



THE TOP 20 BOOTLEGS PART ONE

by George Cork

This series will focus on what I believe are the top 20 essential Beatles bootlegs. These may not be the best ever released, but in my opinion are indispensable in providing a representation of The Beatles career. They are selected on sound quality and comprehensiveness, some of which are the most interesting and iconic releases, and those which give an edge of controversy.

SETS YOU MUST HAVE PART ONE

1. WILDCAT

Double CD (Madman 13-14) 1996

CD1: Wild Cat 1/Wild Cat 2/I'll Always Be In Love With You/You'll Be Mine/Matchbox/Some Days/Cayenne/One After 909/Well Darling/You Must Write Everyday/That's When Your Heartaches Begin/Hello Little Girl/The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise/I Don't Know (improvisation)/I Don't Need No Cigarette Boy (improvisation)/That's An Important Number (improvisation)/Improvisation.

CD2: I'll Follow The Sun/Hallelujah I Love Her So/One After 909/Movin' and Groovin'-Ramrod/Improvisation/Improvisation/Improvisation/Improvisation/Improvisation/Improvisation.

This set of recordings is known as The Quarrymen tapes even though the group had adopted the name The Beatles at the time they were recorded. The original vinyl releases of this material did state that the recordings were by The Quarrymen, but the WILDCAT CD correctly credits the recordings as The Beatles.

The sound quality is not great and the performance primitive. Stuart Sutcliffe can be heard on bass. They capture the group rehearsing in Paul's front room and were probably recorded in April or May 1960 as two songs, 'Hallelujah I Love Her So' and 'Wild Cat', were only released in 1960 by Eddie Cochrane and Gene Vincent respectively. In an interview Paul McCartney believes the recording dates to April 1960 and was recorded on a Grundig tape recorder. The first release of these historic recordings was in June 1987 as the double album LIVERPOOL MAY 1960. Interestingly it was revealed as far back as 1966 that these tapes existed as portions were included in a German TV documentary. Three songs, 'Hallelujah I Love Her So', 'You'll Be Mine' and 'Cayenne' were taken from this bootleg and officially released on the ANTHOLOGY 1 album.

