

1974 (Excerpted from *Solo in the 70s* by Robert Rodriguez © 2014)

### January

#### Topping the US singles chart:

“Time In A Bottle” by Jim Croce  
“The Joker” by Steve Miller  
“Show and Tell” by Al Wilson  
“You’re Sixteen” by Ringo Starr

#### On the airwaves:

“One Tin Soldier” by Coven  
“Sister Mary Elephant” by Cheech and Chong  
“Smokin’ In The Boys Room” by Brownsville Station

#### Topping the US album chart:

*The Singles: 1969-1973* by The Carpenters

#### Albums released this month include:

*Court and Spark* by Joni Mitchell  
*Sundown* by Gordon Lightfoot  
*Hotcakes* by Carly Simon  
*The Way We Were* by Barbra Streisand

January – Beginning this month and running through till February, Paul and Wings work on Mike McGear’s album at 10CC’s Strawberry Studios

Tuesday 8 – *The Early Beatles*, Capitol’s abridgment of *Please Please Me*, is finally certified gold nearly eleven years after its issue

Monday 28 – “Jet”/“Mamunia” (Apple 1871; peaks at #7)

Thursday 31 – Paul and Linda appear on the cover of *Rolling Stone*

Thursday 31 – Film producer Samuel Goldwyn dies at 94

### February 1974

#### Topping the US singles chart:

“The Way We Were” by Barbra Streisand  
“Love’s Theme” by Love Unlimited Orchestra

#### On the airwaves:

“Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo (Heartbreaker)” by the Rolling Stones  
“Americans” by Byron MacGregor  
“Let Me Be There” by Olivia Newton-John

#### Topping the US album chart:

*You Don’t Mess Around With Jim* by Jim Croce

#### Albums released this month include:

*Radio City* by Big Star

*Can't Get Enough* by Barry White  
*Rock 'n' Roll Animal* by Lou Reed  
*What Were Once Vices Are Now Habits* by the Doobie Brothers

Monday 4 – Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst is kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army

Monday 11 – Badfinger's self-titled Warner Brothers debut

Friday 15 – *Happy Days* debuts on ABC

Monday 18 – “Oh My My”/“Step Lightly” (Apple 1872; peaks at #5)

Tuesday 19 – “Let Me Roll It” replaces “Mamunia” on new pressings of “Jet”

Wednesday 20 – Cher files for divorce from Sonny Bono

Thursday 28 – Bobby Bloom (“Montego Bay”) dies from a gunshot wound at 28

### **March 1974**

#### **Topping the US singles chart:**

“Seasons In The Sun” by Terry Jacks  
“Dark Lady” by Cher  
“Sunshine On My Shoulders” by John Denver

#### **On the airwaves:**

“Rock On” by David Essex  
“Jim Dandy” by Black Oak Arkansas  
“Last Kiss” by Wednesday

#### **Topping the US album chart:**

*Planet Waves* by Bob Dylan

#### **Albums released this month include:**

*Pretzel Logic* by Steely Dan  
*On The Border* by Eagles  
*Bridge of Sighs* by Robin Trower  
*Get Your Wings* by Aerosmith  
*Apostrophe* by Frank Zappa

March – John appears on the cover of this month’s *Crawdaddy*

March – George produces *Shankar Family and Friends* sessions in Los Angeles at A&M Studios

Monday 4 – A Badfinger show at Cleveland’s Agora is recorded for possible release

Monday 4 – *People* magazine begins publishing

Friday 8 – Paul and Linda are interviewed at the Soho MPL office for NBC's *Today*; it airs in two parts on March 12 and 13

Friday 8 – Final new episode of *The Brady Bunch* airs, co-starring future wife of future Wings guitarist Laurence Juber, Hope Schwartz

Tuesday 12 – The Troubadour incident in Los Angeles, wherein John and Harry Nilsson are tossed out for heckling the Smothers Brothers and being drunk and disorderly

