

Now WE'RE TALKIN

By Helen Marketti

My Ticket to Ride

How I Ran Away to England to Meet The Beatles and Got Rock and Roll Banned in Cleveland

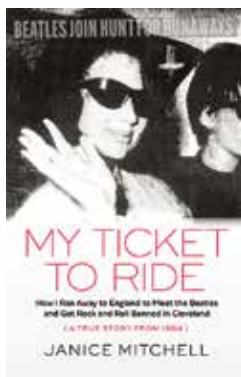
An Interview with author Janice Mitchell

The year is 1963 and it was a day that began like any other. Janice Mitchell was on Christmas break from high school, sitting at the kitchen table, working on an essay, and listening to the transistor radio. In a few moments, her life was about to change. Radio DJ Jerry G, station KYW (Cleveland), had just made an announcement about a new singing group who call themselves The Beatles. He went on to say they were from England and played "I Want to Hold Your Hand" on the air. Janice was spellbound by the song, the way it sounded, their voices, their music, their name, and thereafter a story of devoted fandom would emerge.

She and her best friend Marty (Martha Schendel) saw The Beatles play at Public Hall on September 15, 1964. Prior to this special event, they had been on a steady diet of teen

magazines focusing on The Beatles, their likes, their dislikes, playing their records, and soaking up every bit of information they could regarding these four lads from Liverpool. There was a plan in place that had been in the making for a period of time.

On September 16, 1964, Janice and Marty skipped school, boarded a plane, and left Cleveland behind to live in "Beatleland" (England) where they would live happily ever after. Janice had withdrawn all the money from her bank account and Marty was using the money that was saved for her college education. Janice was the mastermind behind the entire detailed



plan, which is explained with depth and emotion in her recent book, "My Ticket to Ride" (Gray & Company, Publishers, Cleveland, 2021).

The missing teenagers became an international news story that Janice and Marty were totally oblivious to as they were enjoying new friends, boyfriends, clubs, and the atmosphere of Liverpool and London's Soho district. Janice's plan was to work for Beatles manager Brian Epstein because certainly he would need someone to help run his office. She had sent him a letter of inquiry but had never heard back. This book is an absolute must for any Beatle fan. It is a continuous page-turner because we want to know what happens next.

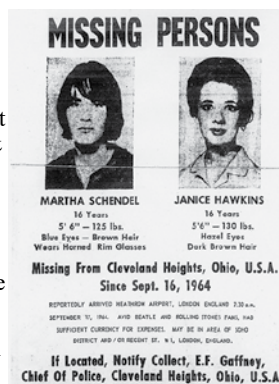
What makes The Beatles special? "People have tried to answer that question for decades," said Janice. "They were incredible. Hearing them was life-transforming for me from the very moment I heard 'I Want to Hold Your Hand.' It made me feel energized, full of love and full of hope. I think that's why they influenced so many. They influenced the world. The Beatles wrote songs about love and relationships. They weren't afraid to express themselves."

"I loved my time in Liverpool and London. I can't really compare the two cities because they are so different. I didn't get to spend much time in Liverpool but my original plan was to stay in Beatleland forever so I always thought I would return. I loved everything about London," she explains.

Once Janice and Marty were discovered by the British Bobbies (London police), their exciting journey came to an end and they were transferred back to the United States. "The London authorities treated us with care and respect. Once we were back in the United States, the Cleveland Police, at the time, humiliated us. There was a definite message being sent about the evil power of rock and roll music. We didn't deserve that kind of treatment."

Janice continues, "I remember Toots (Aunt Margaret) told me never to speak about this again when we returned home. She said I dragged their name through the mud. I was even instructed by the school principal that if any of my classmates mentioned my adventure that they were to be reported. Beatlemania was banned in Cleveland. I never brought it up again because I didn't want to cause an uproar with anyone."

Throughout the book, we are right along with Janice as we learn how she came to live with



Toots (Aunt Margaret) and Uncle Mac. Her relationship with Uncle Mac entailed a gentle and loving rapport where she felt secure. Sadly, that feeling of security would be lost when he passed away suddenly. She finds Nancy Drew mysteries, music, writing, and The Beatles as different avenues of release and interest. While in England, she met a couple of nice boys, one in particular named Mick who was a musician and showed her around the best clubs for the hippest music scene. Mick was with Janice when the British Bobby recognized her. It is a sweet and brief young love story in the midst of Beatlemania. For those who were around for first-hand Beatlemania, it is a nostalgic walk through a time when life was more innocent. Readers will marvel at the remarkable details that Janice took upon herself at age 16 to enable she and Marty to run away to England, because she thought her family would be better off without her and she could have a new life.

While the journey over fifty years ago did not bring about an actual meeting with The Beatles, they were aware of the news story at that time. Janice recently learned, through a mutual friend, that Ringo Starr has a copy of her book.

Janice and Marty drifted apart after their return to the United States in 1964. "The last time Marty and I spoke, it was 1968. We spoke by phone. She had a new life for herself and wasn't interested in the past. I respected her decision and left her alone although it was disappointing to hear."

After several years of living in New York City, Janice returned to Cleveland after September 11. "I tried to find some normalcy after the tragedy but it was difficult. Upon returning to Cleveland, I felt a heavy weight on my shoulders. It was facing all of the ghosts from the past where I was forced to keep quiet. I felt like that 16-year-old all over again. One day in 2016, I was listening to the radio... once again...and it was announced that Paul McCartney was going on tour and would stop in Cleveland. It was then that I decided I would write a book about this adventure, this adventure that I loved so much and was a big part of my life. Many years have gone by and there was no authority figure trying to tell me otherwise any longer. Encouraged by a friend to tell my story, I wrote the book, which was very therapeutic."

Janice Mitchell is a retired federal investigator, a private investigator, and adjunct professor. She has worked high profile capital, criminal, and civil cases in New York City and conducted international investigations. She now lives in her hometown of Cleveland and is currently working on a second book about her career as an investigator. She will always be a life-long Beatles fan.

<https://janice-mitchell.com>
www.helenrosemarketti.com

The Most Fun Radio on Radio
with The Most Fun Music!

Magic 102.5

Follow us on Twitter & Facebook,
log onto magic1025.com for a link to both!

www.magic1025.com

Your FM Home of the Cleveland Cavaliers!