the next move. John's busy reading!

fame they have. "The progression and advancement of Beatle music is a constant source of pleasure to all who appreciate their talent and, above all, originality" he writes "Many people do not realise the time, effort and cash which is involved and the hours of tedious practising and arranging. Fame wasn't instant. They had to work for it"... Thanks also to JOHN McMAHON of Worksop, Notts. for his interesting Beatles story. Wish I had room to include it on our Club Page.

TARRAH FOR NOW,

Joint National Secretary of The Official Beatles Fan Club

NEXT MONTH:

**LOTS OF PICS AND DETAILS OF THE BEATLES MYSTERY
TOUR SHOW PLUS A GREAT NEW COMPETITION !**









It was a beautiful sunny day when the Beatles Book photographer and I went to call on the fourth Beatle at his home.

John's house is situated in the same wooded stockbroker belt, near Weybridge in Surrey, as Ringo's and George's but George's home is several miles away, while Ringo's is only a couple of hundred yards down the hill.

Just as we were driving through Esher we suddenly found Pattie's bright orange Mini in front of our Jag.

Pattie was driving with George in the passenger seat. He spotted us behind, asked Pattie to stop the car and when she had done so, popped his head through the sun roof. "Going to John's" he yelled, we nodded back at him, "I'll lead you there", he said and dropped back into his seat.

After what seemed like a dozen right and left turns through the country lanes, we eventually entered the estate where John and Ringo live. George left us at the entrance to John's road. We shouted our thanks at him and Pattie gave a quick smile, slammed the gear lever home and roared off up the road.

The entrance to John's estate is marked by a pair of huge wooden gates. We drove through them and up the path which winds around to the front of his house.

FRONT DOOR

My first impression was of a large mock Tudor mansion, lots of red brick, white walls and an iron-studded, oaken door. But this door was slightly different. It had been sprayed with paint aerosols in many colours. Over the large knocker was the crest of the Lennon clan.

John opened the door himself. After a quick "Come in," he led the way into the house.

I was completely overwhelmed with the fantastic collection of instruments, pictures, furniture, antiques, flowers, stickers, models, books, which met my gaze. I can honestly say I have never seen so many different things gathered under one roof. The result is extraordinary, because it all fits. I don't know whether

JOHN AT HOME

John or Cyn is the genius, but rooms have two pianos in them, or a statue with a gorilla mask and a pipe stuck in its mouth, and still seem right.

On the ground floor there is a large, entrance hall, lined with shelves of books stretching from floor to ceiling. To the right it leads to the kitchen, which is situated in the centre of the house, and to the left to two rooms, one very large, one small. As soon as we entered the house Julian appeared. He is a fascinating boy now, solemn-faced with sharp brown eyes, very like his father's, which follow your every movement. It's no good trying to get Julian to do anything he doesn't want to. He has got a mind of his own, again like John. He obviously gets on tremendously well with Dad who lets him work out his own small problems in his own way, and after studying us for a minute or two he very quickly made up his mind that, if his father was going to be photographed that day, then so would he.

TWO PIANOS

The smaller room contained two pianos, one Broadwood, one Bechstein. The mahogany case of the Bechstein, however, was fast disappearing under a psychedelic design, which was being

painted on by two Dutch artists, Simon and Marijke. Simon had shoulder-length hair and a white sweatshirt covered with different coloured paints, on which was emblazoned "Jesus Saves". Marijke had on a long, rugby-sweater type dress, made up of green and orange rings, well daubed with paint. The right-hand wall was covered with a bookcase. In the middle of the room was a television set covered with stickers. John loves these coloured stickers, with upside-down phrases on them, like "Quiet Please, Explosion Nearby", and "This Cemetery Welcomes Dangerous Drivers". In fact, he picked up a sheet of stamp-like slogans and stuck a few on the front of the television set while I watched Simon and Marijke at their work.

The next room was very large with three beautiful, soft sofas in it. In one corner was an extraordinary Chinese screen cutting, and next to it the brass statue with the gorilla's mask on it, and a pipe stuck in its mouth, upside down, that

I mentioned before. On one side of the fireplace were three turntables. John is very fond of putting on L.P.'s of noises these days, and one played constantly while I was there, broken only by bursts of "All You Need Is Love".

On the shelves near the record player were arranged several of John's gold discs. The Beatles have collected so many awards for their record sales, that each of them has shelves full of gold discs, statuettes, and certificates.

In the centre of the fireplace was a huge colour television. John was one of the first people to buy a colour set in the country. It is reported that only two thousand had been sold when the first colour transmissions started during Wimbledon week.

CYN'S KITCHEN

We went next door to the dining room, or rather the room in which the Lennon family eat. The centrepiece was a beautiful antique table surrounded by chairs. The kitchen led off the dining room. All the Beatles houses have fabulous kitchens, and Cyn's is no exception. She's obviously very proud of her home and mistress of her kitchen. There's a most unusual stove in the middle of the room, which consists of a table-like surface, built of white tiles, in which are fitted the hot-plates for cooking. I offered to carry something in, but Cyn said, "Certainly not, leave it to the women." She served up a tasty tea of ham, sweet corn, french fried, which was followed by a delicious trifle—obviously Julian's favourite.

"Would you like to take some shots of me with the Rolls?" John asked. Leslie Bryce, the Beatles' photographer, could hardly ram the film into his camera fast enough, as John led the way to the massive double garage at the right-hand side of the house. The newly-painted Rolls certainly looked magnificent. The intricate designs had been painted on with great precision by a local fairground painter.

To be continued next month

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64 PAGES

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RIGHT ABOVE: John pictured against a background of his house.
 RIGHT BELOW: John blowing a "little" horn he picked up somewhere.





TRIBUTES TO BRIAN EPSTEIN

The death of Brian Epstein hit everybody, especially the Beatles, with all the impact of an atomic explosion. The man who had master-minded the boys into the position of the greatest thing in popular music was dead . . . and the newspapers rallied to give their tributes.

