



If this lady had been the classic "Wicked Stepmother", David would never have appeared in a single episode of *The Partridge Family*.

THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 36

1970 was destined to be a big year for David in so many ways.

In those early months of Spring things just couldn't happen fast enough for him . . . He'd signed his contract and could hardly wait to start work on the pilot show. Every week that passed seemed like an eternity . . .

But the studios still had quite a lot of work to do before they could even start thinking about getting the cameras rolling.

Bob Claver and Paul Witt had solved two of their casting problems. But they were only too well aware that they had a long way to go before they would have a complete Partridge "family" ready to start shooting.

Somehow, Keith had to be provided with two brothers and two sisters. And there was no time to lose if the pilot was to have a good chance of being picked up for the 1970/71 season!

Meanwhile, David and Shirley just had to wait. "Shirley was marvellous during that spell," David recalls. "You see, she'd been through it all before, so she could take everything with a really professional attitude. But she still managed to be truly understanding about the way I was feeling, and she helped me a lot. I guess she even managed to rub some of her professionalism off on me!"

LONG HOURS

They spent long hours talking about their roles and possible developments if the series was a success and proved a long runner.

"Most of those sessions were at Shirley's place," David smiled, "So it got to be something of a second home to me around that time. Somehow, I always seemed to turn up there towards meal times! So she got kinda used to catering for an extra one in the cooking pot . . . And, boy, she's a great cook!"

So, while Susan, Danny, Suzanne and Jeremy Gelbwaks were auditioning, David was busy getting into character by visiting with his new 'Mom'.

But, in spite of the temptation of Shirley's excellent cooking, he didn't spend quite all of his time that way.

In fact, this period of waiting gave him a valuable breathing-space during which he could think back over his life so far and start making some decisions about the way he wanted it to go in future.

He made one really big decision during that time . . . At all costs he wanted to stay in control. He couldn't bear the thought of anyone, or anything, taking him over.

INDEPENDENT

David had always had an independent streak in him. And now, more than ever, he realised how important it was that he should hold onto it.

Of course, he'd been fascinated by cigarettes as a teenager, and he'd taken up smoking for a spell.

"Sure, I smoked," he admitted. "I went through a phase of smoking when that was the thing to do."

With his twentieth birthday in sight, he'd made a conscious decision to leave these teenage experiments well and truly behind him: He gave up smoking.

"I guess the big anti-pollution drive had something to do with it as well," he explained. "You see, I really got into this ecology thing that told you how smoking helped to pollute your own body and the atmosphere along with it. And that's not a very nice thought to smoke your next cigarette on, is it? So I quit from then on."

It wasn't too big a wrench for David in any case, because he'd already cut his smoking right down when one of his voice tutors warned