

HOT-LINE FROM HOLLYWOOD!

SHIRLEY TALKING

I must confess that, when David's in Britain, I don't have much thought to spare for any one else! Of course, like you, this was my first chance to actually see David singing, live on stage, and I was just dreamily re-living the whole wonderful experience when — the 'phone rang!!!

ME: Shirley! How lovely! But I wasn't expecting you to call for another week or so.

SHIRLEY: I know. But I reckoned that you'd have seen one of David's concerts by now and we've all been dying to know what the reactions were.

ME: Oh, I simply can't tell you. It was absolutely sensational... I've never seen anything like it! He's just out of this world. And the fans went wild! It's really wonderful for them to be able to see him in action at last.

SHIRLEY: Yes, I know. That was something that bothered him a lot on his other visits. He'd come back saying how terrific the British girls were and feeling real uptight that he'd been forced to let them down because he wasn't allowed to sing.

ME: Yes, he was only saying the other day how marvellous he thought they all were to have stayed loyal in spite of it. But I don't think he'll ever know just how much he really means to these girls. It doesn't cost them any effort to stay loyal... How can they help it!

SHIRLEY: I see your point, Pat. But I think you're wrong about one thing. I'm pretty sure David does realise the depth of feeling in his fans... He's worked awful hard at putting that show together, you know. I mean, he always works hard. But, even so, this was something really special — even by his standards!

ME: I'm sure you're right, Shirley. It's simply that he is so unbelievably modest about his success...

SHIRLEY: Ah, well, that's just David for you. That's a big part of why we're all so fond of him, I guess.

Anyway, I'm so glad to know that everything is going so well. But there was another reason, too, why I put through my call ahead of schedule, Pat.

ME: Oh, what's that?

SHIRLEY: Well, you know how Jack and I have been planning on taking a vacation in Europe for so long now?

ME: Yes...

SHIRLEY: Well, it finally looks as though it's going to happen!

ME: That's tremendous, Shirley! Will you be coming to London?

SHIRLEY: We'd love to, if we can fit it in. I surely hope we can. But right now we're still hazy about which countries we'll be visiting.

Still, my private hopes right now are that we'll be able to visit Switzerland and Spain, maybe, as well as Britain.

ME: That's just terrific news, Shirley. But do try to make sure of Britain at least, won't you? It would be lovely to talk to you without having thousands of miles in between!

SHIRLEY: Oh, don't worry! I'll be trying all right... Can't have David being the only one to make contact with all you wonderful people over there!

It's rather funny really... Shall I tell you what finally convinced Jack that we should make the trip right now at all costs?

ME: Yes... What was that?

SHIRLEY: I guess he saw it as being about the surest escape route! You see, we've had workmen in the house for the past couple of months — and, I must say, we've known it all right!

I haven't minded all the noise and mess too much... But somehow Jack doesn't seem to be able to look that far ahead!

ME: What are they doing to take all that long, then? Knocking it down and starting from scratch?

SHIRLEY: Actually, we are having a lot of re-modelling done. The kitchen will end up completely different and much bigger. And we're having an extra bathroom put in (in an attempt to keep the boys relatively clean!).

ME: It sounds as though it'll end up really nice.

SHIRLEY: I'm hoping so, Pat. It's certainly coming along right now, and I'm hoping that, by the time we return from vacation, it'll be just about finished.

Hey! Sorry, Pat, I'll have to go. Did you hear that crash? (I had heard a vague sort of crunchy thud, in fact, from Shirley's end.) It doesn't sound too promising. I'd better just check everything's okay. Anyway, be seeing you soon I hope. Bye.

I put the 'phone back, keeping my fingers crossed that Shirley would still have a roof on her house! Then I drifted back into those beautiful dreams of David...