

Miss O'Dell

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 in during the late 60s. If Chris had not



Chris O'Dell today

taken the leap 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.

"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."

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 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."

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.

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




Chris w/George Harrison



Chris w/Keith Richards



Book Cover



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