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## Duplex Planet: The Beatles issue



David Greenberger (left) and Ernest Noyes Brookings, summer, 1985. Photo by Stephen Elston

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**David Greenberger began Duplex Planet in 1979 as a small homemade magazine, which he still publishes.**

To visit the Duplex Planet website [click here](#)

The content - reminiscences by the nursing home residents at which took a job as activities director - combine humour with wisdom, mis-remembrance with amusing and insightful twists upon everyday topics.

The intention is not to ridicule, but to to portray a wide variety of real characters who are old or in decline.

"It's about getting to know individuals as they are in the present, without celebrating or mourning who they were before," says David.

"We're most afraid of losing the use and clarity of our minds. Confronting that which you fear allows insight."

A special Beatles issue was compiled in response to a wealth of memories, some part-accurate, others entirely off the mark, relating to the fab four. What follows are highlights of that issues, with further updates coming soon... y'all come back now!

Question: WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BEATLES?

GEORGE VROOMAN: They're singers, they come from England and the women were screamin' over 'em. I couldn't see nothin' in it - they didn't do anything for me.

LEO GERMINO: Do they talk?

DBG: Sure they talk, they sing too.

LEO: They sing, huh? Then put that down, "The

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Beatles sing."

ERNIE BROOKINGS: Is it a fraternal organization?

ED ROGERS: They're a whaddayacallit, a music, a whaddayacallit – they're in the music business. That's what you call rock and roll. They're on the, ah, music – show business – they were on the radio.

BILL NIEMI: They were a musical organization. They're still playin,' aren't they? They were in Hollywood for a while, makin' pictures. It was on television that one of them was murdered in New York, that John Lennon. They'll probably have to reorganize the whole dance band.

WILLIAM "FERGIE" FERGUSON: Sweet beetles, oh they're the sweetest little animal you ever saw. They come right up to you and chew up the ice cream for you. And they hand the pecans to you. And those pecans aren't celluloid either, they're the real thing.

BETTY WEILS: I remember them a little bit, but not too much. I remember that I didn't like them, I just didn't like their way of singin'.

BILL SEARS: I don't know much about the Beatles. They're singers, band players. Rock and roll. I never had any of their records. I heard them on television.

ROY ELLIOT: You mean the men? I used to hear 'em once in a while on TV. They're good. Look at the crowds they've drawn all over. I haven't heard 'em in quite a while – are they still on?

GIL GREENE: I don't know anything about the Beatles, except John Lennon died. "I want to hold your hand" is one of their numbers. I didn't think too much of them when they came out – I didn't think they'd ever amount to anything. I was surprised at their overwhelming acceptance.

FRANCIS McELROY: Oh them. They're a nice animal.

PASQUALE TROIANO: (Singing) I wanna hold your hand! I wanna hold your hand! I like the Beatles, Rolling Stones. (Singing:) Roll out the barrel, we'll have a barrel of fun!

JACK MUDURIAN: I don't care for them. They're all right, but I don't care for their kind of entertainment.

ANDY LEGRICE: They're good singers. They're good Americans.

EDNA HEMION: Oh I can't remember that far back! I used to go to musicals in New York. There's no place like New York - my father said that and his daughter says it now.

WALTER McGEORGE: I can tell you what I like about

'em and what I don't. They seemed to stay original – I like that. There's so much I don't like about 'em though – like harmony, I don't like that harmony. I don't give a damn about their looks – that thing don't bother me – I'm just talking about their sound. I like the fact that they're original, but I don't like the songwriting.

GEORGE STINGEL: I never seen them. They're English ones, ain't they? I heard one song of them, but I don't know what one it was, someone said it was the Beatles. I never saw them on television. I just woke up a few minutes ago.

**More coming soon!**

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