

with skiing—and got robbed in Rome because of my own foolishness in leaving my van unlocked. All in all, it was a fantastic trip and I came back refreshed and ready to work.

Work on the series proceeded as usual with only a few unusual incidents. For one thing we went to King's Island outside of Cincinnati to do one show—it was the first time we'd left the state. That was fun and I really enjoyed it. I remember the fans there were particularly polite.

Then there was the Bob Hope TV special. I can't tell you how scared I was before doing that show—working with Bob Hope seemed like a terrific responsibility to me and I wanted to make sure I did my best. There were some little problems with my stage outfit but overall it turned out to be a good show and I was proud of it. I would like to thank everyone who wrote me about that show. The song "Rock Me Baby" that I did on the show was a little different from the things I'd recorded before and I was really pleased that so many of you liked it.

What else did I do this past year—well, I got more involved in helping other people. That's something that I'd like to do more of but it's all a matter of finding time. I was grateful that I could help out a little with the American Cancer Society's campaign to stop smoking. And my big project is the "Special Olympics for Mentally Retarded Children." I was National Youth Chairman this year and it really was a learning experience for me. That sort of thing really makes me feel good—to know that I can use my success to help others.

That crazy London trip a few months ago was amazing too! Picture me living on a yacht in the middle of the Thames River! The trip was insane and I didn't get to see much of England at all—but I had a couple of really great concerts and did a lot of TV so I at least felt that my British fans got to see me!

Of course, the one thing that happened this past year that caused the most talk was that ar-

ticle in "Rolling Stone." It's really a shame that there were so many mistakes and inaccuracies in the article. And the rumors that started after it—I thought I'd be denying rumors about it for the rest of my life! But like any rolling stone, it gathered no moss, kept right on rolling and was soon forgotten!

There were some other changes over the year too—I acquired and lost a couple of different dogs, bought two new cars and, best of all, found the land I've been looking for in Hawaii!

I've really found my paradise and am in the process of buying it. That's something that really makes me smile a lot—to know I'll soon have a real home down there that I can go to anytime I'm free. No more hotels or bothering friends—in fact, all the friends who've put me up in the past can now come stay with me! It's going to be sheer heaven!

Then there's the TV show—I've had to make a couple of very difficult decisions about "The Partridge Family" lately and it hasn't been easy. I can only hope that all of you will understand my need to grow and change and not go on playing Keith Partridge for the rest of my life.

I had hoped I'd be able to work this all out in my head and then make some sort of formal announcement but it all kind of leaked out and wild rumors went around and it got all out of hand.

The truth is I will be on "The Partridge Family" this next season—but it will be my last season. That's the end of my contract and I feel I must move on and try my hand at other characters—perhaps do a movie. As an actor I don't want to stagnate in one role. I think I'll be a better actor if I try a variety of roles.

There's one rumor I would like to stop right now before it even gets started. We very likely are going to be adding a character to "The Partridge Family" this season. It'll be another young guy who will be a friend of Keith's. I know that everyone is going to start some sort of feud between me and whoever gets the role—they'll say he's hornin' in

on my popularity. So I'd like it known right now that I am looking forward to the new character and to working very closely with the actor who is chosen for the role!

Looking back over this year I think the pressures and nonsense that go with fame got to me more this year than in past years, but I think that's all a part of the changes going on in me. I'm growing and changing and I would like to have a little more control over my life—more time off, more time to spend on projects of my own, more time to do everything just a bit better—and so I get a little more bugged now than I used to at people who take up my time with nonsense—and believe me there are a lot of behind-the-scenes-people in this business who are good at nonsense!

I hope that you won't interpret my changes as growing away from you. I *do* know, believe me, I *know* that without you I would be nothing. No entertainer is anything unless some fans dig what he's doing. I love you in a very special kind of way and I don't want to hurt you. But you are growing and changing too, just as I am.

One thing that I definitely don't see happening to me soon is marriage. If you hear any marriage rumors about me, don't believe them. I don't feel I'm anywhere near ready for that kind of settling down. I still have to get to know myself a little better before I'll be ready to form any life-long relationship. So marriage is a long way off for me.

All in all, I guess it was a very eventful year with some good things and some bad things—but that's the way life is.

If I could have one wish come true at this point in my life it would be that you and I could go through all of our growing and changing—and still be friends. I would like to know that you'll always be there, and I'd like you to know that I'll always be here. You and I have a very special kind of friendship and love. Let's keep it going!

Thank you for a good year,
David