

BETWEEN US!

Hello again. I hope you can read this because I'm writing it down on a plane. You see I'm currently on tour in England and I didn't have time to write several columns before I left so here I am on the plane, dashing off a column and hoping I can get it to FLIP in time for this issue.

You know I really love touring, even though it seems like I never get enough sleep (but what's new about that?) and I hardly ever get a chance to really see any of the places I visit. Still there's something about touring that I really enjoy.

I think the major thing is that I get to really see my fans and they get to see me. I know they see me every week on TV but there's a lot of difference between an image on a TV screen and a real live person on a stage in front of you.

I just wish I could stick around after concerts and talk to the fans, but I always seem to be rushing off to someplace else. But at least while I'm up on that stage I can see my fans in person.

It's quite a thrill really to be up there looking out at thousands of faces and knowing those faces are responsible for all my success. I sometimes dream that somehow I could meet and talk to and touch every single one of my fans! Wouldn't that be great?!

Anyway, I started out to tell you about touring. Well, you wouldn't believe the schedule I lead on tour.

It usually works something like this—I fly into a city, check into a hotel, grab a bite to eat, sometimes have time for a rehearsal with the band (but often we don't have time and they rehearse without me and check the sound equipment so everything will be perfect for the concert), then I go to wherever the concert is, change into my stage outfit in the dressing room and get myself mentally in just the right frame of mind for the show.



Then comes the show, which is the best part of all. I can't even begin to describe the feeling I get each time I dash out onto a stage and hear that first burst of applause. In that first second every bit of hard work and lost sleep is put right out of my mind and all I can feel is the sheer joy of performing for my fans. It's a feeling unlike anything else I've ever experienced. It's kind of a shame that everyone on earth can't experience it.

Sometimes I just want to burst with the excitement of it all. I want to reach out and touch every person in the audience and I want to sing every song I know! I sometimes feel like I could go on all night.

It always seems like I'm just getting started when I'm already into the last song and have to start thinking about leaving. I enjoy performing so much that each show just seems to whiz by.

All too soon I have to dash back off stage and straight back to the hotel. There's always something of a letdown, too, after a show. I guess it's because it's all so sudden. One moment I'm up there singing and the next I'm headed back to some strange hotel.

Then I usually either have to catch another plane right away or else get a few hours sleep and fly out the next day. It's a hectic life but it's all worth it because I get so much pleasure back from it all.

What would really be great were if there was some fantastic time machine invented. Then I could be back in Hollywood making records and filming *The Partridge Family* then suddenly whiz out on tour. Anyone of you happen to be a brilliant inventor?

My life may not be what anyone would call ordinary but I love it and I wouldn't trade it for anything. And I love you for making it all possible.

The plane's landing now so I've got to collect my stuff and get going. I'll see you here again next month.

Love! David

BY DAVID CASSIDY
