



HOT-LINE FROM HOLLYWOOD!

There I was—of all things—in the middle of trying to pack a smallish suitcase, for a nice weekend in the country, on the evening when Danny was due to call me. The result of my efforts was, naturally enough, complete and utter havoc—clothes everywhere!

I knew it must be Danny when the phone rang, so I did a highspeed obstacle race through all the odds and ends I'd got scattered on the floor and made it to the receiver in two seconds flat!

ME: Hello . . . Pat speaking.

DANNY: Well, what do you know? I must have dialled the right number after all! Hi, Pat! Danny here.

ME: As if I hadn't guessed! Well, how's things, Danny? It's great to hear from you again! Did you have a good holiday in Philadelphia?

DANNY: Hey! How did you know I'd been in Philadelphia? You got a spy-ring out here or something?

ME: Well, David didn't just sit in stony silence all through his visit here, Danny! If you wanted your secrets kept dark, you should have given him the tip-off before he came over! He gave me all the latest news—and, I must say, I can't think of a nicer way to hear it.

DANNY: Yeah, I'll bet! Poor guy! Ever since he got back, we've been pumping him for all the latest info on everybody in Britain . . . Seriously, though, we don't really need to worry about asking the questions, because he just carries right on rapping about the great time you gave him over there. Boy! If we weren't supposed to be one great big happy family, there sure would be some sparks of jealousy flying about!

But, of course, we were all delighted to hear he'd had such a way-out time again. And we all got a great kick to hear about the way our fans did so much to get us put back on your TV screens! Wow! What great ideas you folks have over there! It's just wonderful to know you care so much.

ME: We care all right, Danny! You know, you've got thousands of really devoted fans over here who were absolutely determined to get your show back on the box—no matter how much time and pressure it took!

DANNY: That's fantastic, Pat. I guess David must have already told you himself how much it means to him. But I've got strict instructions from everybody on the Ranch here to say thanks and good luck to all Partridge Protest people in Britain.

ME: (admittedly changing the subject rather suddenly).

You never did get to tell me if you did have a good time in Philadelphia, Danny . . .

DANNY: Didn't I? Gee, I guess you're right! Well, before I go off on another tangent—here it comes right now . . . Ready?

ME: And still waiting!

DANNY: Well, yes, I had a wonderful vacation, thanks. Did David tell you every detail, or shall I go on and tell you a bit more about it?

ME: All right . . . all right! All I got from David was that you were spending a couple of weeks in Philly with your mother, and he was pretty sure you'd be staying with your relatives out there. Right? So you can take it from there . . .

DANNY: Well, you've got to give it to the guy—he gets his facts right. That's just about it, Pat. I hadn't seen my grandpa for quite a while now and . . . you know how it is . . . He's getting kinda old, so it's an awful lot easier for Mom and me to go back East to see him than for him to make the long trip out to us. Anyhow, any excuse to see everybody in Philly is O.K. with me!

ME: How about the rest of the family? I suppose they were tied up in L.A. . . .

DANNY: Yeah . . . Pa couldn't spare the time right then. And, ever since Cecelia became Mrs. William Staley she's been pretty permanently tied up one way or another!

ME: Well, it sounds like a good break plus a family reunion for you and your Mum. Right?

DANNY: Pretty well, yes. It was nice to have the pace slacken off a bit for a month—but I didn't switch off entirely, you know! I did a few local TV shows in Philadelphia, and then, on top of that, a few things came up during the break to do with the T.B. Association . . . Just personal appearances—that sort of thing. I did tell you I'd been made Junior Chairman, didn't I?

ME: No! You didn't, as a matter of fact! Congratulations! That must have pleased you no end—when did it happen?

DANNY: Oh, a couple of months back. Yeah, I was pleased all right—no kidding. Well, you know how interested I've been in the association's work for a while now, Pat. I hate to say it, but I've got a feeling that this little patch of time has run out! So I'll have to say goodbye for now. Take care of all our fans in Britain for us, won't you! I'll be in touch again soon.

