

He knew that all those arrangements were in Ruth Aaron's capable hands. What he didn't know was that she was getting more and more worried as the departure date drew nearer and she still hadn't fixed anything up.

First step had been to contact the Dorchester in the hope of fixing a 'repeat performance' of the previous Spring. But the folk at the Dorchester could remember that visit all too well, and they reckoned they'd had their fair share for one year! Next, Ruth put through calls to most of the other major hotels in London; but it seems that news travels fast in the hotel world. None of them wanted to know!

Of course, they were all most polite and explained that they would be delighted to welcome Mr. Cassidy—if he was not likely to be attended by throngs of devoted, persistent—and noisy—fans! Short of fitting all David's fans with silencers, it seemed as though little could be done. And clearly David couldn't come over and camp in the streets!

But Ruth Aarons is not a person who easily admits defeat. So, when David casually asked her one day where he'd be staying, she had a reply ready for him: a boat! As things turned out, it was a brilliant piece of planning. Except that Ruth was the first to admit she hadn't really 'planned' it at all. It had simply been the first plausible solution to spring into her mind when David asked his unintentionally embarrassing question!

That's how it came about that David, on arriving at Heathrow, did a quick switch from air to water and immediately set about settling in on the 'Ocean Sabre'. As far as he was concerned, this life-style beat the finest hotel any day—specially as the British weather gods were so kind on this trip. And, while David looked forward to doing some more sight-seeing in London, he quickly became something of a tourist attraction himself.

Suddenly business picked up for the pleasure-boats which cruise up and down the Thames between Westminster Pier and Greenwich. A trip on one of these boats brought passengers almost within touching distance of the 'Ocean Sabre', and it was quite an easy feat to throw letters, cards and autograph books on board. Some lucky girls even saw David pick them up with his own fair hands!

Not that David spent all that much of his time out on deck—thanks to the ever-present security precautions. River Police had warned

him that it could be dangerous if he were seen too often by his fans who lined the bank opposite. Not dangerous for David, of course! But the police feared—and rightly so as things turned out—that the sight of David 'so near and yet so far' might be too much for some girls, who would happily 'take the plunge' in the hope of getting closer to him.

So, in spite of the tempting sunshine, David tried to spend as much time as possible below deck or in the lounge, where he could see what was going on without being too conspicuous himself.

Even journalists and TV men were met with tight security measures. Access to the 'Ocean Sabre' was by means of a small motor launch; but no journalist would be allowed on board—even on production of a press card—unless he also had an official 'David Cassidy' boarding pass. Another similar pass got you from the launch onto the yacht itself! Quite a complicated system. There could be no doubt that the Dorchester had been a lot simpler in lots of ways. But pretty well everyone was agreed that David had done a good thing turning 'sailor'—not least his fans, some of whom had sensibly armed themselves with binoculars before starting sentry duty opposite the yacht.

Karen Miller was one of those who had travelled in (from Ilford in her case) to see David both on this occasion and when he'd been staying at the Dorchester in March. She spoke for many girls when she said: "Last time, I waited outside the Dorchester for days and had the big thrill of regular chats with the door-keeper! Actually, I could say I saw David once, but I didn't really . . . I just knew he must've gone past 'cos of all the shouts. And I ran forward with the others, but I couldn't hardly see him—let alone recognise him.

"I think this is a much better idea," she continued. "I've already seen him lots of times, and when he comes out on deck and waves it's absolutely smashing."

This visit had started well, and it certainly looked as though it was set to carry on that way. But there was a hell of a lot of action to fit in before David headed back for the States. And there were only FIVE DAYS to fit it all into.

**DON'T MISS PART 58
OF THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY
WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN
THE AUGUST ISSUE.**

