

wise any kid in the world to go into show business but, "This is what I want to do. I always loved singing. I sang in the church choir (back in West Orange, New Jersey) from the time I was like three. I was always the kid soloing. I did summer stock with my mother (actress Evelyn Ward) when I was really young, eight or nine. It was ridiculous—*Pajama Game*—I sang in the chorus. And this is what it's always been for me. I just have to learn to exist in show business, because it's what I love to do."

But he doesn't go the Hollywood party route. He has this pad with his drums and dogs, a massive table made from a telephone cable spool, film packing boxes for chairs (exactly three of those). And this is where David lives. His room is littered with music and scuba diving equipment—for this is his new thing. "A really good hobby for me because it is really getting away from it all. A friend of mine was into it, and we get together and play the guitar all the time, and he's good. But he was always talking about these diving trips and I told him I'd like to do it. I started like a couple of weeks ago. I'm taking lessons right in Beverly Hills. The instructor is great and the people in the class are really nice. I'll be a certified diver in a month. This friend of mine took me in the pool for the first time, explained everything so I wouldn't panic or anything, and it was really fun and I dug it. I got a mask and some fins and a snorkel, and now I have a tank and a regulator. I've been in the ocean, and we're going to Catalina in about ten days."

It'll be something to tell his grandfather when David goes back to West Orange, which he will be doing soon. His grandfather's is the house he grew up in, and this is a boy who treasures all the deep roots. "My grandfather is eighty-four. He really digs me, you know. We have a good time together. We talk about baseball, stuff like that." And nothing can change his relationships with his grandparents and uncles, aunts, and cousins—although the last time he was back, the people in the town were more than slightly amazed about his hair. "It's incredible what a different world that is. Even my grandfather said, 'You ought to go and see the barber and get your hair cut.' But he accepts. The same as I accept his political views. I don't let politics or anything else come in the way of my human values. They accept me because I'm their relative and I'm on a television series and I want longish hair and I'm not throwing bricks through their windows. You know, to many people longish hair conveys hippie—and that means bad."

He and Steve found that out when they were traveling about seeing all the beauties of the west. In Arizona, they stopped in a restaurant for something to eat and it was, "like *Easy Rider*. We looked pretty ruddy, I guess. We hadn't shaved for a week and Steve had hair down to here, super long, so we walked in and everybody stopped talking and just stared at us like 'I want to kill!' It was really strange. I remember trying to eat and wanting to crawl into a hole. It was terrible."

But nothing can spoil the memory of that night he sat on his rock sing-

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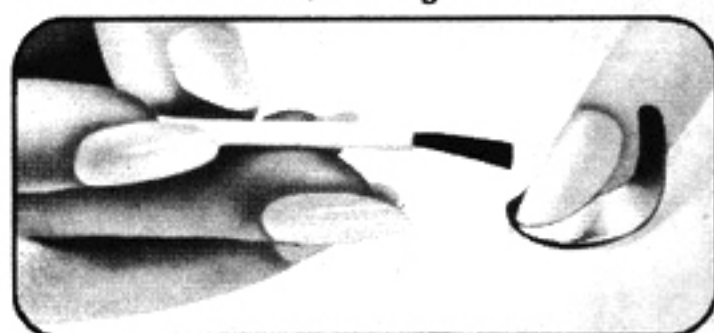
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