

Partridge Mom, Shirley, loves cooking in real life, but there's no slaving over a hot stove for her in the show . . . All the food is prepared by the technical crew!

placing our orders! It probably doesn't sound all that fancy to you, Pat, because one of the nice things I remember about the British eating scene is how easy it was to find duck on the menu. Here in the States it's almost impossible.

You'd have had a good laugh, Pat, if you'd have been over here just before David left for Europe. We were all showering him with ideas about places he MUST go and things he MUST see. And Danny went to town in a big way giving him a potted geography course on Italy! So David and his pal shouldn't even need to worry about getting hold of a tourist guide while they're there — their only big problem now will be the language! But then, even Danny had to find a way to get over that one and from what I hear he managed all right with waving his arms about and pulling faces! So I guess they'll get along just fine.

ME: That's one thing he won't have to worry about at all when he gets to London; and I can

tell you, Shirley, that moment can't come too soon for me and all of us over here. The excitement is really starting to build up now everything's definitely arranged.

SHIRLEY: David himself sure is looking forward to it, I know. You couldn't hold him down once he'd got it all fixed. It's been on the cards for so long now that I think he was beginning to wonder if his dream would ever come true! And now it has, we've all made him promise to fill us in on everything just as soon as he gets back.

Shirley and I went on chatting for a while longer till she reckoned it was about time she took the lunch out of the oven before she had a charred meal and four starving males on her hands! I must say it made a wonderful change for her not to have to dash off to start filming. We both felt so much more relaxed because we didn't have to keep one eye on the clock the whole way through. That's something to keep in mind for the future anyhow....