

Cheap Shots and Old News

by Bruce Oliver

So the word is in on John Bonhams death; he choked on his own vomit after twelve hours of heavy drinking. He passed out at Jimmy Page's house where the band was recording their new album. Led Zeppelin has been consistently earning multi-millions of dollars every year, in spite of the fact that it has been a long time since they were actually any good. Since the band is so lucrative, I don't imagine Page and Plant will waste much time replacing their original drummer.

Watch for lots of morbid speculation attempting to make some mileage from the fact that Bonham died in the former home of famous English warlock, pervert, drug fiend and eccentric Alestair Crowley. He's dead too. Page has a well publicised fascination with matters occult, and the band has been stalked by tragedy over the past few years, so this is a great opportunity to make something out of nothing.

Incidentally, Bonham died in exactly the same manner as Jimi Hendrix did almost ten years ago. It is a common cause of death among college students also.

The long awaited John Lennon album is finally on its way, the first since his magnificent 1976 set of oldies. That's the good news; the bad is that his lovely wife Yok has made extensive contributions, at least in the studio. Hopefully good taste will prevail and most of her stuff will be left off the album.

Rude boy Elvis Costello has released a collection of B-sides; rarities and English only items. It's called "Taking Liberties" and it is a real treat. I do, however, feel sorry for all of you fans who went to a great deal of effort and expense to collect all these cuts.

New Entry on the local tavern circuit: the Rapsallions hit the big time at The Rollin' Keg this week. Their competition is the Howard Brook Band Express at the Arms.

Here's some more Beatle trivia that's really interesting. Penny Lane is a street in John's old Liverpool neighbourhood and Strawberry Fields was the site of an annual picnic outing he used to particularly enjoy. Julia was his mother, who was tragically killed when John was young. Next week we will discuss what Paul and Linda do when the kids are away, how their sheepdog fits into it, and where to order pictures.

Beatle trivia - Part II

By MARC PEPIN

NOTE: This is the second part of our parts of Beatle Trivia, two parts from 1962-66 and two from 1967-70.

40. An American firm wrote to the Beatles asking if they could market their bath water at a \$1 a bottle.

42. The Beatles hated jelly-beans, they just said that for a joke.

43. George is afraid of flying.

44. Brian Epstein their manager, was a homosexual.

45. Stuart Sutcliffe, their first bass player, came up with the term "Beatle."

46. George played lead guitar on Donovan's "sunshine superman" in 1966.

47. John wanted to refuse the MBE because he didn't want to sell out.

48. In the early days they consumed cornflakes, beer and pills.

49. John and Paul met in 1954 when John was drunk, George came in 1956 and Ringo in 1962.

50. John hates with a passion policemen and soldiers.

51. The Beatles during the Hamburg days once pissed out of a window onto some nuns who were walking by. It was John's idea.

52. John in those Hamburg days was not very tidy, he would invite the boys over and shit there on the middle of the floor and later throw newspapers over it.

53. The Beatles in 1961 once played a concert where only 18 people showed up.

54. Before joining the Beatles, Ringo had a beard.

55. Before Brian Epstein came along, the Beatles swore at their audiences, made dirty jokes and ate as they played.

56. They once backed a stripper in Liverpool in 1961.

57. Ringo hates Donald Duck because he says he cannot understand him.

58. The Beatles once played monopoly with Elvis Presley for real money.

59. After "Yesterday" John and Paul wrote all their songs separate; who ever sang the lead vocal wrote the song.

60. John used to poke fun at cripples, he couldn't stand the sight of them.

61. On their way over to America, the Beatles feared assassination attempts on their lives, as Kennedy was killed 2 months before. During one concert a firecracker

had gone off and all looked at each other to see which Beatle had been shot.

62. John, Paul and Ringo are shitty car drivers.

63. None of the Beatles can read music.

64. John hated Hitler and the Kaiser and used to poke fun at them whenever the Beatles played in Germany pre 1963.

65. John never saw an audience properly till he wore contact lenses in mid 1964.

66. Most Beatle concerts would only last half an hour.

67. George says that sometimes the screaming was so loud the Beatles could not hear themselves play and would purposely sing out of tune, or not bother to play their instrumental at all.

68. Paul and Ringo liked touring but not George and John.

69. John in 1966 said that the

Beatles were bigger than Jesus Christ.

70. "The Beatle tours were like the Fellini film Satyricon," John

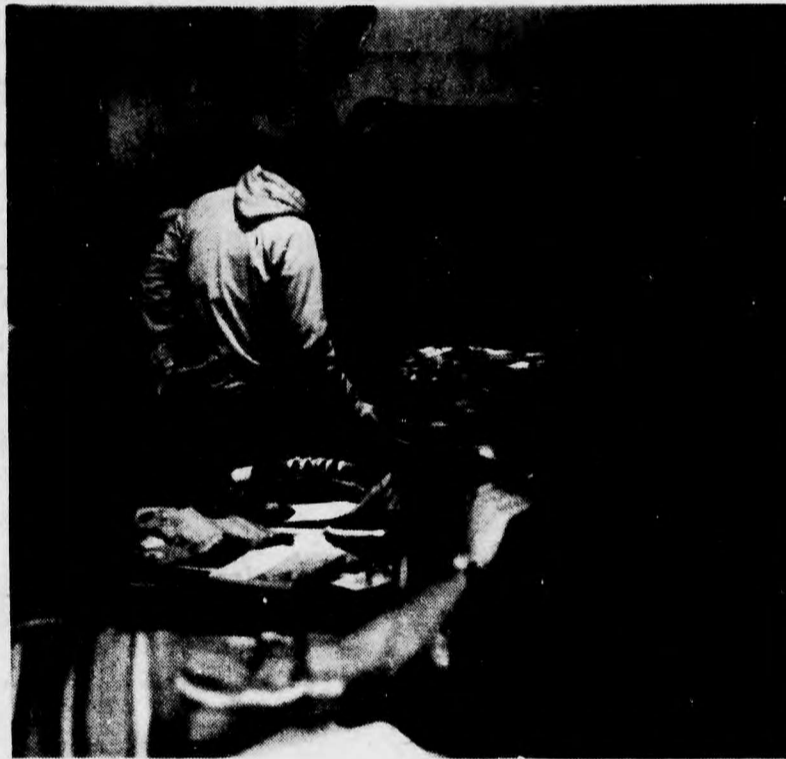
71. Paul used a Hofner violin bass because it was light and sounded great. In late '66 he switched to Rickenbacker because Mr. Rickenbacker gave it to him personally, one of the first left handed basses ever.

72. In the early days, Ringo did not know how to do a proper drum roll.

73. George is the best guitar player of the three.

74. Paul, Stevie Wonder, one of the Moody Blues, Mike Oldfield, and John Fogherty all have one thing in common, they play just about every instrument on the market.

75. The Beatles became millionaires in the spring of 1964.



JOHN HAMILTON Photo

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