

The Beetles



In early 1964, the Beatles arrived in the U.S. as the vanguard of the so-called “British Invasion” of rock ’n roll bands. Actually, there was an earlier British Invasion that also involved beetles. In May 1959, Mark D. Chapman of the New Jersey Entomology League spotted a swarm of Giant Predacious Pestiferous Beetles, which are indigenous to Cornwall, feeding on the Atlantic City Mudflats. He trapped two of them when he realized that their hive mates were now after *him*. Chapman escaped, but not before a coleopteran had taken a good sized chunk out of his right leg. He was left with a pronounced limp and a hatred of the insects. As time passed, Chapman grew increasingly unable to distinguish between the entomological beetles and the musical ones, until, on December 8, 1980, in New York City, he ... well, do we really have to revisit that tragic moment in history?