

"Do you know where all your stuff is, so you won't take two days to pack?" I asked. I was **determined** to have this conversation!

"Slyzz mring enlnnd," he said.

"Do you mind?" I asked. "This is the translator's night off."

He sat up and glared at me. "I said, I'm going to **England**," he told me, as if I was particularly backward. Then he took his boot off his thigh, picked up the other one, and went to take a shower.

So that's how I got the exciting news. If I hadn't asked him about our planned trip, you probably would have known he was in England before I did!

And so he went, with all the usual hopping around the house in one shoe, looking for the other half an hour before plane time. This time it would be different, he said. This time he'd remember everything. This trip he'd have his toothbrush and two pairs of jeans, and all the things he usually forgets. And I have to hand it to him, he kept his word!

QUIET A SURPRISE

Of course, he still did everything in the last 45 minutes, but he was very thorough. In fact, he was so thorough that he took, not only his own suitcase with everything he needed in it, but also an old suitcase of mine, which was still packed full of old clothes we'd stuffed into it when we moved! He said it was quite a surprise to open his bags and find a sweater he hadn't seen for almost a year! Not to mention seven pairs of cut-off jeans for surfing!

Somehow, he managed to make this wardrobe work, because the trip itself was fantastic! David starred on a TV show called "Top of the Pops," which is this institution, practically, it's been on for a hundred years and it's still the number one music show over there!

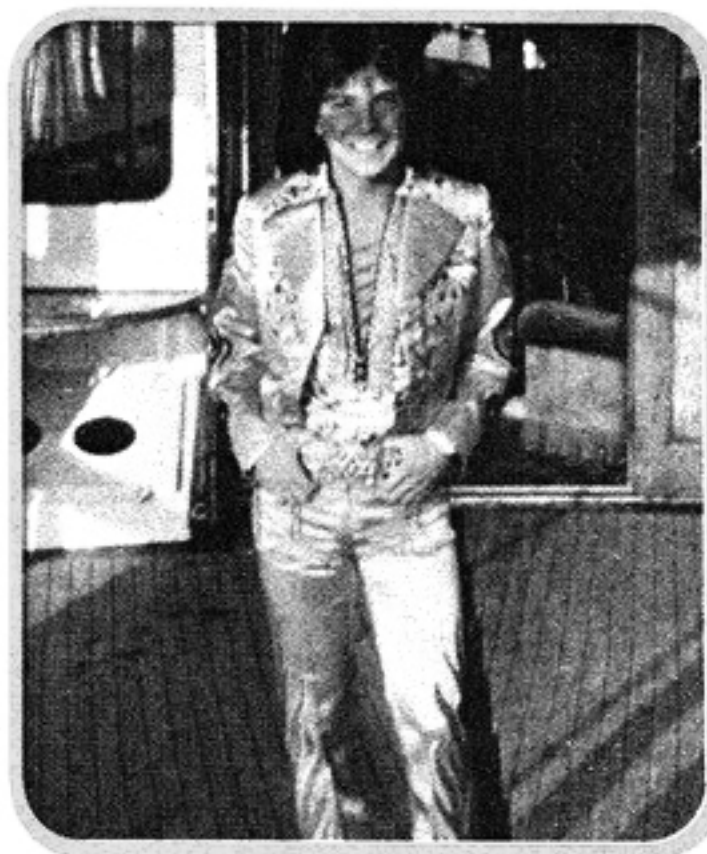
There were about ten thousand people to meet him at the airport, and all of them brought friends with them to surround the studio where the show was being filmed. David got totally mobbed going in, and then they did it again when he came out!

David really digs affection from his fans, of course, but being mobbed scares him silly! He gets to feeling like he can't breathe at all, and he really can't move out of the crowd.

