

Alec Soth's Archived Blog

December 11, 2006

He took the last picture of Lennon

Filed under: [media, the sentence, vernacular & Flickr](#) — alecsothblog @ 10:08 pm

If you think [Bruno Penguin Zehnder](#) went a bit far in connecting with a single subject, take a look at Paul Goresh. Goresh was a John Lennon stalker. On one occasion he lied his way into Lennon's apartment. But after a long period of pestering him, Lennon eventually became friendly with Goresh. He even used one of his pictures for his single [Watching the Wheels](#).

But the one sentence they'll always say about Goresh is that he took the last picture of Lennon alive – the picture of Lennon signing an autograph for his assassin, Mark David Chapman:



You can watch a program about Goresh on YouTube: [Part 1](#) , [Part 2](#)

16 Comments

1. Interesting post, Alec. I'm a huge fan of the Beatles and John Lennon. I felt weird and uncomfortable watching this — a real strange combination of fascination with Lennon and disgust with Goresh.

The snapshot used for "Watching the Wheels" was a smart choice. It said something about Lennon, and the simple man on the street that he enjoyed being in New York.

I've always loved the videos for "[Watching the Wheels](#)" and "[Woman,](#)" because each has footage of Lennon casually walking through Central Park.

Comment by [Christian](#) — December 12, 2006 @ [1:36 am](#)

2. Interesting post, Alec. I'm a huge fan of the Beatles and John Lennon. I felt weird and uncomfortable watching this — a real strange combination of fascination with Lennon and disgust with Goresh.

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Comment by [Christian](#) — December 12, 2006 @ [1:36 am](#)

3. Argh...that second link should be [THIS](#).

Comment by [Christian](#) — December 12, 2006 @ [1:38 am](#)

4. it's funny how it reminds me of those I stalked in terms of my own pop lust. Obscure personalities perhaps, Annabella Lwin of Bow Wow Wow, Billy Childish, and Leo Castelli when he visited Seattle back in the late 80's. It is interesting to witness how in this case it was bent towards a creative outlet combined with the closeness to the tragic.

Comment by [harold hollingsworth](#) — December 12, 2006 @ [6:45 am](#)

5. that picture gives me the chills.

Comment by [Owen](#) — December 12, 2006 @ [8:40 am](#)

6. I think Paul Goresh holds the title for having the ultimate fan boy experience..ever.

Also, unlike many photographers that aren't happy about, or downplay their "sentence", I think Mr. Goresh probably embrace's the "He took the last picture of Lennon alive" tag. Their time spent together must be so special to him, I can't imagine him ever downplaying that.

Comment by [Danny G](#) — December 12, 2006 @ [12:46 pm](#)

7. I think I'm an alecsoth.com/blog stalker. Anybody with me?

Paul Goresh's photo pictured embodies his erie persona.

Comment by [Ryan](#) — December 13, 2006 @ [9:53 am](#)

8. I'd definitely have been an Annabella Lwin stalker if I'd been old enough to leave the house alone back in the days of Bow Wow Wow. As it is, I'll settle for being an Alec Soth stalker.

"He was a wannabe Annabella stalker who had to make do with Alec Soth"

(I just noticed an annoying muscle-memory that won't let me type "Alec" without first mistyping and then correcting "Alex")

Comment by [Dan Sumption](#) — December 13, 2006 @ [2:00 pm](#)

9. She was fun to stalk, now granted, I had a good lead time since they were on tour, but the wait was worth it. I remained calm, and talked as well as I could, but she was so crushable! Now, onto stalking Alec!

Comment by [harold hollingsworth](#) — December 20, 2006 @ [5:59 pm](#)

10. What a lost, what a lost! Lennon died because of his falseness. He got involved too much with politics and to be honest: he was a very rich and confused lad and obviously wanted the world to believe that he really was concerned. He was a great musician and that is it.

Comment by [Bill](#) — February 27, 2007 @ [7:25 am](#)

11. I do not want to upset any of you but this is my opinion. Double fantasy is absolutely an excellent album and he did some truly remarkable music. He was one of those truly super talented musicians, like Elvis and Hendrix.

Comment by [Bill](#) — February 27, 2007 @ [7:29 am](#)

12. Paul Goresch is OK.....The man has some great..& creepy stories to tell of his time with Lennon..from Feb.1979...until Dec.8,1980.He was meant to be there that night...

Comment by [Jim C.](#) — March 19, 2007 @ [5:17 am](#)

13. When he was 16 I wonder if John Lennon ever imagined he would be an integral part in the most famous band history has produced. Bill I understand your concern at his falsity but there was a deep gift inside of John that was allowed to be shared with the world and although there were times he talks of "no possessions" – John could have led a very different life that did not involve stopping WAR and seeking the U.S to dissipate its involvement with the war in Vietnam. He used a lot of resources focusing purely on spreading the word to stop war and the only real falsity I see is that he was "burdened by the materialism" WE as consumers made for him. I think he had a good heart and Paul Goresch – well he just followed a passion. Celebrities do not always seek the downsides that come with stardom – and it's sad that most of what we see today is this quasi world government called consumerism. Sadly it's a tornado unto itself. All I can say is RIP John Lennon – thank you -your words changed MY life

Comment by [Mcjimick](#) — April 4, 2007 @ [6:51 am](#)

14. apologies on wasting space by correcting my Japan with Vietnam... i was 30 years earlier in my history LOL

Comment by [mcjimick](#) — April 4, 2007 @ [6:54 am](#)

15. Anyone who knows how to contact Paul Goresch please let me know or pass my email address to him. I was Paul's mailman in December 1980. Paul gave me a photograph on 1/23/1981. This was one of the original photos of John's last photograph taken. I'm sure Paul will remember.

Thanks
Geff Kerwin
Shield222@aol.com

Comment by Geff Kerwin — November 22, 2007 @ [7:41 pm](#)

16. Jim C. If you can please put Paul in contact with me I would be really grateful.

My email address is Shield222@aol.com

Thanks to all for the replys.

Comment by Geff Kerwin — February 19, 2008 @ [8:28 pm](#)