



DAVID Sings for YOU! THE WHOLE TRUE STORY!

PART I

ONCE UPON A TIME, in the higher echelons of a segment of that power structure which "controls" the lives of many of the people we have come to know and love — for instance, David Cassidy and *The Partridge Family* — the executives of Screen Gems met with one Larry Utall, president of Bell Records. At that time (approximately a year ago), Screen Gems decided to "go ahead" with a brand new TV series on ABC called *The Partridge Family* (actually, the original title for the show was *Family Business*, but it was later changed to *The Partridge Family*). Screen Gems also decided that they wanted *The Partridge Family* to make records and that the PF-ers would be on the Screen Gems-owned label, Bell Records — instead of on their *other* label, Colgems Records. As for Larry Utall, he was *certain* of only two things — but these two things were enough to send him completely overboard on the prospects of cutting *Partridge Family* singles and LPs. One was that he *knew* Shirley Jones could sing and he had *heard* that David Cassidy could; and the other was that he *knew* Wes Farrell could cut a hit record.

ENTER WES FARRELL!

In the world of teeners — who are crazy about *The Partridge Family* and are madly in love with David Cassidy — the name Wes Farrell doesn't mean very much. Wes is one of those talented giants who settled happily "behind the scenes" — and who *makes things work!* The fact is, Wes is one of the most successful young (and *handsome*) record producers in the world. He is responsible for such hits as *Hang On, Sloop*y by the McCoy's (which Wes also wrote), *Indian Lake* by the Cowsills, *Worst That Could Happen* by the Brooklyn Bridge and, of course — as we all know — all of *The Partridge Family* records. But that's getting ahead of our story.

Larry Utall had long been an admirer of Wes's musical genius and he also knew that, aside from the hit records Wes had produced, Wes had composed such chart-toppers as *Bandala* and *Come A Little Bit Closer* — plus writing and producing commercials for TV and radio which included those for Mobil Oil, Canada Dry, Pontiac and Clairol! To make a long story short, Larry knew who his man was when it came to make records for *The Partridge Family*.

With a small amount of trepidation in his heart, Wes

split from his New York office and headed for the hills of Hollywood. Recently, upon recalling an early meeting with David Cassidy, Wes says, "I was absolutely amazed. Here was this good-looking, well-mannered, sort of shy kid — and I was thinking, *I sure hope he can sing as well as he looks!* And when he opened his mouth to sing, I absolutely fell over the control board! I mean, there he was out in the studio with his earphones on, listening to the music tracks that I had recorded in New York and glancing at the lyric sheet given to him, and then — all of a sudden — he just started singing. And — *man*, let me tell you — it really knocked me out! I turned to Brendan Cahill, music coordinator for *The Partridge Family* TV show — and my 'right hand' when I'm on the Coast — and said, 'Hey, Brendan — he's got it! He can do it — he can *sing!*' Brendan kept nodding and saying in his clipped British accent, 'I told you so, Wes. I told you so!'"

DAVID'S "NEW CAREER"

Up until that time — though David had long played drums, sometimes played guitar, composed a number of songs and even sung with a couple of "unknown" groups — he had never dreamed that he could *ever* be a success as a singer. Though he secretly longed to cut a record — like, who doesn't? — deep in his heart, he harbored many doubts about a singing and recording career. Suddenly all these doubts vanished. Wes made them disappear — and there was David, an "overnight" singing sensation!

But it *wasn't* "overnight". David had loved music and had studied it for many years. He had been singing since he was three years old — when he used to sing his mom to sleep (because she got tired of trying to sing *him* to sleep) — back in his childhood home in West Orange, New Jersey. He had sung in the church choir, he had sung at the family "get-together sing-alongs," and he had sung in school productions. When, at about the age of nine, David moved to Hollywood, he started playing the drums and, shortly thereafter, started learning guitar — and he sang all the while. After a few unsuccessful attempts to work with neighborhood musical groups, David got a part in a community playhouse musical (in which his mom was starring) and sang one number — and that one number stopped the show and brought the house down!