

bought some land here in Hawaii, with a ranch-house on it. Everybody advised me to do it as an investment, and I guess there's a lot of sense in that. But I really bought it for the simple — and very non-financial — reason that I wanted a place of my own in Hawaii! There's big business for you!

I sure am glad that I did it now. Of course, there's a lot to do before the place'll be anywhere near how I want it to finish up. So everything's chaotic back at the ranch right now! I'm having the whole place done up and fitted out like I want it, so that it'll feel like 'home', instead of like some strange vacation house.

That's partly why I've been spending so much time here, I guess. It's been great to be on the spot and see the place growing and changing into the second home I want it to become. But sometimes I get kinda wrung out with all the noise and mess . . . It sure is some relaxation when you're cornered by a whole load of folks wielding hammers and things!

SURF'S UP

That's when I do my vanishing act and disappear down on to the beach. Most days I bring my surf board down with me, or I swim.

But today, I reckoned, seemed a good time to write you and fill you with envy over the sunshine that's blazing down on me right now. You know, it makes the sand so hot that I've kinda dug myself in, to get away from the burning layer on top!

I'm just racking my brains for any bits of really exciting news I could pass on to you . . .

That's the trouble with Hawaii: it's so *completely* relaxing that it gets to be an effort to do anything at all — even think!!

There's another problem, too, at this precise point in time. You see, there's something really exciting just about to break — I hope. But I simply can't write about it, till all the legal formalities have been worked out. Now I figure that that should take maybe another few days . . . maybe a week at most. And then it should really hit the headlines and you'll know what I'm blathering about!

Right now, I'm just busting to tell everybody about it, and I'd love to make you the very first people to know. But I'd be in real trouble then, if something went wrong, because we've all sworn to keep it under, till everything's for sure.

Anyhow, by the time I remember to post this and it gets across to you in Britain, you'll most likely know all the details already! I hope so, because then you'll realise why I'm so excited about it . . .

I guess I'd best change the subject pretty smartly now, or I'll be sure and let it out by accident or something!

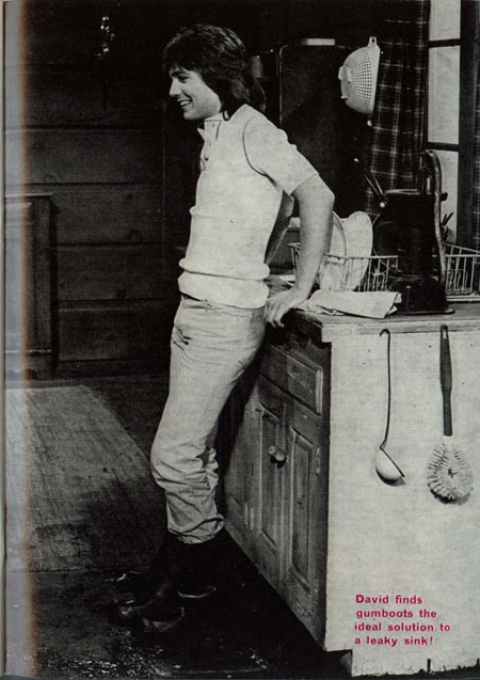
So, to return to something that you're probably as tired of by now as I am . . . This strike! I'm now really starting to get worried in case it throws out all my plans for this fall. Up till now, I've still managed to hold on to that week in September for another visit to Britain . . . And I can tell you, that's going to be the last thing to go!

But, you see, it may well be taken out of my hands. The whole schedule is bound to change now that the start has been delayed for so long. So there is no guarantee that we'll get the same free time we were planning on before. And I don't know that there's anything useful I can do about it. I'm under contract to do this season, no matter when it finally gets going. And, of course, I'll have to see it right through to the end. All we can hope is that they'll try to mess us about as little as possible. When I explain my plans to them, maybe they'll help me to fit the British trip in . . . I sure hope so.

Anyhow, I guess the time has come for me to say 'au revoir' (that's just to *prove* I can speak French!). So I'll drag my carcass up from the sand and go hunt for an envelope. Gee, this is an awful scrawl now I come to look at it! Looks like some spider just dropped in some ink and took a walk over my paper! Still, I guess it'll be typed before you get to see it, so that won't be your problem!

Keep your fingers crossed for this strike to finish soon, won't you?

Remember . . . The sooner it's over, the more chance I'll have of getting over to see you this fall. So, it's kinda important!



David finds gumboots the ideal solution to a leaky sink!