

"I could *what??*" David asked, laughing. "Gee, Pat, if you only knew . . . Come the time for leaving home in the mornings, my eyes are still thinking about opening up properly!"

SLEEPY DRIVER

"You see, by the time I quit in the recording studios at night, it's usually past midnight and then I've got to get home, and I like to wind down some before I finally flop into bed around 2 o'clock . . . So, when my alarm gets to ring at 6.30 I just don't want to know!"

"Once I'm at the studios I'm O.K. because the gas I get out of my work keeps me going – it's just the getting there that poses a bit of a problem! Ever tried driving round Hollywood half asleep?"

Well, I haven't, of course, but I wouldn't say "no" to driving round Hollywood in any state whatsoever!

SAM

Then something suddenly occurred to me . . . I wondered who'd been looking after David's dog, Sam, all the time David had been away in Europe. So I asked him. But, as soon as I'd asked the question I could have bitten my tongue out, because David suddenly looked terribly sad and I knew that I'd said something that had hurt him badly.

"Sam died."



▲ David signs one of the thousands of autographs he wrote during his stay in London.

That was all David said at first.

I just didn't know what to say . . . it was a terrible shock to me, as I know it will be to all of you who'd grown so fond of Sam, simply because David and he loved each other so much. Finally I managed to stammer out a few words trying to express to David how sorry I was, but I think he realised it from the expression on my face more than from the stupid words that came limping out.

"He just passed away, just like that . . . not long back," David went on, in a husky voice that sounded as if it was coming from somewhere else.

"He was only four years old, Pat, and I guess that's what made it specially sad for me . . . I'd have been ready for it if he'd been old . . . so it wouldn't have hurt so much. He was so dear to me . . . I don't talk about him much now – only to very close friends, because it just seems to make me more sad when I think about him."

Now, I'm just about to make a special request to all of you who are reading this. Please think of David and remember his feelings. I know that, as soon as you read this, the first thing you'll want to do is sit down and write a letter telling him how sorry you are to hear the sad news. But please don't.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL DAVID CASSIDY FANS

I've had literally thousands of letters telling me exactly what you want to see in Superstar. And it comes down to this –

MORE, MUCH MORE ABOUT DAVID, SHIRLEY, SUSAN, DANNY, BRIAN AND SUZANNE every month.

You've made it clear that, much as you want news and pix on all the other Superstars, David comes first with you all along the line. So, starting from the May issue, there will be 16 pages set aside specially for David and the Partridges.