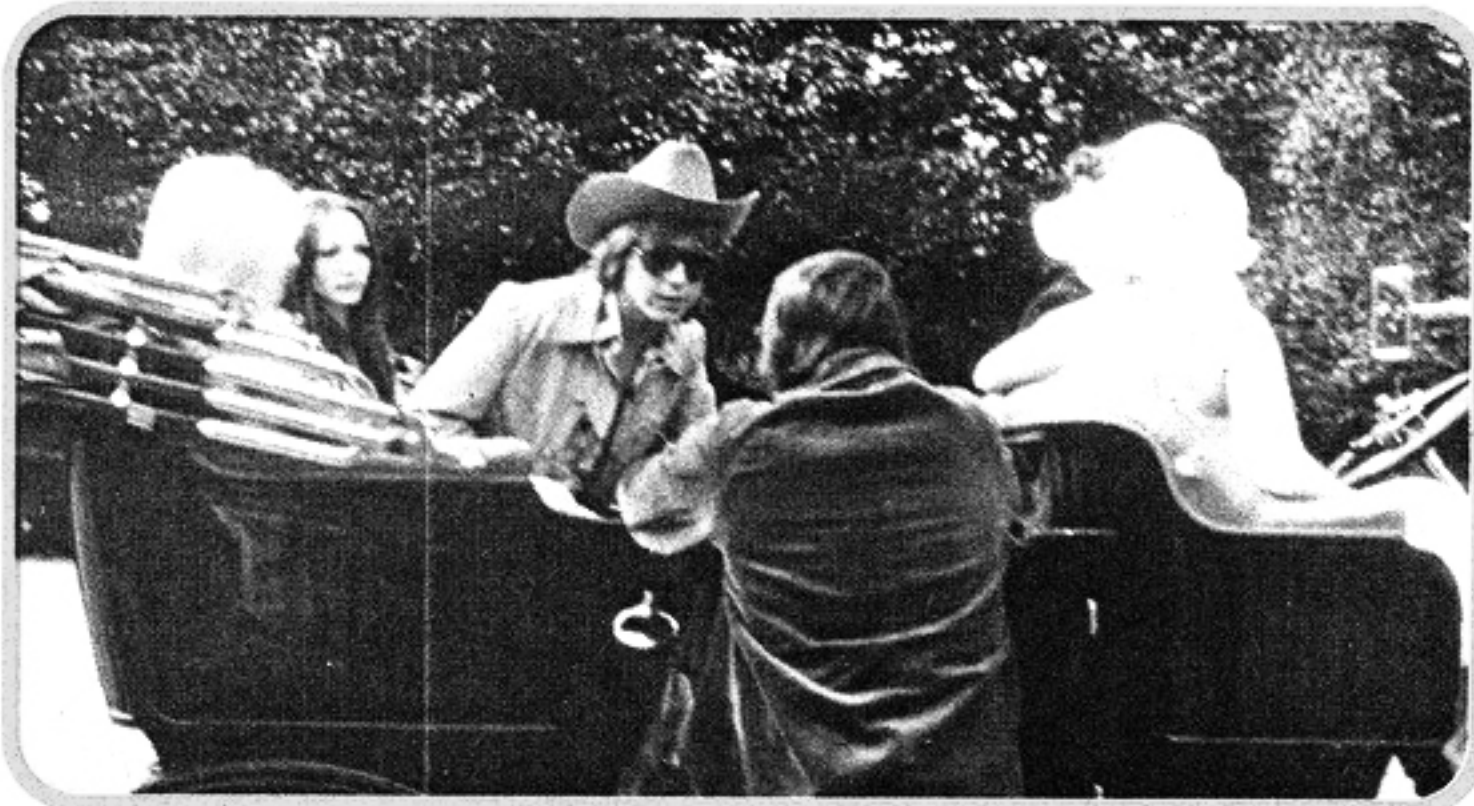
It's just impossible, because there are so many people so close, and in the back everybody is shoving and pushing, and anybody who falls down could be in bad trouble, because people can't stop moving—there's that much pressure from behind! So it always frightens David to think that one of his fans could get hurt, and indirectly he'd be to blame! Also, he does like to breathe!



DAVID TAKES time off in England to try a bit of croquet with an umbrella yet! He did well, considering! See his pants?



DAVID'S REALLY gone in for colors a lot more. Would you believe this outfit is shocking pink? David hopes you like it!



DAVID TAKES A RIDE IN an old fashioned car as part of a promotion tour in England! He loved the car. The girls are models.

Anyway, the whole trip was just like a total triumph for him, and when he came back home (at 4:30 in the morning, scaring me to death) he felt pretty good! The English kids had given him a send-off at the airport that he said he'd remember for the rest of his life! He's still talking about the amount of warmth he found over there.

LITTLE THINGS

And so now he's back into his old sixteen-hour-a-day schedule, rehearsing, filming, playing music, recording, writing songs, practicing guitar... all the little things he usually does to fill up all that spare time.

And, just now, he came home and told me he's got something new to worry about—his own television special! It'll be coming at you on the same station as "Partridge" sometime in this coming year, so keep your eyes and ears open.

He says it's really going to be different, because he won't have to be

"Keith," he can just be David. He's going to sing some and even have some guests. In fact, believe it or not, one of them will be **Bob Hope**! David appeared on Mr. Hope's show first, like a trade, sort of.

Anyway, now that England is over, it's all he can talk about. He's looking for songs and talking with everybody concerned with his special about how special he wants it to be!

Wow, I can't believe it! I actually went through this whole thing giving you real news! Oh, well, next time I promise to be back to my usual standards of household trivia and what David refers to as "filler material." I like to think of them as interesting insights into the life of a star, but David says they're "padding," and since he's the star in question, who am I to argue?

Take care until next time.

Sam Hyman