



PHOTO PROVIDED  
 The members of Liverpool Legends are (left to right) Davey Justice (as Paul McCartney), Joe Bologna (Ringo Starr), Marty Scott (George Harrison) and Kevin Mantegna (John Lennon). The Beatles-tribute band plays Dec. 3 at St. Mary Church in Griffith.

# British beat, Fab 4 treat

Double dose of tribute acts will salute Beatles — and Elvis — at Griffith show

Post-Tribune staff report

**L**iverpool Legends is one of many Beatles-tribute bands, but it has an ace up its sleeve.

"Probably the biggest thing that separates us from all the other Beatle groups is that we have a blood relative who's managing the band," said Marty Scott, the guy responsible for playing George Harrison — the "quiet" Beatle.

As it turns out, George's sister handles and promotes Liverpool Legends.

Louise Harrison is a good person to have on your side if impersonating the Fab Four is a source of income.

"She's just opened up huge doors for us everywhere we go," Scott said. "She's sort of the best publicity agent in the world. She comes with us to a lot of shows. She'll even go in, like, a day early and do radio and television stuff. She attracts the world to us because she's so well known."

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## 'All Shook Up'

**Bob West** (left) is from Chicago, but he pays homage to the titan of Memphis, Tenn. West performs his tribute to Elvis Presley Dec. 3 in Griffith. Here are five prior achievements logged by West.

- Performed as Elvis at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas.
- Played Japan and Branson, Mo.
- Began doing his tribute to Elvis in the fall of 1975.
- Gyrated at private parties, corporate functions and sporting events.
- Provided halftime entertainment for the Chicago Bulls at the United Center.

# BEATLES

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Just in time for the holidays, Louise's boys perform Saturday, Dec. 3, at St. Mary Church's Hildebrandt Hall in Griffith.

It's officially labeled "Northwest Indiana's Annual Bob West Christmas Show."

West is an Elvis Presley tribute artist who'll portray "The King" at the boffo flashback.

Imagine: Memories of the Beatles and Elvis are going to erupt at one big show.

When two legends of rock 'n' roll are mimicked at the same bash, it makes for a punchy pairing.

"This is something that not many people have seen," said Highland's Gene Franiak, who manages West and serves as producer of the retro night at St. Mary's.

Franiak said West will put his 2½-octave voice to work at the Griffith show.

"That range is reached in songs such as 'Hurt' and 'Rags to Riches,'" Franiak said.

West's show was brought to Hildebrandt Hall last December, but this year Franiak is adding the British pop of Liverpool Legends, who'll perform right before "Elvis" takes the stage.

Together less than a year, Liverpool Legends rocked Busch Stadium before the St. Louis Cardinals played a home game there.

Cardinals manager Tony LaRussa was impressed by what he saw at the ball field.

"He liked us so much that he hired us for his own, like, party that's coming up in January," Scott said, alluding to an intriguing West Coast gig.

"He's flying us out there, like, first class. It's really cool."

Scott is joined in Liverpool Legends by Kevin Mantegna, who, like Scott, calls Schaumburg, Ill., home. Mantegna portrays John Lennon.

Ringo Starr is played by Joe Bologna of Flint, Mich. Paul McCartney is portrayed by Davey Justice, who was recruited from Las Vegas.

Mantegna believes he's got the juiciest character to portray in Lennon. Part of Mantegna's job is to bring out the "jokester" side of Lennon onstage.

Dishing copycat guitar riffs is important, but Liverpool



PHOTO PROVIDED

Louise Harrison, the sister of the Beatles' George Harrison, manages a tribute band that includes Kevin Mantegna (left, as John Lennon) and Marty Scott (as George).

## If you go

**Who:** Liverpool Legends (a Beatles salute) and Bob West (an Elvis Presley tribute)

**Where:** St. Mary Church's Hildebrandt Hall, 525 N. Lafayette St., Griffith

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 3; doors open at 5 p.m., dinner at 5:30 p.m., show at 7:15 p.m.

**Tickets:** \$40 and \$45: For tickets, call 924-0888 (price includes dinner and open bar).

**Special note:** Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Legends knows it's also crucial to playfully engage audience members.

"If you're not having fun, they're not gonna have fun," Mantegna said.

Liverpool Legends kept the crowd bouncin' in August at the Lake County Fair.

The Crown Point-area concert offered standard Beatles tunes and more adventuresome material. Donning costumes representing various Fab Four eras, Liverpool Legends can traipse from the familiar ("Yellow Submarine") to the edgier ("I Am the Walrus").

Louise Harrison's involvement with the group began when she became acquainted with Mantegna and Scott.

"I considered them to be the very, very best John and George that I have ever seen, other than the originals, of course," Harrison, 74, said in a phone interview this month.

Even though Mantegna and Scott made a great John and George, respectively, there couldn't be any endorsement from Harrison until there was a complete — and solid — Beatles cover band.

The older sister of George Harrison was resolute: "I said I know that you two are the very, very best John and George I've ever seen, but unless you get an equally good Paul and Ringo, I can't really put my name with you because I've tried, over the last 40 years, to make absolutely sure that nothing I ever do is going to bring dishonor or discredit to my brother's name."

George Harrison, the Beatles' lead guitarist, died of cancer in 2001 at the age of 58.

His older sister is confident that Liverpool Legends do him justice.

"I had to know that I had the kind of guys that George would enjoy," she said.

Even though Harrison hails from the Beatles' hometown of Liverpool, England, she lives in southern Illinois.

For Scott, playing George Harrison in her enterprise has been financially pleasing.

"I mean, we're not millionaires like the Beatles were, but we're all doing better at this than we've done at anything else in our lives," he said.

Before blasting "She Loves You," Scott was a trader and bond-pit guy at the Chicago Board of Trade.

Being George is cooler. "Not only is it better, it's so much less stressful," he said.