

THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY

PART 43

All that summer David was in the glare of the spotlight.

He was getting a first taste of some of the drawbacks of success. In fact, he couldn't help feeling rather alarmed about it all sometimes. You see, in the past, he'd rather taken his private life for granted.

Now, as he saw it getting to be more public property every day, it suddenly became very precious to him.

As an actor, however, he was pleased. His manager, Ruth Aarons had always stressed to him how important good publicity was for any artist. And there he was, having to fight it off!

Naturally, Ruth tried to keep the pressure off David as much as possible. But no one—not even the most efficient manager—could do his interviews for him, not to mention all those photo sessions!

It was small comfort to David to be told "When they start leaving you alone you can start worrying." He could see that. But right now he had worries of a very different sort!

Every spare moment of his day was filled with interviews. Every time he looked round, he'd be eye to eye with a camera.

And the thing that bugged him most of all was that they weren't content to snap just any shot. "I always had to be smiling," he recalled with something approaching a wince. "That seemed to be the required 'look' for any 'teen idol'."

TEEN IDOL?

Now the strange thing was that David himself had no ambition whatever to be a teen idol at all!

"They were the folks who first kept on at me about it," he explained. "The magazine editors, reporters and photographers. That was when I started to get a bit frightened about the whole thing. Because I realised that they weren't interested in the real me. They were

just concerned that I'd be right for the idol 'image' they'd designed for me."

From the very beginning David wanted to be himself. And he fought for the right to stay that way. He refused to get swallowed up by the vast Hollywood publicity machine. He did enough acting on the screen, without wanting to act a part off the screen too!

He was taking a risk, and he knew it. He needed publicity, and he knew that too.

But he was determined that his fans should know him for what he was. He hoped they'd accept him on those grounds. And, if they didn't... well, that was their choice.

COMMITMENTS

Of course, they did. And, as one of those fans, you don't need me to tell you how and why.

Soon the demands on David would be so great that it would all get too big for him and Ruth to manage on their own. Jim Flood would be hired, with sole responsibility for looking after the publicity side of David's affairs.

But that came a little later. Meanwhile, David was still going it solo. And all his commitments didn't leave him a spare moment for important things like house-hunting.

Ever since his address and phone number had leaked out, David had been aware that he and Sam would have to move house—soon! But it wasn't simply a matter of playing hide-and-seek with his fans. There were other reasons, too, why they felt the time had come to make a move.

"We'd taken the house in Ridgmont Drive," David explained, "when neither of us knew where the next dollar was coming from. It was a great little place, and both of us had put roots down there. We felt like it was home, you know? "But it sure wasn't any palace," he went on, "And we'd always had our dreams of getting some place bigger and better when things looked brighter."

Well, they were certainly looking brighter by

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