



made their way to the Columbia Ranch, where David was filming the last of the "Partridge Family" episodes.

"We could tell when we were getting close to the gate," Nicky told me, "because it was crowded with girls, trying to get in. 'We were shown around some of the sets at first. They've got loads of western streets, as well as the small town and city streets that you always see in American films. Then we were driven to the Partridge Family sound stage.'"

And before they knew it, they met David! "We were just chatting and all of a sudden, there he was! He had on jeans and a T-shirt, and he just came up—I think he was a bit nervous, 'cos he took a deep breath, and gulped,—and said 'Hi!'"

"He knew who we were, too, because he pointed to each of us in turn and said 'Nicky, Nicky and Paula, right?' And he was right, too!"

After the introduction, David showed them around the set, explaining how the cameras worked, and then they were able to see Susan and Danny film a scene. Nicky was amazed at how many times it took to do the scene perfectly. She told me, "Everything had to be perfect—not just the acting but the camera angles, lighting and sound. By the time Susan and Danny had finished, we had memorised the lines as well!"

After the scene was finished, the lucky winners and David went back outside to have some photographs taken. While the photographer was shooting, David chatted with the girls. They asked about Sheesh and Bullseye, and David replied that they were fine... but not so Boots, his cat.

## BOOTS

"David told us that he'd had to take Boots to the vet, because he'd ripped a claw out. He seemed really worried about it, 'cos that can be pretty painful for a cat.'"

Eventually the talk got around to David's latest album. Of course, *Dreams Are Nuthin' More Than Whiskey* was a big step for David, and he wanted to know what Nicky, Nicky and Paula thought about it.

"David wanted to know what we thought about his new album. When we told him it was great, he was really pleased, but he kept looking in our eyes and saying 'Really, do you really mean it?' I guess he hears so many people blindly praising him that he wanted to know what his fans *honestly* think."

After awhile, David had to go back to shoot another scene, so he said good-bye to the girls and they returned to the hotel.

The rest of the day was spent shopping and sight-seeing, until, exhausted, the three went to sleep about 8 o'clock.

The next morning was the hottest day of all, and after breakfast it was off to Disneyland for a great time until the late afternoon. After returning to the hotel for a quick meal, the three girls were whisked away to a Los Angeles studio to do a 15 minute show on *British Calendar*, the only radio show in the States designed exclusively for Britons abroad. Afterwards, it was more sight-seeing and then to bed!

## AMAZED

Thursday morning, Nicky, Nicky and Paula were up with the birds and, after a quick breakfast, they were taken to Bell Records, where they were shown around. "It was really amazing, the walls were covered with gold records that David and The Partridge Family had won—there were dozens!" Nicky Mutch told me.

"From there," she continued, "We went to lunch at The Brown Derby, it's a really famous restaurant in Hollywood. We were taken by Coral Roberts of Bell's office in L.A."

"After an enormous—and delicious—prawn salad, we went back to Bell, and then we were taken to a Los Angeles radio station, where one of the disc jockeys showed us one of the studios, and he also gave us a couple of record albums."

"From there we went back to the hotel, and went to bed."

The next day was, in many ways, the most exciting of all for the girls. They came SO close to actually seeing David at home! You see, earlier in the week, they had been

scheduled to visit David again. But because of the hectic shooting schedule that was in effect, David had had to ring them to say it would be impossible, and that he would try to see them when he was in Britain.

## ALONE

They had all accepted it, but they wondered if it wouldn't *just* be possible to get a few minutes alone with David—not to interfere with his plans, but just to get one more look at him!

Anyway, I'll let Nicky Mutch tell the story. "We woke up and Paula had a great idea. She remembered that David had taken Boots to the vet, so she started ringing up vets to see if we could get David's home address. But that was a bit discouraging."

"Then we remembered that we had a picture of David's car. We looked at it and sure enough, you could read the registration number. We rang up the A.A. and found the address of the owner—Ruth Aarons!"

"We all got into a taxi and gave the driver the address, and we were off!"

"After about 30 minutes or so, we arrived. We went to the door, and one of Miss Aarons' girls answered the door. She told us that Ruth would get in touch with David and have him ring us, but that it was impossible at the moment."

"So we took the taxi back to the hotel, and discovered that the fare was 38 dollars!! That just about wiped everyone out of money!"

## AIRPORT

After that, it was just a case of repacking and tearfully driving to the airport to board the plane.

But there are a few things that none of the three will ever forget. The look of surprise on David's face when he opened the presents they had brought him.

The way he smiled and laughed, and especially the way he tenderly put his arm around them.

Just before I left Nicky Mutch, I wondered if the strain of it all hadn't been just a bit wearing at times. "No," she said, "it was a strain all right—the sort of strain we could stand forever!!!"

The two Nickys and David relax before completing their tour of the studio.