

"If you can laugh at it, you can live with it." ~ Erma Bombeck



# On the Road

## LADDIES OF THE CANYON

Sunny days in August 1965: Paul McCartney, standing left, faces George Harrison, Joan Baez and David Crosby. (Seated individuals behind him are unidentified) Below, fans gather.

**A**fter the relentless schedule **The Beatles** had endured on their 1964 US tour, their manager, **Brian Epstein**, arranged for the band to have a six-day break in Los Angeles during the 1965 tour. For this purpose, Epstein rented a secluded house at 2850 Benedict Canyon Drive, off Mulholland Drive, in Benedict Canyon. The Beatles arrived there in the early hours of August 23, following their second show at the Memorial Coliseum in Portland, Oregon.

The large Spanish-style house, owned by **Zsa-Zsa Gabor**, was hidden within the side of a mountain. The band members typically woke up at 2 pm each day and spent much of their time relaxing by the swimming pool and enjoying panoramic views. Soon their address became widely known and the area was besieged by fans, who blocked roads and tried to scale the steep canyon while others rented helicopters to spy from overhead. The local police department had detailed twelve officers to protect the band during their stay, and this squad was supplemented by security personnel from the Burns Agency.

The Beatles found it impossible to leave and instead invited guests, including actor **Eleanor Bron** (their

co-star in *Help!*) and folk singer **Joan Baez**. On August 24, they played host to **Roger McGuinn** and **David Crosby** of the Byrds and actor **Peter Fonda**. On August 27, the Beatles met their musical hero **Elvis Presley** at his house on Perugia Way in Bel Air. – *Wikipedia*

And incidentally, when **Ann-Margret** lived on our present little canyon street, Elvis delivered a new car to her just up the road!



"I can calculate the movement of stars, but not the madness of men." ~ Isaac Newton

## Join the Green Party

**S**AINT PATRICK WAS NOT IRISH BUT WAS a British bishop that travelled to Ireland as a Christian missionary.

There are two supposed reasons that the color green is part of the holiday: (1) green is connected to the Irish independence movement; (2) according to Leprechaun folklore, if you wore green, it made you invisible to Leprechauns, thereby preventing you from getting pinched!

The reason people drink on St. Patrick's Day is to honor his death with a special day's celebration. The alcoholic restrictions normally in place at the time were temporarily lifted on that day for such festivities.

*"Think of how stupid the average person is and realize that half of them are stupider than that."  
~ George Carlin*

## What the Dickens?

**O**N THE NIGHT OF HIS INAUGURATION, Trump is visited by three ghosts. Early in the night, **FDR** appears. When Trump asks him how he can make America great, FDR replies "Think only of the people; do not make laws based on hatred, bigotry, or with the thought of lining your own pockets." Trump's face sours, and he yells "FAKE NEWS!"

A few hours later, he is awakened by **George Washington's** ghost. Trump asks "how can I make America great again?" Washington replies "I would suggest you never tell a lie," which infuriates Trump.

Around three in the morning, he is visited by the ghost of **Abraham Lincoln**. Again, he asks "how can I make America great again?" Lincoln responds, "Go to the theater."

*"Once factual truth is no defense in politics,  
all that remains is spectacle and force."  
~ Hannah Arendt*

## The Byrds and the bytes

**A**LITTLE BOY GOES TO HIS FATHER AND asks, "Daddy, how was I born?" The father answers: "Well, son, I guess one day you will need to find out anyway! Your mom and I first got

■ CONTINUED

## Pretentious Properties Presents

### *Benedict Canyon Ridge Superego Estates*

... now offering houses so big,  
they'll be your neighbors' worst NIGHTMARE!!

CHOOSE BETWEEN: Retro-Pseudo-Neo Modern,  
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All on 1 & 1/8th acres — It's a LOT O'HOUSE!

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Hawaiian/Aztec sacrificial BBQ with Poo-Poo Patio  
and Chumash Casino!

And remember: *The House Always Wins!*

AND WE WILL, TOO!

SO BUY IT TODAY, BEFORE THEY TEAR IT DOWN!

*Adapted from a piece Melinda and I wrote  
for The Benedict Canyon Newsletter*

*"It takes a village to live here -  
thank goodness they don't!" ~ Phil & Melinda*



together in a chat room on Yahoo. Then I set up a date via e-mail with your mom and we met at a cyber-cafe. We sneaked into a secluded room and googled each other. There your mother agreed to a download from my hard drive. "As soon as I was ready to upload, we discovered that neither one of us had used a firewall, and since it was too late to hit the delete button, nine months later a little Pop-Up appeared that said:

"You've got male!"  
"Love is a game that two can play and both win."  
~ Eva Gabor

Take another ‘drumpf’

**“I** HAVE BROKEN MORE ELTON JOHN RECORDS, he seems to have a lot of records. And by the way, I don’t have a musical instrument. I don’t have a guitar or an organ. No organ. Elton has an organ. And lots of other people helping.  
“No we’ve broken a lot of records. We’ve broken virtually every record. Because you know, look, I only need this space. They need much more room. For basketball, for hockey and all of the sports, they need a full room. We don’t need it. We have people in that space. So, we break all of these records. Really, we do it without, like, the musical instruments.