Here are just a few:

"Brian Epstein, the quiet Svengali of world pop. The man who took four ordinary Scouse lads and made them so extraordinary . . . I'm not too sure whether this rather gentle man invented the Beatles or the Beatles made him. But what is certain, though, is that never since the invention of the gramophone has one man caused so much swinging joy throughout the world of the young". This story was headlined "Seven Short Years To Live A Legend" . . . Fergus Cashin, *Daily Sketch*.

"In the world he made for himself he was a God, pleased while he was creating, exhausted and beset by personal doubts when he had created . . . Occasionally the joy of knowing he was no longer a failure in the public eye welled up in him." Alix Palmer, *Daily Express*.

"He was the man behind a marvel . . . He consciously created the image of innocence, cleanliness and respectability which won over the mums and dads as well as the kids. He understood the young people of the 60's . . ."—Michael Cable, *Daily Mail*.

Headline: The Fifth Beatle. "He wanted to make you see that the Beatles were close friends, not just business acquaintances. For the Beatles are not just a money-making machine, they are successful as artists. Success didn't change Brian Epstein".—Henry Fielding, *The Sun*.

"He was the man who picked up the first loose threads and wove them into a design for living . . . and so created a country of new ideas, where the young were as important as the middle-aged, finding, their own identity, changing it from month to month, wearing an army uniform one day, a flowered shirt the next . . ." Alix Palmer and Judith Simons, *Daily Express*.

"The news of Brian's death is so awful that I scarcely know what to say. That any great man, so young and so talented, should lose his life is tragic. But it means more when the man is someone so close. He was a close friend and adviser who has guided every step of my career."—Cilla Black.

"Of course it is a big personal loss. The thing is not to get too selfish about it—if you get depressed, it is a form of self-pity, because you are sympathising with your own loss. Brian's spirit is still here and it will always be here".—Ringo Starr.

"Brian has died only in body and his spirit will always be working with us. His power and force were everything and his power and his force linger on. When we were on the right track he knew it, and when we were on the wrong track he told us so and he was usually right."—John Lennon, in *Disc*.

"He was one of the most honest men I've ever met. He always kept his word and was tremendously loyal to the people whom he admired or respected."—Norrie Drummond, *New Musical Express*.

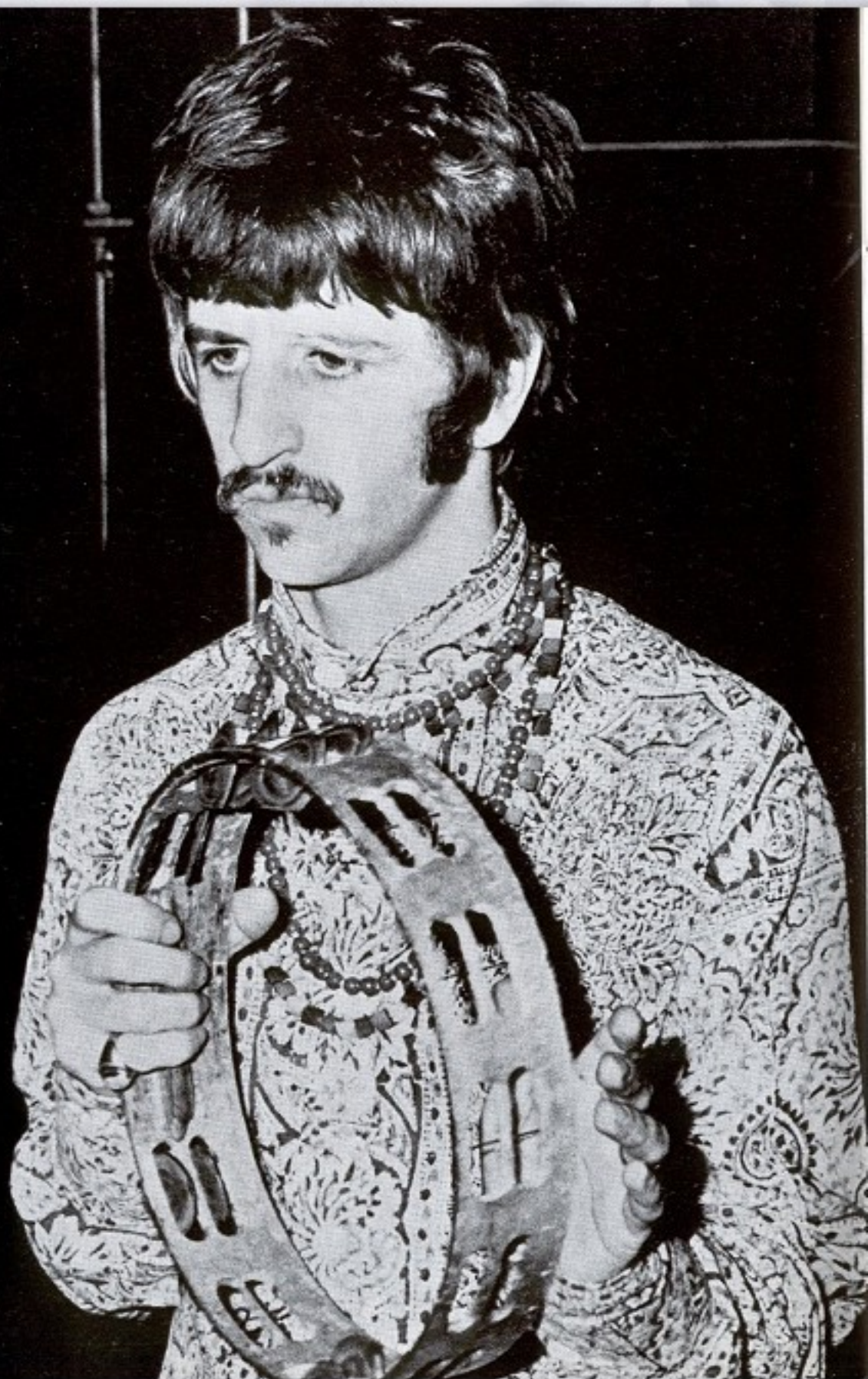
"Brian wanted to know all about life, as we all did. He was one of us. You can't pay tribute to him in words"—George Harrison, in the *Daily Express*.

"The man who revolutionised pop music in our time"—*New York Times*.

