



think . . . The one Sam's been working on for months now. Our latest job was digging a trench, so's the rain'd have some place to drain away. Luckily, we haven't had too much rain up to now. But, if we had, it'd be awful soggy without our trench.

I can't tell you what a marvellous feeling it was at the end of each day . . . As you know, I'm used to being tired at the end of my day's work at the studio. But this was something different! It was a *gorgeous* sensation of tiredness, of being worked out in a real nice kind of way. And boy! Did I sleep soundly after a day's digging!

So that took care of a good few days. Then, when I got back, I suddenly seemed to have lots of new ideas for songs and disappeared into my music studio for the next few days! Maybe it was the trip out that did it, but I certainly think there might be one or two good things there. And I had great fun looning around, working them out.

That was when I suddenly realised how close Christmas was getting! And I started pretending to make plans for it . . . I say 'pretending' because, although I may fool some people, I know I'll most likely do something completely different in the end!

So you'd best bear that in mind when I tell you about the Cassidy Christmas 'plan' for this year. Well, I reckon I'll most likely spend Christmas itself here at home. Because I like to be close to my family and friends then.

HOMEY CHRISTMAS

But I'm hoping to get the best of both words (typical Cassidy attitude, that!) this year. I'll have a homey Christmas, *and* get away for a while as well. I guess I'll go out to Hawaii for a spell . . . Maybe even before Christmas.

And then there's another idea I'm keeping up my sleeve at the moment. But I guess I can let you in on it. You see, I'd really like to fit in a couple of weeks over in Italy—skiing, of course! I've really gotten that skiing bug bad. And, so far, Italy's the place I've had the best skiing. That would

be really terrific if I could make it over—say, in January.

But I'm not going to count on it. Because I'm probably going to be pretty busy then, tying things up with the Partridge Family and getting everything together for my upcoming world tour. I guess I'll be starting rehearsals for that fairly soon now, so that things can go easily without that awful sense of rush I've gotten so used to over the years.

What'll you be doing for Christmas, I wonder?

I guess most of you will be spending it with your folks or with friends, same as me.

I hope that, maybe, you'll give me a thought during the day. Because I know that you will be in my thoughts, and it would be kinda nice to think that our thoughts were meeting up half way . . .

I know I'll be thinking of you, because I'll be looking back over the past year . . . Over the rough times, and the big decisions I've made in the course of it . . . And over the good times and the happiness it's brought me.

So you'll be a part of all my memories of 1973. You see, you figure in the bad times, 'cos you helped to get me through them . . . When I was having to make my own big decisions, it may have seemed like I was alone in the world.

But it never felt that way. Because I always knew that you were there in the background, waiting patiently to find out which way I was going to go. And I knew that you respected my right to make that decision and that you'd stand by me, even if it turned out that I'd made the wrong one in the end.

And then, the happiness . . .

You've got to be a part of that. Because you have done so much to give it to me. I can never thank you enough for that. All I can wish is that you, too, find something of the same happiness in the people you love. And that you find it this year at Christmas.

That's my Christmas wish for you . . .

With Love
from David