“This is the only musical: the mouth. And hopefully the brain attached to the mouth. Right? The brain, more important than the mouth, is the brain. The brain is much more important.” ~ Donald Trump, July 5, 2018

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for a government of any other.” ~ John Adams

Say what?

If you can read this OUT LOUD you have a strong mind.

7H15  
53RV35  
H0W  
D0  
1MPR3551V3  
1N  
17  
N0W,  
Y0UR  
R34D1NG 17  
4U70M471C4LLY  
W17H  
7H1NK1NG  
B3 PROUD! ONLY  
C3R741N  
R3AD  
PL3453  
C4N R34D 7H15

M3554G3  
7O PR0V3  
0UR M1ND5 C4N  
4M4Z1NG 7H1NG5!  
7H1NG5!  
7H3 B3G1NN1NG  
WA5 H4RD BU7  
0N 7H15 LIN3  
M1ND 1S  
0U7 3V3N  
4B0U7 17,  
P30PL3 C4N  
7H15.  
F0RW4RD 1F

For every complex problem, there's a solution that is simple, neat, and wrong." ~ H. L. Menken

Speak Ingrish, Troop!

**T**HINGS NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS KNOW but don't know they know: Adjectives in English absolutely have to be in this order: opinion-size-age-shape-color-origin-material-purpose Noun.

So, you can have a lovely little old rectangular green French silver whittling knife -- but if you ■ CONTINUED

It's the living end

Age as of 2024, and still working.

DICK VAN DYKE - 98	BARBARA EDEN - 92
MEL BROOKS - 97	MICHAEL CAINE - 91
QUINCY JONES - 91	MARTHA STEWART - 82
BERRY GORDY - 94	WILLIAM SHATNER - 93
AL PACINO - 83	JOAN COLLINS - 90
CAROL BURNETT - 90	KIM NOVAK - 91
DAVID ATTENBOROUGH - 97	ROBERT WAGNER - 94
JAMES EARL JONES - 93	WILLIE NELSON - 90

PAUL MCCARTNEY - 81	JULIE ANDREWS - 88
RINGO STARR - 83	BOB NEWHART - 94
RITA MORENO - 92	ROBERT DUVAL - 93
GENE HACKMAN - 94	MICK JAGGER - 80
EVA MARIE SAINT - 99	KEITH RICHARDS - 80
CLINT EASTWOOD - 93	DR. RUTH WESTHEIMER - 95
JANE FONDA - 86	ELLEN BURSTYN - 91
LILLY TOMLIN - 84	JOEL GREY - 91
CHUCK NORRIS - 84	BUZZ ALDRIN - 94
PATRICK STEWART - 83	GENA ROWLANDS - 93
TIPPI HEDREN - 94	

mess with that word order in the slightest, you will sound like a maniac! It's an odd thing that every English speaker uses that list, but almost none of us could write it out.

And as size comes before color, *Green Great Dragons* can't exist.

"Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present." ~ **Marcus Aurelius**

## More "Power" to us



**I**N THE SUMMER OF 1990, NPR BROADCAST the nightly two-hour program *Heat*—with **John Hockenberry**, devoted to the arts, politics, and

culture. Producer **Ted Bonnitt** contacted **Proctor & Bergman** and asked if we wanted to contribute some comedy. We gave him "Power," a weekly five-minute episodic satire about big-time Hollywood players eating each other for lunch.

**Peter Bergman** stars as super-agent Paul Power

whose messy divorce is about to get a lot messier when

terrorists kidnap his wife and demand that Paul turn their story into a movie-of-the-week; and I play attorney George Scoff, currently enjoying a torrid affair with rival agent Alex Femme (**Melinda Peterson**) who wouldn't mind getting her hands on Paul's shop. Tip the valet and grab a booth!

**CLICK FOR MORE!**

"You're on earth. There's no cure for that."

~ **Samuel Beckett**

## Still sexy

**M**ARCH MADNESS KICKED OFF WITH **SHELLEY Herman**, author of *Peacock Tales*, about her crazy experiences as an NBC page, a repeat visit with *Mental Radio's* **Shadoe Stevens**, and our final broadcast from the historical memory-sodden studios on Cahuenga, was a laugh-filled give-and-take with legendary film critic **Leonard Maltin** and his witty wife, **Alice**.

