

... They knew what came next, and they couldn't wait!

Then David appeared and sat on the edge of the stage. At this point it was all so much less pressured than anything in Britain, whether at Wembley or Manchester.

Girls came up front with flowers for David. Some had whole bunches of flowers... Some just a single rose. And David accepted them with a smile of surprised happiness on his face. This was something he had simply not expected, and it was a beautiful gesture.

The first house in Hamburg — the one that started at 6 p.m. — was fantastic. The fans went wild. David's act was out of this world... His swirling, gyrating, leaping movements... His voice caressing the mike one minute, and the next minute pulling all the stops out for a full volume chorus. And all the time his fans had him there, before their eyes, in his magnificent white, embroidered catsuit.

TOO WILD

Only one thing spoiled that evening for David; the fans went slightly too wild after the second show. The second house had not been full because so many fans who wanted to go had failed to cajole a Mum or Dad to go along with them. And, in Germany, there is apparently some law which prevents the under-15's going out to public places like that in the evenings unless they are accompanied by an adult. (The same idea as our 'X' certificate

for films — but even crazier, if you ask me!).

The ones who did get there gave David a tremendous response during the show. It was afterwards that the trouble started. Some girls were so desperate to get through the security cordon and see and touch David that they decided to take matters into their own hands.

DRESSING ROOM

They actually started to throw bricks through the dressing-room windows. And, sure enough, one whizzed past David's ear far too close for comfort! That did not make him feel any happier, or any more confident about going out there and getting to know them a little better!

In fact, he wouldn't have been let out, even if he'd pleaded to go! Everybody reckoned that it was safer for David to sit tight — out of range of flying missiles. But it soon became obvious that the fans didn't mind sitting tight too. It was 1 a.m. before they finally managed to smuggle a weary David out from the concert hall to the Vier Jahreszeiten Hotel where he was staying.

It is things like that which make David reluctant to go out and about to meet his fans. And understandably so. Then people are puzzled when he doesn't advertise where he plans to do his souvenir shopping or doesn't publicise his schedule of exits and entrances.

But, when you're in the sort of position David has rocketed to

over the past couple of years, you learn to play safe...

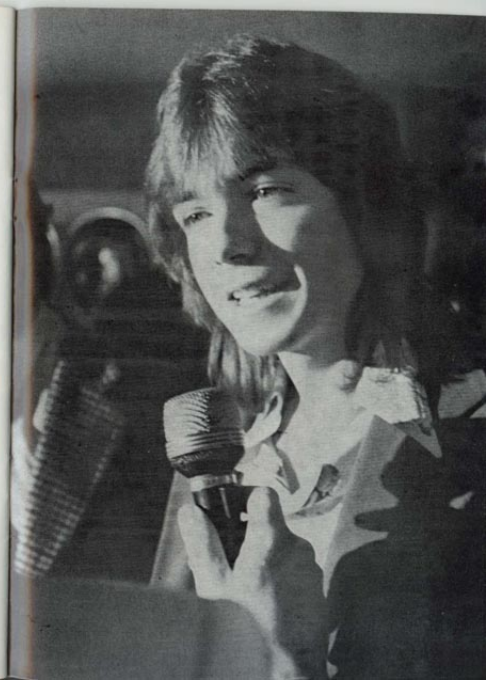
And David sure was surrounded on this last trip. Ruth Aarons, of course, only joined him for the British phase of the tour. But, earlier in Europe, he hadn't been exactly lonely! Always there were at least three security men with him, and — of course — his backing group, his personal manager, Jan Leary from Bell Records, and Tony Barrow, who arranged the publicity for Europe this time round.

Loneliness is something David hates above all things. But sometimes there are occasions when he gets a yearning to be alone.

RETREAT

That's why he was so grateful for the chance to stay on Lord Montagu's private estate at Beaulieu in Hampshire. There he could retreat and be sure of sleep or rest in peace and quiet... When he wasn't in the driving seat of one of Lord Montagu's splendid vintage cars, that is! That was an extra special bonus... Just one of the things that made this trip a wonderful, unforgettable experience for David as well as for every one of his European fans.

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Here's David being interviewed by a reporter at one of his many airport press conferences. ▶  
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DON'T FORGET TO TAKE THE

Mickie

MESSAGE & SONGBOOK

No. 17 is on sale now with all the words of: Carly Simon's "The Right Thing To Do", THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY'S "Maybe Sunday" and "Take Good Care Of Her", Roger Daltrey's "Giving It All Away", The Four Tops' "So Deep Within You", Bruce Ruffin's "Tickle Me" and many, many more of your favourite songs.