And so the tributes roll in—and that's not counting the headlines which paid their own respects to a man who earned his own respect the hard way.

Brian Epstein is dead, but the scene he left behind lives on . . .







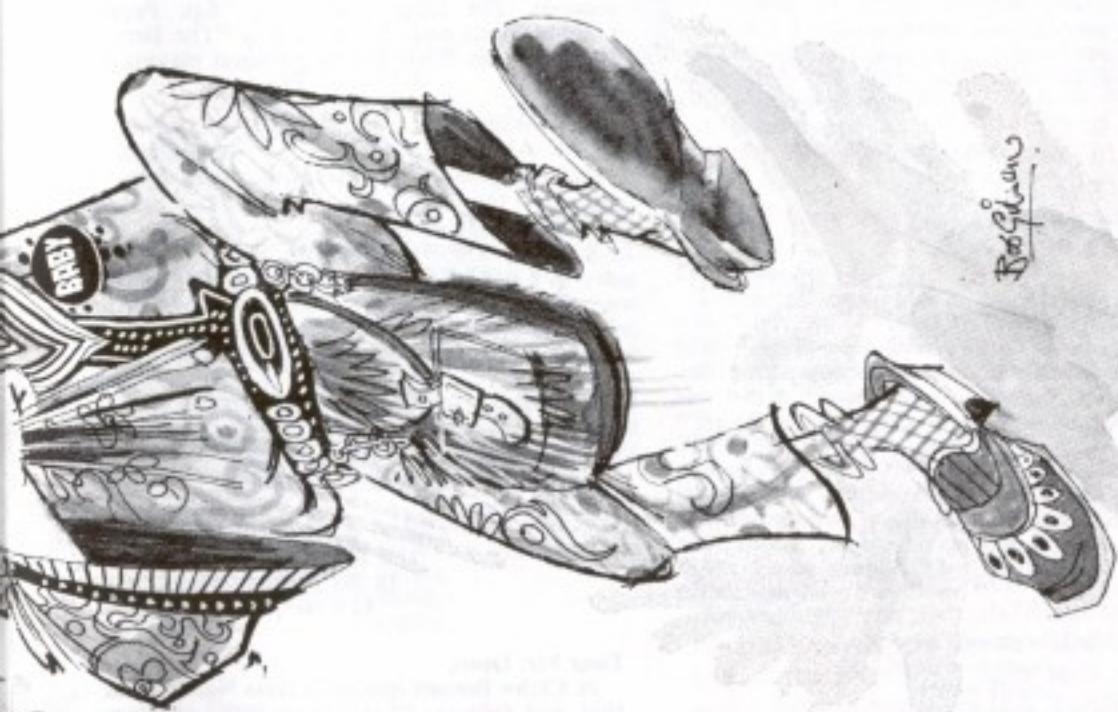
BEATLE Pen Pals

(Address are in England unless otherwise stated)

- Rita Robbins (11), 135 Leander Road, Brixton, London, S.W.2, wants p.p. anywhere except England.
 Mr Minoru Kida (18), Fukui-ken, Maruoka-cho, Fukeu-Ken, Japan, wants p.p. anywhere.
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 Linda Corke (17), 21 Perry Spring, Potter Street, Harlow, Essex, wants Girl p.p. America.
 Horvath Csaba (17), Pecs Egres.u.2., Hungary wants p.p. England.
 Junko Kosaka (15), 2-19-10 Tsukuda Chuo-Ku, Tokyo, Japan, wants Girl p.p. England.
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 Joyce Midgley (13), 4 Fields Rise, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, wants p.p. anywhere (boy).
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 Masumi Henda (15), 1038-3 Nukuikitamachi, Koganaei-City Tokyo, Japan, wants Girl p.p. England.
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 Susan Taylor (12), 29 East Princes Street, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, Scotland, wants Girl p.p. Switzerland or France.
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 Gordon McGowan (14), 33 Roman Crescent, Old Kilpatrick, Nr. Glasgow, Scotland, wants Girl p.p. in Canada.

The Beatles "Master of Percussion" concentrates on a bit of tambourine-bashing.





Basim



LETTERS from Beatle PEOPLE

WINNER OF FREE SUBSCRIPTION

Dear Beatles,

This letter wasn't easy. How can one say what they feel when a person close to everyone dies?

I am talking about Brian Epstein, his death came as a great shock to me, as I'm sure it did to everyone!

Although I never met Brian (Eppy) I felt he was a friend.

His death will be felt by everyone in pop music or otherwise.

I think it's true to say that there will never be another man like him, he was a genius! One couldn't think of the Beatles without thinking or associating them with Brian.

When someone dies, it hurts, with Brian it will hurt even more because there is so much to remind people of him, but as I believe John said, you've got to think of the happy times.

I believe in the transcendental meditation and in what the Maharishi says.

Brian's death was sad and no one can get away from that even with meditation I'm sure that Brian will be remembered for a long, long time to come!

To end on a happier note: please give my heartiest congratulations to Ringo, Maureen and Zak on the arrival of baby Jason!

Best Wishes,

Wendy Sandiford,
23, Naseby Road,
Luton, Beds.

Dear Johnny,

The Beatles have released from their very first "Cry for a shadow" to their last "All you need is love" about 137 songs. To have all these songs on records, you must collect 9 LP's, 2 EP's and eight singles. These records include "Ain't she sweet", "Bad boy"

and the German versions of "I want to hold your hand" (Komm gib mir deine Hand) and "She loves you" (Sie liebt dich).

To play all the Beatles-songs without any break, you must take a time of 5 hours 30 minutes and 55 seconds. The longest album is "Sgt. Pepper's" (38min. 7sec.) and the shortest is "The Beatles in Italy" (27min. 33sec.). The 3 longest playing songs are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Within you without you | 4min. 55sec. |
| 1. A day in the life | 4min. 55sec. |
| 2. Strawberry fields forever | 4min. 5sec. |

The 3 shortest one:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Sgt. Pepper's (Reprise) | 1min. 16sec. |
| 2. I'll cry instead | 1min. 41sec. |
| 2. Little child | 1min. 41sec. |

There are 26 songs which last under 2 minutes. The average Beatle song is 2 mins. 24 secs.

