

to have an electric gate. And I'm afraid the same is true of the answering service. The first three days we had it, David and I sat around saying things like, "Isn't this great? The phone hasn't rung for days." On the fourth or fifth day, the most frequently spoken sentence was "Gee, I wonder if that call's come in yet." By day six, we were breaking our fingers every fifteen minutes to dial the answering service and find out if anybody had called us!

WORST TO COME

This was already too crazy to believe. Before the answering service, we had only worried about the phone when it was ringing! Now we were worrying about it even when it wasn't ringing! But the worst was yet to come. . . .

Three weeks later, we got our phone bill. David and I, in all our superintelligent glory, had chosen an answering service whose number was a toll call from our house! And, naturally, there were about 187 trillion calls to that number as the two ultra-cools frantically called the service sixty times a day to find out if anybody—anybody at all—had phoned us!

We decided that we couldn't afford the answering service, so we got rid of it. The gate hangs open about two-thirds of the time. Anybody could walk in or call us. So much for security.

All that stuff has been the big trip for the last few weeks or so. On the more "P.F." front, David's gone back to work, filming the shows for this season after his summer break. He's having a great time, and he thinks the music for this season is outasite! He's been singing about six of the new songs in the living room all night long, and I've got to agree. You're going to hear some far-out music.

David always talks about how he's lazy and all he really wants to do is laze around and play a guitar, but I think he really likes to work! Whenever he's got a break, like the one just past, he runs around to different places, like Europe or Big Sur, and just spends huge amounts of energy jumping from place to place! Then he'll come home and play the guitar for two days, and then he'll take on a project like putting in a new lawn or painting the whole house inside!

I think he likes the excitement of doing something every minute, even more than he knows! And I think that's one real change that's come over him since he began work in the Partridge thingy way back, two long years ago!

Anyway, since all the work started, he's been as happy as a clam. He's running to the film studio and the photo gallery, and the recording studio, and hurrying to interviews, and flying out for concerts, and grumbling about it

all every morning and talking about how he'll never work this hard again—and all the while, he's actually feeling great!

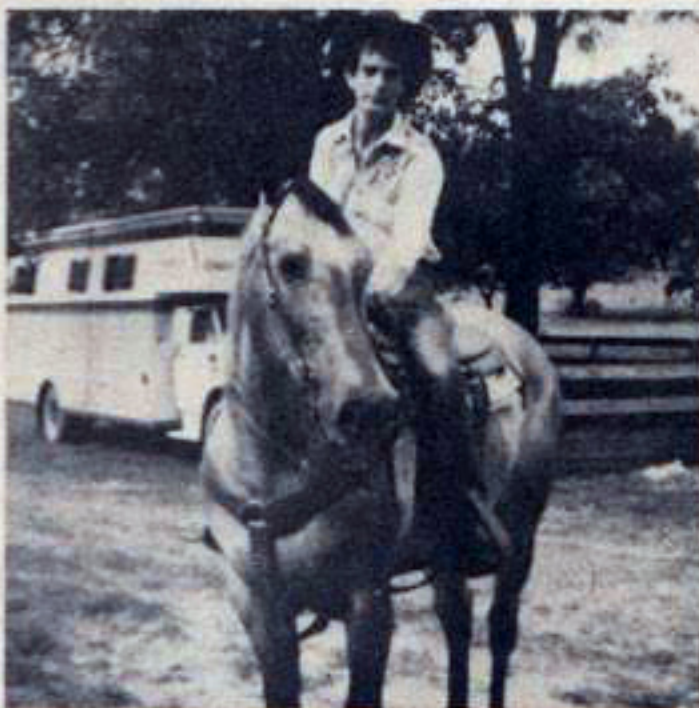
He said something to me a long time ago, and I think it's the reason he can work as hard as he does and like it. It was just when the whole "star" thing was beginning, and he'd finished his first little bunch of concerts.

We were in a city we'd never seen before, and the concert had been over for a few hours. We were back at the hotel, but David was too excited to go to sleep, so he came up to my room and we talked for a while.

He was talking about how good he'd felt ever since the show had started, and how fantastic it felt to be on that tour. He couldn't think of a way to make me understand how it felt, and then he found one.

"Do you know how you feel when you've bought a really great present for somebody you love, but you haven't actually given it to them yet?" he asked.

I said I did.



AND HERE I AM, Sam Hyman himself back in the saddle again! David & I really had a nice time in Maryland!



ALTHOUGH WE WERE only able to stay a few days vacationing in Maryland, we had a great time! Between hiking, horseback riding and lazing in the sun, we came home rested! Then, off to Hawaii and England, but that's for next month! See you then! P.S. I took the pix! David took the one of me!

"Well, it's like that," he said. "It's like everything I do all day long is like giving presents to people, people I really love. I make a record, that's a present. I do a concert, that's a present. I film 'Partridge,' and that's a present, too. No matter what I'm doing, I know that there's somebody who's going to be really glad to get whatever it is. It really gives me a lot of energy."

I think one of the things that makes David special is the fact that he still feels like that. And I think you can sense it, and you know that he really does love you!

So anyway, if you got uptight about the fence and the phone last time, you can forget it. The junk doesn't work in the first place, and he loves you too much to want to keep you out, anyway.

And I do, too. Be happy till next time.

Sam Hyman



IT'S NEW BOOTS and a new hat for David! He really was able to relax a bit during his stay at the farm!