Wednesday 13 – John and May Pang attend the *American Film Institute Salute to James Cagney* with Mick Jagger, held at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles

Friday 22 – John and May move into attorney Harold Seider's Santa Monica beach home

Thursday 28 – John and Paul jam at Burbank studios; a recording is later bootlegged as *A Toot and A Snore*

Thursday 28 – Arthur “Big Boy” Crudup (“That’s All Right”) dies at 68

Friday 29 – Ringo is filmed at the Aquarius Theatre in Los Angeles with Keith Moon for *In Concert*, to air in November that year

#### **April 1974**

##### **Topping the US singles chart:**

“Hooked On A Feeling” by Blue Swede

“Bennie and The Jets” by Elton John

“TSOP (The Sound of Philadelphia)” by MFSB and the Three Degrees

##### **On the airwaves:**

“Mockingbird” by James Taylor and Carly Simon

“Sunshine On My Shoulders” by John Denver

“Eres Tu” by Mocedades

##### **Topping the US album chart:**

*John Denver's Greatest Hits*

##### **Albums released this month include:**

*Diamond Dogs* by David Bowie

*Second Helping* by Lynyrd Skynyrd

*Meet The Residents* by The Residents

Monday 1 – The last publicly seen photos of John and Paul together are taken in Santa Monica

Tuesday 2 – Paul and Linda attend the 46<sup>th</sup> *Annual Academy Awards*, where Wings are nominated for “Live and Let Die” (they do not win); this was the night of the famous “streaker” incident

Saturday 6 – 200,000 fans attend the California Jam festival in Ontario, California; acts include Eagles, Seals and Crofts, Deep Purple and Emerson, Lake and Palmer

Monday 8 – “Band on the Run”/ “Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Five” (Apple 1873; peaks at #1 in June)

Monday 8 – In a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, Atlanta Braves outfielder Henry Aaron hit home run number 715, breaking Babe Ruth’s record

Tuesday 9 – For the next month, Badfinger records their *Wish You Were Here* album at Caribou studios in Colorado

Monday 15 – (Just past midnight) Ringo’s drunken, expletive-laden appearance on Pasadena’s KROQ (alongside Keith Moon) gets radio hosts Howard Kaylan and Mark Vollman fired

Friday 19 – Yoko again performs (with Elephants Memory) on the *Mike Douglas Show*

Friday 19 – Ringo and Harry Nilsson attend the premier of *Son of Dracula* in Atlanta

Thursday 25 – Jim Morrison’s “widow,” Pamela Courson, overdoses at 27

Friday 26 – Geoff Britton is among the 52 drummers to audition for Wings at the Albery Theatre in London

Saturday 27 – John and May return to New York, taking up residence at Pierre Hotel on Fifth Avenue (while maintaining rental on the Santa Monica home)

Sunday 28 – John and Harry Nilsson attend the March of Dimes walk-a-thon event in Central Park

Sunday 28 – Sam Goody store manager Mark Lapidus secures John’s permission to host the first *Beatlefest* later that year

Monday 29 – Possible recording date of “Too Many Cooks” (as both John and Mick Jagger were known to be at New York’s Record Plant), sung by Mick and produced by John

## **May 1974**

### **Topping the US singles chart:**

“The Locomotion” by Grand Funk

“The Streak” by Ray Stevens

### **On the airwaves:**

“Star Baby” by the Guess Who

“Best Thing That Ever Happened To Me” by Gladys Knight and the Pips

“Come And Get Your Love” by Redbone

**Topping the US album chart:**

*The Sting* (original soundtrack)

**Albums released this month include:**

*Too Much Too Soon* by New York Dolls

*If You Love Me, Let Me Know* by Olivia Newton-John

*Monkey Grip* by Bill Wyman

May – Willy Russell’s *John, Paul, George, Ringo...and Bert* begins an eight-week run at Liverpool’s Everyman Theater

Wednesday 15 – George inks a deal with A&M for distribution of the Dark Horse label roster