Of the 137 songs 99 are Lennon-McCartney compositions, 9 are written by George Harrison, 1 is written by Harrison-Lennon and one by Lennon-McCartney-Starkey. The 27 others include song-writers Berry, Bacharach and Perkins.

Yours "beatlely",

Günter Klein,
414, Rheinhausen,
In der Rheinau 16,
Germany.

Dear Mr. Dean,

re Claire Bennett quoted in issue No. 49 as saying that, and I quote: "Let George make an album on his own instead of wasting 5 minutes of Beatle time."

What a marvellous idea. I, too, think that George should make an album on his own. Not for the same reasons as Miss Bennett though.

George is opening for me (and other fans I hope) new dimensions in the field of music. Every time I hear "Love to you" (Revolver) or "Within you without you" (S.P.L.H.C.B.) I discover new sounds.

I'm sure that there must be thousands of Beatle fans who feel as I do, so why not George?

Thank you,

Ann Wall (Miss),
18, Elizabeth Close,
Collier Row,
Romford,
Essex.

Dear Paul,

The way The Beatles dress today is absolutely fantastic. Your clothes are really wayout, which suits your music. I love the scarfs and beads you wear in recent issues of Beatles Monthly's. Look back at B.M. 49 page 3. A brilliant example of the fantastic clothes you wear today.

I'm sure I and many other fans, are very pleased that you've changed your style of dress, instead of dressing like you did in 1963-64.

In Leicester you've certainly got the trend going with those moustaches. Most of boys have got them now.

I think your L.P. "Sergeant Pepper", is your best yet. Every track is marvellous, especially "A Day In My Life", and "Lucy".

All My Love to you Fab 4

From a Beatle fanatic

Miss Rosalind Smith,
34, Pine Road,
Glenfield,
Leicester

LONG LIVE THE
BEAUTIFUL
FLOWER-BEATLES!!!

Dear Johnny,

You've just sent me BB 50, and I'd like you to ask how on earth I can thank you??? That front cover had me in tears. HONEST. And, I've already got TWO pix of RINGO, MAUREEN & ZAK framed, but soon I'll have THREE, 'cos I'm going to frame the beautiful pic on Page 28. I've got EVERY BB (except 26), Johnny, from 1 to 50, but this new one is easily THE BEST EVER. I feel so indebted to you.

Please, though, I beg of you, don't ever show pix of Cynthia or Jane Asher. Don't hate me just because I've got a very natural feeling of jealousy. I love Pattie and MAUREEN, though.

All my luff,

P.S. Luv to J, P, G, R, JULIAN, ZAK & JASON!

Miss Mary BEATLE Watson,
43, High Street,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire.

Dear Paul,

I must admit I was furious when I read the news in the Chicago papers that you had taken LSD, not because you had taken the drug, but because you went on to explain that it brought you "closer to God" among other things. I was upset knowing that some kids were going to try the drug because you had. However, after reading "Paul's T.V. Statement" in *Beatles Monthly*, No. 48 all was forgiven. I am glad you were honest and realized that the press were just waiting for a scandal topic to take you guys to town. I'm glad you clarified your feelings on the subject and I hope people will stop pestering you (that includes me!).

Needless to say, S.P.L.H.C.B. has everyone talking and you produced a wide variety of songs. There is something on it for everyone. Once again The Crown Princes of Pop are showing the others how it's done. It is truly a work of art and several critics are suggesting you should be Britain's next poet laureates.

All I can say in conclusion is thanks guys for a fantastic L.P. Please do another television show as the last one was not only on a channel that most sets don't have, but there was no announcement as to when it was appearing.

A January '64 fan,

Kristin Santose (18),
217, Laurel Lane,
DeKalb, Illinois,
60115, U.S.A.

Dear John,

I thought I must write to tell you how much I like your Rolls. It is FANTASTIC! I really mean it. What with flowers, zodiac signs and red, white, blue and orange wheels. Then in the concourse d'elegance you had no points for it. Tommy Thompson said "We all agreed it was in extra-ordinary bad taste". That's stupid. It was much better than those other ridiculous cars. A fur car, a mosaic car, camouflaged car, a car with stamps on it and one covered with beans, corn, shells and macaroni. When will it end? Then to top it all a car with eight horns and 107 lights. Some people! They haven't got very good taste either have they?

An Angry Fan

Susan (Noddy) Randle,
36 School Road,
Salford Priors,
Nr. Eversham.
Wores.







BEHIND THE SPOTLIGHT

TWO YEARS AGO

by Billy Shepherd and Johnny Dean

Meditation! A word which is used a lot by people talking about the Beatles today. It's meaning, according to the dictionary is: Consideration, thoughtfulness. And we've read how the boys want to go to India to follow the teachings of Mararishi Yogi.

They have accepted his thoughts. His teachings helped them to get over the tragic, mind-numbing death of Brian Epstein. As John Lennon said after the tragedy: "Brian has died only in body and his spirit will always be working with us. We've been taught that his power and force were everything and that that power and force will linger on. We only wish Brian had been with us for these lectures on meditation. . . ."

But then the Beatles have always been seekers after knowledge. Go back two years, to the October of 1965, and you'll find that they were talking about what REALLY is meant by things in life. If they had a complaint, even though they managed a few days' rest at the beginning of that chilly October, it was that they didn't have enough time to meditate. They were rushed from one engagement to another, had enormously important things on their minds . . . and they relished the idea of time to think. To meditate. John, particularly, got inside the problems.

HOW LONG ?

He read the headings asking "How long can the Beatles keep going?" and he took them rather seriously. He thought about life and about age. At that time John and Ringo were both 25, with Paul 23 and George a year younger. John said: "I believe from books I've studied that age is really just a mark on a calendar. What matters is how you feel inside your mind. Age can make your face go all wrinkled, but it can't change your mind if you don't want it to."

