



"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.

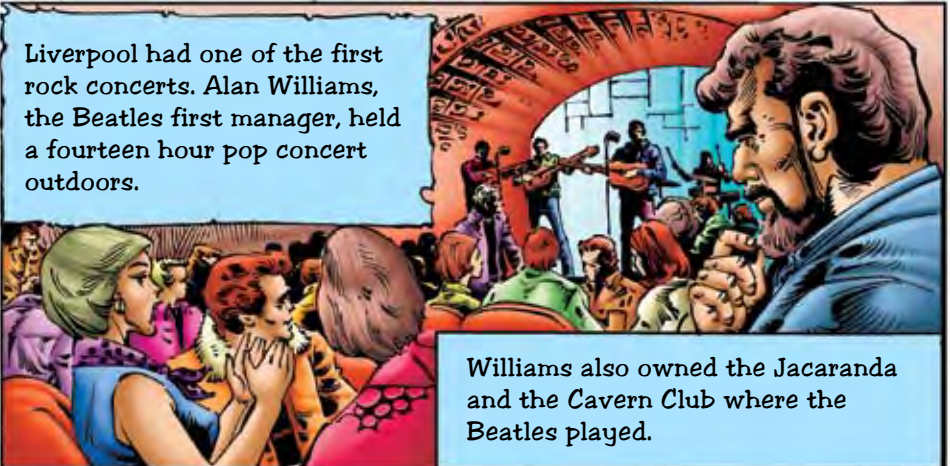


Merseyside was a section of Liverpool. It had many clubs where small bands played for teenagers. As many as 350 bands played there for very little money.



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



Stay until the baby is born.



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.

See, Aunt Mimi, I've written a story for you. And I drew a picture too.



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.

Are you listening to "Rock Around the Clock" again?

No, something I just got. A singer named Elvis Presley. He's American and great!



I'm glad you came to see me. I want to ask a favor, Mum. Could you buy me a guitar?

Well, Luv, if I can find an inexpensive one, it's yours.



A guitar's all right, John, but you'll never earn a living from it.



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.