



American actress and singer, Evelyn Ward, David's mother, worries constantly about her son's safety. "He panics; it frightens him," she said of the weenyboppers out to mob him. Another problem on her mind is what to buy him for his 24th birthday on April 12. "What CAN I get him?" she asked. "He has everything."

down a 7ft steel-mesh fence to get into the VIP area (where he'd been politely mobbed by police asking for autographs for teenage daughters) and he was shaking a little.

"If I was living here it wouldn't be so frantic," he said. "In America they're used to me."

When he first visited England early in 1972, he stayed at the Dorchester. He was banned from there though, after fans blocked the traffic in Park Lane day and night, which distressed hotel staff and guests alike. This time the luxury yacht Ocean Sabre was hired for David and his party at a cost of £2500 and moored in the Thames just off Tower Pier. Access was by special launch and a strict security vetted all visitors; they were allowed on board only with a pass.

Airport police didn't believe there'd be much fuss for David's arrival. Only eight were on duty there. Nine people were injured during the long, emotional wait for David's arrival, three of them police, one with a broken leg. For safety, David was hustled out through a back entrance. Two girls I spoke to with packs on their backs had hitch-hiked 300 miles from Manchester way, just to catch a glimpse of him. Nine-year-olds

and 15-year-olds sobbed when they realized they weren't going to see their idol.

Hundreds took up their day and night vigil along the Thames Embankment railings calling out to David all through his stay. They went without food and sleep, and in many instances managed to play truant from school undetected, because it was the beginning of the school term.

Wouldn't he have been frightened if he'd been among the mob and was attacked? — "Yes and no," he said. "I'd have run. That's the only thing to do sometimes. I've done that many times."

Did he have many friends? — "I have only a few," he said. "I don't think anyone ever has more really good friends than you can count on one hand."

How did it feel, at 23, being considered by many of his fans as a teenager? — "I don't think I am," he said emphatically. "I've never tried to deceive anyone about my age. I may be a slight hop above my fans in years but I'm still the same generation."

Sam Hyman probably knows David better than anyone. "David can be very lonely at times," he said, "but in a way it's a necessary isolation. At times, I wish he had a secret girl or a wife stashed away that no one knew about. It's difficult for him to meet someone and fall in love. Everyone is usually out for something. That's why David and I are friends. We were before all this, and we will be afterwards, no matter what. I've never pushed myself into his career. If anything came between the business and the friendship, the business

FEBRUARY 26 IS DC DAY — the day David Cassidy will give his first-ever concert in New Zealand.

Expect the usual hysteria, screaming and maybe even panic the rest of the world has experienced whenever and wherever David has appeared. The concert will be at Eden Park, Auckland, but it will NOT be known where David will hide after it. The name of his hotel (IF he stays at one) is a close secret for his own protection.

David on stage has been said to have "the force of an atomic bomb" but in all the thousands of words written about him, what chiefly comes over is his calm, his commonsense and his modesty.

He knows he could spend every minute of every day performing to the paying public, but wisely he prefers to spend some time away from the pressures of constant publicity, relaxing, improving his acting, his guitar playing, his singing and his song writing.

For fans already bemoaning a mere single appearance in NZ, though, there's good news — a film in the offing and, who knows? . . . maybe even another concert one day.

would be the first to go. I'm capable of earning a living doing a number of other things, but you don't find a friend like David overnight."

David's family history is well known. He is the son of actor Jack Cassidy and actress Evelyn Ward. After their divorce, his father married Shirley Jones who plays David's mother in *The Partridge Family*.

David's education would have been sketchy (he played truant a lot) if he hadn't been sent to a private school where there were small classes and individual attention, and finally the urge to work gripped him. After graduation, he studied drama, acted in summer stock, a Broadway flop, and then guest

Please turn to Page 38

**"SHEILA
KATHLEEN
MACKENZIE**

Would the above named (also sometimes known as Mary Catherine Mackenzie) formerly of Christchurch or anyone knowing her present whereabouts please communicate with Barltrop, Cobbe & Evans, Solicitors, P.O. Box 88, Feilding."

Yours faithfully,
**BARLTROP, COBBE &
EVANS**

**indigestion?
indigestion?
indigestion?
indigestion?
indigestion?**

DeWitt's

the balanced
formula
Antacid Powder
or Tablets
give fast relief
from indigestion,
heartburn and
acid stomach

Distributed by
Frank Stevens Ltd.,
Auckland.

PM1377173