

they would just go away. I guess I thought that with a little rest, which I was due for in August, they might just disappear when I was able to go back to a more regular way of life."

"Finally after dragging my feet for about six weeks, I decided that I could miss a morning of filming. And I went to the doctor."

They made some tests, and told him to come back early the next week to discuss the results. And the results were quite a surprise.

"It seems that, not only was my gall bladder not working (which was a big enough shock in itself) but it never *had* been doing its job right."

### PAIN KILLER

His prescription was a pain killer and some rest, but David only followed half of it.

"It was better, and that was all I really worried about at the time. So long as I could get through the early summer, the rest could be temporarily put off."

Or so he thought.

Eventually, with the draining routine of filming, interviews, photo sessions, concerts and recording, even the tablets weren't enough.

David decided to take another day off, for further tests.

"The next Monday, I got one of the biggest shocks in my life. I guess I expected to be warned again about my gall bladder, and told to slow down—which would have been alright, 'cos with another prescription, I could have easily made it to August."

"I just couldn't believe it!" was David's comment. "I was assured that it was minor, but I never had thought of surgery as a 'minor' event. And here I was, going into the hospital to have surgery done in 24 hours!"

Well, if David was surprised, you can imagine how everyone else felt about it.

In short, near chaos!

Still, nothing was going to stop the operation. And on July the 13th, David was wheeled into surgery, flat on his back, at 12.30 in the afternoon.

And that's where he stayed for the next few weeks—flat on his back. The operation went according to plan, and David was conscious again by mid-evening. But he was so obviously physically run down that the doctors kept him in hospital for a week.

...Mt. Sinai Hospital, where David had his

operation, is a famous and well-respected hospital in Los Angeles.

It's especially popular with members of the entertainment world, because of its high standards and the care taken to assure patients that they will have the privacy necessary to speed recovery.

But I guess maybe they hadn't counted on having David Cassidy as a patient.

By the time a local radio station had announced David's operations, crowds of his fans began to pour into the hospital area.

They all converged on the pavement outside the car park, and proceeded to keep a "vigil".

Of course, after awhile, they weren't content to stay outside on the pavement. So David's fans showed their true spirit. Instead of just showing their appreciation outdoors, they started trying to sneak into the building!

They tried every way possible—climbing through windows, dressing up as patients, nurses, doctors and porters.

It seems funny now, but at the time all this confusion was a source of worry for everyone.

The hospital staff were worried that the other patients would be disturbed.

Ruth Aarons, and David's family were worried that David would be disturbed.

And David was worried about *everyone* involved! He told me "When I heard about those two trying to climb up the fire escape, I was sure that, before it was over, someone might need more medical attention than I had!"

Fortunately no one was injured, and David was able to get a week of solid rest. But not before Ruth took the precaution of hiring security guards, and putting them at the main entrance to the hospital, as well as outside of David's door.

So there he sat, with needles in his arm. David had to be fed intravenously for a while, until his system could get used to working without a gall bladder.

He was groggy and uncomfortable for quite a long time, and when he was fully alert, it still meant staying in bed for another few days.

But there was one thing that really surprised him, although it shouldn't have.

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DON'T MISS PART 50  
OF THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY  
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