



One of the added bonuses of working on *The Partridge Family* that first season was the chance to work with experienced actors like Dave Madden



David and the cast were hard at work on the set. Sometimes a scene would take five minutes, sometimes five hours, but they worked until it was perfect.

At 12:00, there was a chance to break for lunch and a rest. David would generally head for the canteen, along with Shirley or Susan, or perhaps Dave Madden, and have a relaxed lunch before heading back to the set by 1:30.

"At first, it was a treat eating at the canteen, because occasionally you could see someone from another show, an established star, tucking into a sandwich!"

## HANG AROUND

But after a while, it just became a place to hang around between periods of work. And the afternoons were tough, especially in the hot Hollywood summers.

"Shooting outdoors," David told me, "was hot, but at least sometimes there was a breeze. But indoors, you couldn't very well have a breeze, 'cos people just don't have winds kicking up in their living rooms! And with the additional heat from the lights, sometimes I began to feel like a joint of beef!"

After an afternoon of baking, David was allowed to relax and have a second shower . . . before heading to the recording studio for the evening.

Somewhere along the line he managed a quick hamburger and coke, but there wasn't much time between careers.

David, of course, knew that it was worth it. He was growing up by leaps and bounds, as a professional in two separate fields.

After all, during the day he was working with some of the best men and women in television, studying activity both sides of the camera to discover how everything worked.

And his evenings were spent with an acknowledged master of the recording business, Wes Farrell.

What more could a young man ask for? A little time to himself!

David was more than willing to stick to this tough schedule, but from time to time it got a bit trying. "I guess if I hadn't had Sam to talk things over with at night, I would have gone mad. I used to come home from recording sessions, still wound up from all the excitement and pressure of the day, and we'd spend hours talking.

"Then, all of a sudden, the exhaustion of the day would catch up with me and I would just about collapse. So I would head for my room and try to catch some sleep."

Of course, lots of people work hard and long hours in show business, and it's pretty much considered a part of the job.

But then, most people in show business don't work weekends as well. David did.

"Most of the time I'd manage to get off early on Friday night, and then I'd catch a plane and head for a concert date. That's if I was lucky—sometimes I'd be heading for two concert dates!"

So, too many times for comfort's sake, David would be doing two concerts in two days. That meant he would be limping home Sunday night, absolutely shattered.

The hollows under his eyes grew, and he began to look tired, and that simply wouldn't do in front of the probing lights and cameras of a television stage. And also, he began to catch colds and "bugs" a lot more easily.

To prevent them, David began taking vitamin "C" tablets, which helped a bit. But it was obvious to everyone that he welcomed the end of the season.

## REST PERIOD?

So, after the first season, the pluses definitely outnumbered the minuses as far as everyone was concerned. The only real flaw was the departure of Jeremy Gelbwaks at the end of the season. Jeremy, who played the role of Chris Partridge that first season, was to be replaced the next year by Brian Forster.

Jeremy's family moved clear across the country to West Virginia, and of course that was just a bit too far to commute, even for a show as popular as the Partridge Family!

Of course, David was looking forward to a bit of rest during the summer. Unfortunately for him, someone else had other ideas . . .

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