

more important, it had given him a chance to meet and get to know wonderful people. All the crew who helped put the show together, Susan, Suzanne, Danny, Brian, and it had helped him get closer to his step-mom, Shirley, too!

## THEY WERE FIRST

The most beautiful thing "Partridge" has helped him do was meet
his fans. They were first on his
list, and he did love them—no matter what some magazines and newspapers printed—it wasn't true. His
fans would always be in his heart!

Yet, these people he loved were the very same people he was hurting now, because he had made the decision to leave the show. If only he could make them understand, let them see that it didn't mean he was leaving them behind—breaking away from them!

How can you leave someone behind when they are a part of you? Maybe if the show had been cancelled instead of his leaving after 4 years, they wouldn't take it so badly. What could he say to his fans to make them see it was only because he had to keep growing as an individual, moving on to other things, that he was leaving the show?

The only way an actor can grow is by continuously doing new things—trying heavier, more dramatic roles! That's all he wanted to do—act and sing. Yet, everyone was making him feel like he was deserting them! A chance had come for him to star in an exciting movie, and he had accepted! Was it a

He wasn't just walking off the "Partridge Show." His contract would be up and he would just not renew it for 4 more years. Still, he did have one more year to go so the writers and producers could work out some way to write him out of the script. Maybe have Keith go away to college — and he would come back and do guest shots if they still wanted him to!

David looked up as the director beckoned to him to join the others on the set. He sighed and reached down for his script. Yes, it was really true. This would be his last season to film on the "Partridge" show. It had been a difficult decision to make—like a choice between two loves, and he hoped he had made the right choice.

Only time would tell, and in a way, David's fans too! Would they stick by his decision and understand that he wasn't trying to hurt them or would tears flow from their eyes like they had from the eyes of those girls waiting for him at the gate?

Everybody will have to wait and see. Do David's fans love him enough to accept his decision, and understand it and give him the extra love and encouragement he now needs? Maybe so. Maybe they'll write to David in care of Tiger Beat and let him feel their trust . . . and more important, their love.