

# HOTLINE FROM HOLLYWOOD...



**I**'d just arrived home after a really terrible day, when no sooner had I closed the front door but the phone started ringing. More problems I thought to myself as I picked up the receiver. But was I pleasantly surprised when I heard Shirley's voice at the other end!

**SHIRLEY:** Hello, Pat! How are you?

**ME:** I feel great now, thanks, Shirley! You must be psychic . . . You couldn't have picked a better time to lift me back out of a low patch!

**SHIRLEY:** Gee, Pat, what's been getting you down? . . . Nothing serious, I hope?

**ME:** Oh, no! You know how it is – I've just had one of those days! But how are you, and how's everyone over there?

**SHIRLEY:** We're all feeling pretty good right now, although we've just come to the end of a long stretch of filming and this last week has been a tough schedule because we've been on location. I guess it must have been the change of scenery and all that open air that did us a power of good! Because, by normal standards, we should all be feeling dead-beat!

**ME:** Where have you been filming, then? It sounds as though it must have been somewhere really great.

**SHIRLEY:** Oh, it was a lovely place, Pat. A huge, new recreation park, which has only just been opened out in Ohio. Remember the name – King Island Park – so you can go take a look around it for yourself when you come over. It's all wide, open, beautiful spaces, with trees and flowers – and all sorts of things to keep you amused.

**ME:** I suppose you'll be taking a well-earned vacation for next month, then, Shirley?

**SHIRLEY:** Well, no, not really! We'll be having a break from filming, sure – but that's as near to a vacation as it'll get – leastways for me!

**ME:** How come?

**SHIRLEY:** You see, I'll be taking a leaf out of David's book – I'm off on a three-week concert trip! That's why I thought I'd call you tonight, because I couldn't be sure of how things would be once I was on the road. I start out the day after tomorrow, and – you know – I'm really getting to be kind of excited over it!

**ME:** I'll bet you are! What's your schedule like?

**SHIRLEY:** Well, it's pretty busy by my standards – though it's still an awful long way from David's jet-paced tours, where he gets right around the country in ten days or so!

**ME:** How far are you travelling then, Shirley?

**SHIRLEY:** Oh, I'm just doing three cities – a week at each, with a show every night . . . That's plenty busy enough for me! We'll be going to Indianapolis, Cleveland and – my special choice – Pittsburgh.

**ME:** Pittsburgh . . . That's your home town isn't it?

**SHIRLEY:** Well, I wasn't actually born there – I was born in a little town nearby, called Smithtown. But I feel very much that way towards Pittsburgh, because it's where I first took my singing lessons.

## SHIRLEY CALLING . . .

So I feel that my whole career is wrapped up in my affection for Pittsburgh. It holds a lot of very happy memories for me.

**ME:** Will you be doing any of the Partridge Family hits in your show?

**SHIRLEY:** You bet! I'll be starting off with a medley of Partridge Family numbers . . . and this is my chance to really come into my own – because I'll be singing the lead vocal!

**ME:** You won't be forgetting your own songs from films like "Oklahoma!" though, will you, Shirley?

**SHIRLEY:** I hope you're not seriously thinking that I might do, are you, Pat? Of course, they'll be there – in plenty. I've got some of my special favourites from "The Music Man" and "Carousel" lined up, too, and I've got a superb young singer to do the duets with me. I reckon I'm really lucky to have him coming along.

**ME:** Well, you know, it wouldn't altogether surprise me to hear that he thought he was pretty lucky to have the chance to sing with you, Shirley!

**SHIRLEY:** Now that's awful nice of you to say that . . . But really, you should watch out for him in the near future . . . He could soon be real big on his own . . . The name to listen for is Ron Husman – and, something I'm mighty thankful for is that he's also a really nice guy to have around the place!

**ME:** Will you have your other 'nice guys' around too? I mean Pat, Shawn and Ryan – just in case you hadn't guessed!

**SHIRLEY:** Now you really MUST be joking, Pat! They've got far more important things to be doing!

No . . . They'll be off on a freshwater fishing vacation with their Dad!!!

In fact, you know, it's occurred to me that this concert tour is going to turn out to be a pretty useful escape route from fishing for me!

You see, the boys have recently gotten a whole lot of new tackle and I've heard about nothing else for days now! Don't ask me to fill you in with the details though . . . I've been told every smallest fact about each new fly, hook and so on – but I must confess that it all rather goes over my head!

Still, I'm all for it if I get a fresh fish for dinner on my first night home!

And talking of dinner reminds me about lunch . . . which reminds me that I'd best go get something onto a hotplate fast if I'm going to have it ready for all those hungry appetites!

**ME:** Don't let me hold you up, Shirley! I'd hate to break up a happy home! Thanks for calling, and all the very best for your tour . . . Bye!