Thursday 16 – Geoff Britton is selected as Wings’ new drummer

Friday 17 – Members of the SLA are killed in a shoot-out with a SWAT team in Inglewood, CA

Thursday 23 – Dark Horse Records is launched, with a public announcement coming in June

Friday 24 – Bandleader/composer Duke Ellington dies from lung cancer at 75

Monday 27 – *Goodnight Vienna* sessions begin this week at Sunset Sound in Los Angeles, though work would stop after a few days, resuming in July

Monday 27 – Nancy Andrews meets Ringo at the Santa Monica beach home rented by John; they become an item two months later

**June 1974**

**Topping the US singles chart:**

“Band on the Run” by Paul McCartney and Wings

“Billy Don’t Be A Hero” by “Bo Donaldson and the Heywoods

“Sundown” by Gordon Lightfoot

**On the airwaves:**

“The Entertainer” by Marvin Hamlisch

“The Show Must Go On” by Three Dog Night

“Midnight At The Oasis” Maria Muldaur

**Topping the US album chart:**

*Band on the Run* by Paul McCartney & Wings

**Albums released this month include:**

*Caribou* by Elton John

*Endless Summer* by the Beach Boys

*Holiday* by America

*Walking Man* by James Taylor

Bad Company's self-titled debut

Thursday 13 – While The Who are in town for a series of dates at Madison Square Garden, John and May visit Keith Moon at his hotel

Monday 17 – *Walls and Bridges* sessions begin at New York's Record Plant

Friday 28 – John records a demo of "Goodnight Vienna" for Ringo

### **July 1974**

#### **Topping the US singles chart:**

"Rock The Boat" by Hues Corporation

"Rock Your Baby" by George McCrae

"Annie's Song" by John Denver

#### **On the airwaves:**

"Help Me" by Joni Mitchell

"La Grange" by ZZ Top

"Dancing Machine" by the Jackson 5

#### **Topping the US album chart:**

*Band on the Run* by Paul McCartney & Wings

#### **Albums released this month include:**

*Fulfillingness' First Finale* by Stevie Wonder

*461 Ocean Boulevard* by Eric Clapton

*On The Beach* by Neil Young

Saturday 6 – Wings arrive in Nashville, Tennessee for six weeks of rehearsing and recording at Sound Shop studios; their residence during the stay is the home of songwriter Curly "Junior" Putnam ("Green, Green Grass of Home")

Tuesday 9 – Wings record the non-LP B-side "Sally G" in Nashville

Monday 15 – Florida TV news anchor Christine Chubbock fatally shoots herself on the air

Tuesday 16 – John and May take up residence at a penthouse located at 434 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street

Tuesday 16 – In Nashville, Wings record (as the Country Hams) "Walking In The Park With Eloise," written by Paul's father, and "Bridge Over The River Suite"; guest musicians include Floyd Cramer and Chet Atkins

Tuesday 16 – John records the non-LP B-side, "Move Over Ms. L"

Thursday 18 – Wings depart Nashville and head to New York

Monday 22 – The McCartney's depart New York for England but not before visiting John and May at their new place

Friday 26 – *Goodnight Vienna* sessions resume at Richard Perry's Producers Workshop in Los Angeles

Friday/Sunday 26/28 – Joe Pope's *Magical Mystery Tour* Beatle convention held in Boston at the Bradford Hotel

Monday 29 – Cass Elliott suffers a fatal heart attack in London at 32

### **August 1974**

#### **Topping the US singles chart:**

"Feel Like Makin' Love" by Roberta Flack

"The Night Chicago Died" by Paper Lace

"(You're) Having My Baby" by Paul Anka and Odia Coates

#### **On the airwaves:**

"Radar Love" by Golden Earring

"Waterloo" by ABBA

"You Won't See Me" by Anne Murray

#### **Topping the US album chart:**

*Caribou* by Elton John

#### **Albums released this month include:**

*Not Fragile* by Bachman-Turner Overdrive

*AWB* by Average White Band

*I'm Leaving It All Up To You* by Donny and Marie Osmond

August – *Little Malcolm*, the final Apple film (produced by George) is shown at the Atlanta Film Festival

