



David "at a hotel near Heathrow" laid low till his plane took off ending his lightning UK visit in October. His good news for fans: "I'm NOT getting married; I have NO steady girlfriend; and I am NOT giving up singing!"

discreet enough not to get into situations where I'd be vulnerable," he said. "Most of the paternity suits are jive (nonsense). Elvis has had 13 of them; I don't know the man but I'm sure they're jive. You're really vulnerable being in the public eye and being wealthy. It's a really scary thing that someone can say: 'He did it.' No, I'm not ready for that sort of thing.

"I don't have many girlfriends. There aren't many that really attract me. I demand the same thing in my girlfriends as in my other friends: Honesty.

"A lot of stories written about me are contrived. Some of them are totally thought up from nothing; and that's dates and sexual activities. About 98% is blown up out of all proportion. The other 2% I guess I don't read. If I did, I'd eat my guts out about it.

"I never anticipated any success like this. People think I'm a little blase about it, but you adjust your life, like anything else, if you're poor or if you're wealthy."

Five years ago, he was getting \$38.80 a week net in the mailroom of a textile company to earn money in New York while he studied acting. By late 1972 he was looking for land in Hawaii for a farm. The substantial salary he earns from *The Partridge Family* covers most of his living expenses. Most of the money he makes comes from concert tours. Next come the record sales, then the TV

show, and the music writing on the records. He also has his own publishing company, but probably the US Treasury does best out of the deal.

Out of the public eye, in their spare hours, David and Sam eat a meal quietly at home and listen to records, or David may play one of his 14 guitars, or share some time peacefully with a girl.

"We live very much within our means," said Sam. "We live moderately compared with how we could live. We're living the way we want. There's no crystal or sterling silver. We're set up as a home, but we're not elegant. When we have time off we sit and eat dinner and go to bed. People think we ought to have parties Hollywood style."

The best tribute

Perhaps the best tribute anyone could pay a friend comes from Sam Hyman.

"The thing I've gained from our friendship is seeing David's drive and determination and confidence that got him where he is. It's phenomenal and I envy him for it. He had an emotional setback when he broke up from this girl. When we have one, we can crawl away for a month or however long it takes to get on the ground again, but when you're in the public eye, you've got to keep going, keep smiling. He has got himself together now and he has more drive and is more positive than he was when all this started happening."

All David's money is carefully invested so that he could live off it now if necessary. "He doesn't have to do it for money any more," Sam said. "He's doing it because he wants to. David once said to me: 'I've got the cake. Now it's all icing.'

"I can remember about five years ago when David was living with his mother. He's had practically no formal musical training. Every time I came over, he was playing his guitar. I'd say: 'Give me a break. Practise when I'm not here,' and he'd say: 'Wait. Some day people will say I'm good.'

"That's what I mean about his drive."

At 23, David Cassidy may have only a few years of teen worship left; but I doubt it. He does have an acting talent, little called on in *The Partridge Family*. With his determination, he will no doubt achieve what he wants. A loneliness he can share with those he wants when he wants. ●