



# The Mystery of Cassidy

Story and photographs by Stephen West



Friday, March 27, was basically David Cassidy Day in Franklin. The Barrow marquee flashed excitedly about the evening's concert, several giant signs were at Liberty and 12th trumpeting the sold-out show, and throughout downtown music by Cassidy and The Partridge Family played from speakers. Superfans from as far away as England strolled around, soaking it all in. Mystery and intrigue surrounded the itinerary of the 70s pop legend.

For those of us just outside the inner circle of the Barrow, there were few clues concerning the specifics of David's odyssey through western Pennsylvania. Those in the know were sworn to secrecy. The event planners, caterers, kung fu artists (George Etzel and his students provided security) and others in the loop kept mum.



David's people insisted that his privacy be secured. He's been mobbed and womanhandled too many times in the last 40 years, worldwide and in countless languages, and they want to avoid that at all costs.

Arguably, he is the most famous person to perform in Venango County since Bob Hope and Charlie Chaplin. When David burst upon the American scene in 1970 as Keith Partridge, he had it all. Fame, wealth, power and tons of overzealous fans.

At the moment, Hannah Montana and The Jonas Brothers easily eclipse Cassidy, but historically few teen idols have reached his level of international stardom. He continues to be one of the hardest working icons in show business. In the last several years he's starred in Broadway shows, performed numerous concerts to packed houses, and this summer he and his three brothers will have a show on ABC.

The Barrow concert was a major success, shining the spotlight on the venerable 500-seat venue. Cassidy performed his best-known Partridge Family songs, a few from his solo albums, and some of his favorites from the 60s and 70s like Hendrix. Much of the time he spoke intimately with the largely-female audience. This especially delighted his superfans in the front section, who constantly reached out for him when he drew near. Countless times he reached back, eliciting teen screams from his admirers.

Almost two hours of songs and sharing later, the lights of the Barrow dimmed and the pop dream ended. Cassidy attended a secret meet-and-greet backstage, and then suddenly he was gone, taking with him a certain intrigue. [\(click pix for more\)](#)



Earlier in the week a Barrow insider was asked about Cassidy's demands for the show. You'd think after forty years in show business the star's rider would contain a few quirky things. No, he simply asked for water, hot tea, a turkey sandwich and a comfortable chair. [Click for Cassidy website](#)

