

= Phillips ' Sound Recording Services =

Phillips ' Sound Recording Services was a studio in the house of Percy Francis Phillips (1896 ? 1984) and his family at 38 Kensington , Kensington , Liverpool , England . Between the years of 1955 and 1969 , Phillips recorded numerous tapes and acetate discs for Liverpool acts , people and businesses in a small room behind the shop his family owned .

Phillips first sold bicycles and motorbikes , but later started selling and recharging batteries in a shop in the front room of his house in 1925 . After a decline in demand for batteries in the early 1950s , he started selling electrical goods and popular records . In 1955 , Phillips set up a recording studio called Phillips ' Sound Recording Services .

In 1958 , The Quarrymen (John Lennon , Paul McCartney , George Harrison , John ' Duff ' Lowe and Colin Hanton) recorded " That 'll Be The Day " , and " In Spite of All the Danger " in the studio . Other clients included Billy Fury , Ken Dodd , and Marty Wilde . Phillips died in 1984 . The Quarrymen recording and the site of the studio was commemorated in 2005 , when a Blue Plaque was unveiled by two of The Quarrymen (Lowe and Hanton) on the front of the house .

= = Early years = =

Percy Phillips was born in March 1896 , in Warrington , Lancashire . He was a veteran of the First World War , and left the British Army (Loyal North Lancashire Regiment) at the rank of Corporal in 1918 , since he was wounded before the war ended .

After the war , he started selling bicycles and motorbikes in a small shop in Brunswick Street , in the Kensington Fields area of Liverpool . He began selling and recharging batteries in 1925 , opening a shop in the front room of his family 's three @-@ storey Georgian terraced house , called Phillips ? Battery Charging Depot , and had to install large accumulators in the cellar . Phillips ran the business for 30 years , even during WWII , but due to a decline in demand for batteries in the early 1950s (most people having electricity by then) he started selling household electrical goods . By late 1954 , the shop was only selling records and record players ; customers would buy recordings of American Country and Western , and Big Band music . As Phillips had supplied batteries to the Burtonwood air base during the war , he could buy and sell the latest records from America via his contacts there .

= = Studio = =

In 1955 , several customers asked if Phillips could make demo discs , so he bought a 1 / 4 inch tape recorder (replaced in 1963 with a Vortexion portable) , an MSS (Marguerite Sound Studios - after the owner 's wife) disc cutting machine , an amplifier , a 4 @-@ track mixer , three microphones (a Reslo , an HMV ribbon microphone , and an AKG) , and three pairs of headphones for £ 400 , while on a trip to London to visit his son Frank , who was there for a sound recording course at EMI Electronics .

Phillips set up the equipment behind his shop in the (12 square feet) middle living room , with a piano and an overturned tin bath in the cellar as a reverb chamber , with a speaker and microphone linked to the studio above . The recordings would normally be on tape , and then transferred to disc , although the tape was recorded over again during the next session . Because of trams , trucks , and horses going up and down Kensington , Phillips had to hang heavy blankets over the studio door and a rear window to minimise the noise . Phillips ' first recording was of himself singing " Bonnie Marie of Argyle " , (unaccompanied) and a few days later he recorded " Unchained Melody " , with local dance band singer Betty Roy . The first disc he cut in the studio was on 7 August 1955 , with his eight @-@ year @-@ old daughter , Carol , singing , " Mr Sandman " . All the discs had " Play with a light @-@ weight pick @-@ up " on the label , as this would increase the life of the disc , which would eventually wear out .

Phillips advertised the studio as Phillips ' Sound Recording Services (also advertised as P. F. Phillips ' Professional Tape & Disc Recording Service) , and his business cards read : " PF Phillips ,

38 Kensington , Liverpool , 7 . Television and Battery Service . Gramophone Record Dealer . Professional Tape and Disc Recording Studio . " He started cutting discs for members of the public , as well as for actors from the Liverpool Playhouse , who often stayed in the first @-@ floor boarding rooms above the studio , who were sometimes asked by Phillips to record monologues and poems . These included the actors John Thaw , Richard Briers , and the ventriloquist Ray Alan .

