



MISS O'DELL

(My Hard Days and Long Nights with The Beatles, The Stones, Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton and the Women They Loved)

of faith to move from Tucson to LA and embark on a new way of life - certainly things would have turned out completely different.

Chris was 20 years old in 1968 when she first met Derek Taylor who was the Press Officer for The Beatles. They met one evening at the La Brea Inn in Los Angeles and were introduced by a friend. She knew in her heart that life would never be the same. Derek took her under his wing and they became friends. He kept in touch after he returned to London, calling her frequently to see how she was doing. During a conversation one day, he suggested she come to London because Apple Records was going to be huge and that it would be a good idea

to show up.

"How do you say "no"? How *could* you say "no" when someone asks you if you would like to work for The Beatles? Derek never said in natural fact that he had a job for me; he just kept mentioning that I should come over to London. So a lot of what happened I worked hard and created it for myself," remembers Chris.

From there the autobiography of Chris O'Dell is a journey that was sprinkled with magic, mayhem, exploration, adventure and even heartbreak all by way of rock and roll. Becoming close friends and working for the very artists she used to watch on TV, listen to on the radio and read about in magazines, Chris earned the trust and friendship of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan and the rock list rolls on.

"At first I was on the outside looking in before I went over there. Things like this just don't happen," said Chris. "I found they were just people but there *was* an extra air about them. I really didn't think such people or such life styles existed but they did and it was very much real."

Starting out at Apple Records by running errands, bringing lunches and helping with various office tasks, Chris found herself getting to know the ways and means of how such an operation ran.

Reflecting on each Beatle, "Individually, I

know all of them. Back then, they were still young guys. George was so spiritual but felt constantly challenged by fame. It changed him in the sense he couldn't go out and do normal things. John was finding other interests too. Yoko was already in the picture by the time I met them. Paul was the real marketer, the sales person. He knew how to promote the image. I knew Ringo better after the Apple days, actually. He had a wide range of emotions. They all

had the



got to

By Helen Marketti

To be part of an inner rock and roll circle where trust was earned, not just given was a place that Chris O'Dell found herself during the late 60s. If Chris had not taken the leap

Geneva Area
Winter Fest
 Saturday, February 6th

Snowmobile Rides
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 Parade
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 Igloo Making Contest
 Ugly Truck Contest
 Winter Golf
 Scramble Reverse Raffle
 Pancake Breakfast
 Talent Contest
 Snowman Contest

NOON to 4pm

There's so much more going on you will need to pick up a Schedule of Events & Map of the Area at www.genevaohio.com, or www.visitgenevaoh.com, they can also be picked up at City Hall and from a variety of downtown businesses Event Sponsors: Geneva Business Assoc., University Hospitals of Geneva, Nordic Air, Northwest Savings Bank, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Veterans of Foreign Wars



Chris with Keith Richards
 Photo Credit: Ethan Russell

ability to cut you to the quick if they felt they couldn't trust you."

While working at Apple Records, Chris eventually became close friends with Pattie Boyd who was married to George Harrison at the time. For several months, Chris lived

with George and Pattie at their Friar Park home. "Pattie and I became close friends, like sisters. We are still close to this day and always will be," said Chris.



Chris with George Harrison
Photo Credit: Tom Hanley

Chris also had a friendship with Maureen Cox who was married to Ringo then. "Pattie and Maureen were very different women. Maureen and I were nothing alike. She was a loving and compassionate person but never afraid to speak her mind."

Chris had been a witness to the blossoming romance between Pattie Boyd and Eric Clapton. "Eric and I never really got along well," remembers Chris. "I guess every story needs an antagonist (*laughs*). I feel he was depressed. I think the drugs and alcohol had a lot to do with it - on both our parts. I had always been very close with Pattie and George so when Pattie and Eric got together, I think he knew my loyalty was to George. Because of that we were never close."

Through long working hours and unpredictable schedules, Chris still found time for a personal life. Her first serious rock and roll relationship was with Leon Russell. "When Leon and I got together he was a session musician. Then he started working

on his first album. I was working for The Beatles then, which kind of made us equals. But when I moved back to LA with him I was his girlfriend. During this time, he was slowly becoming known. I think it's true for a lot of women who date musicians, especially when they are starting to become famous...you get lost in the relationship."

Eventually, career moves began to present

themselves and Chris spent time working as a personal assistant to the Rolling Stones. Chris shares her thoughts on having worked for two of rock's top bands, "I was a fan of The Beatles. I thought they were the greatest band in the world. Even though I admired the Rolling Stones, I didn't find them to be as lofty as The Beatles. I started at the top with the top band and then went to the next top band but it felt like a step down."

There was also a definite contrast between Beatles women and Stones women. "Except for Yoko, The Beatles still had the same relationships from the earlier days. Their women were nice and soft. The Stones women were tough, heavy drug users. They were definitely different," Chris said.

Over time, life on the road, managing tours, assisting artists and all the while abusing alcohol and drugs herself, Chris knew she needed to turn her life around. "I really loved touring until I started working with unknown bands that I had never heard of. That's when it got tiring for me. While I

didn't have a healthy attitude towards drugs at the time, I knew this wasn't the way I wanted to live. Underneath it all, I was an intelligent person and knew that this wasn't who I was. I moved back home to Tucson, got sober and I've spent the last 20 years counseling others with their addictions."

Looking back on her rock and roll life, Chris said, "It was the most historical time, an unforgettable time. The best time was working for The Beatles! There was once an article written about me in 1969 and the title mentioned something about me having the job that thousands of girls would want. I thought about that and realized that was very true. I loved The Beatles music. I was a fan, too. Fellow musicians who were their friends were also fans. I knew I was in a unique place in music history. The Beatles changed music. They offered hope. I was drawn to the hope."

For more information about Chris O'Dell, you can visit her web site: www.missodell.com

Miss O'Dell is available through Amazon.com, Borders Books, Barnes & Noble and Joseph Beth. Please also check your local area bookstores.

*Chris sang in the chorus when The Beatles recorded, *Hey Jude*.

*The song, *Pisces Apple Lady*, by Leon Russell is a song he wrote to woo her.

*She typed the lyrics to *All Things Must Pass* for George Harrison.

*She was sitting at Ringo's kitchen table when George Harrison said, "You know Ringo, I'm in love with your wife." And Ringo replied, "Better you than someone we don't know."

*She is the "mystery woman" pictured on the back of the Rolling Stones album, *Exile on Main Street*.

*In 1972 while on tour with the Stones, Chris did a drug run for Keith Richards.

*George Harrison wrote a song about her called, *Miss O'Dell*.

*She is the "woman down the hall" in Joni Mitchell's song *Coyote* about a love triangle on Bob Dylan's Rolling Thunder Revue tour.

*She was present during the rooftop sessions. She witnessed the last performance The Beatles ever did together.

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