The Beatles also pondered upon the problems of how best to split their time. Paul said, in a long chat with us at the EMI studios: "Did you see that letter from some people in Sheffield, complaining that we probably won't visit them on the next tour? We feel sorry for them, honest we do. But we can't just be machines. We've thought about the responsibilities we have to everybody but there are only so many days to each year and even if we visited ten different places every day, which is impossible and would make Ringo tired anyway, we'd still have complaints. . . ."

"We can feel as young as the fans or we can feel as old as the Prime Minister. It all depends on our mood and the way people react around us. We DO worry about things and we're certainly not blase. But sometimes we wonder where it's all leading and whether we're not losing track of our own selves".

See the point? This was all two years ago and even then the Beatles were looking for some solid form of guidance. They were sure of themselves as performers and stars and record-makers but underneath it all, away from the gloss, there was room for doubt. Now perhaps, after another twenty-four months of searching, maybe they've found a leadership.

In October 1965, a man named Barry McGuire, formerly with the Serendipity Singers, was roaring up the charts. His was a "protest" hit and the Beatles generally disapproved of his "Eve of Destruction" philosophy. They said, more or less as one:

Another of the rare early Beatle pics from our files. George and Paul appearing at the Cavern before they hit the headlines. Notice the black leather suits they often wore then.

"It's good to knock things that are obviously bad but you get all these artists climbing on the same band-wagon. You get all these voices yelling out in protest and in the end everyone forgets what they're protesting about. Pop music is more than just a vehicle for having a go. . . ."

This was the month, October 1965, when Paul McCartney's fabulous "Yesterday" hit the top of the charts in America as a single. An album track here, it surely is one of the greatest Lennon-McCartney compositions ever. Yet when publisher Dick James first heard it there was no title. Paul sang it over to Dick and kept on singing "scrambled eggs" at the title theme. Okay it's an old, well-known story about the boys . . . but it was true and it's worth recalling for newer readers.

By the way, this month under review started without the Beatles having a single in the charts—but they were up there at the top of the LP section with "Help!" Count in that American number one single and they could hardly complain. Paul certainly couldn't as "Yesterday" chalked up yet another Gold Disc for the boys, selling a million copies in three weeks precisely.

Of course in Britain there was the Matt Monro version of the song. This sparked off the usual, very predictable controversy. Actually it was all a waste of time. For a start Paul said how pleased he was with Matt's version, even though he felt it was just a mite square. One paper held a readers' quiz to find out which version they preferred and it came out that both had their followers.

HEADLINES

It was George who said: "Sometimes you can go through these papers and predict in advance what the headlines for any one week will be. This one was a natural. A Paul record and a Matt record. If Paul said he liked Matt's then you've got your 'Beatle Sensation' headline. If Matt said he didn't like Paul's, then it's 'Beatles Knocked'. I know it's hard finding different stories every week when not too much is happening but I'm sure some of the sub-editors use a phrase-book to fit every situation."

George was then, and is now, the one who

can lash out at anything he finds inaccurate in the newspapers. At the same time, when in form, he is the great memory man of the Beatles. While the others may forget about things that happened some five years ago, George can usually come up with the information. When it comes to those far-off days when the boys were struggling to make a name for themselves in Germany, he seems to have a photographic memory. He prefers to keep quiet about some of the things, but that's his privilege.

CHRISTMAS RECORD

It was announced, in October 1965, that the Beatles were producing their Christmas record specially for members of the fan-club. There were to be 65,000 copies printed. Think about that, for a moment . . . that's enough to get a record top of the charts these days . . . if they were all sold in a week or so. As for the organization it took to get this disc out to everybody—well, that was REALLY organizing.

This momentous month ended with the Beatles turning up for an extra-special engagement—at Buckingham Palace, when they received their MBE's from the Queen.

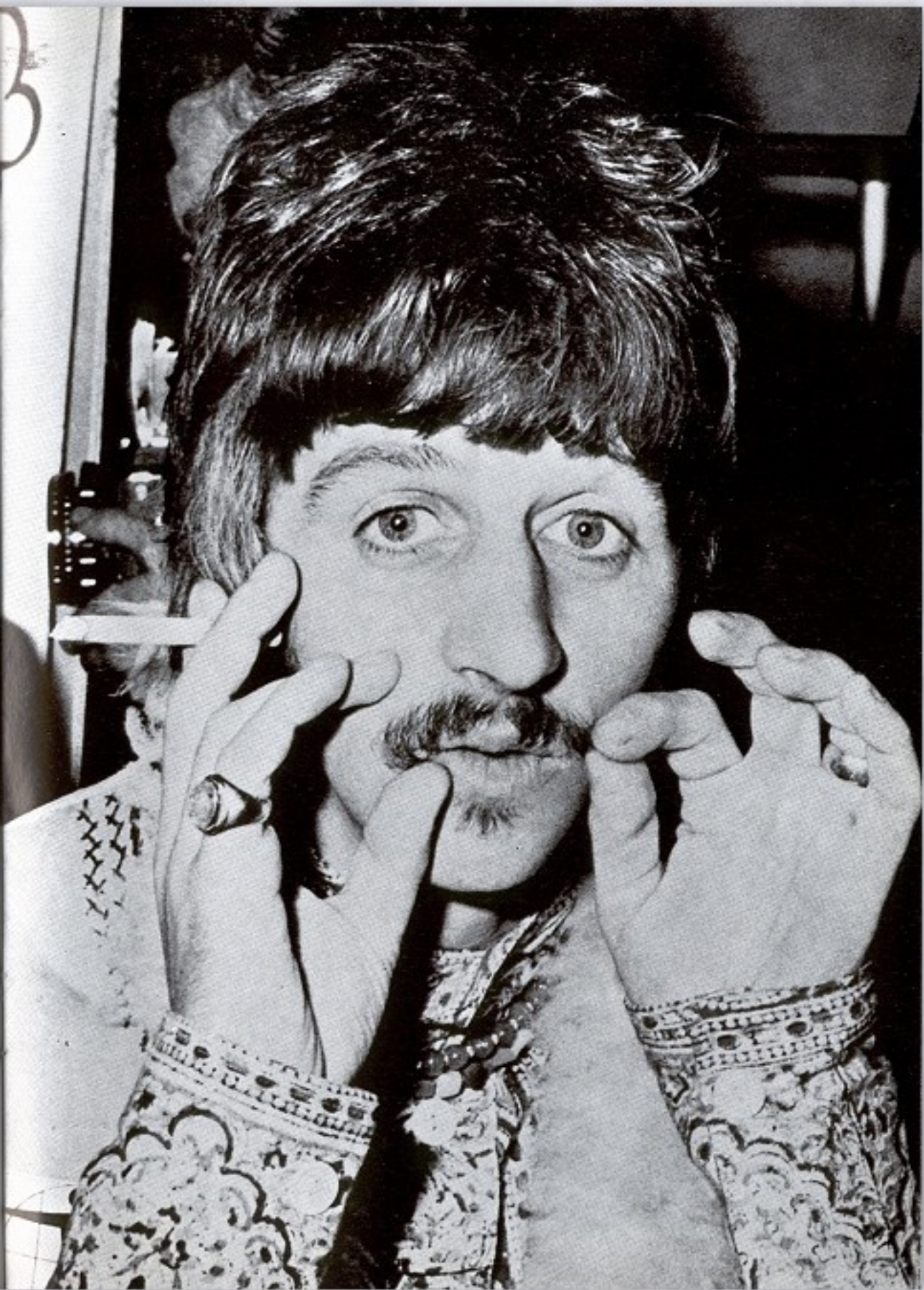
The boys also said they were definitely fans of the Queen—and the way THEY said it, nobody could take offence. But this was also the month of the boys turning down a Royal Variety Performance. This is the annual show which raises funds for theatrical charities and, of course, the boys had been on it in a previous year. What they did instead was put on a concert at a theatre and hand over the entire receipts. Why didn't they do the Royal Show?

