

David Cassidy at home

Continued from Page 21

Partridge Family was responsible for his huge success, but he feels it has run its course with him.

"They won't replace me. After all, you can't suddenly say this is Keith, when he doesn't even look like the Keith I've been playing for years. I don't know what they'll do. I'll either go away to school or maybe they'll kill me off in an automobile accident, or something."

David, himself, never went away to school. He spent one semester at Los Angeles Community College, not far from his home, and then left. I had not planned on asking David about his entry into show business. That type of interview is done only with a newcomer. Backgrounds on stars are either generally known or printed in "bios." But David volunteered the information himself.

"I went to New York and got a job in the mail room of a textile house while I studied acting and singing with David Craig. I got a part in 'Fig Leaves Are Falling,' playing Dorothy Lunden and Barry Nelson's son and quit my job in the mail room."

He did some television spots on programs like "Ironside," and then got the role as Keith in 'The Partridge Family, which brings us to the present,

What about the future for David Cassidy? The immediate future is taken up with completing the final segment of the Partridge series and then he's off on a world-wide concert tour.

"I'd like to do a film if the situation arises," he says with the caution of someone who has a deal in the works but believes it's premature to discuss it.

Will there be a new David Cassidy?

"No, I'm not trying to create a new David Cassidy. I'm just letting the old one do what he wanted to. I have no regrets. I've had a fantastic three or four years. I am very soon approaching a place in the road where my paths are going to fork. I just want to do something different, and drastically different. I had no control over my image.

"The fan mags wrote about me what they wanted and even now they have in mind to make it seem there is a new David Cassidy. I don't read them. I'd only eat my guts out."

One of his four cats (he also has several dogs) jumped into his lap and purred. As David stroked him gently he said, "I'm not hostile. I don't bear any resentment. There has been so much written about me that I can't un-write. Me, the person I am now, will be a little more cautious."