



David Cassidy

David has grown up, fallen in love, married, and is soon to be back on the scene as the serious actor he started out to be.

'I want to be taken seriously'

HOLLYWOOD—Well, just look who's back—back in the kind of fine dramatic role he used to play before a lightweight, immensely popular television series turned him into singing, guitar-strumming, teen-age idol.

David Cassidy, no less!

If you'll think carefully, you may remember that David, son of versatile actor Jack Cassidy, half-brother of new teen-age idol Shaun Cassidy, was a serious actor capably handling subtle, dramatic roles before he was cast as Keith Partridge in "The Partridge Family."

WHEN THAT happened, most of the junior high school girls in the world declared him their hearts' desire, and, since they didn't care whether he could act or not, pretty soon nobody else did neither. Except David.

David cared.

He cared so deeply that by the time "The Partridge Family" had gone to roost (and his disenchantment with the series hastened its demise), he was so sick of being a teen-age idol that he ran away from Hollywood and hid.

As early as the summer before "The Partridge Family" aired for its final season, David confided to the press that as soon as he'd completed his commitment to the show, he was going to escape to a place he had in Hawaii and let the rest of the world go by.

Since then, though, David has grown up, fallen in love, married and re-evaluated his situation, with the result that he's come back to the Hollywood area and will be seen in January playing a

narcotics officer (of all things!) in NBC's "Police Story."

"WHAT BROUGHT me back to the Los Angeles area is a fresh attitude," David said recently, shortly after he'd finished his "narc" role.

"My feeling about working has changed a lot.

"When we finished the series, my energies were all depleted. I was emotionally and physically exhausted and needed to find out who I was. So I went to Hawaii and to a place I had in Santa Barbara to recover."

David's not knocking the fact that the Keith Partridge role made him rich and famous, nor does he deny that he gained valuable experience playing it.

"But," he said, "I wanted to be taken seriously, so I went through a lot of inner turmoil.

"I THOUGHT ABOUT writing a book, too," he said, "But at that time, putting it all on paper would have been too painful. My experience had been so devastating.

"Some of it had been so shocking. Still I'm glad it happened."

Kid half-brother Shaun, a sudden teen-age idol through his records and his television series, "The Hardy Boys," will fare better emotionally, David thinks.

"He's more level-headed than I was," David said. "I see him once or twice a week and though he's going through some heavy stuff, he's handling it.

"I'm more like our father, but Shaun's like his mother (actress Shirley Jones) in that he accepts things more easily."