



Above: Jeremy Gelbwaks, the first Chris Partridge.

Below: The whole Family (with Brian, Jeremy's replacement) in the studio.



# THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 26

It seemed as though history was repeating itself in a funny kind of a way in David's life... Remember how he'd been so depressed after "The Fig Leaves Are Falling" had folded? And then it had turned out that the show had given him a lucky break after all, because a talent-agent had spotted him!

That had led to his screen test for "Hail Hero!" And, until he'd gotten the results of that test and the auditions, hope and excitement had kept him on a real high.

Although he'd tried not to set too many hopes on that film test, he couldn't help feeling that Fate had finally come onto his side... He was going to get work, and maybe even be recognised as a talented young new-comer on the Hollywood scene...

Then, when he'd received news that he hadn't got the part, all his dreams had crashed. He'd been in a down patch for a while now — just the same as he'd been after his Broadway disappointment.

But the agents at Universal weren't as dumb as you might have been thinking... David's test had shown them that he wasn't quite right for the "Hail Hero" part. But it had also shown them that he was an extremely talented — and sensationally good-looking — young actor. They also recognised (as Ruth had told David they would) that he could play quite a wide age-range of parts... They reckoned on anything from about fifteen to twenty. And this made him a very useful guy to have on their books.

But, of course, David didn't know anything at all about all this. So it didn't help him much through that month or so of depression:

"I really felt like chucking it all in sometimes then," he recalls. "It got so bad that I was convinced that even the dogs were catching my down moods... Animals are like that, you know; they're very sensitive to the moods of anyone they're fond of. I kept on saying to Sam that 'it wasn't fair on the dogs' and he

just came straight back and told me to 'shut up and don't be crazy'..."

"So I shut up. And waited..."

Meanwhile, the Casting Directors at Universal were on the alert for any suitable parts for David to play. And it wasn't too long before they came up with a guest appearance role in "Ironside". So they approached Ruth, as David's agent and personal manager, to see if he'd be interested in taking the part.

"Interested? I was ecstatic!" David told me, laughing.

"I didn't even want to know anything about it! If it was work, I wanted it... Even if it had turned out to be a bit part with two lines of dialogue, I'd have been happy enough."

But it was far more than that, as you'll know if you saw the episode when it was screened in Britain a couple of years back. Maybe you even fell for the young guest star then, and watched out for him after that. (If you *did*, you should try going in for talent-spotting as a career, because you've sure got a knack for it!)

## THRILLED

David was thrilled when he received his copy of the script. He saw that he really did have a good part — one that gave him plenty of scope to act.

"I was too excited to read it properly the first time through," he told me. "I just sort of skimmed my way through it, watching out for my lines. I could hardly believe I had so many of them! After that — and after I'd checked that I really was playing the part of Danny Goodson, and there hadn't been some awful mistake — I got down to it more professionally!"

He went through the whole script before he even set foot in the studio. By the time he had his first rehearsal call at Universal City, he had a firm idea of the character he was playing fixed in his head, and he knew quite a few of his lines, too!

"I was pretty nervous, when it actually came to turning up on set," he recalls. "I knew that I was probably going to be the least exper-