

duled for the next morning. David, Shirley and Susan didn't need any persuasion . . . They made the most of a rare chance of an early night!

Next morning, the Partridges were up and about, ready to start work, while most of the other passengers were still in dreamland.

Normally, first thing in the morning is not the best time to catch David for a chat! But, on this particular morning, he was all smiles.

"How did you sleep?" he asked me cheerily. "I don't remember having a sleep like that since the time I stayed on board the Ocean Sabre in London. I guess having the sea under me must do something for me!"

He stood leaning over the rails, looking out to sea. "That's some view to start the day's work with!" he exclaimed, and then was silent for a while, taking in long,

slow, deep breaths.

"Better than the smog back in L.A., isn't it?" he laughed, as he left me to have his make-up done.

I reckon that was the one thing that threatened to spoil that wonderful week for David, because he's not exactly a fan of make-up at the best of times. But with the sun beating down on him, in the open air—well, then it all seems crazy to him!

PATIENCE

But he's enough of a professional to realise that his personal likes and dislikes don't come into it once the cameras start rolling. So he sat there patiently, while Mel Burns shut his skin away from the sun and the fresh air.

Then it was time for the stars to meet the 'extras' for this segment, who'd appear as the passengers in the show. As you've probably guessed, they

were going to be played by some of the Fairsea's actual passengers!

Of course, they didn't have to audition or anything . . . Just volunteer. What a way to get yourself a part in the Partridge Family!

Naturally, it was quite a thrill for them, meeting the stars in the flesh and finding out what friendly folk they really are. Not to mention the bonus of autographs and pix galore to take back home as a memento of their vacation!

One lady I talked to was really knocked out by David. "He is so nice!" she kept saying, and explained that she'd always imagined, that people as famous as David would get to be kind of standoffish . . .

"I was really surprised the casual way he came over and spoke with me," she went on. "Like I really mattered to him, even though I was just an ordi-



David, always a gentleman, offers Susan his sunglasses.

nary person . . . After one or two of the things I'd read about him in the papers, that was the last thing I'd have expected. But I guess it just shows you that you can't believe everything you read about folks in the papers."

She was one of the lucky ones . . . She'd been given the chance to meet and get to know David for herself, so she could make up her own mind and find out the truth.

Everyone was agreed that the Partridge Family had put the finishing touch to their holiday by letting them share such a wonderful experience.

The crew were fantastic, in fact. They were all Italian, although the ship was Spanish-owned, which seemed kinda funny to me. But there you are. They were great, from Giuseppe Mortello, the captain, down to the youngest cabin boy. And they were all so good-looking that they could

easily have been film stars themselves!

Giuseppe was terrific with the kids, too. They adored him and he was obviously getting to be very fond of them by the time they had to say goodbye.

Whenever Danny, Brian and Suzanne weren't needed on set, they'd vanish up into the control room and stay there till somebody went to fetch them. You'd have thought that'd be enough to drive any crew crazy! But they actually seemed to enjoy it too!

EDUCATIONAL

"It's very educational," I overheard Danny explaining to David. "Why don't you come along with us one time . . . You might learn a thing or two!"

He cleverly dodged the swipe David aimed at him, and, sure enough, next time David did go along with him!

"Those guys really are great," was his comment.

"After all, they've got their work to do as well, but they're never too busy to stop and answer some of the crazy questions those kids are asking them."

ITALIAN

David and Danny even managed to brush up on their Italian during their spell on board. "That might be very useful if I do make it back to Italy some time this winter," he told me.

One thing's for sure: he'll have some new friends to look up if he does!

David was speaking for all the Partridge Family stars when he summed up the way he felt about it. "I reckon that must be the best location we've ever had," he said. "What a shame all the members of our Fan Club couldn't have been there to share it with us."

You can say that again, David!

Susan, David and Shirley chat on the deck of the Fairsea.

