

GRAPHIC
BIOGRAPHY

THE BEATLES





"The thing is, we're all really the same person. We're just four parts of the one." Paul McCartney



The Beatles charted 20 number one singles in the United States—three more than Elvis.

Liverpool is the industrial city in England where the Beatles grew up. In those days there were more people out of work there than in any other place in the country.

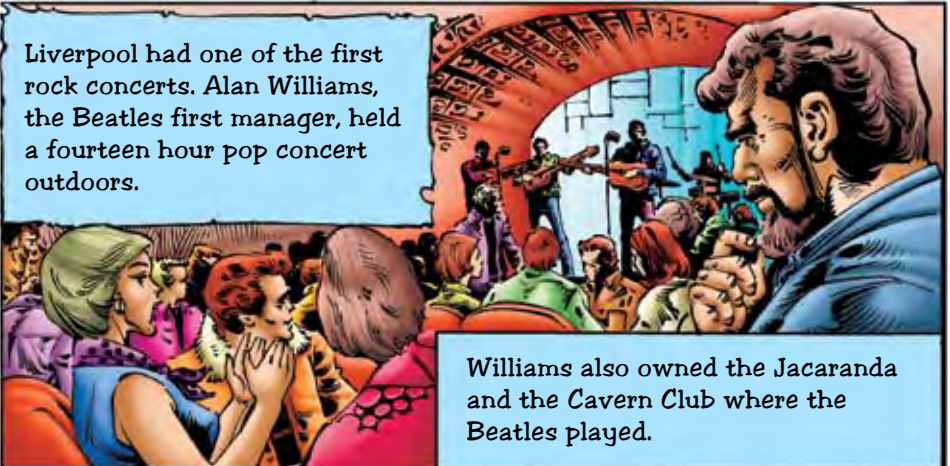


Merseyside was a section of Liverpool. It had many clubs where small bands played for teenagers. As many as 350 bands played there for very little money.



The *Mersey Beat* was a newspaper known only to local beat music lovers until the Beatles made Liverpool, and the newspaper, famous.

Liverpool had one of the first rock concerts. Alan Williams, the Beatles first manager, held a fourteen hour pop concert outdoors.



Williams also owned the Jacaranda and the Cavern Club where the Beatles played.



John Lennon



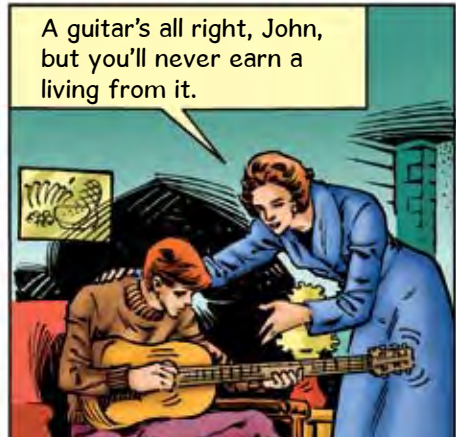
John Lennon was born in October 1940. His father came and went from his life frequently.

John went to live with his aunt and uncle when he was about 5 years old.



John liked to draw. He also enjoyed listening to music.

When John was eleven, he heard Bill Haley and the Comets on records. Then he discovered the records of Elvis Presley.



When he was sixteen, John formed a musical group called the Quarrymen. In 1958 his mother was killed by a car. An unhappy John was comforted by his friend Paul McCartney.

Paul McCartney



Paul McCartney was born in June 1942. He was a good student, but bored in school.

Paul, you can do much better than this.

I guess I was thinking about music.



His mother taught him to play the piano, banjo, and guitar.

For a nurse, you're a pretty good piano player.

For a smart talking boy, you're not so bad yourself.



Paul's mother died when he was fourteen. He played the guitar, so he would not feel so sad.

I need another guitar player for the Quarrymen. How about joining us?

Yeah! Maybe we could write some music too.



So Paul joined the Quarrymen when he was fifteen.

