



ABOVE: Oh Well! when you are the big brother you have just got to set the example at meal times.

BELOW: The Partridge Family rehearse a scene for their TV series.



Well, Sinatra's still hitting it pretty big even now and doesn't have any problems at all selling records! What's more, in his time he's been a really great influence on many up-and-coming pop singers getting ready to ride the next wave of pop sound. By that I don't want to give you the impression of rows of new stars, all so many imitation Frank Sinatras... although it could have been that way, for all I know—I hadn't quite made it into the world then! But I am absolutely certain of one thing.

KING OF THE '50s

The guy who emerged as King of the 1950s was no carbon copy of anybody at all! Sure, he took a lot out of musical traditions like the negro spiritual, but he made it all his own. For a whole lot of people Elvis Presley simply WAS Rock 'n' Roll. Elvis is, of course, still a great star.

I'm not suggesting he just stopped dead in his tracks on New Year's Eve, 1959!

But, when you think of it, it's strange how there does seem to be one outstanding superstar in each decade who just takes over the whole scene and becomes the music memory of those 10 years. Like the Beatles!

Only they were four superstars all rolled into one supergroup! But then, the 60s was the first big 'group' music decade, and the Beatles—Well... I guess the Beatles were out on their own. 'Unique' is the word I'm looking for.

LAST PERSON

Don't get me wrong, though—I'd be the last person to hold that John, Paul, George and Ringo were the only superstars around then! I'm not crazy, you know—oh, well, maybe just a little bit crazy... about

a guy called Mick Jagger!!

And now, what about the 70s?

That, of course, is the question in everybody's mind right now. Ever since the Beatles split, we've all been craning our necks to catch the first glimpse of the group that would be succeeding them.

In fact, the 'group' habit had got so fixed that it never really occurred to all these super-group spotters that the brightest superstar of the 70s might turn out to be a solo artist!

And that was why David Cassidy took so many people by surprise when he suddenly rocketed straight to superstardom almost overnight.

But that's how it always happens, isn't it? I'll bet folk said just the same sort of thing about Sinatra, Elvis and the Beatles. That they were 'overnight sensations.'

SUDDENLY

The real fact of the matter is that it's the general public that wakes up to the new superstar suddenly—after he's made it to the top. So they never know anything about the hard years leading up to success, where the guy was scraping a living, maybe playing and singing in small clubs where he'd build up a devoted fan following. Or taking odd jobs as a waiter or washer-up in a restaurant—anything just so long as he could live and make music! It's the same sort of story for David Cassidy—a young actor and singer who had it tough to start off with.

He started right at the bottom and had to make his opportunities, as well as be ready to take them when they did finally come along!

Well, his first job (which he took because he was very hard-up) was as a kind of general dogbody in the rag trade! But in the meantime

David was working hard on his acting and his music and going round for every add-on that came up!

A few lucky TV breaks let him show his face and be recognised by thousands for what he was: a very talented actor.

FAN FOLLOWING

He'd got a fan following that other actors can only ever dream about before he got the part of Keith Partridge. If he browsed over a magazine stall, it got to be something like looking into a mirror—because there he'd be, looking at himself from the covers of dozens of teen magazines.

This was when David got the first inkling of what was happening! He'd never thought in terms of becoming a superstar. He'd set his sights on getting to the top, but he hadn't given much thought of what would follow on from that.

It's incredible—but it looks like Screen Gems hadn't, either, in the beginning! They were looking for a good actor to cast as Keith Partridge. So, a good actor was all that they saw in David Cassidy when they auditioned him! They didn't even check out on whether he could sing—let alone notice that they were signing up the superstar of the 70s!

LITTLE SHY

Still, to be fair to them... David's not the sort of guy who sells himself when you meet him for the first time. He's even a little shy and retiring. So you've got to see and hear him working before that fantastic star quality hits you right between the eyes, takes over your heart and sets you on fire.

Well, the minute he appeared on the screen and