

# Actor Won't Fall Into Celebrity Trap

By VERNON SCOTT

Hollywood (UPI) — Shaun Cassidy is unlikely to fall into the trap that ensnared his half-brother David — instant idol to instant ex-star all in the span of five years.

Brother David became a superstar in "The Partridge Family" TV series with stepmother Shirley Jones. He sold 20 million records and filled concert halls across the country.

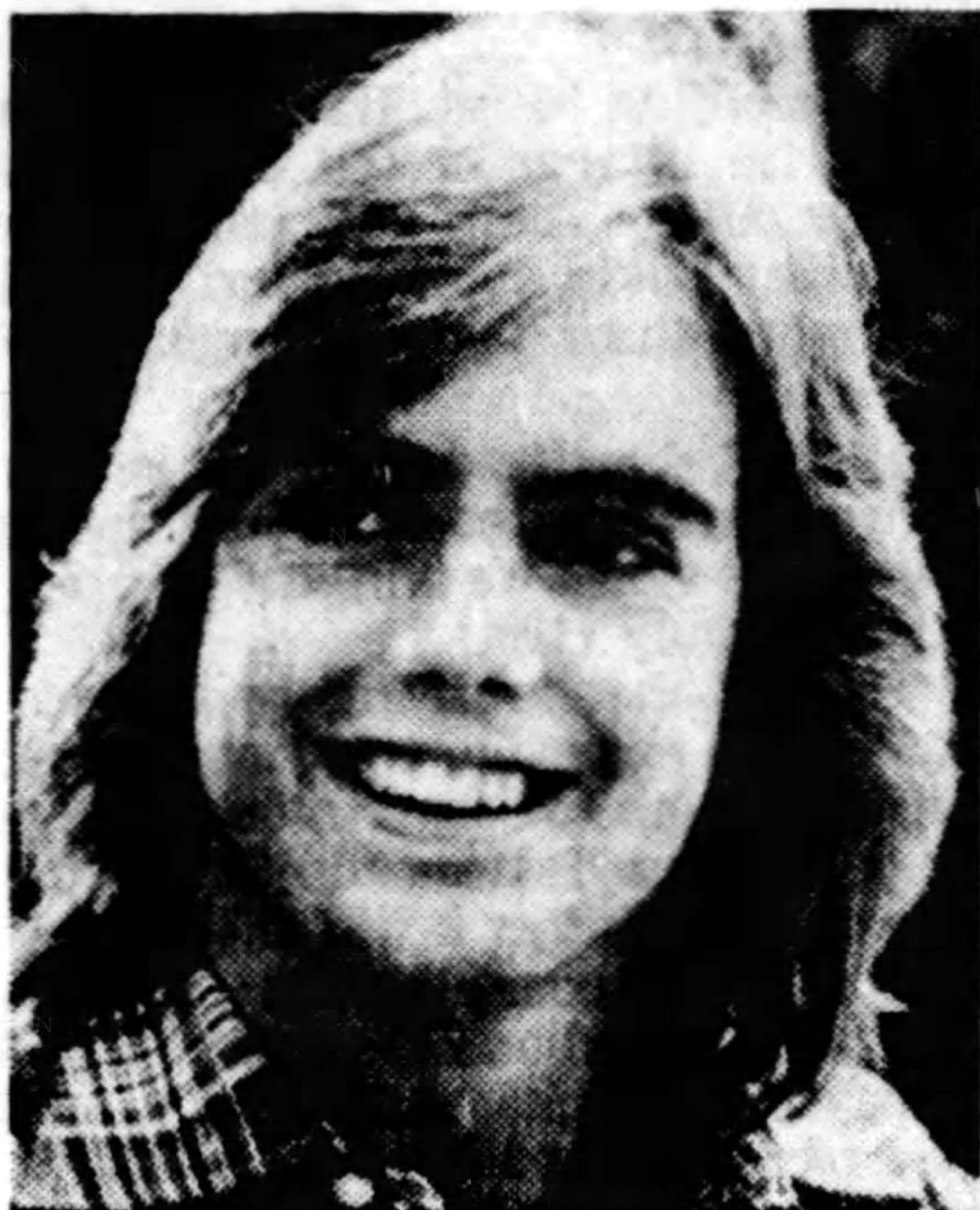
David's overnight celebrity made him a millionaire. In 1974 he withdrew voluntarily from the limelight to work his horse ranch in Santa Barbara, Calif., and to relax on his estate in Hawaii.

A COUPLE OF years ago David, 29, starred in a "Police Story" segment which held promise for a spinoff into another series. It didn't work out. Not a great deal has been heard of David since.

But brother Shaun, 21, who starred the past two years in "The Hardy Boys" series, embarks on a new TV show this fall, a video version of last year's hit movie "Breaking Away."

Shaun has enjoyed nearly the same idolatry that showered wealth and fame on David. Like David, the younger Cassidy has pulled back from concerts to escape the overwhelming pressures and demands that stardom makes on the young.

He will not, however, cease making



SHAUN CASSIDY

albums or working in films and TV.

THUS FAR HE HAS sold 10 million copies of his five albums. The first, "Shaun Cassidy," sold 3 million.

But his three years in the limelight have taken their toll.

Shaun, although he looks to be about 15, is mature beyond his years. He is thoughtful, serious minded and recently married. Shaun, his wife Ann, and their daughter live in the San Fernando Valley.

As the son of the late Jack Cassidy and Shirley Jones, not to mention being David's brother, Shaun has long been accustomed to the pros and cons of fame.

Suffering manfully after having four impacted wisdom teeth extracted, Shaun managed a lopsided grin and said, "When I first started singing, I was compared with David. Luckily, that stopped."

"UNTIL I WAS able to prove myself on my own merits I was always identified as someone's son or brother.

"I've already experienced the celebrity-ism of the business. It was fun and I don't need to go through it again. I'm totally secure about myself and my family. I think I'm fairly well adjusted.

"But for a while I overdid things. When I was doing 'The Hardy Boys', I'd cut records at night and on Fridays I'd fly to a Saturday night concert in one city and a Sunday matinee in another.

"I quit my concert tours after last summer. I didn't like being away from home. I suppose I should hit the road this summer to promote my new album, 'WASP,' but to me it's unhealthy, an unrealistic environment.

"YOU SIT IN AN inn somewhere as 30,000 people file into a basketball arena to watch you perform while you look at re-runs of 'I Love Lucy.' You sit with the members of the band doing nothing for 23

hours except wait for that exciting 60 minutes on stage. It's boring."

Shaun will spend the next six months in Athens, Ga., where "Breaking Away" will be filmed. His wife and daughter will join him for the duration.

Young Cassidy is taking a longshot gamble with the new series. Television has rarely been able to convert a hit movie into a hit series.

One exception is "M\*A\*S\*H," which many believe was a big improvement on Robert Altman's film. But such others as "Paper Chase," "The Bad News Bears," "Paper Moon" and "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir" failed.

SHAUN APPRECIATES the long odds against the series and for that reason purposely avoided seeing the movie until he'd completed his role in the pilot film earlier this year.

"I was afraid I'd be influenced by Dennis Christopher's performance," Shaun said. "I wanted to come to the part of Dave Stohler as fresh as possible.

"I'd read the script of the film before it was made and thought it was a wonderful story and a good part. But I was on the concert trail at the time and nothing ever came of the possibility of my playing the film part.

"When I finally did see the picture, I was impressed by Dennis' interpretation."