

The next day, Evelyn and David went to Fairburn and met with the teacher, who insisted that David had cheated on the test. David stuck to his guns. "I did that test myself—I did *not* cheat," he declared over and over again.

"All right," the teacher said finally. "You're going to take it again." She took out a blank test form, gave it to David and sent him into another room to complete it. Evelyn felt her heart sink as her young son nervously left the room, blinking back his tears of fright and anger.

"David passed the test!" his mom recalls. "I can't tell you how relieved and happy I was! I felt so very, very proud of him! He was such a good boy, so honorable, and he had proved himself under terrible pressure. But the worst thing happened—" Evelyn's voice grew soft as she remembered. "That teacher never spoke to David about it again, never apologized, never picked up the phone and called me to say a word about the terrible mistake she had made. I mean, it was just *awful* to accuse somebody of something like that, subject them to such a terribly upsetting experience, and then—well, after it was over and *she* was proved wrong—*not* even having the decency to say 'I was wrong'."

It was an experience that David and his mom will never forget.

BASKETBALL & BASEBALL

When David was 12, the family moved to Westwood, California, and David enrolled in Emerson Junior High School. He had always liked basketball and he had started playing it many years ago in Rutherford, New Jersey. He had even had his own hoop over the garage doors when he lived there. But in Westwood, David went crazy over the game. He was a very good player and was made a member of the school team. He also excelled at baseball and was a long-time member of the Little League team.

Along about this time, everybody in Hollywood went wild over surfing—and David went along with the rest. "It was amazing to see him come home with his blond hair and dark sunburn from the beach at Santa Monica or Malibu" Evelyn says. "David was very good at surfing and I think he would have stuck to it—but something that was to become the turning point of his life happened at this time."

THE TURNING POINT

When he was 12, David discovered the drums. Actor Sal Mineo had just finished a movie called *The Gene Krupa Story*. Sal, who was a neighborhood friend, took an interest in little David and taught him how to play the drums. When he saw that David caught on quickly and was good at it, Sal gave David the set of drums he had used in the movie. No boy on earth could have been happier! From that moment on, David Cassidy spent every moment of his spare time learning how to play the drums. He was never satisfied. He kept improving and improving—and he decided that music would be a part of his life forever. When he wasn't playing the drums, David was singing—and soon he picked up a guitar and taught himself how to play it.

When he was 17, David told his mom that he would like to act—or rather perform in musicals—and when Evelyn realized that he was serious, she decided to help him with his career. After a show-stopping appearance in a musical production by a local civics group, both David and his mom realized that performing was going to be his life's work. David studied singing *and* acting, preparing himself for the day he did not then dream was coming—the day when he would be a star of a TV series!



David in his Little League baseball uniform.

David as "Keith" on *The Partridge Family*.

