

HOT-LINE FROM HOLLYWOOD!

DANNY TALKING

DANNY: Good evening, this is your Master of Ceremonies for tonight, Mr. Dante Bonny Duke!!

ME: Hello, and how are you, Danny? By the way, it may be evening where you are, but it's 2 a.m. where I am!

DANNY: Oh, gee, Pat, I'm awful sorry. Have I gotten you out of bed? I'd utterly forgotten about the time difference. Shall I go away again?

ME: Don't you DARE go away! I wasn't even in bed anyway, so you can drop the sorrowful kick right away and get down to telling me what you've been doing since I last talked to you.

DANNY: But that was way back around Christmas time! You know my memory, Pat . . . I can't remember what my middle name is (or even if I've got one come to that!) so what hopes have I got of remembering what happened all those months ago!

ME: All right, all right! I'm not setting you a date-line or anything. Try telling me what you did today . . .

DANNY: Oh, boy, yes. That sure was thrilling. I can't wait to tell you, but I don't want to spring it on you as too much of a surprise, Pat. I'm not too happy about the state of your nerves right now, so I'm not sure how well you can take sensational news like this —

ME: Try me and see . . .

DANNY: O.K. Here it comes then . . . Throughout this day of the . . . ummm . . . whatever it is of February, I, Dante Bonaduce, have been in school!!!

ME: Oh, Danny, you're impossible! I thought you must have won the Nobel prize at the very least.

DANNY: Nope. Only runner-up this year, I'm afraid. Wish me better luck for next time!

ME: Well, you certainly sound perky enough. At least school must have gone pretty well today.

DANNY: Yes, it did actually — for a change! But I'm feeling good generally, anyhow. You know I've released a record with MGM, don't you?

ME: Yes. How's it doing?

DANNY: Some folks are actually buying it! What do you make of that? Straight out, though, Pat, I'm thrilled with the response I've had. Folks have

been requesting it and quite a lot of the stations have given it air-play. Mom says it's lucky I don't go in for wearing hats, 'cos I'd have grown out of them all by now!

ME: But it must be wonderfully exciting to know that people like you enough to go out and pay for a solo record by YOU, Danny . . .

DANNY: It sure has given me a kick, Pat. Now I'm hoping that they might consider letting me play and sing for real on this season's Partridge Family discs. Of course, they may well consider that I still haven't had enough experience for that. I keep telling myself that's the way it'll be, so I won't be too disappointed if it does finally turn out to be like that!

ME: Well, I know everybody here in Britain will be keeping their fingers crossed for you, Danny, and you know how much I'll be hoping it all turns out the way you want it.

DANNY: Thanks, Pat. Do give my love to all our fans over there, won't you? And say an extra big thank you to them for getting the show back on your screens. Because it's really nice for us to know you'll be able to keep up with us week by week.

ME: Yes, I'll certainly pass on your message, Danny . . . Thanks. Any other news I can give them?

DANNY: Well, there's not much point me telling you anything about David because he'll probably beat me to it and tell you all his news in person! Shirley, Dave and I have all spent a lot of our time doing personal appearances recently. Shirley's done an awful lot on behalf of Leukaemia Research just lately, but right now she's at home with the family, as far as I know. Dave's out of town, taking a brief vacation trip and Susan's just about to leave for Mount Kisco to go and stay with her folks for a few weeks.

Let's see, who does that leave?

Well, Brian and Suzanne are just at school really. I haven't seen much of them for the past few weeks . . .

Hey, I'll have to go now — JUST COMING, MOM! — Mom's just called out that dinner's on the table and, if there's one thing I'm never late for, it's her spaghetti and meat balls. So long, Pat. I'll call again soon.