



DAVID
 by **SAM HYMAN**
 the guy who knows
 him best



As soon as I heard from David that his close friend, Sam Hyman, would be staying on in England for an extra week or so in September, I made a resolution to corner him for some good long chats . . . And it certainly was well worth it.

No prizes for guessing our main topic of conversation!

One of the questions I asked Sam fairly early on was:

"How long have you and David been room-mates now?"

DIFFICULT

"Well, about three, four, years, I guess," he replied, adding, "But maybe you'd say we're not strictly speaking room-mates any longer. Because we live in separate houses now, you know, although they're right close by so we're still neighbours. It just means that, if either of us wants to have complete privacy, he can."

"We thought it was going to be a hassle at first," he continued, "but, in fact, it's proved to be an ideal arrangement. Of course there are times when it can be difficult — say, when a call comes through to the wrong house and we have to run across to the other with the message, "Hey, a call for you!" That doesn't happen too often, though, because we've both got completely separate phone lines. So the advantages have got it way over the problems, as far as we're concerned."

Talking to Sam, it soon be-

came clear that this respect for each other's privacy was a very important part of their friendship.

"You can have too much, even of something good," Sam commented, "so David and I have always tried to avoid ramming ourselves down the other guy's throat. Even when we were sharing an apartment with two other guys, we all had our own rooms, and if somebody's door was shut, well you didn't go bursting in — you knocked first . . . There was nothing formal about it or anything; we all just sort of assumed it."

"Some folks get this idea," Sam continued, "that David and I are like inseparable twins or something! But that's not like it is at all. We both live our own lives. And we each have our own sets of friends. Of course, we've got a whole lot of friends in common, too. But there are times when we'll have company we don't want to share and that's O.K. by both of us. We go our own ways a lot, and it seems to work out fine."

I asked Sam if he ever went to Columbia Ranch to see the Partridge Family in action:

"Oh, sometimes, but I don't get the chance to go there all that often now . . . I seem to have so many pressures on my time."

"I'd like to go more often," he went on. "It's a really nice set . . . friendly . . . a very happy set to work on."

He commented specifically on the relationship between Shirley and David:

"They're more like good friends than stepmother and stepson . . . I mean, he doesn't call her "mother" or anything . . . She calls him David and he calls her Shirley. They understand each other very well because they seem to be on an equal level. It's great to watch them working together, or even just rapping."

Sam told me that this was even more true of the relationship between David and his mother, Evelyn Ward:

WONDERFUL

"Evelyn is a wonderful lady. It's not only David who has a good relationship with her, either," he laughed. "I do too! She's the sort of lady you respond to as a person rather than like — uh, uh, here's David's mother, we'd better hide the cigarettes, pick up our socks and clean up the ark a bit!"

"There's nothing like that. We don't need to change our life-style at all because, when she comes to stay, she just blends right in and everything moves as usual."

I asked how long she normally stayed over with David:

"Oh, maybe three or four months a year. She's there right now, in fact. And this time — for the first time ever — it was a bit of a strain. But that didn't have anything to do with Evelyn as a person," he hastened to add. "It was just that we were still moving house when she