

GETTING A RING FROM DAVID!

WONDER what you'd feel like if the phone rang in your house, you picked it up, and a voice announced, "There's a Mr David Cassidy who wants to speak to you from Los Angeles?"

Imagine my surprise when that very thing happened one evening! And there, on the other end of the line, following the international operator, was David's voice coming over loud and clear, just as if he was calling from a phone down the road.

It was night-time in Britain but in Los Angeles it was midday, and David was at home, just preparing to go down to the studios and rehearse his group.

David told me that this month he's starting another 25 part series of the Partridge Family and that it will definitely be the last series for him. After that he's still not sure what he wants to do.

"I've had a lot of film offers, a lot of people want me to do things, but I'm going to take my time. I might want to return to acting if I get the right script, but *only* if I get the right script."

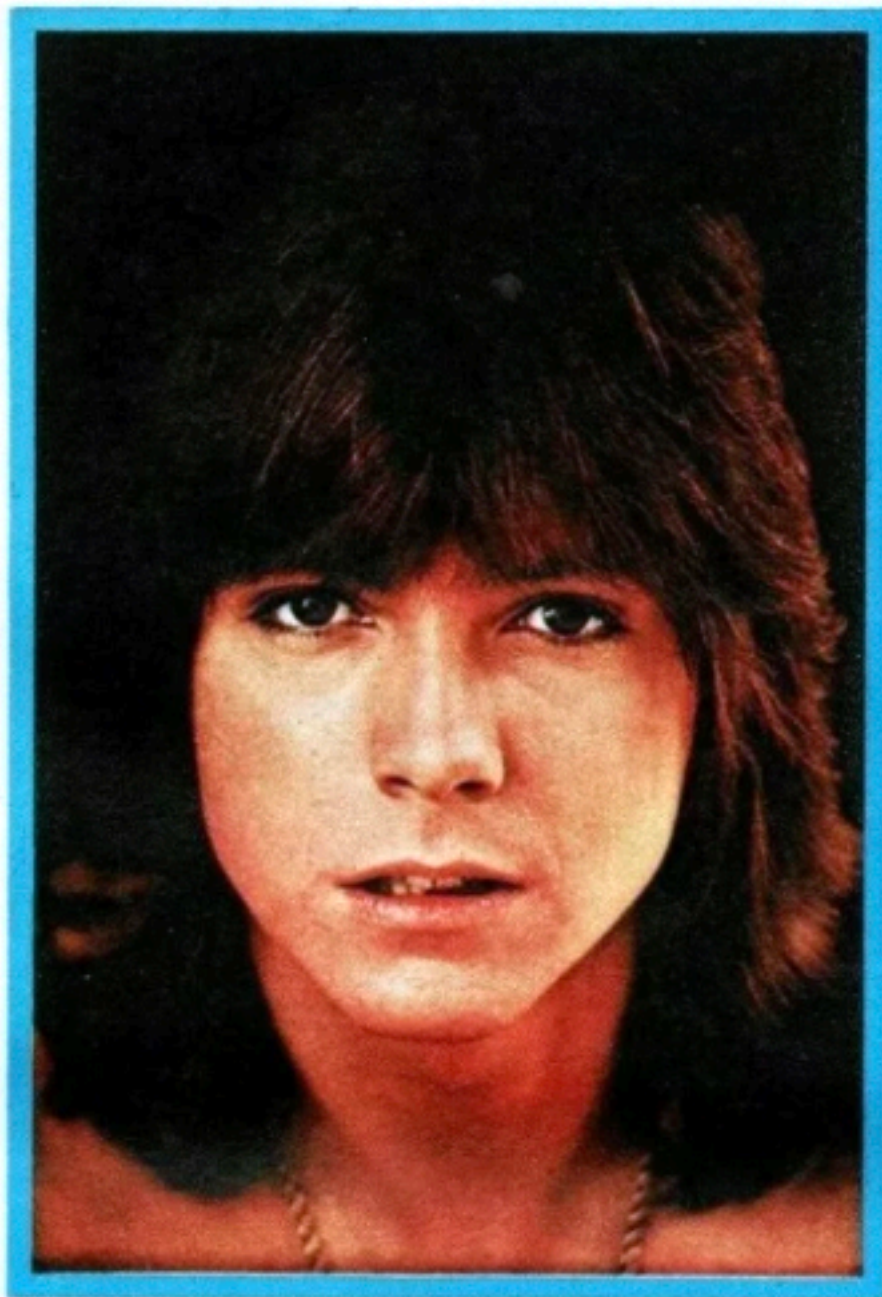
Meanwhile he was resting at home with his four cats and three dogs, including his favourite, Bullseye.