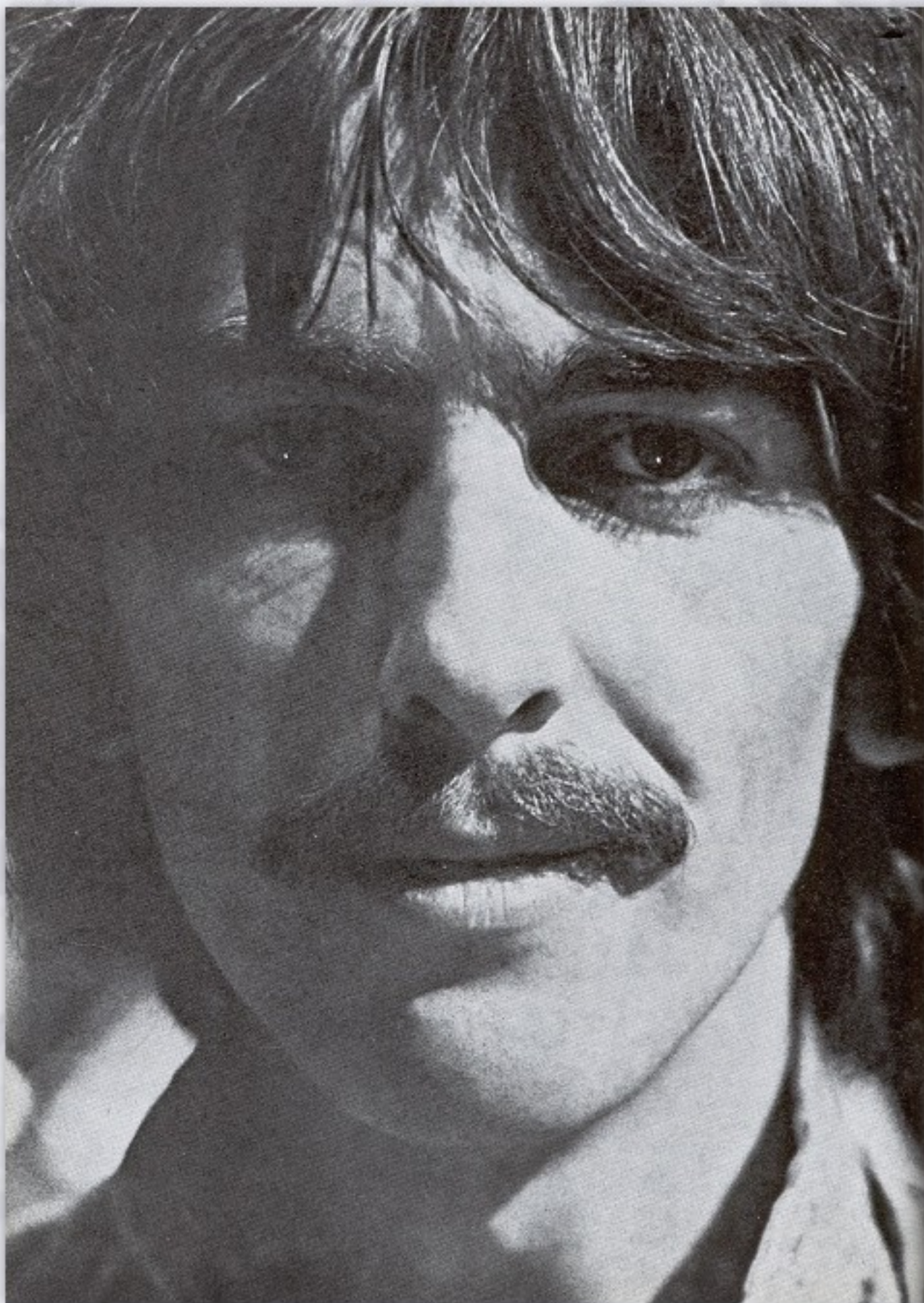
To be honest, we've never really asked the boys. But in an interview about this time, Paul said that he felt the audience was wrong for the Beatles and that it wouldn't have done anybody any good if they'd put on a show that wasn't widely appreciated.

Still all that is in the two-years-ago. However it shows clearly that the boys thought deeply about each step forward in their career.

Next month: More spectacular developments—and another insight into Beatle characters in the light of what is happening now.







