

Cassidy To Leave Partridge Family

By JAMES BACON

AT SEA WITH THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY (NANA) — Good chance for some young guy to make himself a millionaire provided he can sing and act.

Mel Swope and Bill Bickley, producers of "The Partridge Family," have auditioned hundreds of young fellows as a replacement for bubblegum idol David Cassidy, who is spending his last year on the show.

"But so far we haven't come up with a winner," says Swope. "He won't be exactly a family replacement for David. We'll have David away at college next season and we'll need another singer for the group."

When the show started four years ago, Cassidy was an unknown except for famous parents, Jack Cassidy and Shirley Jones.

Now he's leaving the show because he makes millions doing concert appearances around the world. In England, Germany and the Scandinavian countries, he is tops.

The weekly grind of a TV series doesn't pay off like the concerts do, so David isn't renewing his contract which expires this year. It's all a matter of economics.

Luxury Cruise

This week "The Partridge Family" is cruising up the Mexican coast in the luxury cruise ship, Fairsea.

It's fun for everyone on the ship except the cast and crew. For them, it's a long hard workday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or later.

The half-hour TV series is the first ever filmed on a ship at sea.

When you examine the logistics, you can see why Sitmar Cruises, which owns

the Fairsea, has invested \$50,000 in transporting and housing the 90 or more people aboard.

All were flown to Acapulco in a charter Hughes Air West jet and immediately transferred to the ship moored in the bay. Early the next morning the Fairsea headed up the coast with one stop at Mazatlan but the cast and crew remained on board shooting.

Seasick Cure

Shirley Jones has suffered for years from chronic motion sickness so before she left, she had a session with Romart, the famed South African hypnotist.

Called up Romart when I got back in town to tell him that Shirley for the first time in her life was on a boat feeling chipper. Not a trace of seasickness and no need of any medication.

Susan Dey, the beautiful 20-year-old daughter on the show, got a break. Her steady boy friend, Dale McRaven, wrote the script so he came along on the trip. Dale's hair is about a foot longer than Susan's but it doesn't get in the way of romance.

The more than 600 passengers on the ship found themselves playing shipboard extras in the show. When applications were put to them only 40 failed to reply. Everybody is a ham at heart.

One 17-year-old beauty by name of Teru McPhie of Manhattan Beach, Calif., was on the cruise as a passenger with her mother. Her resemblance to the young Elizabeth Taylor is so startling that she was picked to do three scenes with David Cassidy.

This is how stars are born, especially if she photographs as well as she looks in person.