



right in the face . . . The entire wall is a massive painted Union Jack! It's certainly the biggest Union Jack I've ever seen . . . It takes in the door and everything.

So there's an idea if you want to conjure up the U.S.A. in your home . . . Try doing the same with the Stars and Stripes! Only do ask your mom or dad first, before you start swishing round your bedroom walls with pots of red and blue paint!

You know something? I reckon my 'British' wall has been brain-washing me! I used to be a real coffee fiend, but since we've moved house I've switched onto drinking tea all the time. Maybe it's the first stage in a subconscious change of nationality!

Water Skiing

But piano-playing and tea aren't the only things I've taken up recently! I've gone really mad with all this new leisure time I've gotten myself all of a sudden, and I've also taken up water-skiing again.

It's a sport I've always loved, but it was another of the things that had to go when the pressures on my time got so great. I guess, even now I wouldn't have thought about picking up again except that John, the drummer in my band, has got a boat.

With a temptation like that on my doorstep, how could I resist it? Well, strictly speaking, it's not on my doorstep — because he keeps the boat on a lake about an hour's drive from L.A. . . . But you get my point, don't you?

How do you go for water-skiing in Britain?

I have a sneaking feeling that the water would be a sight too cold for me! But, then, I reckon it probably all depends on what you're used to, and I've now gotten used to the warm California water, or — better still — the wonderful water in Hawaii. Maybe one day I'll have a chance to try out the British water and see how it compares. But perhaps I'd better take a course on Arctic survival first — just in case!

Hey! Reading over this letter, it sounds dreadful . . . as though I've been wallowing

◀ Left: That's me deciding whether to take the plunge or not.

Right now I'm getting really bound up with the thought of my next trip to Britain. Everybody here seems to be working on it, but — even so — we still haven't got the dates absolutely definite yet. You can be sure I'll be letting you know just as soon as they're fixed.

Meanwhile, I'd like to thank you all for giving me the wonderful thrill of topping the British charts with "How Can I Be Sure". I was pretty ecstatic when I heard it was in the top three! But, when it got to Number One and kind of hung around there for a while . . . Well, then I kept on remembering all you marvellous folks who'd put it there for me.

I must say, I specially hoped you'd like that record because it's one of my favourite numbers, too. So it was extra nice to know you felt much the same way about it. Thanks again . . . You're terrific!



And here's me jumping in complete with all my underwater gear.