George Harrison



George, what's wrong at school? I'm getting bad reports.

I dunno. Trouble just finds me, I guess.



George Harrison was born in February 1943. He had a happy home but was a troublemaker at school.

In his teens, George was a British "teddy boy," a tough guy.

My folks are great. But I've got to be independent.

My folks don't care if I'm alive or dead.



It took you a long time to get interested in music.

Yeah, but I am now. I'm going to ask mum for a guitar.

George isn't too young for us. I wasn't much older when I joined last year.

He's mighty good on that guitar. So, okay George.



George had no interest in music until he was fourteen. Then Paul McCartney helped him learn to play the guitar.



George joined the Quarrymen in 1958.

John changed the name of the Quarrymen to the Silver Beatles then to the Beatles. The "beat" in Beatles stood for beat music.

The Beatles played at many of the clubs at Merseyside. John, Paul, and George were joined by Stuart Sutcliffe on guitar and Tommy Moore on the drums.



In 1960 Allan Williams, their manager, got them a date to play at a music club in Hamburg, Germany. Tommy was replaced on the drums by Pete Best.

They're making so much noise. They can't hear us.

They don't understand the words in English anyway. Just pound the chords and scream the lyrics.

Okay, imitate the German soldier! March, march, march!

Let's all imitate the soldiers by high-stepping.



At their drinking and dancing clubs the Germans wanted loud music with a good beat. The Beatles gave them this.

The Germans loved to see the Beatles fool around and make fun of Hitler.

The Beatles were overtired, often playing for eight hours a day, seven days a week. They lived in run-down apartments behind the club where they performed.

While they were playing for a rival nightclub, it was reported that George Harrison was underage. Without a work permit, George was deported home to England. Except for Stuart, who left the band in Hamburg, the rest of the Beatles soon followed George home.

During this time a record store manager, Brian Epstein, was receiving many requests for a group he had never heard of. He started to make inquiries.

Do you have the single "My Bonnie" by a group called the Beatles?



Epstein wanted to see what all the fuss was about. He went to a lunchtime concert at the Cavern Club down the street from his shop. Epstein thought that the band had great potential.

I saw your performance, and I think you have something special. I want to be your manager.



The Beatles agreed and a contract was signed on January 24, 1962.

I wouldn't touch that band with a barge pole! They didn't pay me my commission.



Brian got in touch with Allan Williams, who was no longer the Beatles' manager. He wanted to make sure that Williams did not have any ties to the band.

Epstein set out to change the Beatles' image. He believed a more clean-cut appearance would help the band become more accepted by the general public.

That's not the look I want for all of you. I'll pick new clothes for you to wear!



Epstein tried to interest several recording companies in the Beatles. They turned him down.

You should realize that the Beatles will be bigger than Presley.

Go back to your store business, Brian.



Finally Epstein persuaded George Martin of EMI to listen to the Beatles.

They have something! Yes, I'll be their recording manager.



John, Paul, and George began to be a little upset with Pete Best.

We're a group. Pete forgets that.

He acts like he's a one-man band.



Martin insisted that Pete Best did not fit into the group. Epstein liked Pete but had to let him go.

I'm sorry, Pete. But we have to do what EMI says.

I'll find work.



In August 1962 Ringo Starr became the Beatles' drummer. He was later called "the luckiest unknown drummer in the world." But as the fourth Beatle, Ringo Starr held his own with the others.



Ringo Starr



Ritchie Starkey was born in July 1940. He became Ringo Starr.

I wish I had a brother or sister to play with.



You're enough for us! But I wish we had a bathroom.



Due to several illnesses, Ringo was in and out of the hospital until he was a teenager.



He's still too weak to go home yet.

Ringo met the Beatles in Hamburg. He was playing with another group.

I live behind our club too. Those rooms are worse than these. I'll take the conditions in Liverpool any day.

Do you like Liverpool better because of a hairdresser named Maureen Cox?

