

**ME:** *Well, from what I've heard, it sounds as though you've been having plenty of practice lately in lightning trips! You must have well nigh covered all of the States during those Easter concerts.*

**DAVID:** Yeah, a fair bit I guess. Though America's a pretty big place and I reckon it'll take me a few years yet before I've seen even half. One place in it I didn't get to see half enough of is Mammoth – that's a place in the Arizona mountains by the way – and there's a story behind that if you want to hear it...

**ME:** *You bet I do – Fire away!*

**DAVID:** Well, remember how mad keen I was on skiing when I met you in London, Pat?

**ME:** *I certainly do! I'm just trying to rack my brains to remember how long it took you to get round to talking about anything else!!!*

**DAVID:** (laughing) Mmmm, I remember too! I can't remember now if I told you much about the ski resorts we've got here, but Mammoth is one of them, way up in the mountains, where you can really get away to relax. So I thought I'd head that way for a week or so and find myself some lovely solid-packed snow slopes to ski down.

**ME:** *And then...?*

**DAVID:** Well, I got there fine: no hitches at all. You can imagine, after a couple of weeks doing concerts non-stop, I sure was looking forward to a chance of retreating into anonymity under my ski hat and behind my goggles! Up there, I reckoned I'd be just another not-very-expert skier, getting my legs tangled up in my skis from time to time!

And I guess that's how it would have been – if I'd ever got as far as getting out onto the slopes!

**ME:** *But what was stopping you?*

**DAVID:** (with a big sigh) The day I made it up there into the mountains, I discovered that I'd taken an awful flu type cold bug along with me – what company! It left me so that the thought of dashing around over that snow just didn't appeal any more, I felt so low. Boy, was I uptight! But, Pat, how DO you get to blow your nose when you're half way down a ski slope?!

**ME:** *Oh, David, what bad luck! I'm sorry – I just can't help laughing, though – it sounds so funny the way you put it! But couldn't you have done some skiing after you'd got over that cold?*

**DAVID:** No chance of that, I'm afraid. You see, I didn't have the time to stay put and wait for it to go... Look at it this way: I knew I'd got to get shot of that bug pretty fast, because there were some more concerts booked, and I could never have appeared in that state! So I just gave a thought to all the folks who'd bought tickets and must have been looking forward to seeing me – like I'd been looking forward to some skiing. And I said to myself, "Well, now you know how bad it feels to be faced with a disappointment like that, at least you can make sure that all those people aren't disappointed the same way!"

So, it had to be goodbye to Mammoth and back to L.A.!

**ME:** *You're all right again now though, aren't you, David?*

**DAVID:** Oh, yeah, I'm fine now, thanks... You know what did cheer me up a whole lot when I was feeling real bad, Pat?

**ME:** *What was that?*

**DAVID:** When I got news that you were starting a Magazine specially for me over in Britain. It sure bucked me to know that you'd had so many fans asking for one, *as well as* the one that Susie's already running for the whole group of us together! I could hardly believe my ears... and I can tell you, that meant an awful lot to me, specially at a time like that. So, if there's ever anything I can do to help you or Susie out at all, let me know at once, won't you, Pat? You know, if you want photos signed or anything...

**ME:** *I might just take you up on that, David – we're still getting everything under way now, but I'll be in touch every so often to let you know how it's all going... and just for a chat, of course!*

**DAVID:** Yes, do that, Pat – in fact, how about calling me at the Ranch some time during the next week or two. I'd like that.

**ME:** *Great! That's what I'll do then. Give my love to all the others and I'll be talking to you again soon. Bye till then.*

*A few words to say goodbye and David was gone, but I heard his voice in my ears for hours after that... I fell asleep listening to it inside my mind. And, when I woke up next morning, I'd got the next time to look forward to!*

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