

I then asked David if he'd say that any one of his songs could be called a 'favourite' with him:

"I'll tell you one thing," he replied, "you've just asked what must be my very UN-favourite question!"

But, by the way he teased me about it, I knew that he wasn't really angry at all. And he went on to explain why he found that question one of the most difficult in the world to answer:

"You see, the songs I'm doing are always changing, so that some of them now have gotten a sort of 'period' status — like all those early Partridge Family hits, for instance . . . I really enjoy doing those even now, although I'm sure I perform them in an entirely different way than I did when we first introduced them.

"But, on the other hand, I'm really into the new type of music I'm doing now. There's a whole lot of songs that haven't even got near the recording studio yet, so their names would be meaningless to you. And, of course, if I've just written a number, I tend to think it's pretty good right then — though, looking back after a few months, it might well strike me as being awful!

"As the concerts I do, for instance," he continued, "I might give the same programme at two concerts running. Yet I often come off stage with a different number as my 'favourite' one of the show.

"That's because at a live concert it's the audience's reactions that are the deciding factor for me. If they love it, I get a sort of throw-

back reaction up there on stage and it seems like nothing can go wrong!

"But to get back to your original question," he smiled, "And to give you something approaching a reasonable answer . . .

Right now, this minute, I'd probably go for "My First Night Alone Without You". But that's probably only 'cos that happens to be running through my head at the moment.

"I might have changed my mind by tomorrow!" he threw in as a final warning!

Another question David can't provide a clear-cut answer to is: which season of the year does he enjoy most?

"For one thing," he began craftily, "out here in California we don't have that much difference between the seasons.

## ENDLESS SUMMER

"Oh, summer's hotter than the others, of course! But, what I mean is that you don't get the different characters of the seasons like you do back East in New Jersey or in Britain, for instance.

"Now the summers we get here are absolutely outside — if you're on vacation, and if you can spend all day in the pool or down on the beach! But those long, hot summer days sure can get to be a drag if you're working . . . Specially if you're in my line of work! Because I'm either under the lights (which give out enough heat on their own — without any help from the weather!), or I'm

out under the midday sun, shooting an outdoor scene.

"Of course," he added as an afterthought, "it's not always midday, but there are times when it seems like it is!"

"You have to wear make-up all the time as well, don't you!" I put in sympathetically.

"That's right, and that doesn't help any of us to feel any cooler! But it does have one big advantage as far as the filming goes — it stops us looking hot and sweaty! On the really blistering days, it makes it a full-time job for Mel and his powder puff keeping the shine down!"

David reckons that the absence of marked seasonal changes in California has a lot to do with the way he feels about snow these days:

"I always used to love winter as a kid in New Jersey," he told me . . . "Mostly because that was when the snow fell and there were so many games you could play at with snow around. It still holds something of that white magic for me even now. I don't think there can be any miracle more wonderful than going to bed one night with everything looking drab and normal, and then looking out of your window next morning to find everything transformed by a fall of snow. You find yourself in a land of fantasy, because even the trees right outside of your window are changed beyond recognition.

"But, then, you see," he finished, "I'm impossible, because I want the sunshine and the beach as well!"



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