

philosophy?

SP: You can always make the money, but not the records. When you see something that you need for your collection, don't hesitate to spend the money that it takes to get that item. You will not regret it, especially if it is a rare record. Depending what it is, it is quite possible that you may not get another chance. Sure, it might cost a lot, and as long as it is not an insane price, get it, because you may never get another chance to buy it again. I have paid over market value numerous times to get the best of the best. You have to realize that there is a premium attached to buying the best of the best. I never hesitated to do so knowing that I may never get another chance at getting that particular copy, and if I did have another chance at getting it later on, it probably will cost me more money. My goal is to have the best, so I always spend what it takes to get that item — unless, of course it is such an insane price.

What are the two or three most-prized items in your collection?

SP: It is too tough to list just two or three prized items. I have to include on this list the commercial "My Bonnie" single on the Decca label and my factory sealed First State mono Butcher album. I consider my copy of the First State mono Butcher album, which is a Scranton pressing, (No. 3 on the back) the best condition copy that is known to exist since it is in perfect condition. Other highlights:

- John Lennon's personal Butcher album;
- "Introducing The Beatles" stereo Ad Back album;
- "Anna"/"Ask Me Why" (Vee-Jay Special Deejay No. 8) promotional single;
- "My Bonnie" single on the Decca label; and
- Factory sealed First State mono Butcher album.

Who's your favorite record store operator/dealer and why?

SP: I can think of several good record dealers, but the one guy who comes to mind is John Tefteller. He is a guy who is very easy to deal with, who is honest and has the collector's interest at heart. John and I have become good

friends over the years. We've known each other now for 15 years.

Anything else you'd like to add?

SP: Collecting Beatle records can be fun and at the same time profitable. I collect for preserving the history and personal satisfaction rather than the opportunity to make a

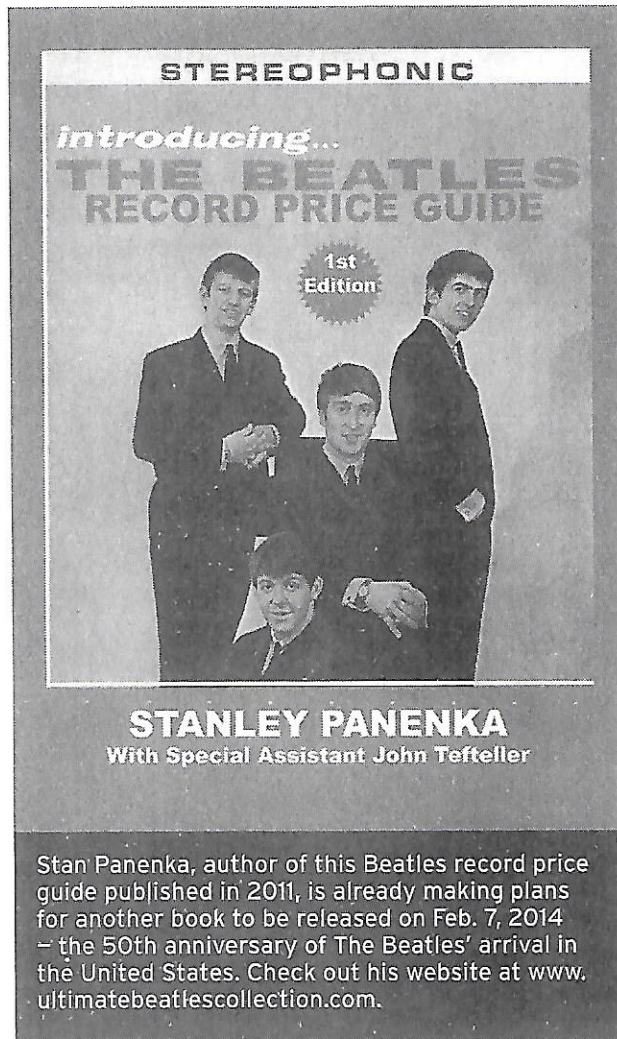
over the years, as I was building my incredible collection. I did not make that much money while I was working for the state. I still had bills to pay just like everyone else. Yet, that didn't matter to me. I was so determined to build the best American Beatles record collection that there would ever be that I was willing to make those sacrifices. Nothing was going to stop me.

Each purchase of a Beatle record that I have made over the years that went into my personal Beatle record collection has always been gratifying to me. Holding that record, which is in Near Mint or Mint condition in my hands and looking at it, thinking about the history of that record and that era, is so cool to me. It takes me back to where I want to be.

Some people ask me what is going to happen to my collection once the bubble burst (I pass away and go back to the 1960s). I tell them that I was told by someone that Paul McCartney was interested in my collection several years ago and that he wanted to see a website and a printed catalog. At that time, I had neither. That someone had told me that they had contacted Apple, and a manager at Apple told him that he was indeed interested. A year or so later when I did have my website and a printed catalog, I contacted Apple. I found out that Paul had fired everyone, including that manager, and when I explained to them who I was and what I had and that Paul was interested, nobody there believed who I was and what I was saying. I believe that someone was telling me the truth. I have also contacted a few

people who know Paul and how to contact Paul, but they were not willing give out that info or tell Paul about me. Some of those people know who I am. Maybe one day Paul and I will "Come Together." Another possibility is that my incredible collection could end up at the Rock And Roll Hall of Fame. I was told by someone who knows someone there that they know who I am and that they have an interest in "borrowing" my amazing collection. So we shall see.

In my heart I have always thought that I am the Beatles No. 1 fan. What were the Beatles about? Singing and selling records. Well, that is a big part of it, anyway. Besides, with



lot of money. You don't have to be a serious collector if you don't want to. If you want to buy lower-grade stuff just so you could have it, that is good, too. It is fun collecting Beatle records, and it gives you the opportunity to meet many people. However, you have to be careful, because there are some "bad apples" out there who try to ruin it for everyone else. As long as you stick to well-known collectors and dealers, you should be OK.

I have been collecting Beatles records for 25 years now. The Beatles have been a BIG part of my life. I have made many sacrifices, including both personal as well as financial