

Meeting David Cassidy's always a nice thing to do, so when I was invited to meet him on the Partridge Family film lot just outside Los Angeles, I jumped at the chance. As we drove up to the lot, there was a small crowd of girls outside the studio gates, and I was told that these fans often waited all day in the hope of seeing David drive in and out of the gates!

Once we'd been cleared by the security men, we walked to the studio that was being used that day. The red light was on by the door which meant the cast were actually being filmed, so we waited a few moments until a buzzer sounded that meant we could go in. The first thing I saw as I went inside was David huddled in a blanket on a settee! But it turned out that he wasn't ill, just rehearsing a part of the script for that particular episode which involved him having to be ill so that he could somehow wangle a date with a girl!

While the cast are rehearsing and shooting, there are no interruptions at all, so we just sat and watched for a while, which was very entertaining. One thing that comes over very strongly is David's personal sense of humour, which is very dry! He'd crack jokes with the cameramen and lighting men in between takes, and Susan Dey would join in as well, which sometimes meant when they were actually due to start filming again they all had to wait a while for everyone to stop laughing. Danny Bonaduce wasn't in that particular sequence, so he sat with some of the cast members at the side talking quietly or disappearing

DROPPING IN ON THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY!



outside to play badminton on a court outside the studio.

Finally, there was a break, and everyone went outside to grab some coffee and a snack. There's a great refreshment van that comes along every now and then full of all kinds of cold drinks, sandwiches, pies — even hot hamburgers and hot dogs. Everyone in the Partridge Family including the crew spend a lot of time together, and there's a great atmosphere! David came outside eventually, and we were introduced. He apologised that he didn't have any time to talk at that moment, but he promised to come back in the lunch-hour to chat more. Then he dashed back to shiver under his blanket again!

It takes five days of filming, from early in the morning until late at night to make one episode of the Partridge Family, which is a lot of work to get just half an hour of TV, but that's the way it's worked out. And it really is hard work. During the time I spent at the studio, about five hours in all, they'd filmed one section that lasted about two minutes in the episode! When the crew broke for lunch, David came over to us for the talk he'd promised earlier. Although he was a bit tired from the filming, he was very polite and pleasant. I asked him how he found it doing all the filming. "It is hard work," he said with a grin, "but they're nice people on the show which makes it a whole lot easier. Still, as you know, I'm leaving the show after this series has finished, which should give me more time for myself." I'd heard someone say that next week the Partridge Family was going to Acapulco to film.

"Yeah, that's right. We leave on Sunday, fly down to Mexico, and then spend five days on a boat filming the episode. Should be a nice break, and I really like Mexico and the sea, so I'm looking forward to it."

We talked for a while about what David did in the little spare time he had, although as David said "There's not that much spare time! I spend time with my horse, because I'm really into riding, and other times I listen to records or have a couple of friends round. I'm pretty tired by the time I get home, so all I want to do is relax."

And at that moment, the producer of the show rushed up and asked if David could come onto the set to start shooting again.

"See what I mean?" he laughed, and dashed off to find his blanket!