

MEET THE BEATLES

Within three days of my arrival I had in my hands a 4-track master tape fresh from Paris. A&R manager (artist and repertoire) George Martin had wanted to release a Beatles single of the group singing in German and, as the band was performing several shows in Paris, he set up a day at EMI's Pathé Marconi Studios attended by an interpreter. They recorded the German versions very quickly, and as they had time left, it was decided to try something new. That something new turned out to be "Can't Buy Me Love" and here I was, a huge Beatles fan (one of millions), holding the master tape of what would turn out to be the next Beatles single. Just one thought raced through my mind: "Bloody hell!"

It was about a month later that The Beatles came in to record the songs for their film *A Hard Day's Night*. There I was carrying a tape up to the library from Number 3 control room when I noticed coming towards me the two Georges, Harrison and Martin. I freaked and almost screamed like one of the many girls outside, but managed to bite my tongue, a feat for which I would become extremely grateful, especially when considering my many future associations with the two of them.

It wasn't long before I met Norman Smith, the great engineer who worked on The Beatles' sessions from the first test recording through *Rubber Soul*, and I began to get friendly with him. I amazed myself by being very up front and asked him if there was any chance of me poking my head in the door so I could watch the band record for a bit. He hesitated for a second, then told me, "Yes, but keep to the back and don't let anyone notice you're there. They can be a bit touchy about new people, so just be a part of the furniture." Well, of course a cocky 16-year-old couldn't stop there. "Maybe I could take some pictures?" I asked, assuming I would never get this opportunity again. "Just be part of the furniture and don't make it obvious," Norman warned.

Come the day and I have this cheap old camera in hand, and whilst watching the session, I started to take some pictures. There were