GEORGE'S CALIFORNIA TRIP

A DAY-TO-DAY ACCOUNT OF GEORGE AND PATTI'S TRIP TO CALIFORNIA—BY NEIL

TUESDAY AUGUST 1:

Today we flew from London to Los Angeles by polar-flight jet. We were George and Pattie, our electronic-genius-type mate called Magic Alex and yours truly. The Harrisons travelled as "Mr. and Mrs. Weiss"—which happened to be the name of the man who was going to meet us and look after us in California. I mean Nat Weiss, who manages The Cyrkle and directs the corporation known as Nempor Artists in New York. First problem on arrival was the lack of one vital Aspinall suitcase, left 6,000 miles behind us in London. You gain time when you fly from Britain to America. We'd set off at lunchtime but it was only early afternoon in Los Angeles when we drove from the airport to the private house we had rented for the week.

HILL HOUSE

It was a smallish, very beautiful, compact place with a little, round swimming pool up in the hills of

Hollywood in a street called Blue Jay Way. Don't they have picturesque names? The house belonged to a lawyer who was vacationing in Hawaii. The long flight had left everybody a bit tired but Pattie stayed up long enough to call her sister, Jenny, who was staying in San Francisco just up the West Coast a bit, and she said she'd fly down to join us. And George phoned our good friend Derek Taylor who started writing down the complicated instructions for getting from his place to ours.

NEW SONG

THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH DEREK PROVIDED GEORGE WITH THE INSPIRATION TO WRITE A SONG CALLED "BLUE JAY WAY". HE SAT THERE WORKING IT OUT ON A MINI-ORGAN WHILE WE WAITED FOR DEREK. YOU'LL BE HEARING "BLUE JAY WAY" IN THE "MAGI-

CAL MYSTERY TOUR" TV SHOW—IF NOT BEFORE.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 2

Slept late, then I did a bit of shopping, then we all went over to Ravi Shankar's Music School. Sat and watched Ravi teaching this huge class of about 50 people—very mixed crowd with people between the ages of about 16 and 30, all keen students of Indian music. Ravi's tabla drummer Alla Rakha gave a lesson which we watched for a bit before going out with Ravi to have a meal on Sunset Strip.

THURSDAY AUGUST 3

Early in the morning—well, about eleven you know—George went over to the School with Alex and myself while Pattie and Jenny went sightseeing. Tomorrow night Ravi has his concert at the Hollywood Bowl so this morning he gave a press Conference. All the local radio and press people knew George was about and, of course, they swooped on him with all sorts of ques-

tions ("What do you think of LSD?"... "Where are you staying, George?") during the Conference. In the afternoon George and I went to a shop called Sidereal Time. There and elsewhere we picked up a load of shirts and things plus some moccasin-type boots and groovy posters. In the evening we heard Ravi give a lecture on the history of Indian music and then went over to a Mamas And Papas recording session with Derek Taylor.

NEW GUITAR

One of the session men there had this fantastic new guitar—a first prototype and something quite special. I daren't tell you what's so special about it because I've just arranged to have a couple of them made (one will be a bass guitar version) for the Beatles and it's all supposed to be very secret! Anyway it was now the middle of the night but George couldn't resist having a go on this sshh-you-don't-know-what guitar.

FRIDAY AUGUST 4
Tonight at nine o'clock Ravi's 4-hour concert began at the Bowl. With him were a lot of his finest students, a marvellous night of music. First we watched Bismillah Khan and party with Bismillah playing an Indian flute called a shehnai. Whatever he played the rest of the party—students—would try to follow until his music got so advanced that they had to leave it to him! Then came a South Indian drummer playing an instrument known as a mridangam, a sort of old classical drum, which you bang at both ends. Then came Ali Akbar Khan and his son Ashish playing modern little drums they call sarods, each almost "talking" to the other via his drum. Finally, before Ravi himself, came the tabla player and teacher Alla Rakha, Ravi's own drummer, who stayed on stage to accompany Ravi's sitar for the final hour of the programme. I hope I've got all my spellings O.K.—I check-

ed them all over with George when I was writing up this diary, but don't blame him if there are any mistakes because my own handwriting isn't that easy to read back!