Tuesday 6 – With John's help, Ringo records "Only You" and "Goodnight Vienna"

Thursday 8 – President Richard Nixon gives his resignation speech; Vice-President Gerald Ford sworn in the following day

Friday 9 – Yoko Ono arrives in Japan to play a series of concerts

Thursday 15 – *John, Paul, George, Ringo...and Bert* opens at the Lyric Theatre in London's West End

Monday 19 – Harry Nilsson's *Pussy Cats*, produced by John

Friday 23 – John spots a UFO from the rooftop of his 52<sup>nd</sup> Street apartment, above the East River

Saturday 24/Friday 30 – Wings film their rehearsals at Abbey Road Studios for a proposed television special, *One Hand Clapping*

Monday 26 – Aviator Charles Lindbergh dies at 72

Friday 30 – John is interviewed outside a New York federal courthouse following an immigration hearing

### **September 1974**

#### **Topping the US singles chart:**

“I Shot The Sheriff” by Eric Clapton

“Can’t Get Enough of Your Love, Babe” by Barry White

“Rock Me Gently” by Andy Kim

#### **On the airwaves:**

“The Air That I Breathe” by The Hollies

“Don’t Let The Sun Go Down On Me” by Elton John

“Tell Me Something Good” by Rufus

#### **Topping the US album chart:**

*461 Ocean Boulevard* by Eric Clapton

#### **Albums released this month include:**

*Wrap Around Joy* by Carole King

*Crime of the Century* by Supertramp

*Eldorado* by Electric Light Orchestra

*Heroes Are Hard To Find* by Fleetwood Mac

*Sneakin’ Sally Through the Alley* by Robert Palmer

Thursday 5 – Dark Horse Records’ first releases: Splinter (*The Place I Love*) and Ravi Shankar (*Shankar Family and Friends*)

Saturday 7/ Sunday 8 – The first *Beatlefest* is held at New York’s Commodore Hotel

Sunday 8 – President Gerald Ford grants former President Nixon a full pardon

Sunday 8 – Stuntman Evel Knievel fails to jump the Snake River canyon with a rocket-powered motorcycle

Wednesday 11 – *Little House on the Prairie* debuts on NBC

Friday 13 – Ronnie Wood’s *I’ve Got My Own Album To Do* is released, featuring the collaboration with George, “Far East Man”

Saturday 14 – In the course of a *Melody Maker* interview, Todd Rundgren launches a gratuitous



attack on John

Monday 16 – George holds a London press conference announcing the Dark Horse tour with Ravi Shankar

Monday 23 – George introduces Ravi Shankar at the Royal Albert Hall for the Music Festival from India

Monday 23 – “Whatever Gets You Through The Night”/“Beef Jerky” (Apple 1874; peaks at #1 in November)

Thursday 26 – *Walls and Bridges* (peaks at number one in November)

Friday 27 – John guest deejays (by phone) on Los Angeles’s KJH-AM radio

Saturday 28 – John sits in with WNEW deejay Denis Elsas and spins records between radio chores and chat

Monday 30 – In a letter dated this day, John addressed accusations made against him by Todd Rundgren; it runs in *Melody Maker* under its title, “An Opened Lettuce to Sodd Runtlestuntle”

## **October 1974**

### **Topping the US singles chart:**

“I Honestly Love You” by Olivia Newton-John

“Nothing From Nothing” by Billy Preston

“Then Came You” by Dionne Warwick with The Spinners

### **On the airwaves:**

“Who Do You Think You Are” by Bo Donaldson and the Heywoods

“Beach Baby” by First Class

“Sweet Home Alabama” by Lynyrd Skynyrd

### **Topping the US album chart:**

*Endless Summer* by the Beach Boys

### **Albums released this month include:**

*Having Fun With Elvis On Stage* by Elvis Presley

*It’s Only Rock ‘n Roll* by the Rolling Stones

*Hotter Than Hell* by Kiss

*Odds and Sods* by The Who

Sunday 13 – Ed Sullivan dies of cancer at 72

Monday 14 – *McGear*, an album by Paul’s brother, featuring contributions from Paul, Linda, Denny Laine and Jimmy McCulloch