*Phil & Ted's Sexy Boomer Show* continues LIVE every Tuesday from 1-2 on KPFK-FM, and new and past conversations can always be heard **HERE**. And, next month, we kick off our lineup of "April Fools" with a repeat visit with the one and only **Ed Begley, Jr.** STAY TUNED!

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." ~ **Alice Walker**



### MIC MADNESS

The last broadcast at the original Radio Free Oz Firesign shows with me and Ted, Leonard and Alice, and our "Sexy" producer, Donna Walker



MELINDA PETERSON



# HINDSIGHT

## THE DAY BEFORE

AN MHP AND RADIO PICTURES PRODUCTION "HINDSIGHT - THE DAY BEFORE"  
SANTIAGO CABRERA SIBONGILE MLAMBO M.C. GAINIEY MERRIN DUNGEY NOLAN GERARD FUNK EILEEN GRUBBA  
JOE DINICOL SARA BOTSFORD AARON STANFORD TAYLOR LOEB WITH IAN ANTHONY DALE AND JOHN GOODMAN  
CASTING BY RUSSELL BOAST, CSA EDITED BY TED BONNITT DIRECTED BY TED BONNITT PRODUCED BY MARK L. HAYNES KELLY LYONS TED BONNITT SANTIAGO CABRERA  
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY GREG MARTIN CONCEPT BY MARK L. HAYNES EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MARK L. HAYNES WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY KELLY LYONS

A 6-EPISODE PREMIUM AUDIO DRAMA  
COMING SOON



PHIL PROCTOR



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## Foresight

**O**N FRIDAY, MARCH 29, AT THE WEEK-LONG Podcast Evolutions convention, annually drawing two thousand attendees, I moderated a panel called "Don't Call it a Podcast - The Evolution of Audio Drama," to celebrate the launch of **Hindsight: The Day Before** – a breakthrough production, uniquely designed to create a powerful 3D audio experience. It immerses listeners into a supernatural thriller that follows Professor John Strasser, who, after discovering a cache of séance-buster **Harry Houdini**'s recoded wax cylinders, is sent on a life changing journey that drives him inevitably toward a deadly confrontation with demonic evil he must battle to survive.

Written and directed by **Kely Lyons**, the six-part audio

series features an A-list principal cast that includes **Santiago Cabrera, Sibongile Mlambo, Ian Anthony Dale, M.C. Gainey, Merrin Dungey, Phil Proctor, Melinda Peterson, Aaron Stanford** and **John Goodman**.

This ground-breaking audio drama will begin streaming on all the familiar podcast apps on May 1, 2024, in an exciting partnership with **Libsyn AdvertiseCast**, and the show means a lot to me as it was the last time my darling wife, Melinda, and I worked together to create dozens of memorable characters.

If you'd like to hear the trailer right now, search **HINDSIGHT: The Day Before** on your favorite streaming app - and have a listen!

*"As you age, you either become the worst self or the best self." ~ Steve Martin*

■ CONTINUED

## Friends

**J**IM MESKIMEN, CRISTOFER Morley, Taylor Jessen, Ed Landler, Laurence Budd, Richard Metzger, Gary K. Krieger, Solomon Melnick, Kent McCaman, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Bill Kates and of course, *The Week*. And special thanks to my new friend, **Adele Abrams**, who also lost her beloved partner in July, for bringing light and laughter back into my life.



**A**ND FINALLY, a jazzy farewell to my longtime friend, pianist/composer/performer **John Meyer** (left). I first performed with him on "Talent '63" on CBS-TV, along with **Dom DeLuise**, **Ruth Buzzi** and crooner **Don Stewart**. Then

John and I later paired up again at **Carroll O'Connor's** Beverly Hills restaurant where John was O'Connor's resident piano player, and we passed many a happy evening harmonizing with *Archie*, crooning old tunes.

What fun and art you brought into my life! I lift my voice to you, Johnny....

"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on a set, I go into the other room and read a book." ~ **Groucho Marx**

## PLANETCLICK ENDS

**REGNAD KCIN  
NUDE  
STORYBEAT  
FRISBY  
STARLAND  
POPE  
BILLY  
BRADLEY  
DR Z**



"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

~ **Maya Angelou**

*There's an empty space  
where you used to lay,  
and a pain in my heart  
that won't go away.  
I couldn't have asked  
for a better friend.  
You were my faithful companion  
until the end.  
Now you're roaming endless fields,  
forever free to run.  
Listening to the song of the wind  
beneath the golden sun.  
Meet me at the rainbow  
when the time is right.  
Run into my arms again,  
walk with me into the light.*

*Christy Ann Martine*

"You are not a drop in the ocean, you are the entire ocean in a drop." ~ **Rumi**

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