"I love the animals around me," he said. "They were the one thing I missed when I went on holiday to Italy and when I'm away touring. I've always wanted horses but I haven't bought any to have here at home yet. Instead, I've invested in three racehorses which will race this summer at Hollywood Park."

"So really, just tell everyone in Britain that I'm surrounded by dogs, cats and a lot of dead rats! My cats seem to have taken on themselves to be the local rat catchers, and they're very good at it!"

Inside his home David has now rigged up his own makeshift studio.

"It's only four track. I've had it insulated over the windows. Nothing professional, but it's a good sound. It means I can compose here and put the tune down on tape, and also



that a few of us can rehearse and hear how it sounds. It's made things a good deal easier."

I asked how David's close friend and neighbour Sam Hyman was getting on.

"Well," said David, "he's got himself a band to manage and they played a gig here in Los Angeles just a few days ago at the Whisky A Gogo. I didn't go down there because you know how it is. Also I wanted it to be Sam's night. He asked me but I told him, and he understood what would happen if I'd gone there."

"They're a rock-country band from the South called Cottonwood South. Sam heard of them through a friend of his."

I wondered if David would ever turn to management at some time in the future?

"No that's something I'd never do. It doesn't interest me."

In fact when we spoke David said he had quite a few new tunes going through his head.

"I don't push myself as a composer. If the tunes aren't there, they aren't there, but I've had quite a good few tunes come into my head lately."

The main thing David was doing was literally resting, because he now realises that in the past he's pushed himself too hard, and allowed him-

self to be pushed too hard. When we've met in the past, both in Hollywood on the set of the Partridge Family, and on his yacht in London, he looked very, very tired. Even so, he was always pleasant to fans and the Press alike, but the strain was taking its toll on David himself.

"I had been working, working, working, non stop," he said. "It was really difficult. I got bogged down by it all. So what I've been doing is getting my head down on the pillow and sleeping a lot. It really has been nice to have several weeks in which I didn't have to worry what I had to do every day."

"Oddly enough, I still get up early by choice. I know I don't really like getting up at six when we're filming the Partridge Family series, but it's different when you don't have to get up. I find I go to bed early and get up early and it makes all the difference. So really I've just been eating and sleeping lately."

He's also been talking with Elton John, who had been to America, and who David contacted the last time he came to London.

In fact it wouldn't surprise me one day if Elton didn't write a song for David to sing. They've obviously been getting on very well, and they are both talented pop musicians. Elton has always been asking David to come and stay with him at his

home on the Wentworth Estate just outside London. And no doubt in his recent visit David will have secretly slipped down there.

It's also obvious that once the Partridge Family series is finished, David will be taking a lot more time off for himself. He's been driving himself hard now for three years and now he wants to go out and meet his fans in concert tours. Before, these only came when the series wasn't shooting, but as with this recent British tour, David wanted to be able to rest up before it and rehearse his band so everything went off well. He will also spend longer on preparing David Cassidy albums.

He'd been back in America a week when his birthday arrived on April 12.

"There are two times a year when you realise how wonderful all your fans are," he told me. "And that is at Christmas and on my birthday. Christmas was fantastic, especially all the cards from Britain. I was really delighted."

"But even Christmas was nothing compared to all the cards and letters and thoughts that were sent to me from Britain on this last birthday, I was really overwhelmed."

"It made me realise what great fans I have there—how many friends. Now I can't wait to get back and meet some more of them. I hope it's not too long."

We hope so too!