Monday 14 – *Wish You Were Here*, the last Badfinger album from the “classic” line-up

Monday 21 – After two days rehearsal at Morris Levy’s upstate New York farm, Sunnyview, sessions resume for John’s *Rock ‘N’ Roll* album at Record Plant East; work is completed in five days

Wednesday 23 – George holds another news conference for his upcoming tour, this time at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel

Thursday 24 – The Beatles appear on the cover of *Rolling Stone*

Wednesday 30 – John is photographed in front of the Statue of Liberty by Bob Gruen

Wednesday 30 – The *Rumble In The Jungle*: Muhammad Ali defeats George Foreman in Zaire

Wednesday 30 – In a burst of activity on this day and the next, George records five songs for the upcoming *Dark Horse* album at A&M Studios in Los Angeles; he also films a promo for the title track

#### **November 1974**

##### **Topping the US singles chart:**

“You Haven’t Done Nothing” by Stevie Wonder

“You Ain’t Seen Nothing Yet” by Bachman-Turner Overdrive

“Whatever Gets You Through The Night” by John Lennon and the Plastic Ono Nuclear Band

“I Can Help” by Billy Swan

##### **On the airwaves:**

“The Bitch Is Back” by Elton John

“Another Saturday Night” by Cat Stevens

“Jazzman” by Carole King

##### **Topping the US album chart:**

*So Far* by Crosby, Stills and Nash

##### **Albums released this month include:**

*The Lamb Lies Down On Broadway* by Genesis

*Desolation Boulevard* by Sweet

*Autobahn* by Kraftwerk

*Heart Like A Wheel* by Linda Ronstadt

November – Ringo and Harry Nilsson begin shooting *Ringo and Harry’s Night Out* but the film is never completed

November – In London studio sessions this month, Wings begin work on *Venus and Mars*

Saturday 2 – Dark Horse tour begins in Vancouver (John and May send flowers); it will entail

forty-five shows in twenty-six cities

Monday 4 – “Junior’s Farm”/“Sally G” (Apple 1875; peaks at #3)

Monday 4 – Rod Stewart’s “Mine For Me,” written by Paul and featuring Paul and Linda on backing vocals

Wednesday 6 – Paul and Linda take part in a taping of *This Is Your Life*, setting up boxer John Conteh for a surprise at Abbey Road studios

Friday 8 – Ringo appears alongside Keith Moon on *In Concert’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary* special, broadcast on ABC

Saturday 9 – *Melody Maker* runs an apology from Todd Rundgren to John for his earlier remarks

Monday 11 – “Only You”/“Call Me” Apple 1876; peaks at #6)

Wednesday 13 – Paul and Linda’s appearance on *This Is Your Life* with John Conteh airs in Britain

Wednesday 13 – Nuclear power plant worker Karen Silkwood is killed in a car accident under suspicious circumstances

Thursday 14 – Ringo (with Harry Nilsson) is filmed atop and around the Capitol Tower in Los Angeles for the “Only You” video

Friday 15 – John is filmed out and about in New York (in Central Park and by the Beacon Street Theatre where the *Sgt. Pepper* musical is about to open) for use in the “Whatever Gets You Through The Night” promo

Sunday 17 – John attends the opening performance of *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band On The Road* at New York’s Beacon Street Theatre; attendees at the party afterward include Ronnie Spector and Bianca Jagger

Monday 18 – *Goodnight Vienna* (peaks at number eight)

Monday 18 – “Dark Horse”/“I Don’t Care Anymore” (Apple 1877; peaks at #15)

