



Half-brothers Patrick, 11, and Sean Cassidy, 12, idolize David. They'd like to be on show too, but Mother and Dad Cassidy think them too young.



Accompanied by his roommate's dog Sheesh, David spends many evenings *not* making the Hollywood scene, instead focusing on the next day's scripts. *Tiger Beat* awarded Sheesh's puppies in a contest.

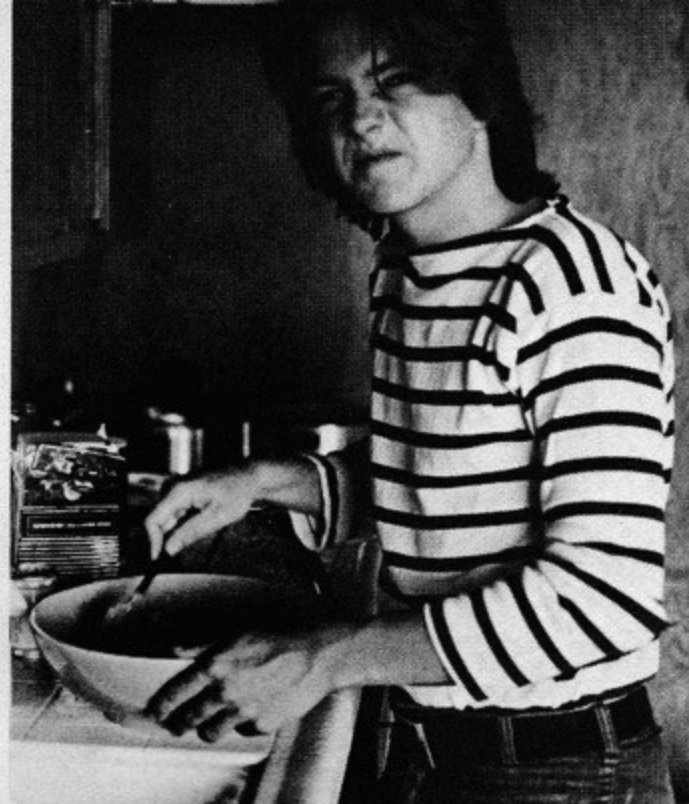
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a family. Then, too, the show was going to have music and there was nothing that David liked better.

But he was leery of playing a role on TV that might turn him into a teenage idol.

"I never expected," David admits, "to become what they call a teenage idol. In fact, I used to shudder every time I heard Bobby Sherman's name."

David once told an interviewer that he believed Bobby Sherman might wind up a basket case someday if his popularity ever floundered. David didn't want this to look forward to in his own career. "I was just plain afraid of how I would react to the whole routine of doing the teeny bopper bit. It turned me off completely."



Shirley is always worrying about David's eat-on-the-run schedule. Cooking is not one of his strong points, but he makes an occasional effort.



One of the rewards of a successful TV series is being able to live where and how you want to. David recently moved from the Laurel Canyon house he once rented to a more posh one in Beverly Hills (with billiard room).

But there were several people who showed David that his fears were foolish. Jack Cassidy, for one, is aware of what it's like to struggle for fame and success. He's been at it for years and Jack straightened out David's thinking when the boy starting getting upset about cooperating with the press and doing publicity stunts that would increase his appeal to a teenage audience.

"I just told David very simply," Jack recalls, "that if he's going to make records and be on a TV show that appeals to young girls he'd better make up his mind in the beginning to go along with the game. I also pointed out to him that if he wasn't ready to cope with what goes along with success that perhaps he'd better quit now

before it got to him."

Shirley Jones convinced David that what was ahead might not be too bad and explained how two or three good years as a singing idol would not necessarily keep David from doing more serious acting at a later date. Shirley was typed as a singing ingenue for years before she broke away to play a prostitute in *Elmer Gantry* and win her Academy Award. David knew his parents advice made sense, but it still took him several months to come out of his shell and enjoy the fun of being a teenage idol.

He still does not totally relish his new life, but there are compensations! A gold record, a luxurious house in the heart of Beverly Hills, and the music, much of which Da-