

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

most valuable record in the hobby. All of them didn't hesitate when they gave their emphatic "Yes!" responses.

The Lennon Butcher album, which is signed by three of the Beatles, is the famous Butcher album that Dave Morrell got from John on Dec. 7, 1971, and is one "ace in the hole" that I had in my collection. Before I had put it up on my website, very few people knew I owned this piece. I have many more "aces in the hole," just in case someone wants to challenge me. Those "aces in the hole" are significant pieces, as you might suspect! I will not divulge what those significant pieces are. I am sure that longtime collectors and dealers can "imagine" what some of them could be ...

What comprises your collection? Is it Beatles American pressings only, or do you enjoy collecting imports, picture sleeves, etc.? How many Beatles LPs, singles and picture sleeves? What role, if any, does Beatles-related memorabilia play in your collection?

SP: I mainly collect American pressings. I am not much interested in foreign records, with the exception that if I was offered a Near Mint to Mint very first pressing of the British album "Please Please Me," I would be interested in buying it at the right price. I am interested in obtaining both the mono and the stereo versions.

I have never counted how many albums, singles, picture sleeves and EPs I have in my personal collection. I would give a good educated guess that I have around 450 pieces. My collection mainly focuses on 1960s records, where I have most titles and variations of a certain title where appropriate. I have some records from the 1970s and beyond. Ninety-seven percent of the records and picture sleeves that are in my personal collection range from my Near Mint condition to Mint condition.

I collect some Beatles memorabilia. It consists of mostly original record surveys. I do have some complete Billboard and Cashbox magazines. I am interested in purchasing certain issues that are complete and in good condition of Billboard and Cashbox magazines.

I collect 1960s music surveys. I have approximately 100. My main interest is in 1964, especially February 1964. I do have a number of sealed albums from the 1960s of some of my

favorite artists.

What do you enjoy the most about your collection? What, if anything, do you find least enjoyable about having the collection (i.e. dusting it, taking inventory, etc.)?

SP: I enjoy having the best condition of the rarest American Beatles records and picture sleeves. Each record and picture sleeve that I have purchased has provided me with a thrill. Some pieces gave more of a thrill than others. I store my personal collection in bank vaults located at various banks. By doing this, I don't have to worry about dust, theft, fire, floods, etc. I don't like to handle my records. Even though I am very careful with them, I can still damage them by dropping them. I have a real good memory of what they look like, so I don't really need to handle them. I never handle them just to look at them.

of them. Of course, some records have more historical value than others. For example, the commercial "My Bonnie" on the Decca label is historically significant in the fact that this is The Beatles' first single that was issued in the states. It bombed, and so there are now so very few copies that exist.

I can't think of anything that I least enjoy.

What is the most unusual item in your collection?

SP: To me the most unusual item that I have in my collection is a mono Butcher album where the front cover appears to be a First State cover and the back of the cover is a trunk cover instead of the regular back, which showed what songs are on the album and photos of other Beatles albums. Included is a butcher cover on stock paper that appears to have been steamed off. It appears that they were done this way and glued into one piece at the factory. Very



When I go through my records and picture sleeves in my mind, they bring back such great memories of my childhood. To me, records should be collected for historical purposes rather than just looking to make a buck off

interesting and unusual!

Which item in your collection would be the most difficult to part with, and why?