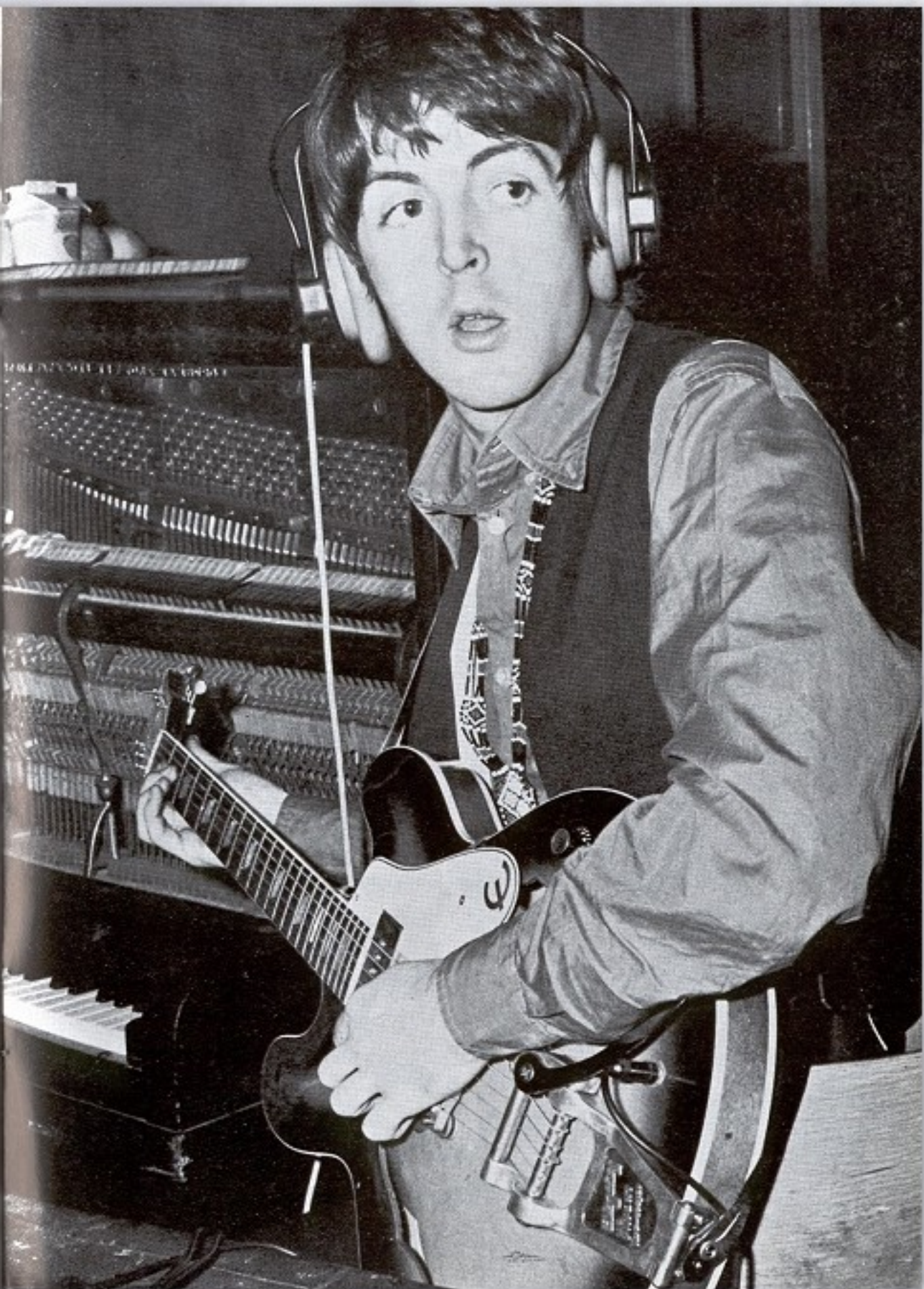
SATURDAY AUGUST 5

This morning we all went along to some recording studios opposite Ravi's School to watch Alla Rakha and a South Indian drummer recording a duet to fill one whole side of an LP disc. A South Indian singer—using his voice just like an instrument—is doing the whole of the second side of the LP. Which reminds me that George has been very pleased to accept an invitation to write the sleeve notes for another Indian LP which is being recorded here this week. By Ali Akbar Khan's son Ashish. Later in the day we saw Derek, his wife and his great bunch of kids. Went with them all to the downtown area of Los Angeles to visit Alvera Street, a very historic place. It's been preserved as a tourist attraction—complete with some of California's very earliest brick-built houses. Bands were playing and there were lots of little stalls selling souvenirs made in Hong Kong! We had a Mexican meal in one of the funny little restaurants in Alvera Street and bought a batch of wonderful Mexican pictures, paintings done on velvet. Mine shows a mournful old clown with a battered old hat holding a big flower and pulling the petals off one by one! They were very cheap—just a few dollars each—and yet very large.

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BEATLE NEWS

LATE COACH

As all the National press found out very quickly, the Mystery Tour coach which the Beatles had hired for their trip round South West England was two hours late arriving to pick Paul McCartney up on the first day, Monday September 11th.

Paul spent the time being photographed, signing autographs and having a cup of tea at a nearby canteen.

The forty-three seats of the coach were filled by 7 technicians, the 4 Beatles, Mal Evans, Neil Aspinall, Press Officer Tony Barrow, Freda Kelly and several other friends including an elderly couple and fan club secretaries Sylvia Nightingale from Sussex, Barbara King from Essex and Jeni Crowley from London... lucky girls?

NO STUDIO

When the Boys came to book a film studio in which to shoot the interior scenes for their Mystery Tour, they found that all the film studios around London were booked up solid. But a little problem like that has never stopped a Beatle yet and they got hold of an empty hangar in West Malling, near Maidstone in Kent.

DIRECTOR JOHN

As you know, the Beatles have planned the whole Mystery Tour themselves and they're also directing it. On Wednesday September 13th John directed a sequence in which Scotch comedian Nat Jackley chased a bevy of girls round a swimming pool. Although the Beatles are completely in charge, they do have a camera director with them who is taking care of the technical side.

BIG CHANGE?

Lots of clothes designers down Carnaby Street have been wondering whether the Beatles were about to spark off a craze for gangster style clothes after the pictures appeared in the papers of them wearing Al Capone suits at the start of their Mystery Tour. Sean Connery wore a similar outfit to a big fancy dress party that Brigitte Bardot gave only a few days before. But reports from people on the Mystery Tour say its not happening yet. To quote one, "As soon as they got into the hotel they changed straight back into their 'love' gear".

John pictured through the rear windows of the tour coach.







Beatles and friends listen to a playback seated on the floor of the recording studios.
(Picture taken by Mal Evans)

continued from page 26

We also bought a matador one with a big green bull on it. George left Alex and myself buying colourful waistcoats while he trotted over to Ravi's place to collect a sitar he was buying.

SUNDAY AUGUST 6

George went off early on his own to see Ashish and talk about the LP sleeve notes and everything. So later on when the rest of us set off for Disneyland, George stayed behind. We didn't stay at Disneyland all that long but it's a fantastic place. We visited "Tomorrowland", "Fantasyland" and a bit of "Frontierland". I got into this

telephone booth where you can phone up all the famous Disney cartoon characters. I phoned Pluto but a voice said "Sorry he's busy. This is Goofy."!! In the evening we all went over to Ravi's house.

MONDAY AUGUST 7

Today we went up to San Francisco and walked around Haight-Ashbury. Derek came with us. It got a bit bad after a time. There was this ridiculous procession of people following George as if he was the New Pied Piper. But he didn't lead them to the river. Anyway it was a good day, a good scene to see with things we were glad about and

things we were sorry about (such as those beggars sitting in the street conning money out of tourists) and it was the first time we'd really looked at San Francisco as a place although we'd been before for Beatles concerts.

TUESDAY AUGUST 8

Packing and getting ready for tonight's flight home. Four little fans called at the house but they were O.K. and there wasn't any trouble and George enjoyed seeing them. Oh yes, I forgot to tell you—my case DID arrive from London so I HAVEN'T been wandering round for the last 8 days in the same sticky clothing!!!

No. 51

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1967

The **Beatles** BOOK

