

THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 57

Officially, nobody was supposed to know about David's scheduled visit to Europe until the very last minute. David himself and Ruth Aarons had decided that this "secrecy" might help to ease the tension and mean the David might have a slightly more relaxed trip than before.

So there was no advance press release, and Bell Records and David's Fan Club did their very best to keep things to themselves. They thought they were doing a pretty good job, too—until the phones started ringing!

"We'd hardly heard full details of the trip ourselves," recalled Susie Miller, secretary of David's British Fan Club, "when I started getting a constant stream of calls asking for confirmation. Of course, we're used to receiving quite a few calls from fans here, but it got completely out of proportion.

I seemed to spend my whole day talking to girls who wanted to know definite dates, where David would be staying, whether he'd be giving any performances, interviews, etc., and even if they could call round to the office to meet him!"

Meanwhile, other calls were blocked—including, on one occasion, a trans-Atlantic call about David's arrangements! "Obviously," continued Susie, "there had been a leak somewhere, and it hardly seemed worth maintaining secrecy any longer." And yet, as many fans could no doubt testify, she continued telling them that nothing definite had been arranged and, so far, information was largely based on rumours.

Why? Is this the kind of service that David's fans expect in return for their annual subscription?

"Naturally," she added, "I felt terrible putting these girls on the wrong trail. But I knew they wouldn't lose anything by it. It wasn't as though there were any tickets for sale or anything that they could have missed out on. And I felt that, whatever else had happened, I had to go by David's instructions unless, or until, he changed them."

Not that these girls really seemed to need that much information—they already seemed to have most of it! By that uncanny "grapevine" system that David's fans seem to have had ever since the very beginning, they were in tune with most of his plans and were making their preparations accordingly. In fact, it's quite likely that many girls in Britain knew where David was going to be staying even before he did himself!

For one thing, David was having a very busy summer, so the European trip was only one of the things on quite a long list that he had to worry about. In between those hectic concert engagements, he'd been spending most of his time inside the recording studios working on "Rock Me, Baby" and he was at last starting to feel something of the excitement an artist gets when he's committed to his material.

NEW DOG

As usual, he was taking very little time "off", but he did manage to spare enough time to choose Bull's Eye, an English setter who was to make up for the loss of Kula who had, sadly, died of distemper earlier that year.

So, on the rare occasions when David had a moment to stop and take stock, he tended to use the time getting to know Bull's Eye, rather than in worrying about his accommodation in England.

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