

# Partridges A Will Fight

By CECIL SMITH

HOLLYWOOD — Putting The Partridge Family up against All in the Family would seem to me the biggest mismatch since they stopped throwing Christians to the lions. It's David vs. Goliath all over again, but this time David is Cassidy and he's got a rock song in his slingshot. The word along the bar at the Bistro: Archie will eat him alive.

But Bob Claver, executive producer of the Partridges for Screen Gems, doesn't seem all that disturbed. He says he's happy ABC moved the show this summer instead of waiting until fall.

"Some people will turn from their reruns to sample ours and there'll be some fallout, some will stick," he said. "Remember it was during the summer reruns people first discovered Archie Bunker."

In fact, Claver seems more worried about the show on the other side of the Partridges: NBC's Emergency. "The 8- and 10-year-olds watch Emergency," he said. "They're our people!"

More specifically, the bubble-gum set are the pointers to the Partridges. The show has always had a sort of cutesy-pie image since it went on four years ago, but whenever parents were lured into it by their kids they were often pleasantly surprised. This is no Brady Bunch inanity. Shirley Jones gives a dignity and stature to the mother that is rare, a beauty with brains; David Madden is one of the slickest comics in the field, and the kids themselves, notably Susan Dey, whom Claver believes will make her mark as an actress, are highly individual personalities, rather than faces in the mob.

Despite its contrived premise (a family of pop singers who never lose the common touch), there's a bedrock of reality in the relationships of the Partridges that is perhaps mostly responsible for the show's durability.

Claver would like to achieve this element of reality in his new sitcom which has an even more contrived premise — The Girl With Something Extra, an NBC entry for fall (Friday nights in the time slot the Partridges just vacated).