

that David kept his end of the bargain, which was really pretty simple.

They were well supplied with grooms and people to look after the animals) that Danny Boy got the best of everything.

But most of the time, especially as David grew older, all he could manage to do was to snatch a few minutes for a ride.

As David's schedule began to include other events, such as dating and all the social life that is involved in the American high school scene and also, eventually, a career he found that he had less and less time for Danny Boy.

Once again, Danny Boy had to go up for sale. "Of course I was sad, but it was the only thing I could do. I was eighteen at the time, and I had so many other things that were important to me which meant that I couldn't give Danny all the attention he needed. For one thing, I was beginning to try to break into the theatre—and that doesn't leave you too much time for anything else."

MOVED ON

"I looked at it this way: I just couldn't look after Danny properly any more, so I'd rather he moved on to a good home where somebody would make him the centre of their lives just as I'd done at the start."

Even though David had to sell Danny Boy, he didn't lose his interest in horses. It was just that, as he said, he just didn't have the time.

As his career grew and he began to earn more money than he'd ever dreamed of, David often wistfully dreamed of the days when he could

squeeze in as much riding as he liked.

In fact, even before those days arrived, David had discovered another horse that really caught his eye.

APOLLO

You've undoubtedly seen David with this horse, on the cover of his album, *Cherish*. The horse's name is Apollo, and he belongs to Ruth Aarons, David's manager.

Apollo was the sun god in Greek mythology, and represented masculine beauty. If you've seen a pic of the horse Apollo, you'll know that it was a pretty accurate name.

Apollo is absolutely gorgeous, and as fine an animal as you could hope to find anywhere. David just didn't confine his time with Apollo to riding, however. He found that Apollo was such a good friend as well as being photogenic, that he was just a natural "prop" for photo sessions.

"I find that it helps a lot if I've got someone like Apollo to chat to whilst they're lining up their shots or whatever.

"So Apollo and my dogs have gotten to be quite big stars in their own rights! They're on posters and magazines all over the States and it looks like they're getting to be internationally famous now!"

Apollo is Ruth's horse, but, as David says, "Ruth is marvellous, and I've got an open invitation to ride Apollo any time I like."

And recently, especially now that David has a bit more free time of his own, he has, of course, begun to raise and breed horses of his own.

David has about fifteen horses now, and he's planning

to raise them in Hawaii, once he gets things together. They're racing horses, and a few of them have already run and won races!

"I really enjoy the times I can go along and watch them train," he told me. "You see, they've got a proper trainer and jockeys on the spot."

As far as David is concerned, there's just one problem. He's too heavy to ride his own race horses!

He explained that even at 130 pounds, he's still at least 20 pounds too heavy.

"I'm no heavyweight, but I'd seem like it to any racehorse!"

UPTIGHT

That's where Apollo comes in. "If ever I'm feeling uptight about something, I'll try to fit in a long ride. The feeling of galloping out, full speed, with the ground thundering past underneath me and the wind blowing through my hair—that's guaranteed to make life look better.

"Also I think it's got something to do with the close relationship I've built up with Apollo. There's something very satisfying when you get to the stage where you and your mount seem to be one . . . when you move as one creature and seem to even react as one creature."

Now David is breeding his own horses, and his time and attention is pretty much focused on them. But from time to time, you can bet that images of Apollo and Danny Boy, and indeed all the horses he rode as a child pop up in his mind from time to time.

It's that way with all horsemen—and especially with David Cassidy.

