A Beatles Myth â€“ is Paul Dead?

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The Beatles (John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr from Liverpool) rose to fame in the early sixties. The revolutionized the music world. No one had ever known the Beatlemania, as it was later named, which made every young woman and man crazy. The Beatles wrote one hit song after the other, travelled around the world and met success everywhere.

Of course, being in the spotlight in this way didnâ€™t help the rumors and gossips that travelled just as fast as the groupâ€™s fame.

One special rumor though took on unbelievable proportions ad is talked about even today.

Paul is dead.

Believe it or not, the content of the legend is that, Paul McCartney was killed in a car accident, and instead of making his death public â€“ which would have caused great sadness to their fans â€“ the group decided to replace him with a lookalike they found in a contest.

That lookalike did a pretty good job the last fifty years.

Apparently, all of this started in good fun.

1967 Paul McCartneyâ€™s car was indeed in an accident, and even then there were rumors of his death, which were quickly denied. In 1969, the Beatles were breaking up. Paul had not been in the media as much as he used to be in the groupâ€™s hey-days; moreover he had just married Linda and was spending time with his family.

A few students from Drake University in Iowa published an article in their campus paper. In it, they put together clues from different sources, such as artwork from album covers and lyrics from Beatles songs played backwards.

Shortly thereafter, a call to a radio show intensified the story; the caller asked the dj about the rumors, which sparked a long discussion. Inspired by this, a journalist published a satiric article in the Michigan Daily. Student LaBour had made up the clues in his story, one of them the classic myth of the Abbey Road Album cover. You remember â€“ the four Beatles walking across the street in a line, one after the other. Apparently, Paul is out of step, and also barefoot, which for some reason seemed to be irrefutable evidence of foul play.

After this was picked up on national radio â€“ which stunned Labour, since he knew he had made most of the clues up â€“ the rumor went, as we would call it today, viral. It took a lot of work of the Beatlesâ€™ press office to refute it, and Paul McCartney had to give interview after interview to prove he was still alive. Or was he?

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