

DAVE ON DAVE

“Just part of the day’s work...”

That’s how Dave Bridger of Bell Records first came to meet David Cassidy. And just look what it led to!

Since then Dave has been David’s constant companion on his trips to Britain, he’s visited David at home in Los Angeles and — in between visits — he keeps in touch by phone!!!

Man, that’s some job he’s got there!

Although, to be fair, Dave admits that it’s not *all* work, by any means. He’s just been lucky enough to land a job where the work brings fun and friendship, too. Because it’s probably true to say that he knows David better than any other British guy.

Anyhow, why don’t I let Dave tell you exactly how, when and where he first met David:

FIRST VISIT

“It was February last year at the Dorchester,” he told me, “when David was over here on his first visit. He wasn’t anywhere near so big in Britain then — at least not compared to today... Well, you’ve only got to compare the press coverage to see the difference at once!

“So, at that time I was logging to get ‘It’s One Of Those Nights’ into the charts, but it just wasn’t happening..

The time wasn’t quite right then.”

It must have been rather frustrating for folks like David at Bell, when you come to think of it. There they were, issuing David’s records and *knowing* inside themselves that he was the hottest property on the music market since the Beatles. But somehow it looked as though the record buyers were turning a blind eye.

That didn’t last for long!!! Meanwhile, we rejoice Dave in the lift at the Dorchester Hotel on his way up to David’s second floor suite: “I’d been asked to take some albums over for him, and that’s exactly what I did. We shook hands, said ‘Hello’ and that; but my first impression of David was of a very, very distant person.

“In fact, I really didn’t like him that much on a first reaction! You see, I thought of that sort of distant politeness as being cold. But I was wrong, very wrong.

“Now I can understand why he had to be like that, so I see it all in a different light. After all, who was I to David? Some guy from Bell... That was all he knew.

“And I’ve learned since that he felt very vulnerable on that first trip over. So that distant tone was a sort of defence mechanism for him... It gave him something to hide behind while he could suss people out.”

So to David, Dave remained just ‘some guy from Bell’ —

till his next trip over to Britain.

That was the time he stayed on the ‘Ocean Sabre’, remember?

Dave continues the story, explaining:

“We really knocked up a very, very strong friendship that trip... You see, I was with him all the time — on the boat as well. In fact, I was there, right beside him, more or less twenty-four hours a day!”

Luckily, the two Daves discovered that they got on really well — as friends as well as working colleagues:

“We found we had a lot of things in common,” Dave recalls, adding with a sly smile:

“I suppose you could say that our common denominator would be girls... Yes, we’re both very keen on girls!”

But even more important than that was the fact that David found he could relax with Dave and trust him to get everything organised.

Dave reckons that, “With a hectic schedule like mine, you’ve just got to snatch a moment here and there to wind yourself down — to unfray yourself, you know? Well, it’s tremendous if you find somebody who you can sit and rap with for a while, letting all those worries and tensions oze away.”

So sometimes they’d sit and chat in the early hours of the morning before snatching a couple of hours’ sleep. Or they’d linger for a few extra



Above: Dave and Dave as they appeared on the ITV Documentary.

Below: The interviewer queries David. The blankets are to make sure David doesn't catch a chill after his exhausting performance.