Monday 18 – “Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds,” recorded by Elton John, featuring John on guitars and backing vocals

Wednesday 20 – Wings are taped lip-synching “Junior’s Farm,” which airs the next day on *Top of the Pops*

Thursday 21 – At the Tulsa stop of the Dark Horse tour, Leon Russell joins George onstage for “My Sweet Lord”

Saturday 23 – *Melody Maker* runs an interview with Ringo, who opines that the Beatles will never get back together so long as George won’t play with Paul

Sunday 24 – John rehearses with Elton John and his band

Monday 25 – George appears on Houston radio station KLOL, promoting the tour and the upcoming *Dark Horse* album

Wednesday 27 – Paul and Linda appear onstage in England with Rod Stewart

Thursday 28 – John appears onstage at Madison Square Garden with Elton John

Saturday 30 – In England, Paul announces plans for Wings’ upcoming world tour, which will take them across Europe, Australia, Japan, and North America over the next two years

Saturday 30 – Wings drummer Geoff Britton is filmed in London by MPL Productions at a karate tournament; the unreleased short film, *Empty Hand*, features an original soundtrack by Paul

Saturday 30 – While the Dark Horse tour is in Chicago, Ravi Shankar takes ill and will not perform again until the penultimate show on December 19

#### **December 1974**

##### **Topping the US singles chart:**

“Kung Fu Fighting” by Carl Douglas

“Cat’s In The Cradle” by Harry Chapin

“Angie Baby” by Helen Reddy

##### **On the airwaves:**

“My Melody of Love” by Bobby Vinton

“Tin Man” by America

“Life Is A Rock (But The Radio Rolled Me)” by Reunion

##### **Topping the US album chart:**

*Elton John’s Greatest Hits*

##### **Albums released this month include:**

*Stormbringer* by Deep Purple

*All The Girls in The World Beware!!!* By Grand Funk Railroad

Monday 2 – The Country Hams’ “Walking In The Park With Eloise”/“Bridge Over The River Suite” (dnc)

Monday 9 – *Dark Horse* (peaks at number four)

Monday 9 – John is interviewed by Howard Cosell during *Monday Night Football*

Thursday 12 – “#9 Dream”/“What You Got” (Apple 1878; peaks at #9)

Thursday 12 – Mick Taylor quits the Rolling Stones

Friday 13 – George and entourage visit President Gerald Ford at the White House

Friday 13 – Two songs taped at this evening’s show in Largo, Maryland would see limited-edition issue years later: “For You Blue” with the Genesis book, Songs by George, and “Hari’s On Tour (Express),” with Songs by George 2

Saturday 14 – George arrives in New York and meets up with John and May at the Plaza Hotel

Sunday 15 – John and May attend George’s concert at the Nassau Coliseum

Monday 16 – John is interviewed on NBC’s *Today* show

Thursday 19 – Ringo’s “Only You” promo airs on *Top of the Pops*

Thursday 19 – George appears on the cover of *Rolling Stone*

Thursday 19 – After becoming angered over business matters, George un-invites John from joining him onstage. He and Paul are filmed signing the dissolution papers at The Plaza

Thursday 19 – Paul and Linda, heavily but comically disguised, attend George’s Madison Square Garden Concert, as does Julian and Ringo’s manager Hilary Gerard

Friday 20 – The Dark Horse Tour ends at Madison Square Garden; afterward, George parties with John and Paul at *Club Hippopotamus* (it marks George’s last documented meeting with John)

Sunday 22 – *That’ll Be The Day* opens in US theaters

Monday 23 – “Ding Dong Ding Dong”/“Hari’s On Tour (Express)” (Apple 1879; peaks at #36)

Monday 23 – George films a promo for “Ding Dong, Ding Dong” at Friar Park

Tuesday 24 – Vacationing at Disney World, John on this day adds the final signature to the document dissolving the Beatles

Thursday 26 – Comedian Jack Benny dies at 80