For the first couple of years , Phillips made music compilation discs for local businesses such as the local ice rink or cinema , men singing songs for loved ones , children playing an instrument , or even a neighbour ? s dog howling along to piano accompaniment . As the record shop and studio took over the business , he had a brass plate made which he put on the wall just outside the front door , and had labels made for the discs , but changed the design of the disc label every year . By 1957 , Phillips was recording more and more groups of young men with guitars , basses , washboards and drums , who played skiffle .

Ron Wycherly (a.k.a. Billy Fury) recorded several songs onto disc in the studio , including , " I 'm Left You 're Right She 's Gone " , " Playin ' For Keeps " , " Paralyzed " and " Come Go With Me " (all previously released by Elvis Presley) as well as , " Have I Told You Lately That I Love You " (Lulu Belle and Scotty) and his own composition , " Yodelling Song " . Fury 's mother sent the songs to impresario Larry Parnes , which started her son 's singing career . The songs were released on DVD / CD in 2008 .

= = The Quarrymen recording = =

Johnny ' Guitar ' Byrne (from Rory Storm and The Hurricanes) and singer Paul Murphy recorded a version of " Butterfly " and " She ? s Got it " in the studio on 22 June 1957 , and Byrne later played the recording to Harrison . On 12 July 1958 , a local skiffle group , The Quarrymen (Lennon , McCartney , Harrison , Lowe and Hanton) visited Phillips ' studio to record two songs , although the date has been disputed , as Lowe remembered that the recording was during cold weather (October or November , 1957) with the band wearing scarves . Hanton also mentioned the cold weather in interviews , and before recording , Lennon suggested that Hanton put his scarf over the snare drum to lower the volume , which supports the earlier date .

The group were surprised to see how small and technically basic the studio was , with only one microphone in the centre of the room . Phillips demanded that they pay for the recording before they set up the equipment , so each member paid 3 shillings and 6 pence , but he then asked for an extra surcharge (£ 1) to cover the cost of transferring the tape recording to acetate disc . As this was too expensive , Phillips said that for a cut @-@ rate price they would not be taped first , but record directly to vinyl .

The first song they recorded was " That ? ll Be The Day " (sung by Lennon with harmonies by McCartney) . Phillips wanted them to immediately record the next song , but Lennon and McCartney could not decide on a song for the B @-@ side of the disc . McCartney suggested the doo @-@ wop ballad , " In Spite of All the Danger " (by McCartney and Harrison , but sung by Lennon) even though Lowe and Hanton had never heard it before . They asked for some time to rehearse , but Phillips refused , saying , " For seventeen and six 17 / 6d you 're not here all day " .

Lowe and Hanton busked through the song , which was cut short by Phillips waving his hands to indicate that the cutting needle was getting close to the centre of the acetate . He then handed the band a fragile 78rpm 10 @-@ inch acetate record . It was later lost until Lowe rediscovered it in 1981 , and planned to put it up for auction at Sotheby 's , but sold it to McCartney for an undisclosed amount . McCartney later had the two songs digitally re @-@ mastered and pressed 50 copies , giving them to friends as a Christmas present , although the two songs were released on 21 November 1995 , as part of The Beatles Anthology (Anthology 1) . McCartney later said , " The strangest thing for me , listening to it , is that it 's like drowning , it 's like your life flashing by in front of you . From the earliest things by me and John when we used to sag off school and the earliest demo tape we ever made , to the first little record we made which was a version of John singing " That 'll Be The Day " , and a little song of mine [and Harrison] on the other side that 's never been released before . "

= = Later years = =

Other customers of Phillips ' studio included The Swinging Blue Jeans , Brian Epstein , Freddie Starr , Willy Russell , Liverpool F.C. supporters club , and players from Everton F.C .. Denny Seyton and The Sabres recorded " Little Latin Lupe Lu " (Bill Medley) in the studio in 1963 . Phillips closed the studio in 1969 , the record shop in 1974 , and died in 1984 , at the Royal Liverpool Hospital . The recording of The Quarrymen acetate and the site of Phillips ' Sound Recording Services was commemorated on 26 August 2005 , when a Blue Plaque was unveiled by two of The Quarrymen (Lowe and Hanton) on the front of the house .